

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

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

**April 12, 2022
4:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:38 p.m. by Vice Chair Kopp.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

MOTION: Director Kopp moved approval of the Order of the Agenda with one change - to move the Review of Resolution Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution Regarding the Use of Masks in all Saint Paul Public School Settings to precede the Legislative Update. The motion was seconded by Director Foster. It passed by acclaim.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

V. 2022 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Superintendent Gothard welcomed Mary Gilbert, Legislative Liaison, to present the 2022 Legislative Update. Details were shared on the big picture of the legislative session and important dates. Details were then shared on these topics:

- Stabilize Funding - Eliminate Cross Subsidies
- Comprehensive Plan for School Work Force Shortages
- Enhance Taxpayer Equity
- Enhance Local Control and Reduce Mandates
- Provide Resources for Child and Family Stability and Support

Information was also shared on Focus on Literacy within the Senate and House. Next steps were also presented.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Further details were requested on the formula, as well as the Special Education and EL cross subsidies.

- More information was also requested on the future for 2023. We have current law for FY2023 because we did pass the 2-year budget. This is all supplemental and in addition to what was already passed.
- More details were also requested on SUTR funding, as well as EA and TA recruitment and retention.
- There was also a question on funding for student mental health.

VI. REVIEW OF RESOLUTION ADOPTING A SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS RESOLUTION REGARDING THE USE OF MASKS IN ALL SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOL SETTINGS

Superintendent Gothard provided a brief recap and update of COVID-19 and the resolution. A presentation was shared with updates on COVID-19 in the community, as well as proposed changes to masking, and moving forward with the resolution if passed.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

MOTION: Director Kopp moved approval of the Resolution Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution Regarding the Use of Masks in All Saint Paul Public School Settings. The motion was seconded by Director Vue.

It was then opened for discussion.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Allen requested information on the current case numbers.
- Director Ward shared that in previous meetings, homebound instruction has been an option for families and that this resolution doesn't require masks for homebound instruction unless there are high community case rates. Another concern is the delay of data and information on case numbers. He then proposed an amendment regarding these two items.
- Director Henderson then requested information on communication to families and staff, and students should this resolution pass, and communication if the case rates change from medium to high.
- Information was also requested on information and for families with homebound instruction.
- Details were requested on how the COVID-19 situation is different now than in the past, including staffing.
- Director Ward then re-introduced his proposed amendments to the resolution.

MOTION: Director Ward introduced an amendment to the resolution which stated that "all teachers and staff will be required to wear a mask while delivering homebound instruction regardless of status of community case levels. The motion was seconded by Director Allen and Director Henderson.

It was then opened for discussion.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Wonderings were shared as to the rationale for the mandatory nature of masks when home visits are typically at the discretion of the family and homeowner. Response: Director Ward responded that this amendment would give families more standing to ensure masks are worn in their home

as a requirement. Other board members noted that they trust the educators and staff in their home to meet them where they are, and different relationships are built over time, and it is difficult to imagine that if a family requested that a mask be worn in their home, that staff would refuse. Director Ward also agreed, but noted that masking would be the default in situations.

- Information was then requested from staff as to the mechanism if something is not working with homebound instruction, and how that is conveyed to the school and principal and supervisor.

The motion failed by roll call vote:

Director Kopp	No
Director Ellis	No
Director Foster	No
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	No
Director Allen	Yes

- Director Ward then introduced the second part of his proposed amendment - that the masking requirement would change when case levels from the CDC are at medium to high, instead of high as currently proposed.

MOTION: Director Ward then introduced the second part of his proposed amendment - that the masking requirement would change when case levels from the CDC are at medium to high, instead of high as currently proposed. The motion was seconded by Director Allen.

It was then opened for discussion.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Ward noted that this is another way to be cautious and to keep our schools and community safe.
- More information was requested on the case basis from the CDC and their guidance regarding mask usage.
- Information was also requested on the concerns about the delays in information. It was noted that with positive cases, there will continue to be staff and students excluded for isolation.

The motion failed by roll call vote:

Director Kopp	No
Director Ellis	No
Director Foster	No
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	No
Director Allen	Yes

- The original motion of the resolution as presented was then re-opened.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Information was requested on the current amount of cases in the district; the updated information on the dashboard was also noted.
- More details were also shared on the quarantine timeframe for students and staff.
- Updated vaccination rates were requested, which are 50% for students age 5-11.
- The incubation period and rate were also noted, and the rationale for not giving a grace period and to be cautious around spring break numbers. Response: Based on data from other districts, they are not seeing an increased rate of positive cases in their districts. There is not a current outbreak or surge. We currently have 23 active cases, which is manageable. There are 14 students and 9 staff.
- Director Kopp then shared her comments on this resolution. We have been 2 years into the decisions, and know that times of pivot bring about the greatest amount of anxiety and worry. Weaving through transitions is difficult, and can feel comfortable to stay in one spot. This is not 2020 and it is not 2021, and we are in a different place with different available tools and resources. At this time last year, we were looking at returning to in-person. She then shared her personal experiences with her family and the impacts of returning to in-person, and the impacts of options for families. Families have a choice, and we need to balance the choices available. She appreciates that this resolution gives us the opportunity to move between the highs and lows, and options should the situation change, and to have a set of metrics. If we fail to identify the metrics to the community, then we risk losing the collective goodwill in the city of Saint Paul - we need folks to trust how the decisions are being made even if they do not agree.
- She then offered to her colleagues a potential amendment for the implementation to shift from the stated date of April 13, 2022 to Monday, April 18, 2022.

MOTION: Director Kopp moved to amend the resolution that in the final paragraph, point 9, to change the implementation date to April 18, 2022, from the previously stated date of April 13, 2022. The motion was seconded by Director Allen.

The motion passed by roll call vote:

Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes

- It was then noted that the next vote would be on the resolution as presented in its entirety, including the amendment of the change of implementation date to April 18, 2022.

BF 32749 Resolution Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution Regarding the Use of Masks in All Saint Paul Public School Settings

MOTION: Director Kopp moved to approve the Resolution Adopting a Saint Paul Public Schools Resolution Regarding the Use of Masks in All Saint Paul Public School Settings as amended. It was seconded by Director Vue.

The motion passed by roll call vote:

Director Kopp	Yes
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Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	No
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes

VII. SPPS BUILDS - 5 YEAR PLAN INCORPORATING ENVISION SPPS

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed staff to share updates from SPPS Builds and the 5-year plan to incorporate Envision SPPS and the Introduction to SPPS Builds, the FY23-27 five-year implementation plan for improvements to SPPS facilities, including interactions with Envision SPPS. Topics covered included the Board of Education engagement process, highlights of SPPS Builds: Capital Improvement projects completed and underway, influences on this year's 5YP update, and summary of Envision-related impacts. The process and timeline of Board information and action was also shared.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Information was requested on the deferred maintenance.
- Details were also shared on the ways that communities are coming together and building a new community, including signage for the school identity and a shared mascot.
- Information was also requested on the ARP funding and inflation, and the effects on the timeline for construction.
- Details can also be shared about the other 49 projects, including roofing at Bridge View, other roofing projects, and windows at Riverview, paving projects, boiler replacements, and playground updates, as well as instructional A/V.
- Further information was also requested on the contingencies and bidding process within the contract. Once the bid is awarded, the contractor is obligated to deliver for that amount. Many projects also have the materials on hand. Further discussion on the impacts of inflation and availability of materials was also shared, including electrical equipment and furniture.

VIII. 2021-22 AMERICAN INDIAN PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Superintendent Gothard then introduced members of the American Indian PAC to present the resolution.

Board members thanked the group for their thoroughness and addressing the disparities we see, and hope this is a step in the direction we are trying to go and continue to go. They also appreciate the spirit of collaboration and for the child-, family-, and community-focus of this resolution. Board members also echoed the gratitude for the partnership and the model for our communities, as well as the project-management approach. Superintendent Gothard shared that this is specific to SPPS and the marginalization of our Native students, and it's important to lean in to understand, and noted the recent powwows and the learning and welcome into the Native community. He noted that some of the items in the resolution have been continuing for the past four years, and he is committed to making improvements. Director Ellis noted similar concerns about the timing of these issues, and requested information on the access to a dedicated space and engagement on the location. More information was also requested on

the baseline of information, as well as the identification of students. Recognitions were also noted, including students from Harding, with more details and progression of this work.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 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