

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION - BOARD RETREAT
360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102**

**February 24, 2024
8:30 a.m.**

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. on by Chair Henderson.

II. ROLL CALL

Board of Education: H. Henderson, U. Ward, J. Vue, C. Franco, E. Valliant, Y. Carrillo
C. Allen arrived at 9:49 p.m.

Staff: Superintendent Gothard, J. Turner, S. Gray Akyea, P. Pratt-Cook, A. Collins, E. Wacker, T. Sager, K. Thao, S. Dahlke

Community: L. Bolton, S. Georgiadas, K. Yang

III. BOARD RETREAT

A. Board Development (facilitated by Propel Nonprofits)

The Board began the retreat with an interactive discussion facilitated by Propel Nonprofits, Kabo Yang and Sindiswa Georgiades. Discussion included feelings about the day and introduction questions. The agenda for this portion of the retreat included a review of the purpose of the Board, fundamentals of governance, healthy governance, and questions/wrap-up. Expectations, such as individual reflection, small group discussions, large group dialogue, peer learning, and questions were also reviewed. Questions reviewed within small groups and the larger group included passions and core values. Further discussion also included the role of the school board, and the vision, structure, accountability, advocacy, and conduct and ethics. Questions also centered on SPPS Board expectations. The legal responsibilities of board members were reviewed.

The presentation also included details on governance and the fundamentals of governance and the board roles, such as:

- Lead strategically
- Ensure financial stability
- Ensure healthy governance
- Supervise and support the superintendent
- Be an ambassador

Characteristics of an effective school board were also reviewed, as well as criteria for robust board meetings. Information on the development of cultural humility was also shared, as well as the continuous board development through engagement in active learning, creation of a sense of team, and the regular conducting of a board self-evaluation. The stages of team development were also discussed, as well as elements of a good team culture. A final reflection included discussion on 2-3 items of value from today's orientation and training.

B. Goal-Setting Presentation and Discussion

The Board then discussed goal-setting for the Board of Education. Examples and details were shared of each – including student outcomes goals, programmatic goals, district relations goals, and internal goals. Discussion included board statements, a board work plan, number of goals, and timeline. Further discussion also included community engagement and logistics, board member capacity, data collection and reports, timing of engagement, communications, public meetings, district supports for this work, suggestions for goals, further details on the process and timeline to develop the board goals.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Allen. It passed by acclaim.

The retreat adjourned at 3:08 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:
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Assistant Clerk, St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education