

**SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

NOVEMBER 13, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Ms. Street-Stewart, Ms. Carroll, Mr. Hardy, Ms. Kong-Thao, Ms. O'Connell, Ms. Varro and Mr. Brodrick

III. AGENDA

The purpose of the meeting was the initial interview of three semi-finalists for the position of Superintendent for Saint Paul Public Schools. The candidates to be interviewed during this session were:

- Nancy Stachel
- Dr. Mark Bezek
- Dr. Stan Mack

Each candidate was introduced and the Board members proceeded to ask the following questions of each individual:

1. Briefly (in 2 or 3 minutes) tell us about your professional journey and why you are seeking the St. Paul Public Schools superintendency.
2. As a successful school leader, please identify the qualities those most familiar with your work would use to describe your strengths and areas where you need to grow.
3. What experience have you had with a governing, policy-centered Board? What do you believe defines the lines between the Board and administration?
4. As a leader how have you improved the cultural proficiency of your staff and/or organization?
5. The role of the superintendent requires not only management of people and resources but also providing leadership for the Board, employees and community. How would you differentiate between management and leadership? Please give us a personal example of each.
6. Please give us one or two examples of successful or unsuccessful experiences working with all stakeholders on complex and challenging issues such as passing a levy referendum, closing schools or handling budget cuts. What did you learn?
7. Superintendents are increasingly expected to secure the necessary resources or legislative support to accomplish the school district's mission and goals. What evidence can you cite to indicate your success in gaining Board, community or legislative support for a district initiative?
8. As you walk into an SPPS school how would you know it is a safe, welcoming and respectful environment? If it isn't, what would you do?
9. Give us one or two examples of how your would support a variety of successful family engagement strategies appropriate to SPPS.
10. Do you have a question for us, something that we forgot to ask or a closing statement you would like to add?

At the completion of the interviews, the following motion was made:

MOTION: **Ms. Street-Stewart moved the meeting recess until 9:00 a.m. on November 14, 2009 at which time the remaining three semi-finalists would be interviewed. Motion seconded by Ms. Carroll.**

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

The meeting recessed at 9:00 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 9:13 a.m. on November 14.

PRESENT: Ms. Street-Stewart, Ms. Carroll, Mr. Hardy, Ms. Kong-Thao, Ms. O'Connell, Ms. Varro and Mr. Brodrick

The purpose of the meeting was the continuation of initial interviews of three semi-finalists for the position of Superintendent for Saint Paul Public Schools. The candidates to be interviewed during this session were:

- Valeria Silva
- Dr. Charles Hopson
- Dr. Deb Henton

The same questions used on November 13 were used with this group of semi-finalists as well.

Interviews finished at 12:13.

MOTION: **Ms. Carroll moved the meeting recess until 1:15 p.m.; seconded by Ms. O'Connell.**

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

The Board reconvened at 1:15 and the following motion was made:

MOTION: **Ms. Street-Stewart moved the meeting reconvene and immediately recess until 3:00 p.m. to allow additional time for considerations.**

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes

Mr. Hardy	Absent
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Ms. O'Connell	Yes
Ms. Varro	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Absent

The meeting reconvened at 3:02 p.m. with all Board members present.

The consultant from Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates was asked to move the Board through the process of narrowing the field to the three finalists. He suggested that time be spent discussing each candidate noting something of interest and what additional things the Board would like to learn about each candidate. Upon completion of this exercise, he asked each Board member to consider everything they had heard from and read about each candidate as they moved to decide which three candidates to bring back for further interviews. He stated the Board would live by the decision of the majority of board members. He then asked the Board to note on a slip of paper the three individuals they would like to see removed from further consideration. After reviewing the Board input, he indicated there was near unanimous agreement in thinking on the three individuals to be eliminated from consideration. He then stated it appeared Dr. Charles Hopson, Dr. Deb Henton and Valeria Silva were the three candidates to move on to final interviews.

MOTION: Mr. Hardy moved the Board of Education name as finalists for the position of Saint Paul Public Schools Superintendent: Dr Charles Hopson, Dr. Deb Henson and Valeria Silva. Ms. Carroll seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved a Board of Education Resolution of Thanks to all candidates for their exceptionally deep and thorough preparation, their abilities and superb interview skills, and for their courage in participating in this very public forum as a candidate for the position of Saint Paul Public Schools Superintendent. Motion seconded by Mr. Hardy.

The motion passed with the following roll call results:

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

Thanks were extended to all of the 41 applicants who expressed an interest in applying for the position as well. The community was thanked for their interest, input and engagement in the process. In addition, thanks were extended to all staff who worked on the search enabling the selection process to move forward smoothly

The Board Chair reiterated information on the community receptions with the various candidates on November 16, 18 and 19 to be held at 360 Colborne.

The HYA Consultant returned from speaking with each of the six candidates indicating the Board did have three finalists as follows:

- Dr. Charles Hopson – Monday, November 16, 2009
- Valeria Silva – Wednesday, November 18, 2009
- Dr. Deb Henson – Thursday, November 19, 2009

There was further discussion on logistics for the remaining three interviews.

IV. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved the meeting adjourn; seconded by Ms. Varro.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

For clarity and to facilitate research, these minutes reflect the order of the 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