INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota

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

January 4, 2022
4:30 p.m.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:32 p.m. by Vice Chair Vue.

II. ROLL CALL

Board of Education:	J. Vue, J. Foster, C. Allen, Z. Ellis, J. Kopp, H. Henderson, U. Ward
Staff:	Superintendent Gothard; C. Long, K. Burns, M. Langworthy, L. Swanson, M. Thornton, D. Abrams, L. Olson, J. Turner, A. Collins, S. Dahlke
Public:	S. Thao, J. Verges

III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

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

IV. AUDIT REPORT YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

Partners from the auditing firm MMKR then presented the Audit Report for the Year Ended June 30, 2021. They reviewed the role of the auditor, as well as the audit results including the unmodified opinion on basic financial statements, internal control and compliance - financial audit, single audit of federal awards, and MN legal compliance. The state-wide unrestricted operating fund balance was also reviewed, as well as the General Fund financial position trend analysis. The adjusted ADM of pupil units served was also shared for the years 2012 through 2021, as well as the change in ADM and pupil units served. The review of other governmental funds also included operating funds in food service special revenue and community service special revenue. The district-wide statement of net position was also shared.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- More information was requested on the impacts of COVID-19 and impacts of the future year.
- Additional information was also provided on the corrective action plans.
- Administration and the Board then thanked the auditing team for their work, especially with the increase of federal dollars. The Superintendent also thanked the Business Office staff for their work in the audit.

- Are there findings that are outstanding from the previous years that are not included in this report? Response: We do follow up on the findings, if needed, continue to report them again. The corrective action plan will note those.
- Is there a timeline to address the findings? Response: It is common to address them by the year end date, as well as to put preliminary plans in place and then implement the procedures with 12/31 as the corrective action date.

MOTION: Director Vue moved approval that the Board of Education accept the Audit Report Year Ended June 30, 2021. It passed by acclaim.

V. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Gothard thanked the audit team for their work, and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He introduced Monroe Thornton, our new districtwide coordinator for athletics, who then shared a few details about himself and noted his excitement for his work in SPPS. Superintendent Gothard then wished everyone a Happy New Year, and knowing there would be challenges with the Omicron variant in our schools. The pandemic has forced the team to be adaptive and to look outside the box for solutions to challenges. He provided a brief update on staffing, as well as transportation and bus driver shortages. He went on to share that the resolution regarding the COVID-19 vaccination will be brought forward to the Board again, possibly at the January regular meeting, with details concerning the booster vaccination.

He then welcomed Mary Langworthy to provide an update on the work around COVID-19 in SPPS. She noted the details of the Omicron variant and positive case rate in SPPS, as well as safety measures and vaccine effectiveness. She also shared details on opportunities for community members, students, staff, and families to receive the vaccine at clinics through Ramsey County and SPPS. She shared about testing available to staff, as well as further details on contact tracing in SPPS. She urged those sick to stay home.

Superintendent Gothard shared that we are looking at this scenario schol by school, and every building looks different. We want to keep our schools open.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Concerns on the timing of communication to families about transportation issues were noted. More details on the process for communication were shared.
- Data on the number of students impacted by canceled buses was requested, as well as absences due to the canceled bus routes.
- More information was requested on what we are doing to recruit more staff to positions such as substitute teachers and bus drivers.
- Discussion also focused on the vaccine requirement and acknowledgment by staff.
- More information was requested on staffing levels and the backfill process with Teachers on Call and the fill rates.
- Further details on contact tracing were requested.
- Questions also centered around absentee count and truancy, as well as when students go to other schools within the district and have siblings at other schools. Further details were provided on the process including examining siblings and notification of all schools within the family at the elementary level, as well as the process for secondary students.
- Attendance data was also shared, which is difficult to compare because last year was distance learning at this time. We are tracking those absences, and will not use punitive measures, but

reach out to families and work with them to eliminate barriers. Those absences are also excused, and if in close contact or quarantine.

X. ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

X. WORK SESSION

Board members then discussed internal and external committee assignments, as well as school area assignments.

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