

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

November 17, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:51 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT: Ms. O'Connell; she joined the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Ms. Carroll left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

A. Order of the Consent Agenda

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved approval of the order of the Consent Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Carroll.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

B. Order of the Main Agenda

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved approval of the order of the Main Agenda. Seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of October 20, 2009

B. Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting November 4, 2009

- C. Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting November 10, 2009
- D. Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting November 11, 2009
- E. Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting November 13-14, 2009
- F. Minutes of the Special Board of Education Meeting November 16, 2009

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved approval of the minutes of the Regular Board of Education meeting of October 20, 2009 and the minutes of the Special Board of Education Meetings of November 4, 2009, November 10, 2009, November 11, 2009, November 13-14, 2009 and November 16, 2009. Motion seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting November 10, 2009

The agenda included:; 2010 Legislative Recommendations/Update. Initial 2009-10 Budget Revisions, Preliminary Discussion of Board Budget, Standing Item: School and Program Changes, Superintendent Transition, Work Session on CBFAC and Other Committee Names and Board Listening Sessions 2009-10

1. 2010 Legislative Recommendations/Update

The Legislative Liaison presented recommendations to be voted upon in December.

a. **Budget Forecast**

It appears this will be another session where revenue is lagging behind expenditures. The November forecast is estimated to range between \$4.6 and \$7 billion. It is possible that the Governor will make another round of unallotments following the November forecast, as the session does not reconvene until February 4, 2010.

A further complication is that all Senate, House, and Executive Branch officials will be up for election this year and there are over a dozen elected officials who have currently announced that they are running for Governor.

b. **Legislative Recommendations**

The district must remain steadfast in its support of the pursuit of adequate and stable funding for K-12 education, as districts are still under the Federal NCLB mandate to reach 100% proficiency by 2014. K-12's piece of the state budget continues to shrink from approximately 45% of the State budget (general fund spending) to 40% in the current biennium, and less than 38% in the next biennium.

- The State should modernize and stabilize education funding to give all students the opportunity to meet or exceed state and federal expectations through a comprehensive education funding system:
- Continue to Support the New Minnesota Miracle-allowing schools to target dollars for use in researched based programs that will provide proven, measurable results.
- Allow local boards to "opt out" of any new state mandate that is not adequately funded or not tied to student achievement or student safety. The legislature

should reexamine the existing state mandates and provide adequate revenue prior to imposing any new mandates for districts or students.

- The goal of any changes in the integration rule and funding must:
 - Maintain and fund existing inter-district plans that have been developed over time with the community that provide choice and reduce segregation.
 - Maintain flexibility for local districts to develop a plan best suited for their community, which also recognizes a broader definition of diversity that includes all demographic groups.
 - Intra-district plans with voluntary and non-contiguous districts should be jointly developed and mutually beneficial with racially isolated districts.
 - Promote collaboration with MDE for approval and implementation of plans that promote integration activities that also acknowledge the changing context of schools within communities.
- Allow immigrant students that are enrolled by tenth grade to continue school until age 23 in an Area Learning Center or Alternative Learning Program.
- Provide clarification to Care and Treatment provisions.
- Support moving to high school end of course exams for math, language arts and science.

In addition: Districts must be appropriately resourced in technology to support the next generation of assessments across all grade levels. Adopt the TESOL English Language Performance standards and join the World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA) consortium to be able to use the ELL assessments that the consortium has created based on the TESOL standards. This ELL alignment should also be included in the State's Race to the Top (RTTT) proposal.

- The district supports the State's effort to secure Race to the Top (RTTT) funding focused on the four assurances: (1) great teachers and leaders; (2) turning around struggling schools; (3) standards and assessments and (4) data systems to support instruction, which are designed to improve education and close the achievement gap. It also looks for a robust set of alternatives for districts to employ in turning around struggling schools to be included in the plan along with "Power" standards that are nationally aligned along with the resources to ensure that students have the necessary supports are also critical to this effort.
- Support the Governor's initiatives to have the State develop a uniform online learning curriculum that would be free to school districts for students who opted for on-line learning.
- In the area of meaningful connections:
 - Amend the compulsory attendance law to require students to attend school until they obtain a diploma or reach the age of 18.
 - Establish collaboratives between Adult Basic Education and local work force programs to provide training for people who are under or unemployed who don't have basic ELL and/or work skills.
 - Increase the funding for adults with disabilities which has been frozen at \$60,000 for ten years.
- In the area of respectful environment:
 - Support option for local governments to provide health insurance for domestic partners.
 - Allow a district to charge the costs of a disabled student's special transportation for a field trip to the special education account.
 - Provide a significant increase in the school safety levy.

- o Modify the health and safety application and program to allow a district to respond appropriately to any OSHA, fire code, asbestos, mold, Department of Health regulation or requirement.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education accept the report with thanks.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

2. Initial 2009-10 Budget Revisions

The Superintendent stated the Board adopted 2009-10 budget but it is a "living" document which periodically comes back with revisions. The Fall revisions are being brought before the Board. She indicated the good news is enrollment numbers are higher than projected; there has been less of a decline than anticipated.

The Chief Budget Analyst presented the budget revisions. Exhibit A showed the adopted revenue and expenditure budget for 09-10 by fund, the proposed fall revisions to the budget in each fund and the resulting revised budget for the fiscal year.

Exhibit B provided detail of the proposed changes to revenue by fund and the event that caused the change to occur with detail of the activity in grant programs that generated the \$9.8 million in growth.

The Fall enrollment counts have been completed and student numbers at schools are up by 355 students. School allocations have been revised accordingly.

Exhibit C provided detail of the accumulated changes in expenditures by fund and the event that caused the change to occur. This revision is the standard fall revision which re-appropriates the reserved fund balance for encumbrances as well as those designations such as contractual obligations; site-based carryover or balances for one-time only expenditures. It also recognized the expenditures for the grants for which revenue has been received.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education approve the initial 2009-10 budget revisions.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

3. Preliminary Discussion of Board of Education Budget

The Chief Financial Officer indicated the report provided the Board budget broken out into what was spent last year and a summary of what has been spent to date for 2009-10 current as of November 7. He stated the budget has been put under the direct control of the Accountant V position in order to provide more control and to tighten up

codes and spending within them. He indicated further that spending was a bit ahead of where it should be. He also explained encumbrances being held for the Board.

RECOMMENDED MOTION; That the Board of Education recognize the preliminary presentation of the Board budget and accept the report with anticipation of further, more detailed discussion as soon as it can be scheduled.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

The Superintendent stated there was one additional budget item. Administration is moving toward having a much earlier dialogue around budget projections for the 10-11 school year. This step is being taken because LSSC anticipates budget shortfalls of between \$23-28 million for the 10-11 budget.

4. Standing Item: School & Program Changes

a. Update on School Program Changes

Information was provided in the Board Weekly Update on Roosevelt and Longfellow. The Board heard a presentation on Open School at the last COB. Open School is in the process of going through the procedure defined by the Board for a name change and will be voting on the proposed names in the very near future.

City Council Member Carter gave an in-depth presentation on the Frogtown/Summit-U Family Support Partnership and presented a resolution to the Board asking the District to participate in the partnership in order to transform student and families' lives. The partnership is between the city, county and the schools with each having specific areas of accountability. The resolution was read as follows:

WHEREAS the Saint Paul Public School District is committed to ensuring that all of our youth are prepared for future success; and

WHEREAS the School District is continuing to implement large-scale system changes due to the unstable funding structures, and academic achievement accountability requirements that are expected to increase through 2014 with significant district-wide budget reductions expected through 2015; and

WHEREAS the City of Saint Paul and Saint Paul region continue to pursue federal, state and local and private funds to develop the Central Corridor and adjacent neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS Maxfield and Jackson Elementary programs, located within the aforementioned neighborhoods along the Central Corridor, strive to increase student achievement, close the academic gap and move all students to advanced levels of proficiency; and

WHEREAS the City of Saint Paul recognizes the interdependent nature of school success and thriving neighborhoods and as such, designates Maxfield and Jackson Elementary as anchors of its community development efforts; and

WHEREAS a stronger partnership between schools and community, including City and County services for families within the school and surrounding areas, could beneficially address the growing disparity in educational attainment and make a positive impact on the region's economic vitality and competitiveness; and

WHEREAS the Saint Paul Children's Collaborative is an existing structure focused on addressing issues facing youth that include policy level representatives from the Saint Paul Public School District, Ramsey County, City of Saint Paul, Community Action Partnership of Ramsey & Washington Counties, and community stakeholders; and

WHEREAS a holistic, concentrated approach to community development maximizes public resources and establishes a strong case to target resources to these two school neighborhoods;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Independent School District 625 (Saint Paul) welcomes and supports the opportunity to partner with the City of Saint Paul, Ramsey County and community organizations focused on enhancing the neighborhoods around Maxfield and Jackson Elementary schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors hereby requests that District staff develop recommendations for strengthening and supporting this partnership effort, specifically focused around academic programming & achievement; teacher recruitment & training; and parent & community engagement.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education approve the resolution designating Maxfield and Jackson Elementary Schools as anchors of community development efforts.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

5. Resignation of Board of Education Director

The Board Chair reported Director Goldstein has resigned his office effective November 11, 2009 and that she has received his formal letter of resignation. Official action to accept the resignation and additional actions to appoint the two newly elected Board members will occur at the Special Board of Education meeting on November 11, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in order to have a full compliment of Board members active during the final stages of the Superintendent search process. Director Goldstein was thanked for his services on the Board and for the gracious gesture made to facilitate the process of selection of a new superintendent.

6. Standing Item: Superintendent Transition

Regarding the Superintendent Search, the process is on task.

7. Work Session

a. **CBFAC and Other Committee Names**

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education eliminate the word citizen from the committees over which the Board has discretion and to move forward with final decision on new names pending receipt of further information and input from the committees.

Director Hardy stated he want to be on the record to state CBFAC is an inclusionary committee.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

Administration was asked to assist in an Inventory of any other committees which might be impacted and when the final change is made to ensure that changes are consistent throughout.

b. Board Listening Sessions 2009-10

Work is in process to schedule and organize Board Listening Session for 2009-10.

B. Acceptance of the Report of the Committee Meetings Reports

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved acceptance of the Report of the Committee of the Board for November 10, 2009. Motion seconded by Ms. Varro.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

VI. RECOGNITIONS

BF 28115

Recognition of Schools, Teams, Individuals and Coaches in Our Saint Paul Public Schools That Have Won Athletic Awards and Championships

- A. Murray Junior High School - Girls' Soccer Team, City Champion
- B. Murray Junior High School - Volleyball Team, City Champion
- C. Washington Technology Middle School - Flag Football Team, City Champion
- D. Washington Technology Middle School - Boys' Soccer Team, City Champion
- E. Central Senior High School - Boys' Cross Country Team, City Champion
- F. Central Senior High School - Girls' Cross Country Team, City Champion
- G. Central Senior High School - Football Team, City Co-Champion
- H. Central Senior High School - Girls' Swim Team, City Champion
- I. Central Senior High School - Girls' Tennis Team, City Co-Champion
- J. Central Senior High School - Volleyball Team, City Champion
- K. Como Park Senior High School - Football Team, City Co-Champion
- L. Como Park Senior High School - Boys' Soccer Team, City Champion
- M. Como Park Senior High School - Girls' Tennis Team, City Co-Champion
- N. Highland Park Senior High School - Football Team, City Co-Champion
- O. Highland Park Senior High School - Girls' Soccer Team, City Champion

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved, seconded by Ms. Carroll, the Board of Education recognize and congratulate the coaches, team and individuals for their outstanding accomplishments.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

BF 28116. Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees and Departments

- A. **Patrick Bryan**, principal at Jackson Preparatory Magnet, received the 2009-10 Saint Paul Division Leadership Achievement Award from the Minnesota Elementary School Principals' Association (MESPA).
- B. **Sharon Looney**, kindergarten teacher from Frost Lake Elementary, was the second place recipient of the 2009 3M Innovative Economic Education Teaching Award. The award recognizes the success of teachers who provide innovation and leadership in improving economic and personal finance literacy.

BF 28117. Acknowledgement of Good Work by School

- A. **Barack and Michelle Obama Service Learning Elementary** received the 2009 Minnesota Service Learning Leader School Award from the Minnesota Department of Education. One school in the state of Minnesota is chosen for this award each year. Candidate schools need to demonstrate their commitment to service learning, and also demonstrate that their projects meet the benchmarks as identified by the National K-12 Service-Learning Standards for Quality Practice.
- B. **Creative Arts High School** received the highest rating possible when they went through the accreditation process last spring. Schools that enter this process are scrutinized and evaluated by a team of professionals from AdvancEd using research-based accreditation standards that cross state, regional, and national boundaries and are based upon best practice. Creative Arts High School spent two years preparing for this accreditation. The accreditation is a distinctive mark of quality, recognized internationally, representing external recognition of this school's commitment to quality.
- C. **SPPS schools and programs were acknowledged in the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS) 2009 Promising Partnership Practices publication**, which has been distributed nationally and is available on the NNPS Web site, www.partnershipschools.org, for the following family engagement strategies:
 - Highland Park Elementary, for Family Science Night
 - Phalen Lake Hmong Studies Magnet School, for Hmong New Year and Hmong Studies Showcase
 - L'Etoile du Nord - French Immersion School, for The Trumpeter Swan Society
 - Roosevelt West Side School of Excellence, for Harambee
 - Saint Paul Public Schools, for Learning Standards for Families (District-wide initiative)

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved the Board of Education recognize the staff, departments and schools acknowledged for their contributions and outstanding work. Motion seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

BF 28118

Acknowledgement of Good Work of Former Board Member

The Chair recognized former Director Goldstein for his service on the Board over the past four year. Director Goldstein offered observations for the Board to consider.

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved, seconded by Ms. Carroll, the Board of Education recognizes Director Tom Goldstein for his contributions and outstanding work.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Mary Reis – Spoke about the Achievement Gap

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. American Education Week

The Interim superintendent acknowledged that this is American Education Week and Wednesday is Education Support Professionals Day and Thursday is Support Educators Day. This year's national theme is Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility.

She stated she is encouraged that individually and collectively Saint Paul Public Schools staff, especially those who work most closely with students, have embraced the idea that they must be accountable for all students achieving at high levels. The District has committed to providing high quality instruction, a comprehensive curriculum that prepares its graduates to compete in a global economy and added interventions and opportunities for enrichment to ensure student success.

She went on that even as budget reductions have meant larger class sizes and fewer resources for many schools and programs, staff has rallied to implement new curriculum, authentically participated in cultural proficiency training and gracefully navigated the leadership transition by continuing to focus on the work of educating the students and supporting their families. She extended her thanks to staff for their work.

B. Council of Great City Schools Update

The Superintendent stated she would report on two highlights of the Council of Great City Schools annual conference. One was the opportunity for on discussion on National Standards and the next steps for urban schools. The group was interested in hearing from

SPPS, Boston, Denver, Atlanta about how the move toward national standards would affect students and teachers and what additional resources might be needed. She noted there was particular discussion that attention needs to be paid to the effect national standards would have on districts with high numbers of ELL students and to the assumption that districts have infrastructure to support new technology standards; many do not. Also attention should be paid to the additional professional development costs districts will incur during implementation.

The Councils ELL and Bi-Lingual Education Task Force issued its report on district-level policies and practices as well as a historical, administrative and programmatic contents of school systems that showed growth in ELL student achievement from 2002-2006 Saint Paul Public Schools was lauded in the report and throughout the conference for its trailblazing work with English Language Learners that was shaped under SPPS's Chief Academic Officer and continued under the current ELL director. The Superintendent stated the entire ELL staff is to be commended for the significant accomplishments they have made and for serving as a model for other large urban district.

A request was made to have the link to the CGCS Report placed on the SPPS website.

C. Mondo Implementation Progress Report

The Superintendent commended staff on their implementation of Mondo and the LLC work. Mondo has raised some critical questions in terms of implementation and as the questions have arisen staff has been responsive in terms of figuring out what needs to be tweaked or changed, what is working well and whether an issue is discomfort with change or if there is a real need to make accommodation.

In the process of deciding on the Mondo curriculum an independent evaluation showed that implementation of Mondo Bookshop has resulted in double digit gains in the percentage of children who read at or above grade level in six other urban districts (South Florida, New Haven, Hartford, Boston, New York City and Elgin, IL).

The Mondo curriculum is completely aligned with SPPS's current Reader's Workshop and Skills Block. With the implementation of Mondo Bookshop all students receive oral language assessments and lessons. For many students, oral language development skills are impeding their reading achievement and this program helps in these areas. Mondo materials are engaging; lessons are built on colorful pictures for "Let's Talk About It" and catchy tunes for "Let's Sing About It." Both of which enhance the degree of learning as it is known engagement is tied to achievement. Additionally, more than half of the texts in the program are non-fiction and support national standards in science and social studies.

Mondo was selected through a rigorous adoption process completed in SY 08-09. The process included a committee of 48 individuals, including teachers, principals, district administrators, ELL staff and special education. Teachers comprised 2/3 of the selection team. The process was based on specific criteria to select the program that best fit with SPPS' existing Reader's Workshop.

Mondo provides a common curriculum for K-5 literacy (in combination with the pacing guide and support materials). Job-embedded weekly literacy grade level team meetings are conducted at each school to plan for instruction. The Mondo Bookshop professional development plan provides training for principals, literacy coaches and teachers. The program includes model lessons with SPPS students (at Barack and Michelle Obama Service Learning and Prosperity Heights schools), preparation for literacy team meetings and preparation for individual coach/teacher meetings.

SPPS will measure program implementation for Year One by answering the following questions: (1) To what extent are the conditions for full program implementation present in

each school? (2) Is the principal visiting classrooms to monitor reading instruction and provide support? (3) What activities are school literacy coaches performing each month that support Mondo implementation and (4) What activities are district Reading Instruction Specialists (RIS) performing to support school literacy coaches and principals in the implementation of Mondo. There will be monthly coaching reports.

Student growth is what is sought and will be measured with PALS data for K-3 students, periodic Mondo Oral Language Assessments, Mondo Benchmark Assessments and NWEA/MAP data for schools using that test.

Next steps will be to fully implement Reader's Workshop using Mondo Bookshop materials as a priority over the next five years. It will be necessary, of course, to secure full support of the implementation with the new superintendent and there must be an assurance of continuous professional learning about effective reading instruction including implementation of Mondo Bookshop.

It was agreed the implementation of a new curriculum does put a burden on people but if results are to be expected it will take intensive coaching and professional development for staff as well as buy-in for the program.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- The Board is hearing that while there is flexibility with the very guided instruction to use the materials (not to treat it as a separate curriculum) this may not allow those places where students are advancing faster than what is expected so even with great flexibility the focus seems to be on moving students forward but doesn't give the support or classroom structure when there are students who can advance faster. Response: What is being asked of teachers is to address the specific teaching **point**, with more advanced students they will still be able to use the mini-lesson around the teaching point. The mini-lesson may be at a 4th grade level (the mini-lesson should always be at grade level); it is only a 10-15 minute lesson and is about the teaching point. That teaching point is equally valid for high and low learners. If the lesson plan gets into text that isn't appropriate teachers don't need to use it. The small group teaching should still be continuing with the classroom, libraries and through independent reading. It is here where there should be really close matching of the text to the student's instructional and independent reading levels.
- It is recognized that any newly implemented program needs time for change and adjustment. However, with a committee of 48 persons, how did the committee research Mondo education and work through the scenarios of levels of push back? Response: There were six programs explored, there was consultation with a national reading consultant, national research was looked at and reviewed and the program was presented in-depth. It was a consensus process; there was a 90% consensus in the committee for implementing Mondo. As complaints are heard these are being heard, monitored and adjusted as the program goes along. It is essential to know where the difficulties are appearing and that these are being addressed and smoothed out. The national Mondo team has been very responsive to requests to change principal training, to respond to teacher complaints and to try to help SPPS as much as possible to make the changes being asked for where it is possible.
- It appears materials were not available until close to the start of school and while there was some training there was not enough time to become familiarized with the materials. It was noted that administration should take a lesson from this and try to have materials in a timely manner; perhaps in the spring so teachers would have them to work with over the summer. Response: Administration did have teacher guides available for summer research and use. The materials were delivered the week of August 10 so teachers did come back to school and it was a hard piece of work for both teachers and textbook managers.

- In the Early Ed program there is a focus on literacy; how does this articulate into the elementary phase of Mondo effort? Additionally, what will be seen with those students coming from SPPS early education programs moving into this sort of curriculum? Response: SPPS is working very carefully with pre-school programs. It is a two-way street where they are informing SPPS instruction at the Kindergarten level and SPPS is working with them to inform their instruction at the pre-school level. They have early childhood workshops which are very similar to SPPS readers and writers workshops. These coincide well. What is learned from early childhood programs is being used to beef up Kindergarten instruction. SPPS is doing a whole Kindergarten practicum this year to take the lessons from early childhood and make sure that if early childhood kids are exceeding what is expected of them as 4-year olds, when they get to 5 they aren't cycled back to the beginning of their learning. This will then be moved up to the first grade and continued on up.
- From an evaluation standpoint is SPPS tracking how the early childhood ed students continue to maintain that gain into 3rd grade. Response: SPPS has been given the opportunity with a grant over the last five years which provided for evaluation of early learning. In the first two cohorts when they came into Kindergarten they were performing at much higher levels than those students who had not had the advantage of early childhood programs. When they moved into 1st grade they continued to be higher but not to as marked a degree. This indicated a need to elevate standards to continue to challenge students as they progress. To close the achievement gap it is essential to start early with kids. Students are making gains coming out of early childhood education but they must continue to be challenged to continue to achieve the gains.
- Monthly coaching reports, what has been the result? Response: There are monthly coaching clusters and the monthly report is a log of what coaches are doing with teachers and what teachers are being asked if they are being helped by coaches.
- When will student assessment start? Students will be tracked throughout the year with PALS data, the oral language assessments and the Mondo benchmarks. The second set of PALS testing is in January so preliminary data will come from that.

D. Human Resource Transactions

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved, seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart, the Board of Education approve the Human Resource Transactions as published.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

IX. **CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved approval of all Consent Agenda Items as published. Motion seconded by Ms. Varro.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

A. Gifts**BF 28119.** Gift Acceptance from Cisco Systems

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept this donation to support the technology initiatives of the District.

BF 28120. Gift Acceptance from Ecolab Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Crossroads Elementary School to accept this gift from Ecolab Foundation. And that The Superintendent (designee) will send a letter of appreciation to Ecolab Foundation.

BF 28121. Gift Acceptance from J. A. Wedum Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Crossroads Elementary School to accept this gift from J. A. Wedum Foundation. And that the Superintendent (designee) will send a letter of appreciation to J. A. Wedum Foundation.

BF 28122. Gift Acceptance from J.J. Hill Montessori Magnet School Parent Teacher Organization

That the Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow J.J. Hill Magnet School to accept a monetary gift of \$6000.00 from the J.J. Hill Montessori Magnet School Parent Teacher Organization. The total amount will be deposited in Intraschool Fund 19-493-000-0000-5096-0000.

B. Grants**BF 28123.** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to 3M

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to 3M to support the *Strategic Science and Engineering Initiative: 2010-2011 Engineering Is Elementary Expansion*; to accept funds, as necessary; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 28124. Request for Permission to Apply for a Grant from 3M (NASA STEM)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to NASA to support science and technology education; to accept funds, if awarded, and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 28125. Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Minnesota Department of Education - Adult Basic Education (MDE-ABE) for a Supplementary English as a Second Language Services to Refugees Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Education for funds to provide intensive ESL services to refugee students and families in the district; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 28126. Request for Permission to Submit Grant Applications to the Target Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit grant applications to the Target Foundation for funds in the district to conduct field trips to enhance student learning; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the projects as specified in the award documents.

C. Agreements

BF 28127. Request for Permission to Participate in Student Nurse Agreement

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to participate in a Student Nurse Agreement with The University of Iowa. This Agreement shall become effective August 1, 2009 and continue annually unless sixty days written notice to terminate this Agreement is given to the other party. Advance notice of termination is required to safeguard the students currently enrolled in the nursing program

D. Contracts

BF 28128. Supplemental Educational Services Contracts – Revision of Company Names to Reflect Actual Names of Incorporation and Correction of Budget Code

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to enter into an agreement with the above authorized SES providers for the school year 2009-2010.

E. Administrative Items

BF 28129. Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and wire transfers for the period .

(a) General Account	#461297-462850	\$47,498,598.19
	#3013861-3013946	
(b) Debt Service	-0-	
(c) Construction	-0-	<u>3,697,038.77</u>
		<u>\$51,195,636.96</u>

Included in the above disbursements are payrolls in the amount of \$18,267,518.55 and overtime of \$121,352.50.

(d) Collateral Changes

	Original Face	Maturity Date
US Bank Released		
FHLMW FHARM 1L1273	18,322,000.00	12/01/2035
FHLMC GOLD E01418	42,000,000.00	07/01/2018
FNMA FNCL 555608	10,645,000.00	07/01/2033
FNMA FNCI 720312	13,855,000.00	06/01/2018
FNMA FNCI 742161	6,820,000.00	09/01/2018

That the Board of Education further authorize payment of properly certified cash disbursements including payrolls, overtime schedules, compensation claims, and claims under the Workers' Compensation Law falling within the period ending February 16, 2010.

BF 28130. Professional Services from Springsted, Inc.

That the Board of Education authorize the administration to procure professional financial services from Springsted, Inc as needed, based on the schedule of rates provided, for the period of time through June 30, 2012 or for additional extended periods at the same terms and conditions.

X. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. Negotiated Sale of Bonds

BF 28112 Resolution Accepting Bid on Sale of \$9,790,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds, Series 2009B, providing for their issuance, and levying a tax for the payment thereof

A. Information Requests & Responses

The Chair indicated she had placed materials from the CGCS Annual Conference in the Board Room for the review of Board members.

B. Items for Future Agendas -- None

C. Board of Education Reports/Communications -- None

D. Superintendent Transition/Search

The Chair reported the Board is in the final stages of the Superintendent search. It is in the process of interviewing the three finalists (Dr. Charles Hopson, Valeria Silva and Dr. Deb Henton). She described the public engagement opportunities and the feedback process. She extended the Board's thanks to staff for putting together such a smooth process. She additionally thanked the Interim Superintendent for her leadership during the transition.

XIII. **FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE**

A. Board of Education Meetings (5:45 unless otherwise noted)

- December 15
- January 5, 2010 Annual Meeting
- January 19
- February 16
- March 16
- April 20
- May 18
- June 15
- July 20

B. Committee of the Board Meetings (4:30 unless otherwise noted)

- December 1
- January 12 -- CANCELLED
- January 26
- February 23
- March 23
- April 6
- May 4
- June 1
- July 13

MOTION: Mr. Hardy moved the Board of Education schedule a Special Board of Education meeting for Monday, November 23 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of selection of the new Superintendent for Saint Paul Public Schools. Motion seconded by Ms. Varro.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

XIV. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Ms. Varro moved the meeting adjourn; seconded by Ms. O'Connell.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 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