

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota

COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD MEETING
Via Telephonic and Video Conference; Available via Live Stream at www.spps.org/boe

May 5, 2020
4:30 p.m.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Vice Chair Foster.

II. ROLL CALL

Board of Education: J. Foster, C. Allen, J. Kopp, S. Marchese, Z. Ellis, J. Brodrick

Absent: M. Xiong

SEAB: K. Ali, A. Quiroz

Staff: Superintendent Gothard; Chuck Long, General Counsel; Cedrick Baker, Chief of Staff; Dave Watkins, Chief of Schools; Kate Wilcox-Harris, Chief Academic Officer; Kevin Burns, Director of Communications; Hans Ott, Executive Director, Office of Digital and Alternative Education; Craig Anderson, Executive Director, Office of Teaching and Learning; Kaying Thao, Administrator to the Board; Sarah Dahlke, Secretary to the Board

II. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

MOTION: Director Foster moved approval of the Order of the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Marchese and Director Ellis.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Xiong	Absent
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Marchese	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Brodrick	Yes

III. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Gothard then provided an update on Distance Learning, and a few other brief announcements. With our first month in Distance Learning, he also notes updates in meal service, and

Essential Kids Care, which were directed by Governor Walz in Executive Order 20-02 on or around March 15.

Stacy Koppen, Director of Nutrition Services, will also be sharing an update, as well as Heather Kilgore, Director of Office of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships, with an update on distance learning graduation plans.

Superintendent Gothard also recognized our teachers for Teacher Appreciation Week and the celebrations and sharing of appreciation for our teachers in SPPS.

He went on to note National Nurses Day and Nurse Appreciation Week in early-May, with our 43 licensed school nurses and 30 health assistants. They have been instrumental in supporting Essential Kids Care, and monitoring student and staff wellness. A special thanks to Mary Langworthy, Health and Wellness Supervisor, for her work in keeping all informed of the latest updates from CDC and DHS, and supporting students, staff, and families with her calm and knowledgeable leadership.

He noted conversations with staff and their work and how their work has changed to reflect needs of students and families.

Essential Kids Care currently serves about 143 students per day at our three locations. Over 700 cloth masks have been donated to sites, and are maintaining healthy environment by providing nursing supports, masks, handwashing stations and social distancing. Amazing staff working to do amazing things to support families.

Stacy Koppen, Director of Nutrition Services, then provided an update on meal service and record number of meals served. We hit a really high mark on Monday with 1 million meals, and will surpass 1.3 million as of Monday, and are expecting to serve 1.6 million meals by this Friday. Each day, 50 buses are out on roads to deliver directly to families, with 250 colleagues from Nutrition Services, Security and Emergency Management, Transportation, and Facilities, with paraprofessionals to come together to make work happen. Our vendors helping to think about variety and work through the available food supply, and a lot of school districts are moving to similar concept of SPPS. We remain highly committed to pork free menu and cognizant of food allergies. We are also committed to refining program to ensure it does work for families and keeps kids excited.

Superintendent Gothard then provided more details on distance learning, which focuses on access, connection, engagement and support. That we always looking for ways to do this in better way. We are ensuring access by providing iPads PreK-12 students and connecting to wifi, hotspots when needed, ensuring all connected and know how to engage, providing support for all students, including counseling support through Google Meets. This is an incredibly important time of the school year with transitions, and counselors are meeting the challenges in new and innovative ways. Examples were also shared of social-emotional learning lessons for students.

Counselors teaming with supports to those not accessing content, those struggling with mental health or academics, and shared the example of this at Highland Park Senior High.

Regarding iPad support, on May 4, 2020, 33,386 of 34,000 K-12 students had access to an iPad, and more details were shared on those who do not have access, including PSEO students who may be using a laptop, or PreK students who will receive an iPad in August. The criteria for prioritization of distribution

was also shared. He went on to provide details on curbside technology services; as well as how we are continuing to take feedback from those experiencing challenges and working to adapt and move forward.

The next topic was graduation in 2020. Heather Kilgore, Director of Office of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships provided more details. We heard loud and clear about the preference for in-person events to honor the Class of 2020, and also understanding the need to be safe. She then shared the decision to move to virtual graduations, and next steps. Health risks were a factor, and the statewide orders limiting events with large numbers of people. We did consider postponing, but was not recommended due to unpredictability and availability of venues. We want to celebrate our seniors in the best way possible. While virtual graduations cannot replicate the traditions of ceremonies, we will make them as special as possible and incorporate those traditions in a distant environment. An update on the delivery of caps and gowns and signs to celebrate the Class of 2020 was shared, and opportunities for seniors to submit photos in their cap and gown. There will also be student speakers and performances. We want seniors to know that as a community, we support them, and are looking at other citywide efforts to show support to our Class of 2020, including video messages, social media tools, and welcome other ideas and opportunities.

Dr. Gothard went on to share details about iPad delivery and support for early learning staff, teachers, and students. He thanked our teachers, nurses, counselors, OCCR staff, OFECP staff, and all SPPS staff working to address SEL needs and overall well-being of all learners. He thanked Chief Schrul and her team for their work on the budget and staffing information, and working to adjust the budget and tracking learning costs and adapting to new systems. So proud of the entire SPPS community. We are working together to pursue our mission statement to the students of SPPS.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Allen thanked the Nutrition Services team - health is key to resisting COVID-19, and SPPS is stepping up to help and appreciated that. She also thanked the Operations team for keeping things moving. She also noted the good things she is hearing in community about teachers and their work in distance learning and appreciates their work.
- Director Kopp also thanked everyone, and appreciated how we are learning from each other and creating new things and habits and content with collaboration. She also appreciates how we continue to take feedback and continue to refine practices. On graduation, she understands the feelings of seniors and their families in this right of passage and wanting to celebrate, and appreciated the creative ways to honor graduates, and as a board member, how to help to make it memorable and special as possible. She thanked everyone for their outstanding work and is so proud.
- Director Marchese thanked everyone. He noted that in this short amount of time and the changes in how work is being done and huge efforts to adapt speaks to the health of our district, who is responding in healthy, adaptive ways for this difficult situation. He thanked our teachers, paras, support staff, bus drivers, food service staff, administration, building leaders - we are all in this together and as a board member, it is heartening to see. As a board member, his role is to tell this story in the community and to amplify the good work being done and work for the future. While we won't know what the next school year looks like, it is the beginning of an adaptive phase. As a board member, he also wants to hear from community members, staff, and teachers and students about their suggestions on how we can do better. He noted that we will not know how learning will look - it may not resemble pre-COVID in the 4 walls of a classroom. He appreciated the opportunity to participate in the slideshow for 1 million meals celebration, and how the school district is feeding the city of Saint Paul, which is an amazing thing - and also how to think about doing it better at the same time. He thanked everyone for their work and echoes words of his colleagues on the Board.

- Director Ellis noted Lunch Hero Day recently, as well as Principal Appreciation Day, as well as appreciation for teachers and nurses. She is proud of the work the District is doing, and also in thinking about what school will look like next year, and those conversations with staff at buildings in making connections. As a District, it's important to talk about how to wrap up this school year, and in celebrations and recognitions and honoring of this part of the year in the district, and also thinking about transitions for students, and those opportunities to say goodbye that were not able to happen, and talking about next steps in schools.
- She requested more information on the mental health resources at Highland - is it something that has always been happening, or changes? Response: It is a continuation of what has been happening, with Tier 1 supports for all students, and resources for students and families; it is a continuation in a different format. School counselors are counseling through virtual meetings with students. It's important how we are supporting the different needs of students. More information on a comprehensive list of resources can be compiled and sent. It is a resource accessible for all schools, and available in a Schoology group. A personal experience was shared in a lesson about the emotions and anxiety that students may be feeling, and ways to regulate and handle those emotions appropriately, and wellness to be successful personally and in the remainder of this school year into the next.
- Director Brodrick thanked for the reports. He also thanked the colleagues on the board for very thoughtful and wonderful real thoughtfulness in terms of where we are right now and where will be at the end of this school year, and in the fall. None of us completely know. Out of the ashes of disaster come the flowers of success, and is completely confirmed that this school district is not only going to endure through this trying time we're in, and believe that will endure and will prevail, but we will prevail with more innovative and effective and more imaginative way of delivering education to the kids in Saint Paul, and also have learned now that as we endure and prevail, that we come out of this with an appreciation and do so if we work together and recognize ourselves as one school district with one basic mission and vision and for the best education for all of our kids. We can learn from this and move ahead and move ahead together as a community that loves their children.
- SEAB Member Quiroz noted her experience as a senior, and saddened by graduation being moved virtually, but knows the decision was made carefully and important to make sure we all stay healthy. Very thankful for the leadership and educators who are working hard to make this a memorable graduation.
- SEAB Member Ali noted that thanks to educators and Board and Superintendent and Admin for doing great job to ensure all are learning to best of their ability and providing things students need, such as meals. It's important that as Saint Pual we are setting example for whole state - a community that takes care of our students and families in times of need.
- Director Foster echoed the thoughts of her colleagues on the Board and SEAB, with deep appreciation for collective work for this District at this time. One million meals!! Say it wonderfully and also think about public education as a right and responsibility in society and ensuring all students and families have food - kudos to SPPS and the community for their work. She echoes Director Marchese's thoughts about how we move into what's next and what that looks like. Thanks to teachers and staff for ongoing work to do virtual school. She noted appreciation and acknowledgment that some aspects need improvement, and we are adapting and adjusting to those needs. Thanks to teachers, families, and students for their feedback so we can continue to look for ways to help. She is excited for the early learning piece and information. She encouraged all to continue to think about our neighbors, and check in on folks, and encourage each other. Ask that all continue to think about neighbors, check in on folks, encourage other.
- Superintendent Gothard appreciated all comments, and time we have together, share with community things we've learning, and learned from leaders out in the field doing work and the support and

guidelines, and articulating what we learn from the State in a distance learning manner, shared with us to share with other and try to build with our community be unified. It's been great in that way. He shared a vision with the team to think about distance learning in three phases - first phase is to culminate this school year, including retrieving personal belongings and logistics. The second phase is summer, and continuing to offer credit recovery for those students who planned on that time. We have 17,000 students that attend summer school, and while we may not be able to offer summer school in the past sense, we are looking towards SPPS Summer Connect, which will be important to ensure the school district has a connection with students and families through uncertain times. The third phase will be next school year. He then shared reflections on education and the traditions of education and constraints. While it took a global pandemic to force education to be done differently, there will be an obligation when we are fully back in buildings to learn from this period of time. He noted the current research by our team that is happening, and collecting student survey data and staff data about distance learning, and information from online platforms to guide decisions. Our Research, Evaluation, and Assessment team will be evaluating the District in this work.

Superintendent Gothard also shared details on upcoming virtual staff meeting, and virtual family meeting to give updates and answer questions, and connect. He thanked everyone for their attendance at the previous meetings, and shared thinking for the bright future of SPPS.

There have been questions on enrollment projections, budgets and staffing allocations, and sometimes there are adjustments. Dr. Gray Akyea and her team to build scale down conversation with the Board and in writing or share in meetings. That information will be forthcoming.

Chief Financial Officer Schrul then reviewed staffing and budget for the upcoming year, including the process and resource planning document. Schools received allocationS on April and programs received their budgets last Friday and Saturday, and budgets are due back on April 15th.. A lot of work to create and review budgets, and showing staffing and additional items needed to address, with HR in the staffing worksheets. She shared a report to summarize the school resources for regular sites. She highlighted certain points within the report, including allocations and FTEs. She also noted the referendum dollars and investments in early learning and staffing in math and science, as well as SPPS Achieves for middle school support for English language supports, and FTEs around the priority-based budgeting. Also investing in counselors for middle school model and career pathways for the personalized learning plan. She also highlighted the instructional staff within the district, class size, and investments in counseling and social worker supports, and changes this year were funding counseling support through Title 1 budget. Enrollment projections for March 12 were also used for projections in the budget. This was a big picture of the District of projected enrollment and will continue to monitor that and adjustments in the upcoming months. Staffing allocations were also reviewed, and other items funded for SPPS Achieves, including work-based learning teachers.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Allen noted a question about career pathways. Answer: The work based learning resources are funded with Title 1 funding for next year. Previously it was from referendum funding. It has shifted for FY21.
- Director Kopp also shared her gratitude to the Finance team, and to Chief Schrul for reviewing budgets with board members and answer questions and provide background, which was helpful. In looking at special education funding and numbers, that usually staffing based on numbers of students based on program and needs, and from experience in level 3, that kids with same diagnosis have very different needs to be supported that don't reflect the number. Are we looking beyond the

numbers, and looking at the needs of individual children and staffing to support those needs in the building. Interested in understanding how that is decided. Response: Yes, staffing is based on need. More information can also be prepared for staffing picture. With special education, there is staffing based on federal setting and needs of students and time to receive services. Details can be provided, and agreement within SPFE union and Administration of how this is done.

- Director Marchese thanked Chief Schrul and appreciated the opportunity to learn more. He is looking forward to hearing more about enrollment estimates, because it's important to get a handle on what that is in light of the fact to re-establish revenue baseline, we do need a clear understanding of projections and why, especially in circumstance like now and how to assumptions apply going forward. There have been changes in revenue, including enrollment, and contractual obligations, especially with SPFE. In the area with Title 1 district funding, there was a reduction in Learning Leads to 10, and now we do have 28 for this fiscal year, and 10 for next fiscal year. He raises this issue because it was presented to the Board as important part of strategic plan and outcomes we want to see. Ultimately, the evaluation of the strategic plan and superintendent will be based on the outcomes and indicators, and requested more information on how to accomplish those outcomes with the loss of those 18 Learning Leads. Response: There is a subteam meeting to look at honoring the SPFE contract and positions that we negotiated successfully in the contract settlement in place for the fall and there will be shifts in allocations. Continue with some semblance necessary for school improvement and optimize and effectively lead efforts at school and District level in a coordinated way. The methods of educational improvement were also shared - it's better to have someone at the place to coordinate, support, and provide that support in formal and informal way and leadership partner with the principal. The principal job has changed throughout the years, head instructional leader and expected to do everything. It is a very complex job of leader to organize staff to allow carry out vision, create structure to support everyone, and to reach level of accountability. What systems and structure can put in place to have support needed. It's a position and research based positions that the superintendent believes in and will continue to support. Though we may need to reduce, they are not erased from the vision for the District for the future. He went on to recap his time with Learning Lead TOSAs from SPFE that belong to SPFE, and have a level of expertise that is incredible. We will continue to work through the process and see if there are ability to save more Learning Leads.
- Director Marchese went on to note that it is important to keep focus on how we are aligning choices with the strategic plan and ensure that moving funding is in alignment with what we need to to ensure we are delivering an education committed to our students to them through the strategic plan. He appreciated the vision, and a responsibility of the Board in allocating and using the plan to guide how to evaluate both the performance of the District, and ways to demonstrate to the community about the investments made. With one year of the program, it will be difficult to demonstrate those changes, but does want to push to encourage to look to sustain this program at a level that makes sense and satisfies what is going to be in the wake that will accomplish the needs to be done. We also need to think about as we move forward, the staffing decisions if students will not be in buildings every day, and the best ways to reach those students to accomplish objectives of the plan and concerns raised during negotiations with SPFE, including mental health and SEL needs, which will require us to do things differently, and will be reflected in the way we make choices for staffing and funding in the future. The staffing model presented was based on a pre-COVID model, and as we move forward about how education may look different, he encouraged flexibility in ways to allocate positions if we need to reach students in a distance environment, and thinking about job descriptions or skills necessary to do that as we plan for the Fall. Response: The budget model is one that mimics a school year in a traditional sense, and we want to have trained and experienced workforce and 6000 staff who know our District, students, and families, and once given the go-ahead to resume

schools and how we know them, the long-term changes in the brick-and-mortar settings. He also noted the recent news from the State on the budget, and to think critically and carefully on staffing and use of resources because it will need to be aligned to our future direction.

- Director Ellis thanked Chief Schrul for meeting with her on going over the budget and appreciated seeing the referendum added into the budget and how it breaks down. She's looking forward to seeing budgets back from buildings and programs, and the recommendations and decisions from that.
- Director Brodrick noted that he is very happy that continue the virtual staff and family meetings, because in watching them, think presentations were informative and unanswered questions, but also unifying and reassuring. Response: We have been pushed into this work, and there have been benefits - including what from video conferences may we continue once back in more face-to-face setting.
- Director Foster thanked Chief Schrul and the Finance Team and appreciated the format.
- Superintendent Gothard noted that there is a sense of the volume of work happening, and thoughtfulness has not subsided. The team is grappling with the same questions as board member, and how to work it out collaboratively. There are difficult decisions, and he will continue to guide and lean on other leaders as well. He is inspired by those he has met and staff impacted, and appreciated their sharing with him. He also thanked Chief Schrul and her team for their dedicated work.

IV. SEAB REPORT

SEAB Member Quiroz noted that SEAB is in the process of restructuring and re-envisioning their group. They are continuing to build relationships with board members, and also formed meaningful relationships with other youth-led groups in the community that allowed SEAB to continue the importance of community issues, especially Ethnic Studies in K-12 education, and to learn more about grassroots community organizing.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION

- Director Allen thanked SEAB for their dedication, and congratulated the seniors graduating from SEAB. She looks forward to continuing the work of SEAB.
- Director Kopp echoed Director Allen, with a great appreciation for SEAB, and noted her experience in attending meetings as a community member, and the thoughtfulness of SEAB, practicality, vision, and depth of understanding and passion for work. She is excited to get to know SEAB members more, and to be a part of an environment to help them thrive and contribute to their great work.
- Director Marchese thanked SEAB members, and the graduating members of the group. He also noted excitement to continue to think about how to refine and develop the relationship. It has been valuable to have SEAB work alongside the Board, and there are opportunities to become clear about their work together and looking forward to continuing that conversation. He also noted the work of a subgroup of the Board with SEAB. SEAB is a group of talented and smart students and in capacity to do great work in educating the Board about their perspectives, issues, and continuing to benefit from their work.
- Director Ellis noted congratulations to SEAB members. She noted experience with SEAB, and hopes to get to know and connect more. She shared places and conferences that SEAB has shared their work and gained recognition.
- Director Brodrick noted how proud he is of everyone working through these trying times, students, staff, our families, this Board, and we're working through trying times firmly believe that for SPPS, our best days are yet to come.

- Director Foster noted congratulations to graduating seniors who have been trailblazers for SEAB members. To the genius of our students, when youth lead, they know what they need best. She thanked them for their seat at the table, and to continue to push and charge to ensure access and opportunity and urged to continue to be voices and being in the position to have knowledge that is relevant, real, necessary and to create change. She looks forward to working together, and to continue to communicate and listen to one other and create actionable items. They have done incredible work to shape and change policy in the District, and so appreciated and grateful for their work and service.
- Dr. Gothard thanked our seab students for joining and staying engaged, and their positive attitudes about difficult times. He encouraged them to continue to learn and grow from this, which will strengthen them for their future. He is proud to know our SEAB members and thanked them for their time and work on SEAB.

V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Mary Gilbert Dougherty, Legislative Liaison, to present more information on the Legislative Update., including a federal update, state, update, local update, and next steps.

MN Cares Act Funding --\$2.19 Billion

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| • Governor's Fund (GEER)—Education | \$43.581 Million |
| • Elementary and Secondary (ESSER) | \$140.137 Million |
| • Higher Ed | \$174.776 Million |
| • HHS—includes childcare | \$132.9 Million |
| • USDA (nutrition) | \$17.891 Million |
| • HUD-(housing) | \$65.063 Million |
| • Transportation/Transit | \$308.202 Million |
| • Election Security | \$6.931 Million |
| • Health Care PH/SS 3/27 COVID* | \$472.06 Million |

*\$30 billion of \$100 billion total

Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief (ESSER) \$13.2 Billion

- MN-\$140.1 million- \$126.1 million to districts based on Title I–Part A allocation
- SPPS share estimated using GCS \$16.8 million
- MDE-\$14 million, no more than \$.7 million for administration
- State's allowed to apply for waiver from MOE
- Covid Expenses—from March 13 th through September 20, 2022.
- Federal Waiver's Approved carry over Title funding

Uses include:

- Any allowable purposes- IDEA, IDEA, Perkin's CTE, McKinney Vento Homeless
- Activities to address unique needs for children who are low-income, special needs, English learners, racial and ethnic minorities experiencing homelessness, foster care youth including outreach and service delivery
- Purchasing educational technology, hardware, software and connectivity
- Mental health services and support
- Summer school, including on-line summer school, after school programs
- Needs of individual schools, sanitation and supplies including training

- Planning for and provisions for meals
- Other activities that are necessary to maintain the operation of and continuity of services in local educational agencies and continuing to employ existing staff

Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER)

- Nearly \$3 Billion Nationally
- MN Share \$43.2 million—based on student population and poverty
- Used for districts, charters, private schools, higher education institutions
- Support continuing educational services, and other essential services, childcare, early learning, social emotional, nutrition

State-Tough End of Session Negotiations

- Early Covid Bills—bipartisan
- MMB—provide new forecast early May FY20
- Senate GOP--\$1 billion tax relief package
- House –coming next week
- Bonding, Federal spending and Tax bill all in play
- Adjourn-May 18th
- Already talk about special sessions to revise budget for FY21

Education Action

- House and Senate-Formula modifications to fix glitches resulting from distance learning
- House and Senate Fund transfer ability
- House compensation for hourly/contract employees during COVID
- House Scaled Down Policy Bill
- House and Senate hearing individual bills

Local Government

- Ramsey County –CARES \$96 million
- Property Tax Deadline Extended for Some
- taxextension.ramseycounty.us
- Finance Work Group—discussed areas of COVID response that overlap, Highly mobile, homeless, food insecurity, mental health supports, possibly internet access
- Housing and Nutrition groups

Next Steps

- Coordinate grass roots with Congressional Delegation for next COVID bill—focus on state government
- Continue work with MDE and stakeholders on state and federal funds and necessary waivers

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- The Board thanked Ms. Gilbert for her work, with a lot of moving pieces.
- It was mentioned about particular funds of money from the federal government. There was one allocated based on Title 1 enrollment, and one estimated at \$16.8M for the District? Understanding impact on District clearly. Response: Yes, that's correct. Because we haven't received the actual Title 1 allocation, it can't be for sure what it is. Will try to get more information and still open questions about allocation for non-public schools. Based on CGCS, they mentioned to assume 70% of what we're getting, and it could be more, and will let the Board know more.

- With uses, these are allowable uses for funding - much of these are items we are already doing, and this will be a way to reimburse for the costs already incurred, or anticipate we will be incurring? Response: Correct. Unless second round of funding, we have also been encouraged to think about it in the long term and determine if we should hold a portion for projected future COVID expenses. In thinking about the future, there may be potential high expenditures depending by guidelines of the CDC and MDH about how the hybrid system would work.
- It was mentioned that elementary and secondary fund being \$140M, how much would actually come to districts and how will that be divided? Response: There is a simple application that the State needs to make for that funding, but it still has to be allocation according to the legislative formula passed by Congress. ESSA funding requires 90% of the allocation to go directly to schools based on the Title 1 formula received on the federal fiscal year. The other 10% is up to the authority of the Commissioner, including professional development, or distance learning technology. They have the authority to divide based on what is permissible, and there is flexibility on how they do that, as well as GEER funding.
- Nutrition is one of the 12 funding buckets. It is an allowable expense, and may be under Student Safety and Well-Being. As part of the next round that Congress is considering, additional money from USDA to deal with the food service, and awaiting whether fund summer school program beyond end of school year of June 10th. Also asked the Department, and they have not heard yet. Two buckets of money from federal money, and Ag Department's revenue. Asking to backfill losses, and also fund future nutrition programs, if we continue to do this under distance learning method.
- Does that include summer meals, since we do provide meals for students in summer school, and through the partnership with Parks and Rec? Response: Right now, we have no decision.
- As a District, we spent money on technology, and some Districts did not prepare, and as they lobby for more money to implement distance learning and spending on technology - are there people that help to ensure grants because districts may not have had resources? Response: One of the things currently in play at the legislature, is a bill that would provide broadband or other connectivity grants using the federal dollars. The original proposal would have been a first come first serve basis which folks didn't think was a good idea. Originally drafted for areas with no connectivity, and there were changes to that. They hadn't agreed on the amount, one was \$10M, another \$50M, and a lot depends on further discussions with the Governor, who could also fund a connectivity grant program as well. Also making arguments with other cities and districts that families connected in Saint Paul are also connected to other services, such as library and county services, motor vehicles, and from the connectivity standpoint to accessing services because of distance learning, there should be some shared acknowledgement of that.
- Superintendent Gothard thanked Ms. Gilbert for her experience, and advocacy for SPPS in effectively lobbying for us. Appreciate leadership and dedication to SPPS community.

VI. SPPS CENSUS ENGAGEMENT

Superintendent Gothard then welcomes Myla Pope, Assistant Director of the Office of Equity, and Rebecca Biel, Social Studies Supervisor, to present an overview of the 2020 Census, and SPPS Census Engagement Plan.

What is the Census?

- Every 10 years, the United States Census Bureau is required by the United States Constitution to conduct a count of every person living in the country
- Census questionnaire asks questions of everyone living in a household on April 1, 2020 (Census Day)

Why is it important?

- Census data will guide the distribution of \$8.7 billion of federal funding in St. Paul for the next ten years
- With 313,000 residents across our city which is approximately \$28,000 per person
- This money funds our schools, roads, public transportation, health clinics, and other vital programs
- Determines number of seats in the House of Representatives and used for redistricting our state legislative seats, county board, and city council.
- A Census 2020 undercount would mean a loss of billions of dollars for critical services

How are we doing?

- Minnesota has the highest self-response rate in the nation
- Saint Paul has one of the highest self-response rate among cities with a population over 300,000
- Frogtown, North End, and East Side neighborhoods are historically undercounted

Census Response Rate Updated Weekly

Minnesota 2020 Self-Response

- Total: 67.4%
- National Self Response: 56.8%
- (Final 2010 Self-Response: 74.1%)

Ramsey County, Minnesota 2020 Self-Response

- Total: 71.4%
- Internet: 63.0%
- (Final 2010 Self-Response: 75.6%)

Census tracts

- A map showing the City of Saint Paul was then showed which depicted areas of response rate

Who gets missed?

- SPPS schools and historically undercounted areas were reviewed

SPPS Census Engagement

What has been done so far?

- November 2019 - SLT Presentation
- November 2019 - Flyer in Community Education Brochure
- January 2020 - Leadership Academy Presentation
- February 2020
 - Classroom resources shared (K-5 and secondary Social Studies)
 - Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting updates - 7 groups
 - School-based family liaisons Presentation/Communication Planning
- April 2020
 - Book distribution (Dayton's Bluff, Hazel Park, and Maxfield)
 - Distance Learning lessons created for K-2 students
 - Principal Playbook submission

What's our plan moving forward?

- Create a SPPS Census Campaign

- Census Day Staff and Families
- Flyer and Food Delivery
- SPPS Census Website
- Happening Now Weekly Updates
- Community Partnerships

Project Core Team

- Rebecca Biel, Office of Teaching and Learning
- Sherry Carlstrom, Office of Title I Federal Programs
- Mary Gilbert Dougherty, Legislative Liaison
- Hsajune Dyan, Office of Family Engagement
- Ryan Fell, Office of Title I Federal Programs
- Shawntan Howell, Strategic Planning and Project Management Office
- Myla Pope, Office of Equity

Key dates and timeline were also reviewed.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Kopp thanked the team for their work and appreciated the thoughtfulness of the presentation, and using new environment of distance learning for a way to communicate with families with connectivity and device, and a great way for families who might not otherwise have an opportunity. Thanks for thinking that way and with food delivery. Appreciate adapting and work around that. Two-thirds of the undercounted schools are on the East Side, and the importance of partnering with community leaders, who are respected in the neighborhood, and finding ways to virtually connect to build trust or re-build trust. This undercounting adversely affects our communities, and it's important to enlist formal and informal organizations, and respected neighbors to be involved. She also noted that historically, renters have been undercounted, and ways to partner with the City Council and learn from their work to capture renters in SPPS. Young children are also undercounted, and opportunities with the Office of Early Learning and their partnerships in the community to connect with families to ensure our littlest learners are being counted for the future. She noted the idea of Dr. Gothard reading the census story to have visibility to this work in a new environment. She also requested that the team let board members know how to support efforts, including through social media and networks. Response: Thanks for the feedback, and support of the Board. Details were also provided on the census workbook for students, and created SeeSaw activities and workbook delivered to 3 of the schools through food service, and great to think about how to engage kindergarten students, and there are workbooks with the City, who covered the cost of printing them for incoming kindergartners.
- Director Marchese appreciated the presentation and the thoughtfulness and intentionality in engagement students and families in distance learning. Share that as board members, as much as they can to assist, and thinking about opportunities for the Superintendent and council members and board member to assist as well and give perspectives to bring. See the impact of the undercount issues in the budgets and the revenue to work with - this is our work and determined by who shows up in the census. We can bring that message home because it directly impacts the choices available.
- Director Ellis noted the messages before April 1 on the census, and opportunities for messaging to still count in the census. A PDF of the workbook can be sent to board members. More information was also requested on Constitution Day in the third week of September.

- In engagement, and talking about Census Day for staff and families and more details on that. Census Day for staff, students, and families will look like what the City originally intended, in having a time announced for a time period for staff to take a moment and ensure complete their census, and take time to tweet someone in the community about the census, it could be different activities or ways to concentrated as s taff to ensure staff complete the census and reach out to family members, dna other ways of social media to do that. With students, it would be more deployment of the message, and they can complete online and families can take time to complete it online, and aligning activity with families to complete the consens or reflect that they already have. There's many possibilities, and being intentional as s district around this day to ensure we complete the census, and ensure focus on it from now until June, but also bring it back in September, which is ample time for families to complete their census by 10/31.
- Director Ellis shared ideas for school historically undercounted, when we have our back to school information for families, could that be included. Also, during the summer, we usually have events and parades, and events which may be undetermined, wondering in partnership with eCity and County in ways over the summer that there might be events or opportunities on how to connect with families on the census. It's not too late to complete the census and still time to affect the community and school district.
- Director Brodrick noted the importance of the national census and so vital and shared his experiences in the past eight censuses.
- As a community member that is undercounted, working with a local organization to ensure community members are counted, and speculation in the 2019 that the federal government was trying to be in the census, and ensuring the community that registering for the census to ensure them being counted is to their benefit and to their community, and how to get the community be counted, as a way to ensure we are counted as a community.
- Director Foster thanked the team and this is important work with significant impacts to our community in receiving dollars.
- Dr. Gothard thanked his colleagues. This has been a different time in this work, and appreciates their dedication and passion for this work. Look forward to continued updates.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Director Foster moved to adjourn the meeting; Director Marchese seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Xiong	Absent
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Marchese	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Brodrick	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

XIII. WORK SESSION

The Board then discussed roles at virtual graduation ceremonies, and were provided more logistical details to virtual graduation ceremonies and celebrations to honor our Class of 2020.

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