INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

September 13, 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, J. Foster, U. Ward. C. Allen, H. Henderson, Z. Ellis Superintendent Gothard
Staff:	J. Turner, K. Thao, C. Long, B. Chan, A. Collins, N. Paez, Y. Vang, C. Anderson, A. Kunz, S. Schmidt de Carranza, S. Gray Akyea, S. Dahlke, T. Parent. B. Natala, D. Abrams
Community:	L. Bolton, J. Verges

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 Allen and Director Foster. It passed by acclaim.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Gothard noted that the school year is off to a great start - reclaiming happiness is a prevailing theme after the past couple years of school year openings. Folks are happy to be back, but worries still exist, and the education of our young people continues, and knowing we are working together in safe and productive ways. He is pleased with the great work in our newly merged sites, and the work conducted and staff working together, as well as families coming together for a positive momentum. He provided a brief update on enrollment, including that there are waiting lists at two schools, with more details to follow later this year. He also thanked his team for their work through the transitions, and are on pace and oriented to serve buildings and staff, and families. He also provided notes on the work of the District, including the Districtwide Career Pathways Center, and professional development. He also thanked the Board of Education for their support, and is pleased with the start of the 2022-2023 school year. He went on to note the great energy within the 25-Year Celebration. He encouraged those with feedback to contact the District, and looks forward to sharing more updates.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Ellis requested information on future information for initial numbers for enrollment. Dr. Gray-Akyea noted that beginning on 9/14, there will be daily enrollment verification, and then will develop the unofficial October 1 enrollment count.
- Director Ellis noted that for the schools with waiting lists, it will be helpful to see the differences in those schools, and ways to build upon that at other sites.
- Chief Turner noted that as part of the September Envision Report at the Regular Meeting, the focus will be on the merged schools.

V. UPDATES TO PROCEDURE 206.01.01 GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Director Kopp then introduced Director Ward to introduce this topic, which is a continuation from the August Committee of the Board meeting. A brief presentation was shared, which included the rationale for these proposed changes, proposed updates to the procedure, including extending public comment to 45 minutes and incorporating public comment into the regular board agenda. The Board also discussed the timeframe, recognitions within the meeting, official start time of Regular Meetings, and when this change may go into effect.

The full presentation, including the proposed changes to the procedure, can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Chief Turner noted a historical perspective in that there was a time when public comment was a part of the agenda, but there was feedback that there was then not a time certain for business. Ms. Abrams also noted that Public Comment has changes throughout her time in the District, including no time limit for speakers, and the addition of time for interpretation of speaking comments.
- The Board and Administration noted the efficiency of beginning the meeting immediately following the end of Public Comment.
- Director Allen noted that she believes more time is needed for the community, but Recognitions do need to be time sensitive, as well as to showcase the great work within the District first.
- Director Ellis noted it may be helpful to check with those who help to organize student recognitions and athletics recognitions, whether it would be best to have recognitions earlier or later in the evening.
- Director Kopp noted she heard there is a strong preference for recognitions to be first on the agenda.
- Director Foster also requested information gathered by Director Ward on the research of public comment timing at past meetings.
- It was noted that Public Comment is one of the many ways that community members can engage with the Board.
- Future steps were also noted, including discussion and action planned tentatively for the October 2022 Regular Meeting.
- Director Ward recapped that the proposed procedure would be to begin the meeting at 5:30pm, Recognitions, and then allow up to 45 minutes for Public Comment. The length of Public Comment will be dependent on the number of speakers, and many months may result in shorter Regular Meeting.
- The implementation of the proposed change was also discussed, including timing, and transition, as well as communications about the proposed changes.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Director Kopp moved to adjourn the meeting. Director Ellis seconded the motion. It passed by acclaim.

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 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