

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102, and

Available Streaming Online at www.spps.org/boe and Saint Paul Cable Channel 16

November 14, 2023
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Jim Vue, Chair.

2. ROLL CALL

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

C. Long, General Counsel; S. Dahlke, Assistant Clerk

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of the order of the main agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Allen.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes

4. RECOGNITIONS

BF 33479 Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees

Hsakushee Zan, a bilingual educator lead with Saint Paul Public Schools' Office of Multilingual Learning, has been honored with the State of Minnesota's Outstanding Refugee Award in the category of Entrepreneurship. The Entrepreneurship Award uplifts individuals who contribute to their communities in business, the arts or education.

Minnesota celebrates the courage, resilience and entrepreneurship of refugees, who make the state a better place to live.

Hskushee was one of 10 individuals who was honored in the 2022-2023 awards. The department honored the award winners during a Tuesday, Oct. 24 ceremony at the Minnesota History Center.

“Refugees who come to the United States to make a good life for themselves and their families have known great hardship and great hope,” said Human Services Commissioner Jodi Harpstead. “It gives me great joy to recognize the achievements of refugees who have done so much to make Minnesota a better place.

People with refugee status leave their home countries because their governments are unable or unwilling to protect them when their lives are in danger from persecution because of race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinions. Many come to Minnesota to start new lives and make significant contributions. In 2022, Minnesota welcomed 584 individuals from 17 countries through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.

Hskushee came to the United States from Thailand after fleeing Myanmar and now makes her home in Saint Paul.

Nominations for the 2024 Outstanding Refugee Awards are expected to open later this year.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Rashad Turner Parents as partners is an important part of closing education gaps.

6. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of the Order of the Consent Agenda with no items pulled for separate consideration. The motion was seconded by Director Foster.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes

7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of October 24, 2023
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of October 24, 2023

MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of October 24, 2023, and the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of October 24, 2023. The motion was seconded by Director Henderson.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of November 8, 2023

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on November 8, 2023, Superintendent Gothard welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged the results of the election. He also shared his experience at the Council of the Great City Schools Annual Fall Conference, including the great work by our staff and students who participated in the conference. He also provided a brief report on the Fiscal Year 25 budget engagement work. The Board noted the lifting of student voice and models to continue that work. Superintendent Gothard also provided an update on his meetings with students in the district.

The first presentation included information on the School Year 2023-2024 Enrollment Overview. Questions from the Board included requests for further details on the demographic information, questions about PreK and continuation rates for sites versus a hub, and clarification on the dot-plot graph showing grade cohorts year over year. Other questions noted an update on the work of the Enrollment and Retention Committee, exit survey data, and adjustments for families based on those results. The decrease in teenage pregnancy rates and the enrollment at AGAPE was also discussed. Further discussion also included questions on the 6th grade continuation rates and the middle school model, qualitative data for 12th grade enrollment rates, tracking for families including Intent to Return forms, projections for PreK families, the process for enrollment for PreK students at hubs, and transportation for families. The Board also noted the enrollment trends appear to be stabilizing and further discussion on the importance of this aspect. An information request for enrollment impacts from start time changes was noted. Questions also focused on the impacts to enrollment from multiple disruptions at schools, family choice for students, patterns of enrollment based on geography, and discussion regarding stabilization and growth and current facility space.

MOTION: Director Kopp moved to accept the report on the November 8, 2023 Committee of the Board meeting and approve the recommended motions and minutes of that meeting as published. The motion was seconded by Director Henderson.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes

9. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

A. Board of Education Meetings (5:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

- 2023
 - October 24
 - November 14
 - December 19
- 2024
 - January 9 (Annual Organizational Meeting)
 - January 23
 - February 20
 - March 19
 - April 23
 - May 21
 - June 11 (Special Meeting – Non-Renewals) | 4:00 p.m. | Conference Room 5A
 - June 18
 - July 16
 - August 20
 - September 17
 - October 22
 - November 19
 - December 17

B. Committee of the Board Meetings (4:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

- 2023
 - October 10
 - November 8 - Wednesday
 - December 5
- 2024
 - January 9
 - February 6
 - March 6 - Wednesday
 - April 2
 - May 7
 - June 11
 - August 7 – Wednesday
 - September 10
 - October 8
 - November 6 – Wednesday
 - December 3

B. Motion to Schedule a Special Meeting of the Board of Education regarding the Pay24 Levy and Truth in Taxation Hearing for Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.,

MOTION: Director Vue moved to schedule a special meeting regarding the Pay24 Levy and Truth in Taxation Hearing for Tuesday, December 5, 2023 beginning at 6:00pm in Rooms A and B of the District Administration Building at 360 Colborne. (There is a Committee of the Board meeting that evening as well, beginning at 4:30pm in 5A, so we will break at 6pm, and move to these rooms for the Special Meeting.) The motion was seconded by Director Ward.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes

Director Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Gothard noted excitement for the launch of the SPPS Reads! website, with special recognition to Sue Braithwaite, Jenny Davis, and Claire Noack. It can be found at www.spps.org/reads. He then provided an update on the summary of the program from the website and summary of the website information.

“Saint Paul Public Schools is excited to launch a new initiative called SPPS Reads. This districtwide initiative aims to build excitement around reading through community events and sharing literacy resources with families. Internally, a District Leadership Literacy Team has been formed to improve our K-12 literacy framework across core instruction, intervention, and targeted support for English Learners and students with disabilities.

This initiative grew out of the incredible work of our literacy department and What I Need Now (WINN) teachers to recoup learning loss and improve reading scores after the pandemic. We have seen from test data that students participating in WINN small-group instruction have increased reading scores at a higher rate than students who aren't in the program. These strides are promising; however, there is much work to be done to improve literacy across the district, and it will take all of us working together to make these changes.

We hope you will join us in championing literacy for all students. Implementing scientifically-based reading instruction is a crucial step in dismantling frameworks that perpetuate bias and providing equitable access to literacy. The ability to read and comprehend language allows students to excel in all subjects and lays the foundation to achieve success in school and in life.”

He encouraged board members and community members to share on their social media networks. He also noted the upcoming move nights featuring the documentary, “The Right to Read.” He noted this work will be front and center, and that we can do this and do it together as a community.

11. AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

1. Consent Agenda

MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of all items within the consent agenda withholding no items for separate consideration. Director Foster seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes

1. Gifts

BF 33480 Minneapolis Foundation (Twin Cities' Dunkers) Donation to SPPS Athletic Department and SPPS High School Athletic Programs

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to receive, and disbursement of the donated funds as listed herein.

2. Grants

3. Contracts

BF 33481 Contract between Right Track and Saint Paul Public Schools Pertaining to the School Year Internship Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the contract between Saint Paul Public Schools and Right Track for the 2023-24 school year.

BF 33482 Request Permission to Contract with TRIA Orthopedic Center, LLS (TRIA)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to contract with TRIA for Certified Athletic Trainer ("AT") support at seven sites for SY23 – 26, and implement the services as specified in the contract.

BF 33483 Request to Amend Contract with ProCare Therapy to Add Additional Temporary Paraprofessionals

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve this contract.

BF 33484 Request to Sign the Amendment to Contract #23-3738 – Contract between Minnesota State and SPPS pertaining to the PSEO by Contract Courses at the 3M Advanced Training Center

That the Board authorize the Superintendent (Designee) to sign the Amendment to Contract #23- 3738.

BF 33485 Request to Sign the Contract between Hiway Credit Union and Saint Paul Public Schools

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Partnership Contract between Saint Paul Public Schools and Hiway Credit Union.

BF 33486 Request to Sign the Contract with Rêve Academy

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the contract with the Rêve Academy for FY24.

BF 33487 Transportation Department FY 23/ FY 24 Purchases/Contracts over \$175,000

That the Board of Education authorize the purchase order/contract listed for the Transportation Department anticipated to be over \$175,000 in total.

BF 33488 Additional Change Inc. Navigators at Creative Arts

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the expenditure of ARP funds in an amount not to exceed \$70,000 for Navigators provided by Change Inc. for fiscal year 2024. This amount supports the work of an additional Navigator at Creative Arts Secondary School.

BF 33489 Construction Manager as Advisor Services for Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction (Project # 1020-22-01) – Contract Amendment #2

That the Board of Education authorize award of construction manager as advisor services to RJM Construction for the total not-to-exceed fee increase of \$1,237,115.

4. Agreements

BF 33490 Early Childhood Math Material Adoption

The Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into a purchase agreement with McGraw Hill Building Blocks. The total cost of this adoption may not exceed \$225,000.

BF 33491 Memorandum of Understanding between Genesys Works Twin Cities and Saint Paul Public Schools

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Genesys Works Twin Cities and Saint Paul Public Schools.

BF 33492 Request to Sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation (Right Track) and SPPS pertaining to 3M STEP Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation (Right Track) for FY24.

5. Administrative Items

BF 33493 Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and electronic transfers for the period September 1, 2023 – September 30, 2023

(a) General Account	#765039-765968	\$48,621,251.21
	#0005013-0005040	
	#7004939-7004961	
	#0009006-0009105	
(b) Construction Payments	- 0 -	\$2,680,762.92
(c) Debt Service	- 0 -	0.00
		\$51,302,014.13

Included in the above disbursements are two payrolls in the amount of \$26,390,538.99 and overtime of \$166,239.93 or 0.63% of payroll.

(d) Collateral Changes

Released: None

Additions: None

That the Board of Education further authorize payment of properly certified cash disbursements including payrolls, overtime schedules, compensation claims, and claims under the Worker's Compensation Law falling within the period ending March 31,2024.

BF 33494 Recommendations for Exclusion of Students Non-Compliant with Minnesota Statute 121A.15 Health Standards: Immunizations

That the Board of Education exclude noncompliant student(s) from school(s) effective November 22, 2023, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before this date.

Human Resources Transactions

BF 33495 Transactions for October 1 – October 31, 2023

BF 33496 Facilities Department FY24 Purchases over \$175,000

That the Board of Education authorize the purchases listed for the Facilities Department anticipated to be over the \$175,000.

BF 33497 Phase Gate Approval of the Farnsworth Aerospace Upper HVAC Replacement Project (Project #1030-23-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the Farnsworth Aerospace Upper HVAC Replacement project (Project # 1030-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$13,125,404 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

BF 33498 Phase Gate Approval of the Maxfield Elementary Playground (Project # 4180- 24-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the Maxfield Elementary Playground project (Project # 4180-24-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$699,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding

BF 33499 Phase Gate Approval of the Randolph Heights Boiler Replacement (Project # 3150-22-02): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the Randolph Heights Boiler Replacement project (Project # 3150-22-02) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget, setting the final project budget at \$839,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

BF 33500 Phase Gate Approval of Johnson Aerospace & Engineering High School HVAC Project (Project # 1150-19-01): Gate #5.1 – Project Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for the Johnson Aerospace & Engineering High School HVAC project (Project # 1150-19-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.1 – Project Close-out.

BF 33501 Phase Gate Approval of Como Elementary Electrical Service Replacement Project (Project # 4090-20-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for Como Elementary Electrical Service Replacement project (Project # 4090-20-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

BF 33502 Phase Gate Approval of EXPO for Excellence Elementary Playground Project (Project # 3040-20-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for EXPO for Excellence Elementary Playground project (Project # 3040-20-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

BF 33503 Phase Gate Approval of the FY20 Roof Replacements at Hubbs, LEAP, and Dayton's Bluff Project (Project # 0175-20-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for the FY20 Roof Replacements at Hubbs, LEAP, and Dayton's Bluff (Project # 0175-20-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

BF 33504 Phase Gate Approval of Window Replacements at Saint Paul Music Academy, Journeys, and Wellstone (Project # 0201-20-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for Window Replacements at Saint Paul Music Academy, Journeys, and Wellstone (Project # 0201-20-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

BF 33505 Phase Gate Approval of FY22 Window Replacements at Riverview (Project # 0201-22-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for FY22 Window Replacements at Riverview (Project # 0201-22-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

BF 33506 Phase Gate Approval of Classroom A/V Improvements Project at Saint Paul Music Academy, Gordon Parks, and AGAPE (Project # 0680-20-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for Classroom A/V Improvements Project at Saint Paul Music Academy, Gordon Parks, and AGAPE Project # 0680-20-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

BF 33507 Phase Gate Approval of Nokomis Montessori Magnet North Playground (Project # 1180-22-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for Nokomis Montessori Magnet North (Project # 1180-22-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

BF 33508 Ramsey County Proposal to Purchase Rights to District Property

That the Superintendent (or designee) approve Ramsey County's proposal to purchase temporary construction easement rights to District property located at 1495 Rice Street in the amount of \$16,350 for the Rice Street from Pennsylvania Avenue to Wheelock Parkway Reconstruction Project.

6. Bids

BF 33509 Phase Gate Approval of the Rondo Complex ARP HVAC RTU Replacement (Project # 3170-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3977-JG for the Rondo Complex ARP HVAC RTU Replacement project (Project # 3170-22-01) to Morcon Construction Co, Inc. for a lump sum base bid plus Alternates 1, 3, 4, 5 & 6 of \$3,165,304.

7. Change Orders

ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION - None

FURTHER AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

1. Resolution Canvassing Returns of Votes of Independent School District No. 625 General Election

Director Vue then introduced the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625, as follows:

1. It is hereby found, determined and declared that the general election of the voters of the District held on November 7, 2023, was in all respects duly and legally called and held.

2. As specified in the attached abstract and return of votes cast, voters of the District voted at said general election on the election of four (4) Board of Education members for four (4) year term vacancies on the Board of Education caused by expiration of term on January 1 next following the general election; as follows:

Carlo Franco	26,893
Chauntyll Allen	24,816
Erica Valliant	22,084
Yusef Carrillo	21,977
Zuki Ellis	17,979
Gita Rijal Zeitler	9,900
Abdi S. Omer	5,691
Write-In	1,246

3. Carlo Franco, Chauntyll Allen, Erica Valliant and Yusef Carrillo, having received the highest number of votes, are elected to four-year terms beginning January 1, 2024.

4. The School District Clerk is hereby authorized to certify the results of the election to the Ramsey County Auditor.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION: None

BF 33510 Resolution Canvassing Returns of Votes of Independent School District No. 625 General Election

MOTION: Director Vue moved to approve the Resolution Canvassing Returns of Votes of Independent School District No. 625 General Election. Director Henderson seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes

A. Policy Update

a. THIRD READING: Policy 413.01 - Chemical Use and Abuse

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Kathy Kimani, Director of Office of Student Support, and Becky Schmidt, Interim Director of Student Health and Wellness, to present this Third Reading. Information on the policy included the rationale for the policy update, committee members and their work on these proposed revisions, and a review of the proposed changes to reflect MSBA model policy language.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION: None

BF 33511 THIRD READING: Policy 413.01 - Chemical Use and Abuse

MOTION: Director Vue moved to approve the proposed changes to Policy 413.01 - Chemical Use and Abuse. Director Ellis seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes

b. THIRD READING: Policy 501.03 - Student Dress Code

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Pat Pratt-Cook, Executive Chief of Human Resources, to present this Third Reading. Information included the rationale for these proposed changes, a review of currently language compared to the Policy Work Group's rationale for changes, and details on the new proposed language.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION: None

BF 33512 THIRD READING: Policy 501.03 - Student Dress Code

MOTION: Director Vue moved to approve the proposed changes to Policy 413.01 - Chemical Use and Abuse. Director Ward seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes

10. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS - None

13. BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. Information Requests/Responses and Items for Future Agendas

- Director Vue requested information on the new math curriculum implementation.
- He also requested details on the tail-ends of Envision, including revisiting Txuj Ci Lower, as that school is at capacity and we need to analyze the utilization of that building. He would like to bring it forth as a future agenda item, as well as a proposal to create a committee to work with the school community, Administration, and the Board for both short-term plans to support, as well as long-term plans to maintain enrollment and integrity of the program.

B. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Ellis recognized our School Support Liaisons for their work, as well as our building engineers and custodians, and nutrition services staff, as well as clerks. She also thanked our special education paraprofessionals. She also provided her experience in touring the Hubbs Center, as well of Office of Teaching and Learning to learn more about SPPS Reads!. She also noted visiting AGAPE. She thanked our parents as AGAPE, as well as students from Gordon Parks for their photography of an event at that school. She also attended the groundbreaking of Bruce Vento last month.
- Director Henderson provided at her experience in visiting a class of third-graders at Highland Park Elementary and the role of elections and elected officials, and operations of the district.
- Director Foster thanked the staff of Student Placement Center for their support for students and families, as well as staff working with early childhood screenings, and our Early Childhood staff. She also noted the upcoming holiday season, and the different beliefs and acknowledging the beliefs of others, and respect for beliefs and values systems, and accept and appreciate the beliefs of others. She also thanked the Project REACH team for their great work to provide stabilization for our students and families.
- Director Kopp provided reports on the Governance and Operations Workgroup, including their work on onboarding for those joining the school board. She also noted the work of the Evaluation

Workgroup and transition work to prepare for next year's evaluation. She also provided her experience at the Ramsey County League of Local Government and their session on age-friendly cities and programs to connect seniors.

- Director Allen noted questions around e-sports programs in the district. She also provided an update on an HBCU tour with students last month. She noted that Morris Brown has an amazing e-sports lab, and students were especially interested in this program. Morris Brown and Alabama State have amazing programs for students, and noted the great academics, village, and identity pieces for our students.
- Director Vue provided a report of his experience at the Council of the Great City Schools Annual Fall Conference, including his focus on mental health, communication and engagement, and student outcomes, and details on sessions. He also recognized the SPPS students who participated in the conference and sessions, and acknowledged them for their great work.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Director Vue moved to adjourn the meeting; Director Ellis seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Kopp	Yes
Director Ellis	Yes
Director Foster	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 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