

**SAINT PAUL FEDERATION OF EDUCATORS
PROPOSAL #25
OCTOBER 26, 2023**

**Licensed Contract
SCSP Contract
EA Contract**

Memorandum of Agreement

Healthy Green Public Schools

WHEREAS drastic improvements to school buildings in Saint Paul and across the nation are long overdue, including a need to replace outdated and ineffective heating and cooling systems, improve ventilation and insulation, and remediate asbestos, lead, and mold that pose a risk to students, staff, and community members, and

WHEREAS climate change is an urgent crisis confronting people all over the world: extreme weather, forest fires, increased infectious disease outbreaks, rising sea levels, and pollution are wreaking havoc on the planet, and

WHEREAS a just clean energy transition is an opportunity for educators and students to claim desperately needed public investment, to achieve healthy community schools free of legacy toxins and climate pollution, to make schools into hubs of resilience from extreme weather and other disasters, to create good union jobs, and thriving, sustainable communities, and

WHEREAS the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) passed by Congress in 2022 is the largest climate investment in US history and can provide school districts with critical funding to transition to clean energy and clean transportation, and

WHEREAS the State of Minnesota recently committed to transitioning to 100% renewable energy by 2040, and

WHEREAS we believe that our District could be a model for leveraging Federal and State funds for Public Good and become a leader in addressing the challenges of climate change,

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved; that the District commits to applying for available technical assistance and financing, including but not limited to tax credits and grant

monies available through the IRA at both the State and Federal Government level to help transition our district to clean energy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that SPPS and SPFE will collaborate with the City of Saint Paul and the State of Minnesota to strive for an equitable transition to a green future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District commits to establishing a Climate Committee that shall meet four (4) times per year. This committee will be composed of SPFE member representatives appointed by SPFE, District representatives, and other stakeholders. This group shall provide recommendations including but not limited to the following matters:

- a. The development and implementation of curricula that infuse climate literacy with a racial justice lens and addresses historic disparities.
- b. The creation, expansion and maintenance of outdoor education space, programs and green space.
- c. The creation of instructional partnerships and opportunities for youth to obtain internships and apprenticeships for green jobs.
- d. Career Technical Education (CTE) opportunities in fields that support green energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- e. Decarbonization, including the installation of solar panels and geothermal systems at school and district sites.
- f. Increasing the number of electric buses in the District's fleet.
- g. The installation of water filtration stations and the removal of detectable levels of lead from school drinking water fountains tested at 5 ppb of lead or higher.
- h. Increased installation of universal electric vehicle (EV) chargers on school campuses for charging passenger vehicles.
- i. Partnerships with outside organizations in order to streamline and/or defray costs of school greening
- j. The Climate Committee shall provide written recommendations to the SPPS Board of Education.

This MOA will be in effect for the 2023-2025 Collective Bargaining Agreement and will remain in effect unless altered by mutual agreement.

For the Federation

For the District