

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

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

**June 14, 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.

She noted that it is now the end of the school year, and a very warm day, and transitions have felt differently. She also requested that we offer space silently for those and offer good care and energy to those in our community.

II. ROLL CALL

Board of Education: J. Kopp, Z. Ellis, H. Henderson, J. Foster
Superintendent Gothard

J. Vue, C. Allen, and U. Ward were absent.

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 Foster. It passed by acclaim.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Gothard began by welcoming everyone to the meeting. He shared an update on the 15 graduation ceremonies, with SPPS Online School joining, as well as Journeys with their own graduation ceremony for the second year. It was great to honor the students, families, and community in those ceremonies. He thanked members of the Board, staff, and all who helped in coordinating the graduation ceremonies, as well as Communications. It is amazing to see how far our students have come this year, and he also noted the routines that he saw in buildings, as well as a recap of his time spent in buildings and the evidence that staff and students are working hard until the last day of school. How we end something is how we start it the next time, and that holds true for the current and next school year. He also thanked our educators, as they continue the work and continue to support each other. He thanked everyone for a great school year, and also shared the important work to close out the year and start anew for the 2022-2023 school year.

V. POLICY UPDATE

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed staff from the American Indian Education Program and alumna from Johnson High School to present the Policy Update on the new policy of Smudging. Details were shared on the rationale for the policy, information on smudging and how smudging will be done procedurally in buildings, a link to the proposed policy, and next steps including the three-reading process.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Staff noted that this is an opportunity for the District to set a precedence for other school districts and to welcome the cultural practice for American Indian students.
- Alyssa, alumna of Johnson, spoke about her experience with smudging in high school, and meeting with the principal and staff on the importance of smudging for students, as well as educating other students about the practice. It created a sense of community amongst students.
- Dominic Good Buffalo also spoke about the origin of the policy and that the Parent Committee is in full support of it. He went on to share that smudging will help our students in their educational journey and to graduation. The Native community, as well as the Tribal communities support this policy.
- Superintendent Gothard shared three comments about this policy. He mentioned the District's work and relationship with TNEC, and this policy will allow SPPS to be a leader in this work and will be great to report back to the Committee in October. He shared that the Parent Committee has been talking about this policy for the past few years, and advocated for it, and supported the work with the District. He also shared his experiences at the MN Indian Education Conference at Mystic Lake, and to see students in elementary school to high school speaking about this policy, and presented to a statewide audience. It is a great culmination to hear them and express their support and rationale, and to be leaders in this state. He thanked everyone for their work to make this possible.
- Director Ellis noted that in seeing this policy come together, it's great to see it moving onto approval through the three-reading process.
- It was noted that, similar to the student engagement with the Ramsey name change, there is an important piece of Equity in this and will be a blueprint for other districts to follow.
- Director Foster noted that this is groundwork for the youth in our buildings to mobilize and find support to do this work and see the actions to create change for our cultural communities to have space in this District.
- Director Kopp thanked the team for their work, and believes the capacity will radiate out, and is important for other districts, and a reminder that this began with our students.
- It was the overall consensus from the Board to move forward with the three-reading process, and if approved, will be implemented before the start of the next school year.

VI. AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN (ARP) UPDATE

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Dr. Gray Akyea to present the American Rescue Plan Update. Objectives of the presentation included to provide a clear status update on the American Rescue Plan, to introduce the Outcome Consultation Group, and to provide a monitoring calendar for FY23. The purpose of the ARP was reviewed, as well as alignment with ARP and SPPS Achieves, ARP funded strategies and videos, and ARP in the news. The progress monitoring framework was also shared, including goals of the framework, and process. The Outcome Consultation Group was also introduced including an overview, as well as the six groups that will convene and focus on each of the long-term students

outcomes. Monitoring details were also shared, including teams for review and timelines and presentations. This is Part 1 of a two-part series, with the June Regular Meeting to include the SPPS Achieves rest, and ARP and SPPS Achieves implementation update.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Foster noted that in the implementation phase for funds, that we are able to make shifts and adjustments if needed.
- Director Ellis requested details on the history and timeline, and noted it will be helpful to see the overlap between SPPS Achieves and ARP, as well as details on decisions for the future. Response: This presentation focused on the monitoring, while the next presentation will focus on SPPS Achieves and ARP together. We are finding ways that are promising and opportunities to determine what stays and what goes - we are using these funds to do new and innovative initiatives, such as the WINN teachers.
- More information was requested on the data that was collected for the progress monitoring, as well as a request for visuals of the data collected.
- The role of MCAs in the data was also noted - MCAs are a long-term goal, but FAST data is a benchmark.
- The role of literacy data, as well as math data, was noted, and other assessments.
- Director Kopp asked to hear examples of preliminary success stories from ARP funds, which will be provided at the Regular Meeting presentation on June 21.
- The reporting requirements for funds were also noted.
- How are we thinking about contextualizing or explaining the dashboard data? Response: We have several prototypes and will work with other districts and stakeholders to gain feedback. We want the community to have the ability to drill down into specific areas, but also to see the high-level.
- Director Ellis asked if students would be involved in the consulting groups on long-term student outcomes, as well as our PACs and in partnership and collaboration with the Office of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships.

VII. FINANCIAL PROJECTION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING APRIL 30, 2022

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Marie Schrul, Chief Finance Officer, and Lori Doehne from the Office of Finance, to present the report.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION: None

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Director Kopp moved to approve the acceptance of the Financial Projection Report for the period ending April 30, 2022. The motion was seconded by Director Henderson. It passed by acclaim.

VIII. LATINO CONSENT DECREE PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL 2021-2022 ANNUAL REPORT

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed staff from the Latino Consent Decree Parent Advisory Council and Dana Abrams, Director of Office of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships, to present the

annual report. The co-chairs of the council were introduced, as well as District staff. The purpose and function and history of the Latino Consent Decree were reviewed. The LCD PAC annual reporting cycle was shared, as well as the overview of the work from 2013 to 2022. Details on the four strategic recommendations were also presented, including Spanish Language Assessment, Student Plan, Coordination of the LCD Instructional Program at School Level, and Staffing. Details on each of these recommendations were also discussed. A video showing the activities and work of the LCD PAC and Parent Engagement was also shown, as well as highlighting the importance of the program.

The full presentation and annual report can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Foster thanked the team for their work, and the need to see action and supports in place to make a plan for investments in our students and families. She thanked the PAC members for their time and is always amazed at their work, and advocacy for our students and families.
- Superintendent Gothard thanked the co-chairs and the PAC for the presentation. He recounted the past work and objectives and time spent engaging with the LCD PAC, and the work on the commitments. He also noted the role of the ARP fund and strategic plan and the progress monitoring, and to ensure that the monitoring is something the community can see. LCD PAC members noted again the importance of the leadership team of the PAC and how to advance on the recommendations.
- Members of the PAC also shared their experiences.
- The importance of the leadership team in the implementation and work of the PAC was also noted, and it is critical to the success of the program. It is the work of the superintendent, staff, and families to monitor the progress of these recommendations.

IX. FY2022-2023 BUDGET UPDATE

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Chief Schrul to present the FY2022-23 Budget Update. He also noted that on May 23rd, the Legislature failed to act on the bill that would provide \$18M for 2 years for SPPS, and we have been underfunded and a special session to complete their work has not been called yet. It is frustrating, and he felt it was important to begin with that reminder to our politicians and community.

Chief Schrul then reviewed the budget process, the FY23 General Fund revenue, General Fund budget categories, FY23 General Fund allocations, and expenditures for the FY23 proposed budget. Examples of the FY23 budget recommendations were also reviewed, which included details on the area, the recommendation, and the amount. The FY23 budget timeline was also reviewed, with the final FY23 Budget to be presented to the Board of Education at the Regular Meeting on June 21, 2022.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Details were requested on the change in the high school schedule model.
- Director Ellis noted there are required classes and elective classes, and it seems that the elective classes may be cut before the required classes, and the alignment of the budget and class schedule with Envision SPPS and well-rounded education, and her concerns around the loss of elective classes. Response: We are looking for efficiencies to offer well-rounded education and

opportunities, including the Districtwide Career Pathways Center, as well as remote online courses for students.

- Director Ellis noted concerns about the impacts of Envision SPPS on high schools, and the paths for students. Superintendent Gothard noted that high school offerings today compared to 2017 are very different, and there are new and different opportunities.
- Further details were also requested on the fall adjustment.
- Board members also thanked the Finance Team for their work, including over the Memorial Day weekend.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 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