

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

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

**February 8, 2022  
4:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:44 p.m. by Vice Chair Vue.

**II. ROLL CALL**

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

Staff: Superintendent Gothard; C. Long, M. Langworthy, M. Thornton, D. Abrams, J. Turner, A. Collins, B. Chan, M. Doud, K. McCarty, K. Thao, C. Baker, K. Wilcox-Harris, K. Arzamendia, J. Vollmer, M. Schrul, M. Karels, S. Dahlke

Public: R. Horowitz, W. Aldrich, 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. It passed by acclaim.

**IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Superintendent Gothard welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Vice Chair Kopp for giving space, especially as we continue in this difficult time with the murders of George Floyd, Daunte Wright, and now Amir Locke. Amir was a student of SPPS and had many ties to the community. Superintendent Gothard noted he was able to observe students gathering and organizing a march to the Governor's residence and their powerful words and role in ensuring these incidents stop and to take control of social justice and racial justice actions in our community. It was a well-attended event with around 2000 attendees and wants our young people to have space, be supporters, and be safe. He also thanked our Security and Emergency Management team for their work, as well as the building administrators for providing space for students.

He also acknowledged the recent Omicron surge and our cases were as high as they had been just a month ago. He noted the high substitute teacher fill rate, and fewer absences and more consistency in buildings since the surge. He also provided a brief update on the plan for the move to virtual learning by school and the 25% threshold of licensed teachers in the building, as well as the role of Tier 1 and 2 subs,

and reasons for absences. He thanked Mary Langworthy for her work, as well as the change of isolation for staff and close contacts from 10 to 5 days which has also helped. He then shared data of the number of cases from the beginning of the year and the decrease in cases since then. Superintendent Gothard also provided a brief recap on the plan for transportation. He also thanked Director Kopp and Director Henderson for their work in SPARK with the City to prepare our young learners for kindergarten, and the petition to add this item to the ballot in November for a property tax increase, and this important work with the City of Saint Paul, and a coordinated effort with SPPS, our families, friends, neighbors, and community.

## **V. 2022-2023 BUDGET GUIDELINES**

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Chief Financial Officer, Marie Schrul, to present the 2022-2023 Budget Guidelines. She went on to review the philosophy, the 2022-2023 SPPS Achieves instructional priorities, process and budget model, compiling and presentation of the 2022-2023 budget, including stakeholder engagement and the final presentation of a balanced budget to the Board of Education, which must be approved by the Board by June 30, 2022.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Further information, including the history of this model and recent engagement, was requested on the engagement model of IAP2.
- Are there certain days for engagement opportunities? Response: We will be coordinating with the Office of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships, and anticipate those dates to be after the budgets are rolled out, sometime between April and May, as well as a school budget fair.
- More details were requested on the fully financed budget, which includes Title 1 and grant, as well as federal revenue. Special Education funding is from the State, which is the General Fund, as well as ELL funding.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION: Director Kopp moved approval of the 2022-2023 Budget Guidelines as presented. The motion was seconded by Director Allen. It passed by acclaim.**

## **IV. SPPS FIVE YEAR FISCAL FORECAST: FY23-FY27**

Chief Schrul then presented the SPPS Five Year Fiscal Forecast: FY23-FY27 presentation. The budget process was reviewed, including the commitment to an ongoing, priority-based budget process that included developing a multi-year financial plan. Within step 5, Ensure Sustainability, to put strategies into practice and evaluate results, we will improve resource allocations through steps including presenting a multi-year financial plan, as well as others. State funded enrollment trends were reviewed, from FY19 through FY23. The General Fund fiscal forecast assumptions for revenue were presented, as well as General Fund fiscal forecast assumptions for expenditures. Next, the General Fund fiscal forecast for FY23-FY27 was shared. For General Fund fiscal forecast take aways, items included that ESSER I, II, and III are one-time only Federal funding sources that expire between 9/2022 - 9/2024; cannot control all expenditures; and use of General Fund unassigned fund balance. Recommendations will be made to the Board of Education on how to address the projected FY23 General Fund shortfall in future budget updates.

### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Further details were requested on the impacts to enrollment and staffing with Envision SPPS.
- More information was also requested on the financial impact of the schedule change for high schools. Those buildings will not require as many teachers as a 7-period day, as well as expanding and offering online courses to students.
- Further details were also requested on the budget for the online school, which is similar to staffing of any other school, and will be the recipient of the same staffing allocation, which is enrollment driven.
- More information was requested on the timeline of the budget, and final recommendation to the Board of Education. Response: We will begin to roll out information at the March meetings, with frequent updates in Committee of the Board and Regular meetings, and there may also be additional meetings, with another month to provide calculations and scenarios for the recommendation. Salaries and benefits are 85% of the budget, and the first item will be to assign staff to locations. In the past, the District had discretionary funding, whereas it is now more centralized. Administration will be working with the Board and providing updates, with a preliminary budget by the May Committee of the Board or Regular meeting and final adoption in June. There are important other factors as well, such as ESSER and ARP funding. There will be strategic decisions in reducing expenditures based on the decreased enrollment, as well as impacts from recent legislative actions. Staff are working to ensure the budget is aligned to our priorities.
- More information was requested on the measurement and tools of the strategic plan and student outcomes.
- Information was requested on the purchasing contracts.
- More details were also provided on the engagement around the Educational Benefits (FRL) applications, including call center format, app (only school district in the country to engage on this form via app), home visits, Academic Support Centers last year, and other creative ways. Since lunches have been free through the pandemic, there has been less incentive to complete the application. This year saw a decrease of 4%. We are looking at additional tools and opportunities, and information was also shared on ways families are being informed.
- More details were also provided on the impact of ARP funds to balance the budget.
- Inflation was mentioned as a point of clarification and impact on the budget, including the state revenue formula, as well as COLA increases.
- The work of Mary Gilbert at the legislature was also recognized.
- Superintendent Gothard thanked Chief Shrul as this develops, and the legislative session will also have an impact on the budget, and Administration will continue to share the great work that is happening.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 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