

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota

COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD MEETING
360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102

November 1, 2022
4:30 p.m.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:31 p.m. by Vice Chair Kopp.

II. ROLL CALL

Board of Education: J. Kopp, J. Vue, U. Ward, H. Henderson, Z. Ellis
Superintendent Gothard

C. Allen was absent.

Staff: J. Turner, K. Thao, C. Long, A. Collins, N. Paez, Y. Vang, C. Anderson,
S. Schmidt de Carranza, S. Dahlke, T. Parent, B. Natala, K. Kimani, E.
Wacker, T. Sager, L. Olson, S. Gray Akyea, T. Walker, A. Kunz, M.
Gilbert, P. Pratt-Cook

Community: L. Bolton, J. Verges, T. Lonetree,

III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

MOTION: Director Kopp moved approval of the Order of the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Ellis. It passed by acclaim.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Gothard began the meeting by welcoming everyone, including our new Executive Chief of Financial Services, Tom Sager. It is his first Committee of the Board meeting, and we are glad to have him on board. Superintendent Gothard also shared details on the celebration of the first Karen language class, and recognized senior leaders for their involvement in this impressive event.

V. 2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Mary Gilbert Dougherty to present the 2023 Legislative Agenda presentation. He noted that education will be an important topic in the upcoming midterm and 2024 elections.

Within the presentation, details were shared on the session preview, strategic plan priorities that drive the agenda, general education/categorical formulas, special education, fully fund existing mandates, increase and diversify teacher workforce, provide resources for child and family support, and school safety and security.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Henderson requested more details on steps to build a strong presentation at the capitol as a community. Ms. Gilbert provided details on the work across the legislature to find common interests with Saint Paul, and providing information that some issues are not specific to Saint Paul, but are issues across the state. She also provided examples, including the EL cross-subsidy and special education cross-subsidy work. We have also invited legislators to SPPS to visit our schools. It is about relationships in this work.
- Director Kopp noted that if there is work for school board members to help in these efforts or to coordinate, that they welcome that work.
- Ms. Gilbert also noted that we typically do not oppose items that protect us from ourselves, with the lockdown example.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Director Kopp moved to approve the 2023 Legislative Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Foster. It passed by acclaim.

VI. SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Laurie Olson, Director of Security and Emergency Management, to present an update on the department. Topics included the evolution of the department, school support liaison (SSL) update, Emergency Management update, and Department of Justice grants. The mission of the department was shared of students first - always, as well as details on the team of dedicated professionals, and the evolution to meet the needs of students. A video featuring Kehindo Olafeso, SLL, was also shared. Further details were also provided on the demographics of SSLs, and Emergency Management overall. The team effort of school safety was also addressed, as well as details on the STOP School Violence grant award information. The customized 4-step R-model was presented, as well as expected outcomes from the grants. In SEM, it is all about relationships, and we must focus on creating and sustaining environments where all students have the opportunity to feel safe, supported, seen, heard and valued.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Further details were requested on the school emergency plans, which are specialized plans for that specific building, and includes all hazards, and universal response actions to emergencies. It is a customized document, which also includes building floor plans. It is all encompassing for situations, including roles, responsibilities, expectations, and staff are trained every year, and the plan is revised each year. As administration changes in the building or construction changes the building, the plans are also updated accordingly.
- Further details were also requested on the stop school violence grants, in which we will eventually use our data to guide our team and staff in preparation for emergencies. We will be

looking for patterns based on that data, and where to frontload and offer meaningful interventions, and opportunities to connect with students and families to prevent an act from occurring.

- Director Ward noted his experience in learning more about this topic at the recent AMSD meeting.
- Superintendent Gothard reiterated the importance of “active supervision”, and that all staff need to be present and observant in our buildings.

VII. THE COUNCIL OF GREAT CITY SCHOOLS AND STUDENT OUTCOMES FOCUSED GOVERNANCE AND REPORT ON COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE

Vice Chair Kopp then introduced the this portion of the meeting, and included that she, Superintendent Gothard and Director Vue were able to attend this year’s conference. Superintendent Gothard began by sharing details of his time at the conference, including task force meetings, and executive meeting. There were many wonderful speakers, including the deputy secretary of education. SPPS presented four presentations at the conference, which were all very well attended. This year was about the strategies, and next year’s presentations will focus on the results. He was also able to introduce Dr. Sanjay Gupta, and his talk on experiences through the pandemic. He noted that one of the great aspects of the conference is the ability to connect with other districts, and thanked the Board for their work as well, especially in hearing the challenges that other districts face across the country.

Director Kopp and Director Vue then presented details on Council of the Great City Schools and the initiative of Student Outcomes Focused Governance, which included details on the introduction to the Council of the Great City Schools organization, and work on Student Focused Governance Outcomes. Both directors also shared their experiences at the conference, including trainings prior to the conference on SOFG, as well as their cohort capstone projects. The second portion of the presentation focused on the fundamentals of student outcomes focused governance, as well as next steps.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Henderson requested examples of items that are not student outcomes focused.
- Director Ward noted that he was originally involved in the training, and found that he disagreed with some of the points, and agreed with others; he decided not to go forward with the training. He questioned the rationale for some parts of the original training document that were not included in the handouts at this meeting. Chair Vue provided further details, including that this conversation is the first phase of this work, and to introduce the idea.
- Director Ward noted that some parts of this work are difficult to accept, and understands the idea, but there needs to be further discussion in terms of limiting or narrowing the work of the board.
- Director Henderson wondered if there are ways to tailor this work to SPPS, and to create our own version of the SOFG manual for SPPS.
- Director Vue noted that this work is in conjunction with other districts across the country, and there is not a standard of work, but is based on the community, students, and individual district.
- Director Ward questioned the cost of the contract.
- He also noted he is uneasy about the contract, because the training included a very specific and particular philosophical perspective. He noted that work of the Board in enrollment, budget process, bargaining, class sizes - these are items that are not student outcomes focused, but also important for the Board.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Director Kopp moved to adjourn the meeting. Director Ellis and all board members seconded the motion. It passed by acclaim.

The meeting adjourned at 6:22 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:

Sarah Dahlke

Assistant Clerk, St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education