

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 11, 2009**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by the Chair, Ms. Kong-Thao.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Brodrick, Ms. Street-Stewart, Ms. Carroll, Mr. Hardy, Ms. Kong-Thao, Interim Superintendent Kelly, Mr. Lalla, General Counsel and Ms. Polsfuss, Assistant Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Board Members Elect O'Connell and Varro

III. ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Chair indicated there were three basic items to be dealt with at this meeting:

- Acceptance of the Resignation of Director Goldstein and Appointment of Ms. O'Connell and Varro to the Board
- Announcement of the Six Finalists
- A Work Session on Planning for the Upcoming Semi-Finalist Interviews

A. Acceptance of Resignation and Appointment of New Board Members

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved, seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart, approval of the Resolution (Board File 28111) which states:

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
AND APPOINTMENT TO FILL UNEXPIRED TERMS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education finds it to be in the public interest to have the entire Board of Education which will be engaged in School District initiatives with the next superintendent to fully participate in the entire superintendent interview and selection process; and

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2009 Tom Goldstein tendered to the Board of Education his

written resignation of his Board seat effective November 11, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to appoint Jean O'Connell, elected to a Board of Education seat for a four year term commencing January 4, 2010, to serve for Mr. Goldstein's unexpired term; and

WHEREAS, Vallay Moua Varro was elected to serve for the unexpired term of a vacant Board seat commencing November 17,2009 and terminating January 2,2012; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education believes Vallay Moua Varro should fully participate in the superintendent selection prior to November 17, 2009;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 that said Board of Education accepts the

resignation of Tom Goldstein from his Board of Education seat and does hereby appoint Jean O'Connell to serve as Mr. Goldstein's successor for the remainder of his unexpired term of November 11, 2009 to January 4, 2010 and further does hereby appoint Vallay Moua Varro to serve for Tom Conlon's pre-election unexpired term of November 11 to November 17, 2009.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes

B. Announcement of the Six Finalists

The Chair called on Mr. Blaesing from the consulting firm Hazard Young and Attea to announce the names of six finalists for the position of Superintendent to Saint Paul Public Schools. The semi-Finalists were:

- Dr. Mark R. Bezek, Superintendent of Schools in the Elk River Area Schools
- Dr. Deborah M. Henton, Superintendent of Schools in the North Branch Area Public Schools
- Dr. Charles L. Hopson, Deputy Superintendent of Schools in the Portland, Oregon Public Schools
- Dr. Stan F. Mack, Retired Superintendent of the Robbinsdale Area Schools
- Mrs. Valeria Silva, Chief Academic Officer, SPPS
- Ms. Nancy Stachel, Chief of Schools, SPPS

Mr. Blaesing indicated there were 41 individuals who made application for the position with an additional 15 to 20 who engaged in in-depth discussion but who did not follow through with applications.

He then outlined the interview schedule set for the Friday and Saturday sessions:

- Friday, November 13, 2009 – one hour interviews as follow:
 - 6:15 Nancy Stachel
 - 7:30 Dr. Mark Bezek
 - 8:45 Dr Stan Mack
- Saturday, November 14, 2009 – one hour interviews as follow:
 - 9:15 Valeria Silva
 - 10:30 Dr. Charles Hopson
 - 11:45 Dr. Deb Henton

He indicated that on Saturday the Board would recess for lunch following the last interview and reconvene at 3:00 p.m. in order to make the selection of the three finalist who would be interviewed on November 16, 18 and 19, 2009.

The schedule for November 16, 18 and 19 is very full beginning at 7:30 with the Board members providing an overview and orientation for the candidates. This is followed by a series of meetings and school site visits. The press will be provided a chance to talk with the candidate at 2:00 p.m. At 6:30 p.m. each day the candidates will be given a formal interview by the Board. At the end of this interview the Board will recess and take the candidate to dinner.

On the following morning selected Board members will again visit with the candidate to address three questions: (1) The candidate's interest in the position, (2) contract terms if selected and (3) a guarantee of acceptance if selected at the sole finalist.

On Monday, November 23, at a time yet to be determined, the Board will make its announcement of the candidate selected to serve as the next Superintendent for Saint Paul Public Schools. The question was raised if the selected candidate was non-local would they be expected to be in attendance. The answer was no.

At this point there was a brief recess for the media to talk with the Board Chair and the consultant about the process and the semi-finalists.

When the meeting reconvened the remainder to the time was spent in planning the logistics of the upcoming interview sessions, deciding upon questions to be posed to the candidates, addressing the various questions raised about the process, further details of the coming week's session and the issue of how to deal with community and media questions.

The final action prior to adjournment was to assign the individuals who would participate in the second morning's meeting at 8:30 a.m. with the candidates.

- Tuesday – Ms. Kong-Thao, Ms. O'Connell and Ms. Carroll
- Thursday – Ms. Kong-Thao, Ms. Street-Stewart and Ms. Carroll
- Friday – Ms. Kong-Thao, Ms. Varro and Mr. Brodrick

IV. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved the meeting adjourn, seconded by Ms. Varro.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

For clarity and to facilitate research, these minutes reflect the order of the original Agenda and not necessarily the time during the meeting the items were discussed.

Prepared and submitted by
Marilyn Polsfuss
Assistant Clerk, St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education