



**Saint Paul**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# **BUDGET ENGAGEMENT & COMMUNITY VALUES**

Committee of the Board  
December 5, 2023

# Engagement Objectives

Gather feedback regarding how we can communicate effectively about school and district budgets

Gather a set of community values that can be used to inform the resource allocation process

Provide a basic understanding of school district and school buildings budgets

Build trust between community stakeholders and the district by communicating back how gathered feedback was used to make resource allocation decisions and influence communications around the budget

ROUND 1



ROUND 2

# Engagement Summary

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS = 10,739

## How We Engaged With You

## Timeline

<b>Marnita's Table Community Conversations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Two community engagement events hosted by Marnita's Table at Washington Technology Magnet School and Humboldt High School</li></ul>	Spring 2023
<b>Student Convenings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Eight student convenings with SPPS high school students at the Black Youth Healing Arts Center</li></ul>	Spring 2023
<b>Community Values Engagement Sessions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Five language-specific sessions with SPPS Parent Advisory Councils (PACs)</li><li>Four community engagement sessions at East African Elementary Magnet School, American Indian Magnet School, Como Park Senior High School and Humboldt High School</li></ul>	Fall 2023
<b>Surveys</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Three surveys administered to students (grades 6-12), families and staff</li></ul>	Fall 2023

# Marnita's Table Community Conversations

- Discussions centered around authentic connection/belonging, educational success, an SPPS graduate's future, the strategic plan, safety and "dream schools".
- While some groups described belonging, inclusion and feeling welcomed differently, it was clear that these values are important to those who attended.
- Students, families and community members identified opportunities for engagement and adding their voice as well as access to more class choices as things they highly value.
- Learning about other people and their cultures as well as an overall sense of inclusion are strong values.

## The top two values from those who completed the exit survey are:

- The idea of belonging within the community and SPPS
- The importance of student voice and perspective

**257 Total  
Participants**

Washington Technology  
Magnet School  
(April 25, 2023)

Humboldt High School  
(May 4, 2023)

# Student Convenings

Many high school students experience their high schools as spaces where the school climate and culture is often a barrier to learning. Students feel this is due to:

- differential treatment based on race, ethnicity, culture and identity
- inability of the school to articulate, communicate about and ensure physical safety
- lack of racial ethnic and cultural representation in classrooms
- escalating stress and anxiety
- restricting access to essential school resources such as bathrooms
- teachers' disinterest, lack of respect for students, and inability to facilitate learning in relevant and engaging ways

**High school students value a school climate and culture that includes:**

- access to school resources
- a network of friends, acquaintances and peers
- outreach from support staff
- teachers that build connection to the curriculum and reflect care for the student as a successful learner
- trustworthy adults

## 431 Student Participants

- Highland Park Senior High  
April 27, 2023
- Central High School  
May 3, 2023
- Washington Technology  
Magnet High School  
May 9, 2023
- Harding High School  
May 10, 2023
- Open World Learning  
May 11, 2023
- Como Park High School  
May 17, 2023
- Johnson High School  
May 18, 2023
- Humboldt High School  
May 25, 2023

# Community Values Surveys

## Highest Rankings

	Students (Grades 6-12)	Families	Staff
Students have friends	●		
Students have access to activities that interest them	●	●	
Students feel safe	●	●	●
Students feel successful and happy	●		
Students are critical thinkers who are ready for next steps		●	●
School should help students gain self-knowledge, find personal sense of purpose and better understand their values	●	●	●

Group	Number of Responses	Response Rate
Students (grades 6-12)	3,347	20.28%
Staff	1,998	25.64%
Families	4,346	12.01%

# Community Values Engagement Sessions

When asked to complete the phrase “I believe the purpose of school is...”, common responses included themes of:

- Learning
- College and career readiness
- Culturally responsive instruction
- Safety
- Preparedness for after graduating from high school

Safety was most commonly discussed when asked, “What would you like to hear your child/children say to you about their schooling experience?” Safety was discussed in both physical and emotional terms.

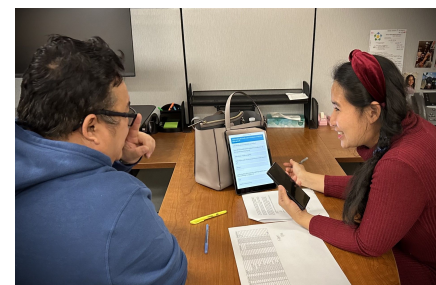
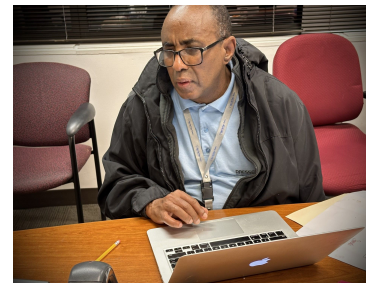
Family members across all language groups desire a positive school and district culture and want children to be happy, engaged in classes and passionate about learning.

## 360 Total Participants

- All PACs Budget Engagement Session  
October 13, 2023
- East African Elementary Magnet School  
October 17, 2023
- American Indian Magnet  
October 23, 2023
- Como Park High School  
October 25, 2023
- Humboldt High School  
November 16, 2023

# Community Values Phone Bank

	Before phone bank	Result of phone bank
English	4,000	+5
Special Education	0	+3
Somali	8	+21
Spanish	202	+22
Karen	23	+29
Hmong	6	+12
Amharic	0	+12
Oromo	0	+22

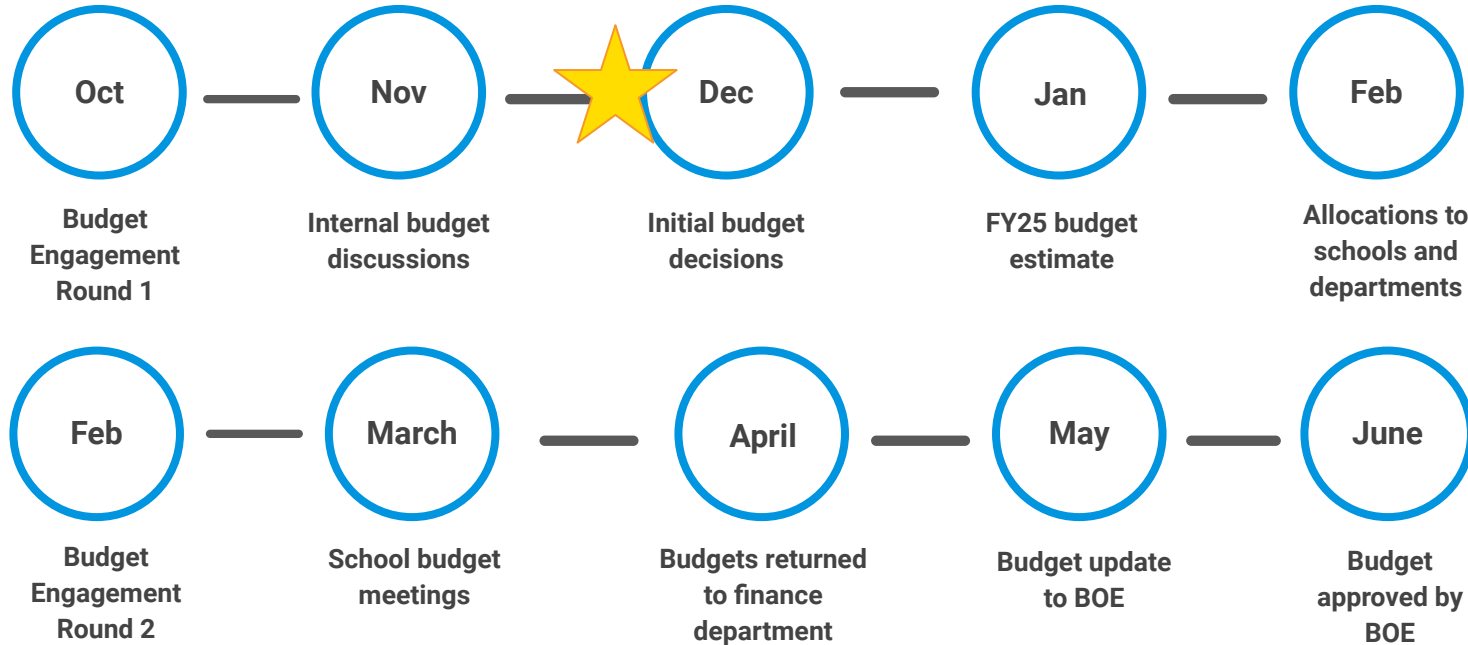




# SPPS Finance Advisory Committee (FAC)

Responsibilities	Members	Meeting Schedule
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the annual levy</li> <li>Review the annual audit results</li> <li>Review annual budget and adjustments</li> <li>Understand and engage in planning and financing significant projects</li> <li>Provide feedback on investment planning (OPEB Trust)</li> <li>Actively participate in other fiscal matters</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Member: Director Ward</li> <li>Board Member: Chair Vue</li> <li>Board Member: TBD in January</li> <li>Superintendent Joe Gothard</li> <li>Executive Chief Tom Sager</li> <li>Executive Director Andrew Adams</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mikisha Nation</li> <li>Alan Ickler</li> <li>Michelle Mitchell</li> <li>Mee Moua</li> <li>Dr. Thomas Adams</li> <li>Michele Miley</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>November 27, 2023</li> <li>January 29, 2024</li> <li>March 25, 2024</li> <li>May 28, 2024</li> </ul>

# Budget & Community Values Next Steps



Share your feedback at [spps.org/FY25budget](https://spps.org/FY25budget)

# Questions?