

**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

**February 20, 2024
5:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Halla Henderson, Chair.

2. ROLL CALL

Board of Education: C. Franco, E. Valliant, H. Henderson, U. Ward, J. Vue, C. Allen, Y. Carrillo
Superintendent Gothard

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

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes

4. RECOGNITIONS

BF 33637 Acknowledgment of Good Work Provided by Students

The Posse Scholarship involves a rigorous three-part interview process. This scholarship covers full four-year tuition at Macalester College along with providing the support system of being in a cohort. Out of a large number of nominations, only 10 scholars were selected to receive this award this year.

Out of the 10, four are from SPPS. The 2024 Posse Scholars are:

Dagmawit “Day” Tesfaye, Highland Park Senior High School
School Counselor, Kenneth Zimmerman

William Adi Toé, Como Park Senior High School
School Counselor, Choua Vang

Jolie Davis, Johnson Senior High School
School Counselor, Samina Ali

Joaquin Ochocki, Johnson Senior High School
School Counselor, Samina Ali

The Posse model works for both students and college campuses and is rooted in the belief that a small, diverse group of talented students—a Posse—carefully selected and trained, can serve as a catalyst for individual and community development. The key to a promising future for our nation rests on the ability of strong leaders from diverse backgrounds to develop consensus solutions to complex social problems. Posse’s primary aim is to train these leaders of tomorrow.

Posse was founded in 1989 because of one student who said, “I never would’ve dropped out of college if I’d had my posse with me.” The simple idea of sending a group of students together to college so they could “back each other up” became the impetus for a program that today has identified, recruited and trained more than 10,000 students with extraordinary academic and leadership potential.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>Stacey Alcenat</u> | Concern about teacher |
| 2. <u>Tess Corbett</u> | Concern about teacher |
| 3. <u>Michelle OBrien</u> | Concerns about GAP |
| 4. <u>Leo Jackson</u> | Equitable pricing for community associations |
| 5. <u>Jennifer Hartman</u> | Community associations and the definition of Uniqueness |
| 6. <u>Lisa Zinnel</u> | Concerns re: Global Arts Plus |
| 7. <u>Rachel Osborne</u> | SPPS Library Media Specialists |
| 8. <u>Kirsten Anderson</u> | Access to Special Education and School-Parent Partnership |
| 9. <u>Thomas Lucy</u> | SPPS and community partnerships |
| 10. <u>Suki Akers</u> | Experiences at GAP |
| 11. <u>Zoey Haines</u> | Achieve Twin Cities Career and College Readiness Program |
| 12. <u>Phil Sheridan</u> | SPPS Library Media Specialists |
| 13. <u>Leslie Rumsey-Rogers</u> | Concerns at GAP |
| 14. <u>Rick Heller</u> | ADA Compliance |

6. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Director Henderson moved approval of the Order of the Consent Agenda with item 3-a: Contract with Delta-T Group for SPED Staffing, pulled for separate consideration. The motion was seconded by Director Franco.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes

Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes

7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of January 23, 2024
- B. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of January 23, 2024
- C. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of January 26-27, 2024
- D. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 12, 2024

MOTION: Director Henderson moved approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of January 23, 2024; Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of January 23, 2024; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of January 26-27, 2024; and the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 12, 2024. The motion was seconded by Director Allen.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of February 6, 2024

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on February 6, 2024, there was a presentation on the American Rescue Plan (Fiscal Year 24) Status Update. Questions and discussion focused on the largest portion of spending of the funds and variables with fluctuation, a request on the additional funds spent this year compared to last, information on the “real time allocations” and monitoring, and learnings from safely reopening schools. Further information was also requested on the promising data points or strategies from this work, details on work with the Ramsey County Sheriff’s Office, and process of matching partners with school communities. Details were also requested on the monitoring of sites and program-level data collected through the monitoring process.

The second presentation included information on the Fiscal Year 24 and Fiscal Year 25 Budget Update. Questions and discussion from this presentation included information on the potential changes from now until the end of June on the budget figures and the impacts of employment contracts, details of funds for staffing versus one-time spending, site and program allocations and communications, as well as enrollment projections for next school year.

The third presentation included the Policy Update. The first policy reviewed was Policy 516.00 - Students: Medications/Medical Procedures. Discussion on this policy included information requests about the storage

and availability of certain medications. Overall, the Board approved moving the proposed revisions to this policy to the three-reading process. The next policy reviewed was Policy 533.00 - Wellness. Questions and discussion on these proposed revisions included the rationale for the changes, staffing related to the proposed changes, discussion of recess in middle school, further information requests on the food guidelines included in the proposed revisions, tracking and monitoring of activities by schools and programs, and non-food celebrations as noted in the proposed revisions. The Board also encouraged the District to be intentional about offering district spaces to the community, including outdoor fields and indoor courts to align with this policy. Overall, the Board approved moving these revisions to the three-reading process, with tentative further discussion.

The fourth presentation included the 2023 Latino Consent Decree Parent Advisory Council Annual Report. Discussion from the Board included a noticeable shift from systems support to an educational focus, supports available for teachers, questions on the timeline and process to review the curriculum and information on the past delays, and the potential to expand this model for other cultures and programs throughout the district. Members of the committee also shared their personal experiences and views of support in cultural identity. Staff also noted their history and experiences in partnering with the Latino Consent Decree Parent Advisory Council and the continued collaboration that has grown. Board members thanked the Council for their work and advocating for their students, and for their work to build a better district to serve our students.

Lastly, following adjournment, the Board conducted a work session regarding the discussion of Board-proposed Fiscal Year 25 budget parameters.

MOTION: Director Ward moved to accept the report on the February 6, 2024 Committee of the Board meeting and approve the recommended motions and minutes of that meeting as published. The motion was seconded by Director Carrillo.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes

9. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

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

- 2024
 - 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)

- 2024
 - March 6 - Wednesday
 - April 3 - Wednesday
 - May 7
 - June 11
 - August 7 – Wednesday
 - September 10
 - October 8
 - November 6 – Wednesday
 - December 3

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Gothard noted the beginning of the legislative session at the state capitol, and the challenges of funding for this year. We will balance the budget, but it will be a challenge. SPPS was able to use ARP funding for innovative impacts, and while we knew they were time bound, we also want to preserve some existing work to move positions. He also provided a brief update on the two successful mediation sessions, and thanked the team, the Board of Education, and SPFE. We do believe there is a good desire to settle the contract, and provided a history of strike votes and the 2020 strike. There is a willingness to come together, to be creative, and understand each other in order to settle the contract and avoid further disruption. It is the commitment of both the Superintendent and his team to settle the contract.

11. AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

1. Consent Agenda

MOTION: Director Henderson moved approval of all items within the consent agenda withholding item 3-a: Contract with Delta-T Group for SPED Staffing, for separate consideration. Director Franco seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes

1. Gifts

BF 33638 Highland Park Senior High School Gift Acceptance of \$5,000

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to accept the donation of \$5,000.00 from Scott Milburn for continued auditorium needs, and that the Superintendent (designee) send a letter of appreciation to Scott Milburn

BF 33639 Request for Permission to Accept a Gift from the Ecolab Foundation

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to accept a gift from the Ecolab Foundation to support relationship building for teachers through team building activities as well as transportation support ; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

2. Grants

BF 33640 Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the St. Paul Chapter of the Awesome Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept funds from the St. Paul Chapter of the Awesome Foundation and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33641 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to Greater Twin Cities United Way

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to Greater Twin Cities United Way; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33642 Request for Permission to Submit Grants to the Minneapolis Foundation and Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Minneapolis Foundation and Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33643 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education's Innovation in Service Learning Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Minnesota Department of Education's Innovation in Service Learning Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents

BF 33644 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to PrairieCare Fund

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit to PrairieCare Fund's Mental Health Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33645 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the US Department of Agriculture's Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the US Department of Agriculture's Patrick Leahy Farm to School Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

3. Contracts

BF 33646 RFP #A219429-A | Amendment of Request for Non-Food Supplies

That the Board of Education authorize the amendment of RFP #219429-A to increase the dollar amount of the contract with Trio Supply by \$450,000 to a total of \$1,050,000 for furnishing and delivery of non-food supplies.

BF 33647 RFP # A218951-A | Amendment of Request for Prime Vendor Food

That the Board of Education authorize the amendment of RFP # A218951-A to increase the dollar amount of the contract with Indianhead Foodservice Distributor by \$2,000,000 to a total of \$8,500,000 for furnishing and delivery of food supplies.

BF 33648 Leadership Development for Non-Licensed Staff

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to execute a contract in the amount not to exceed \$200,000.00 with In the Lead, Inc.

BF 33649 Design Services for the Washington Technology Roofing and Paving project (Project # 4040-24-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of design and construction administration services to Miller Dunwiddie for the not-to-exceed fee of \$337,400.

4. Agreements

BF 33650 Memorandum of Agreement with Capella University for Nursing Clinical Experiences

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a memorandum of understanding with Capella University for nursing clinical experiences.

BF 33651 Lease Agreement with Teatro del Pueblo

That the Board of Education authorize the execution of the Lease Agreement between the District and Teatro del Pueblo at the Baker Center, located at 209 West Page Street.

BF 33652 Lease Agreement with West Side Community Organization

That the Board of Education authorize the execution of the Lease Agreement between the District and West Side Community Organization at the Baker Center, located at 209 West Page Street.

BF 33653 Request to Sign School Social Work Internship Agreement with Metro State University

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to sign the School Social Work Internship Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Metro State University.

BF 33654 Lease Agreement with Youth Farm

That the Board of Education authorize the execution of the Lease Agreement between the District and Youth Farm at the Baker Center, located at 209 West Page Street.

BF 33655 Lease Agreement with the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities

That the Board of Education authorize the execution of the Lease Agreement between the District and the YMCA of the Greater Twin Cities at the Baker Center, located at 209 West Page Street.

5. Administrative Items

BF 33556 Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and electronic transfers for the period December 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

(a) General Account	#768045-769073	\$94,010,491.45
	#0005106-0005143	
	#7005030-7005060	
	#0009398-0009549	
(b) Construction Payments	- 0 -	\$7,548,048.34
(c) Debt Service	- 0 -	<u>0.00</u>
		\$101,558,539.79

Included in the above disbursements are two payrolls in the amount of \$65,265,391.95 and overtime of \$398,415.71 or 0.61% 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 June 30, 2024.

BF 33557 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 February 28, 2024, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before this date.

Human Resources Transactions

BF 33558 Transactions for January 1 – January 31, 2023

BF 33559 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 33560 Project Budget Modification Request and Finance Plan Update for the Farnsworth Aerospace Upper HVAC Replacement Project (Project #1030-23-01)

That the Board of Education approve the budget modification to the Farnsworth Aerospace Upper HVAC Replacement project (Project # 1030-23-01).

BF 33561 Phase Gate Approval of Eastern Heights Playground Replacement (Project # 1070-23-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for Eastern Heights Playground Replacement (Project # 1070-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

BF 33562 Phase Gate Approval of FY23 Paving Program (Project # 0800-23-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for FY23 Paving Program (Project # 0800-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

6. Bids

BF 33563 Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 02-A (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4266-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to Kellington Construction, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$804,635.

BF 33564 Phase Gate Approval of the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project WS 07-H (Project #3081-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4302-JG for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to Central Roofing Company for a lump sum base bid of \$1,397,000.

BF 33565 Digitization of SPPS Employee and Labor Relations Records

That the Board of Education approve of the digitization of SPPS HR records for the amount not to exceed \$400,000

7. Change Orders

BF 33566 Change Order #28 for Market & Johnson, Inc. for the Johnson High School HVAC Replacement Project (Project # 1150-19-01)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent, Superintendent's Designee, or Executive Director of Operations and Administration to sign Change Order #28 for Market & Johnson, Inc. for the Johnson High School HVAC Replacement project (Project # 1150-19-01) for the amount of \$275,324.

ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

BF 33667 Contract with Delta-T Group for SPED Staffing

Director Franco requested further discussion on this item to discuss the utilization of the funds in the contract, as well as the process for this contract as determined to be the most effect way of filling vacant positions. Assistant Superintendent of Specialized Services, Heidi Nistler, provided additional details for this item. The most important aspect in the department is to ensure high-quality staff to support students with disabilities, and we are experiencing shortages in staffing positions related to special education. We are exploring a variety of different methods and strategies to address these concerns, including hiring bonuses and partnering with universities to develop programs, retention and training. We continue to see vacancies in special education that impact our students, families, and educators though. In looking at ways to address it, one option is a contract staffing agency, which provide agency benefits that are different than the district. This year, we are looking at several staffing areas to fill positions in which we previously were unable to. With the funding, and included in the contract and staffing, which covers salaries and benefits for those positions, and instead of the district paying the staff directly, the salaries are paid to the staffing agency, and then the salaries are allocated to the staff members.

- Is this a continuation of an existing contract? Response: This is a new staffing agency, and they are separate from other agencies and candidates with Delta-T.
- How are we leveraging our internal strategies, to potentially not need staffing agencies in the future? Response: We have a shared goal for employees to be direct hires and part of the SPPS community and we are working to prepare allocations for the upcoming school year. There is a comprehensive document with student needs that correlates to licensed staffing for teachers, therapists, and paraprofessionals to support students in special education. We have posted positions and are conducting interviews, and offering early contracts in order to fill as many positions as possible.
- Director Vue requested information about the staffing market in general and the reasons it is so difficult to retain staff. Response: Over the past few years, studies across the state have shown that the number of educators with a special education licensure is lower, and the numbers for those who retire or resign from the field surpasses the amount of educators joining the field. It is a statewide and nationwide problem, and we need to be intentional of the efforts to recruit and support staff. We are working on internal recruitment and retention procedures, and leveraging programs with universities, such as the University of Saint Thomas, and also in grants programs through MDE at the U of M that support a special education pipeline.
- Director Henderson requested information on the process for hiring staff through the contract staffing agency in order to be internal staff, as well as the additional benefits offered by the staffing agency. Response: Staff may reach out to the building principal or Assistant Superintendent who want to be hired by the District and they would have a conversation with the agency to be released from the contract, likely after the school year, and they would then apply through SPPS. We have had several educators who have enjoyed and find value in SPPS and continued. One of the main benefits we have heard is the agency offers to cover relocation costs for those staff members who may require relocation, which is not currently a benefit offered by the District.

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the contract with Delta-T Group for SPED staffing. Director Franco seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes

FURTHER AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

1. Resolution Relating to Certification of Minutes Relating to Lease Purchase Agreement and \$101,315,000 Full-Term Certificates of Participation, Series 2024A. Ratifying the Award of Sale

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Tom Sager, Executive Chief of Financial Services, as well as Steve Pumper from PMA Municipal Group to present the details of this item. At the August 22, 2023 School Board meeting, the School Board received and reviewed information pertaining to an upcoming Certificate of Participation sale for purposes of obtaining the resources for the District's capital needs included in the SPPS Builds plan. Also at the August 22 meeting, the School Board approved a resolution that authorized the Superintendent, Chief of Administration and Operations, or Executive Chief of Financial Services to execute a Certificate Purchase Agreement for the stated purposes. At the January 9, 2024 Committee of the Board Meeting, the Board received and reviewed background information and further details pertaining to the impending certificate sale to help fund construction projects at Hidden River Middle School, Highland Park Middle School, Barack and Michelle Obama Elementary, and Bruce Vento Elementary. The sale of these Certificates of Participation commenced on Wednesday February 14, 2024. The negotiated sale process was very competitive, and the District was able to secure a final true interest cost for the issue of 3.54 percent. This favorable rate met all the parameters approved by the School Board to complete this sale and will generate \$20 million less in debt service payments than what was originally forecasted in August 2023. The COP's proceeds will be applied to expenses related to projects identified as part of the District's capital plan in accordance with the SPPS Builds program. The Certificate closing will be on March 7, 2024 at which time the District will receive the funds.

Director Valliant requested simplified information for this item. Response: It is setting up a financial structure for construction projects – we have received the proceeds in excess of \$100M. This is one financing mechanism to finance the building programs identified in the SPPS Builds plan. We are borrowing money to pay the contractors to build the buildings or improve the existing buildings, and paying the debt back over a 20-year period of time.

BF 33668 Resolution Relating to Certification of Minutes Relating to Lease Purchase Agreement and \$101,315,000 Full-Term Certificates of Participation, Series 2024A. Ratifying the Award of Sale

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to approve the resolution relating to the Lease-Purchase Agreement and \$101,315,000 (one hundred and one million, three hundred and fifteen thousand dollars) Full-Term certificates of Participation, Series 2024A. Director Carrillo seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes

Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes

2. Project Labor Agreements

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Tom Parent, Executive Director of Operations and Administration, to present information about Project Labor Agreements. This item is based on board policy and state statute. Information on the recommendations is included within each item, located in the BoardBook. Questions from the board included further information on the recommendations for the PLAs for each of the projects, as well as the process for bidding.

BF 33669 Cherokee Heights Building Systems Replacements

BF 33670 FY24 Instructional A/V

BF 33671 FY25 Fire Safety

BF 33672 Johnson Senior High

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to approve approves the recommendations that a Project Labor Agreement is used on these projects:

- **Cherokee Heights Building Systems Replacements**
- **FY24 Instructional A/V**
- **FY25 Fire Safety**
- **Johnson Senior High.**

Director Ward seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes

10. **INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

A. Policy Update

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Becky Schmidt, Interim Director of Health and Wellness, to present the first readings of each of these policy updates.

- a. FIRST READING: Policy 516.00 Students: Medications/Medical Procedures

Details were shared on the rationale for the proposed amendments to this policy, including:

- Policy was last updated five years ago (2019)
- We are always striving to remove health barriers to learning, remove barriers for families, and have safe and efficient processes in place when it comes to administering medications and medical procedures.
- When updating our processes there was a need to review and update the policy.

A link to the proposed changes was included in the presentations. Language that is proposed to be removed was reviewed, as well as proposed language to be added to the policy.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Vue requested more information on the changes for the emphasis on accounting for and administration of medications. Response: We want to see accountability in know about medications, and there are updated guidelines regarding controlled substances, including that they are in a double locked environment. This is to control the parameters, and to ensure our students and staff are safe, and there are procedures for double counting of medications on a weekly basis. These proposed changes are another precautionary measure to not mishandle or misuse those medications.
- Director Carrillo requested information on the proposed removal of the emergency care plan portion of the policy and the rationale for that. Response: We have stock naloxone and epi-pens as part of a mandate, and they are available to all students. Outside of that, parent permission or provider orders are required, with families to provide them. Because the stock medications available are part of other legislation, we do not need to have it written into our policy.

b. FIRST READING: Policy 533.00 Wellness

Details were shared on the rationale for the proposed amendments to this policy, including:

- Policy was last updated seven years ago (2017)
- Proposed changes to the policy are mostly driven by the changes made to the USDA National School Lunch Nutrition Programs
- Remove language around unsupported positions

A link to the proposed changes was included in the presentations. Language that is proposed to be removed was reviewed, as well as proposed language to be added to the policy.

The proposed policy updates were also included in BoardBook.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- How do parents and families know what is considered a “smart snack” if sending food to school to share. Response: We do not define or dictate what families send to school for snacks, but the District is required to serve “smart snacks” from a school perspective. It is a USDA regulation term, which applies to school districts.
- Will “smart snacks” also be considered for concession stands and additional fundraisers by groups at schools? Response: The regulations define the school day as midnight to thirty minutes after dismissal, so outside of those hours, groups are not required to meet those requirements.
- How is compliance evaluated if a lot of the policy is encouraged? Response: There is an assessment tool provided by MDE, with a triannual assessment for the District to evaluate itself of the different components within the policy.

- Director Franco encouraged language around ideas or recommendations to build movement breaks into the school days for middle school students who may not have outdoor playground equipment accessible.
- How are non-food based rewards being communicated to sites, and what level of training is being implemented to support sites? Response: There are various degrees across the buildings with administration, and it does vary. There is new legislation in place that states schools cannot use food as a reward or punishment. We know there are classroom celebrations, but we try for no more than one time per month for food-based celebrations.
- It was noted that students with food allergies are impacted by this update, and they may not be allowed to eat the food brought, and other students may have dietary restrictions. Some families may not have the resources to bring food into their child's classroom, and there is inequity in food-based celebrations as well.
- Director Franco reiterated that he wants to ensure we are providing the guidance and communicate to implement these changes to staff. He also cautioned the impact of these proposed changes to fundraising effort and selling products to staff throughout the school day. He also encouraged the district to look at ways to leverage the public infrastructure and make as open as possible to promote wellness from a community perspective.

B. Math Update

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed staff from Office of Teaching and Learning, Craig Anderson and Sue Braithwaite, to present the Math Update. Information included the alignment with culturally responsive curriculum, the HMH and SAVVAS implementation timeline, and district K-12 math systems of support.

Within the Elementary portion of the presentation, information included an early childhood math update, HMH Into Math/¡Arriba las Matemáticas! program structure, K-5 culturally responsive curriculum examples, K-5 HMH growth measures (district level), growth measure matched tests, additional assessments, and K-5 professional learning and support.

The second portion focused on SAVVAS, and included details on the district 6-12 math systems of support, instructional model for grades 6-8, and instructional model for grades 9-11, as well as 6-12 culturally responsive curriculum examples, 6-8 SAVVAS enVision mathematics screener and diagnostic data (district level), districtwide MSDA growth by grade/course, and 6-11 professional learning and support.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Information was requested on the projections for growth. Response: We will strive for continued growth, and as we learn more about the curriculum, we will hopefully learn more about the trajectory and acceleration.
- Information was also requested on Waggle. Response: We are only using Waggle now, as STM Math was another company with a similar program, but it did not connect to daily lessons. Data from Waggle will now be seen on the teacher dashboard, and more room for differentiation and personalization to be more connected to the curriculum, and also costs less.
- Is there similar growth between math and reading? Is math helping with reading scores? Response: We haven't done a comparison yet, as we just finished FAST winter reading assessment, and in looking at reading, we have seen growth in 2nd grade. It will definitely have connections, with new writing materials, and we expect to see growth on both sides.

- With the new curriculum and being culturally responsive, will it lend to incorporating financial literacy and wealth justice? Response: Yes, the district has also created materials that highlight effective scope and sequence, and every student will have a degree of financial literacy.
- Information was also provided on the CollegeBound program through the City of Saint Paul, and the financial literacy lessons that are embedded with that work. There are also statutes around mandates for financial literacy, as well as our partnering with EVERFI, for lessons in Advisory and Foundations at the middle school level as well. There are also capstone projects in 5th grade and 8th grade as well.
- Director Valliant requested details on ways for parents and families to support their children in math. Response: There is an HMH platform that parents and families can access, and we are working with Communications to share that information. There are also videos in which a lesson is modded for the support of students in math, as well as family letters and directions on take-home pages with clear messaging, and examples, so that supports for families are much more cohesive.
- Director Allen requested data disaggregated by race.
- Director Vue noted questions around implementation and if company support will be less needed as we implement the curriculum more and more.
- Director Franco requested details on providing additional supports for students. Response: There is differentiation, where a math lesson is 90 minutes, and the lesson itself is 30 minutes, as well as daily small group instruction. There is tier one supports by a licensed teacher, and Eas and TAs also play a major role to support.
- Director Henderson noted she is also interested in the disaggregation of data for EL learners, as well as Special Education learners as well.

C. FY25 Budget Update

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Tom Sager, Executive Chief of Financial Services, to present the FY25 Budget Update. Included within the presentation were details on the FY25 budget updated timeline, budget priorities, updated FY25 reduction target, fiscal year 2025 budget framework, initial decisions: budget priorities to sustain, programs in alignment with Respectful and Reflective Schools, Literacy, and Safety and Sense of Belonging as identified within the budget priorities, the FY25 budget decision-making structure, website information including frequently asked questions, and next steps.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- How are we ensuring the values of the community align with the budget values identified? Response: First, we look at the needs of the school and the requirements to build the foundation, as well as our community partners and their work. With intentionality, we know and have heard about programs such as the WINN strategy and focus on literacy.
- What is the timeline for informing our community partners? Response: Late-March or early-April.
- Are there any items that will need to be sustained that are not on the list presented? Response: This list is not exhaustive, and there are some items that will need to be sustained that are not included, such as electrical service, or commitments based on statute. We also anticipate changes that may occur throughout the budget process.

13. BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. Information Requests/Responses and Items for Future Agendas

- Director Valliant requested information around efforts and plans for incorporating financial literacy into the curriculum.
- She also requested information regarding artificial intelligence and data configuration and manipulation, and the value of data.
- Director Carrillo requested regular updates on updates to reading and math, such as the FAST assessment and math assessment, including mid-year and spring results.
- Director Vue requested a safety report.
- Director Franco also requested a safety briefing and an update on the school-wide supports and work of SSLs. He also encouraged the Policy Work Group to review the facility use and permitting process and procedures. He also requested a report on athletics and action plans with the improvement of facilities. He also requested an update on supports for special education teachers.
- Director Henderson requested an update on the SEAB contract.

B. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Vue spoke about his time at Harding High School and the Thinking College Early Fair recently, and the event to rename the auditorium in honor of Ms. Joann Clark. He thanked former board director Jeannie Foster for leading that work, and also thanked Chief Turner for her role.
- Director Allen recounted her experiences as a high school student at Central and athletics, as well as a current situation that occurred between Johnson and Como, and restorative circles that helped athletes on both teams to help each other on the court. She thanked Mr. Donelle Gibson for his work in leading the restorative circle and practices for these teams.
- Director Valliant shared her personal experiences about her children helping others in class.
- Director Henderson shared her time spent with students at the St. Paul Promise Neighborhood's ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new book vending machines at Benjamin E. Mays and Maxfield, which is an amazing and wonderful gift that encourages students to access books and materials with characters who look like them, and it was great to hear from the young students who wanted to be astronauts.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Director Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting; Director Allen seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 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