

**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](http://www.spps.org/boe) and Saint Paul Cable Channel 16

**March 19, 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: E. Valliant, H. Henderson, U. Ward, J. Vue, C. Allen, Y. Carrillo, C. Franco  
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, with one change - to move the Consent Agenda to follow the Approval of the Order of the Consent Agenda, both of which will immediately follow Public Comment. The motion was seconded by Director Carrillo.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**4. RECOGNITIONS**

**BF 33674** Acknowledgment of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees

1. **Kim Kroetsch**, a distinguished music educator in Saint Paul Public Schools, has been honored with the Minnesota Music Educator Association Elementary Music Teacher of the Year Award, recognizing her remarkable contributions to music education. With over two decades of experience

at Global Arts Plus Lower, Kim has been instrumental in fostering an inclusive musical environment, transcending traditional roles.

As a leader within the SPPS Music/Arts community, Kim has actively contributed to the District Music Steering Committee, shaping and aligning the music curriculum with the SPPS Music Scope & Sequence.

As the Arts Integration Lead at her school, Kim passionately advocates for cultural inclusivity in the curriculum, embodying a dedication to providing a comprehensive, arts-infused, and integrated education. Her impact extends further through leadership roles in the Equity and Instructional Leadership Committee, where she spearheads engaging professional development initiatives with a focus on arts integration.

2. **Dr. Fatima Lawson**, principal of Highwood Hills Elementary, has been named one of the finalists (along with two others) for the Minnesota 2024 NAESP National Distinguished Principal (NDP) award. This marks the 40th year that MESPA and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) have presented the prestigious award.

The National Distinguished Principals (NDP) program was established in 1984 to recognize elementary and middle-level principals who set high standards for instruction, student achievement, character and climate for the students, families and staff in their learning communities.

Interviews with the three finalists will be conducted in early May and the winner will be announced in mid-May.

3. The field of possible candidates for this year's Minnesota Teacher of the Year honor has been narrowed to 27 and **Jamie Williams**, the seventh grade American Studies teacher at Capitol Hill Gifted and Talented Magnet School, is one of the semifinalists.

Jamie, in her fifth year at Capitol Hill and her 13th within SPPS, is also the teacher-leader for Dare 2 Be Real, a student-led anti-racism group at the school.

An independent selection panel of 18 community leaders chose the semifinalists from an initial field of 159 candidates from across the state. The panel will review the semifinalists' portfolios again and review semifinalist video submissions in mid-March. The panel will select about 10 finalists from among the group.

The current Minnesota Teacher of the Year, Harding High School's **Michael Houston**, will announce his successor at the Minnesota Teacher of the Year banquet, scheduled for May 5 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre.

Education Minnesota, the statewide educators union, organizes and underwrites the Teacher of the Year program. Candidates include pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade, Early Childhood Family Education and Adult Basic Education teachers, from public or private schools.

### **BF 33675** Acknowledgment of Good Work Provided by Students

1. Central Senior High students **Kiernan Baxter-Kauf**, a sophomore, and **Max Ulven**, a junior, are the Minnesota State High School League winners of the Debate State Championship (public policy division).

Kiernan and Max argued for the federal government substantially increasing fiscal redistribution through a federal job guarantee, expanding social security and/or providing a basic income. After eight rounds, they defeated a duo from Minneapolis South 7-0. This was the first championship for Ulven and Baxter-Kauf.

Central students **Elliot Miller**, a sophomore and **Eleanor Johnson**, a senior, reached the quarterfinals of the State Tournament. They also have been invited to compete at the National Speech and Debate Association tournament in June.

**Addie Jones-White** and **Yao Buchl**, both juniors at Highland Park Senior High, also made it to the Debate State Championship. The duo were not even expecting to qualify for the state tournament and were excited but nervous leading up to the competition. To no one's surprise, their passion for the activity allowed them to put nerves aside, and they went on to have some intense debates against top teams like Central High School (the future Champions of the tournament) and Edina - ultimately beating a partnership of seniors from an opposing high school.

The Minnesota State High School League 2024 Debate State Tournament was held at the University of Minnesota January 12-13, 2024. The Minnesota Urban Debate League (MNUDL) sponsors the debate program in SPPS. MNUDL is a program of Augsburg University which provides resources and programming to support competitive academic debate in Twin Cities high schools and middle schools.

2. **Donovan Timmerman**, a junior at Washington Technology Magnet, represented the HUMWOW (Humboldt, Washington, and OWL) swimming cooperative at the Minnesota State High School League Boys State Swimming and Diving Meet. Donovan finished in the top 20 in the state for Class A and was the first representative from the HUMWOW cooperative to compete in the state competition. The tournament was held on February 29 at the University of Minnesota Aquatic Center.
3. Two Humboldt High School wrestlers represented SPPS at the Minnesota State High School League Boys State Wrestling Tournament in early March at the Xcel Energy Center. **Po Si Si**, a senior, fought hard at a very difficult 121 pound weight class, but was eliminated after his second defeat. Senior **Bran Tajia Looggins** placed third in the state at the 190 pound weight class.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. **Yao Buchl** Ethnic Studies Budget Cuts
2. **Stacey Alcenat** Concern about teacher
3. **Tess Corbett** Concern about teacher
4. **Hiwot Zemikael** Discrimination of the Black African Immigrants Parents and students by the principal of L'Étoile du nord
5. **Fidele Tchoffo** Discrimination of the Black African Immigrants Parents and students by the principal of L'Étoile du nord
6. **Michelle Wall** Intersection of strategic plan, academic standards, equitable instructional opportunities, and FY25 budget
7. **Jenny Konkel** Bargaining team tentative agreement
8. **Nicole Nolen** To thank the board for their participation in the negotiations with SPFE
9. **Shanaz Padamsee** Appreciation for school board during mediation
10. **Peter Hendricks** FY25 Budget & Public Data Requests from January 2024
11. **Andre Creighton** Youth programs and access to high schools to foster participation growth
12. **Ntxheb Chang** Sustain Critical Ethnic Studies
13. **Dieunane Casimir** Discrimination of the Black African Immigrants Parents and students by the principal of L'Étoile du nord
14. **Abiola Akeredolu** Impartiality at LNFI
15. **Ibilola** My dream for the school
16. **Leo Jackson** Equity with youth inner city associations

- 17. Jennifer Hartman Equity with facility fees
- 18. Liam Heffren Ethnic Studies
- 19. Kia Rademacher Ethnic Studies
- 20. Kimberly Colbert Ethnic Studies
- 21. MK Nguyen Ethnic Studies

**6. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Director Henderson moved approval of the Order of the Consent Agenda with these items pulled for separate consideration:

- **4-l: Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul Federation of Educators, Exclusive Representative for School and Community Service Professionals**
- **4-j: Approval of Employment Agreement between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul Federation of Educators, Local 28, Exclusive Representative for Educators**
- **4-k: Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul Federation of Educators, Exclusive Representative for Educational Assistants**

The motion was seconded by Director Ward.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- A. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 20, 2024
- B. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of February 20, 2024
- C. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 24, 2024
- D. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 26, 2024
- E. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 2, 2024

**MOTION:** Director Henderson moved approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 20, 2024; Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of February 20, 2024; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 24, 2024; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 26, 2024; and Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 2, 2024. The motion was seconded by Director Vue.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

|                    |     |
|--------------------|-----|
| Director Valliant  | Yes |
| Director Henderson | Yes |

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| Director Ward     | Yes |
| Director Vue      | Yes |
| Director Allen    | Yes |
| Director Carrillo | Yes |
| Director Franco   | Yes |

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of March 6, 2024

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on March 6, 2024, Superintendent Gothard welcomed everyone to the meeting, and shared stories about John Bobolink, a dear friend and Supervisor for Indian Education who passed away earlier in the week. A moment of silence was also observed for Mr. Bobolink.

The first presentation on Onward SPPS focused on three topics - the Flexible Calendar Year Workgroup, the Karen Culture and Language Workgroup, and the African American Program Workgroup.

Within the portion around the Flexible Calendar Year Workgroup portion, questions and discussion focused on the original intentions of year-round programming, further information of students showing proficiency in science in 5th grade at Crossroads, a potential correlation between attendance and the year-round calendar, data for similar schools, and expectations for academic outcomes. Further details were also requested on the potential impacts to enrollment with these proposed changes, communication for families and staff, intercessions, and the proposed cost savings for these proposed changes, and impact of the pandemic on the presented data.

Within the Karen Culture and Language Workgroup portion of the presentation, questions and discussion centered on the excitement and support of board members for this work, the continued future for the program, the desire for safety for students rooted in culture and well-being, recruitment and support of Human Resources in this work, and this magnet program and special education staff. Further questions also focused on the Wellstone site in which this program is proposed to be located, and pathways for students in the Karen program, including at Washington Tech.

Within the African American Program Workgroup portion of the presentation, board members also shared their excitement and support for this program, as well as additional information about this magnet program and transportation for students.

The next presentation included information about Community Use of Facilities and Permits. Questions and discussion included further details about the revenue and expenses of permits, subsidation of organizations who permit for facilities and youth athletics, current partners of the City of the Saint Paul, and the timeline for a formal agreement with the City and the work of board members to help in these efforts. Questions and discussion included the goals of the partnership with the City, increased facility use throughout the years, and encouragement by board members for further uplifting of organizations supporting out-of-school programming and expectations for them in using SPPS spaces.

Following adjournment, board members conducted a work session regarding the discussion of Board goals and the community engagement process for the Board goals.

**MOTION: Director Ward moved to accept the report on the March 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 Valliant.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

## 9. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

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

- 2024
  - 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
  - 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 shared his experiences in speaking at the Minnesota Association of School Administrators and Minnesota School Board Association Day at the Capitol, and the opportunity to speak with the delegation, and putting aside politics or location within the state, while building relationships with respect, in order to shape education for the entire state. He shared that while there was a historic investment, there are also bills and mandates that we are forced to fund as well, and they may or may not be prioritized in our strategic plan. He also shared about the READ Act, and added funding isn't enough when it's distributed equally among districts in the state. We know that many of our scholars need more support and staff find creative ways during the literacy block to meet students where they are in beautiful

and respectful ways. Our district provides that through our WINN strategy. We do this work because it is right and it is a value of our community. He also shared more about this year's budget process and competing investments and challenges, as well as increased engagement. There will be changes, and we are likely to hear feedback from the community, but 70% of school districts will receive reduced investments during a large inflationary time with other competing interests. He shared this experience in being amongst state leaders and notes from his message.

## 11. AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

### 1. Consent Agenda

**MOTION:** Director Henderson moved approval of all items within the consent agenda withholding these for separate consideration:

- **4-i: Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul Federation of Educators, Exclusive Representative for School and Community Service Professionals**
- **4-j: Approval of Employment Agreement between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul Federation of Educators, Local 28, Exclusive Representative for Educators**
- **4-k: Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul Federation of Educators, Exclusive Representative for Educational Assistants pulled for separate consideration.**

Director Allen seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

### 1. Gifts

#### **BF 33676** Ecolab Foundation Gift

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the \$5,000 from the Ecolab Foundation and provide a letter of expressing appreciation for the gift.

#### **BF 33677** Request for Permission to Accept a Donation from Global Arts Plus PTA

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to accept the gift from Global Arts Plus PTA.

#### **BF 33678** MCJROTC Winter Leadership Camp

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Como Park Senior High School/MCJROTC to accept a monetary gift from North Star Marine Veterans of \$5,000.00. The money will

be deposited into the JROTC intra-school account 19-212-291-000-5096-J001, and will be used with the above projects.

**BF 33679** Acceptance of Donation from Maggie O'Reilly

That the Board of Education approve the funds from Maggie O'Reilly, in the amount of \$64,000, all of which will be used to purchase new stage extensions from the Wenger Corporation. The funds should be deposited into the Mary Mackbee Auditorium Account. School budget code is: 19-210-291-000-5096-G501.

2. Grants

**BF 33680** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the MN Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the MN Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Boost Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 33681** Request for Permission to Submit to the Whole Kids Foundation Garden Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Whole Kids Foundation's Garden Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 33682** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Lillian Wright and C. Emil Berglund Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Lillian Wright and C. Emil Berglund Foundation, to accept the funds, and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 33683** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the MN Department of Education's Afterschool Community Learning Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant from the MN Department of Education's Afterschool Community Learning Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 33684** Request for Permission to Submit to the MN Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School District Coordinator Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the MN Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Coordinator Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 33685** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the MN Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the MN Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Boost Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.



### 3. Contracts

**BF 33686** Request to Sign the Contract with the City of Saint Paul pertaining to CollegeBound Saint Paul

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the contract with the City of Saint Paul pertaining to CollegeBound Saint Paul.

**BF 33687** Request to Sign the Amendment with Construction Careers Foundation (CCF)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the amendment to the Construction Careers Foundation Contract for FY24.

**BF 33688** Request for Proposal (RFP) -- No. A24-4273-MO - Leased Wide Area Network (WAN) and Internet Services

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to authorize award of RFP No. A24-4273-MO to CenturyLink/Qwest, for the purchase of Internet and Fiber Wide Area Network Connectivity services in the amount of \$3,224,773.20.

**BF 33689** Contract with Learning Disabilities Association of Minnesota (LDA) 23-3786

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the contract with Learning Disabilities Association of Minnesota (LDA) 23-3786.

**BF 33690** Renewal of Contract with Teachers on Call

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to renew the contract with Teachers on Call to provide substitute teacher services for Independent School District 625. The contract amount will be charged to budget codes:

- K-5 (elementary) – 01-005-203-000-6305-0000.
- 6-12 (secondary) – 01-005-211-000-6305-0000.

**BF 33691** Design Services for Johnson High School Athletic Improvements Project (Project # 1150-24-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of design and construction administration services to BWBR for the not-to-exceed fee of \$221,535.

**BF 33692** Contract Amendment #1 for U+B Architecture for the Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping, and HVAC Replacement (Project # 4260-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize Amendment #1 for U+B Architecture in the amount of \$56,455 for the Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping, and HVAC Replacement (Project # 4260-23-01).

**BF 33693** Contract Amendment #1 for Snow Kreilich Architects for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation (Project # 3210-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize Amendment #1 for Snow Kreilich Architects in the amount of \$65,440 for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01).

**BF 33694** Contract Amendment #6 for TKDA for the Johnson High School HVAC Replacement (Project # 1150-19-01)

That the Board of Education authorize Amendment #6 for TKDA in the amount of \$15,000 for the Johnson High School HVAC Replacement (Project # 1150-19-01)

**BF 33695** Contract Amendment #1 for KFI for the Hidden River Middle School Renovation & Addition (Project # 3140-20-02)

That the Board of Education authorize Amendment #1 for KFI in the amount of \$12,050 for the Hidden River Middle School Renovation & Addition project (Project #3140-20-02).

**BF 33696** Contract Amendment #3 for ATSR Planners, Architects, and Engineers for the Farnsworth Aerospace Upper HVAC Replacement (Project # 1030-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize Amendment #3 for ATSR Planners, Architects, and Engineers in the amount of \$68,795 for the Farnsworth Aerospace Upper HVAC Replacement project (Project #1030-23-01).

**BF 33697** Contract Amendment #2 for Dunham Associates for the Creative Arts ARP HVAC Upgrades (Project # 2170-22-01)

That the Board of Education authorize Amendment #2 for Dunham Associates in the amount of \$40,572 for the Creative Arts ARP HVAC Upgrades project (Project #2170-22-01).

**BF 33698** Contract Amendment #6 for Cuningham Group Architects for the American Indian Magnet School Addition and Renovation (Project # 1160-19-01)

That the Board of Education authorize Amendment #6 for Cuningham Group Architecture in the amount of \$25,000 for the American Indian Magnet School Addition and Renovation project (Project #1160-19-01).

**BF 33699** Contract Amendment #5 for Cuningham Group Architects for the American Indian Magnet School Addition and Renovation (Project # 1160-19-01)

That the Board of Education authorize Amendment #5 for Cuningham Group Architecture in the amount of \$6,400 for the American Indian Magnet School Addition and Renovation project (Project #1160-19-01).

**BF 33700** Construction Manager as Advisor Services for Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements (Project # 2070-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of construction manager as advisor services and pass through general conditions to RJM Construction for the not-to-exceed fee of \$773,505.

**BF 33701** Equipment Acquisition Award for Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation (Project # 3081-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of furniture for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01) to ACRE for a lump sum base bid of \$750,475.

**BF 33702**      Equipment Acquisition Award for American Indian Magnet Addition & Renovation (Project # 1160-19-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of furniture for the American Indian Magnet School Addition and Renovation to ACRE for a lump sum base bid of \$1,107,351.

4. Agreements

**BF 33703**      Memorandum of Agreement with American College of Education for Nursing Clinical Experiences

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

**BF 33704**      Request to Sign School Social Work Internship Agreement with the University of Wisconsin, River Falls

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

**BF 33705**      Request to Sign Concurrent Enrollment Joint Powers Agreement with Century College

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Concurrent Enrollment Joint Powers Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Century College for FY24.

**BF 33706**      Focus Beyond Transition Services: Metro Transit Adopt-A-Stop Program Agreement

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the Metro Transit Adopt-A-Stop Program agreement for one year.

**BF 33707**      District Provided Cell Phone Service & Equipment Agreement

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve and enter into the agreement between SPPS and Verizon Wireless.

**BF 33708**      Memorandum of Understanding between Lakes Country Service Cooperative and Saint Paul Public Schools

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Saint Paul Public Schools and Lakes Country Service Cooperative until June 2025.

**BF 33709**      Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625 and Minnesota Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees Union Local No. 320, Representing Bus Drivers

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment for Minnesota Teamsters Public and Law Enforcement Employees Union Local No. 320, representing bus drivers in this school district; duration of said Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026.

**BF 33710** Joint Powers Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and the City of Woodbury

That the Board of Education authorize the execution of the Joint Powers Agreement between the District and the City of Woodbury, allowing shared use of the gymnasium and fields at E-STEM Middle School, 600 Weir Drive, Woodbury, MN.

**BF 33711** Access, Parking, and Temporary Construction Easement Agreement at Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion School

That the Board of Education authorize the execution of the Access, Parking, and Temporary Construction Easement Agreement at Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion School between the District and the City of Saint Paul.

**BF 33712** Site Operation Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and the City of Saint Paul

That the Board of Education authorize the execution of the Site Operations Agreement between the District and the City of Saint Paul to clarify lines of responsibility for daily maintenance and capital improvement of the external premises at Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion Elementary School, 1845 Sheridan Ave. W.

**BF 33713** Project Labor Agreement (PLA) – Affirmation of the Board’s Previous Direction to Implement a PLA for Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping and HVAC Replacement (Project # 4260-23-01)

That the Board of Education affirm the implementation of a project labor agreement for Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping and HVAC Replacement (Project # 4260-23-01).

**BF 33714** Project Labor Agreement (PLA) – Affirmation of the Board’s Previous Direction to Implement a PLA for Farnsworth Aerospace Upper HVAC Replacement (Project # 1030-23-01)

That the Board of Education affirm the implementation of a project labor agreement for Farnsworth Aerospace Upper HVAC Replacement (Project # 1030-23-01).

5. Administrative Items

**BF 33715** Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and electronic transfers for the period January 1, 2024- January 31, 2024

|                           |                  |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| (a) General Account       | #769074-770185   | \$64,701,911.85        |
|                           | #0005145-0005178 |                        |
|                           | #7005061-7005099 |                        |
|                           | #0009550-0009702 |                        |
| (b) Construction Payments | - 0 -            | \$4,374,476.61         |
| (c) Debt Service          | - 0 -            | <u>\$45,106,300.80</u> |
|                           |                  | \$114,182,689.26       |

Included in the above disbursements are two payrolls in the amount of \$45,596,343.59 and overtime of \$179,510.55 or 0.39% 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 July 31, 2024.

**BF 33716** 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 March 27, 2024, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before this date.

### **Human Resources Transactions**

**BF 33717** Transactions for February 1 – February 29, 2023

**BF 33718** Settlement of Insured Claim

That the Board of Education approve the Settlement Agreement in the above-referenced matter; authorize its Superintendent or designee to sign the Settlement Agreement; and authorize School District administration to issue payment and otherwise perform the Settlement Agreement.

**BF 33719** Phase Gate Approval of the Bridge View Roofing Replacement (Project # 0175-21-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the financial report provided for Bridgeview Roof Replacement project (Project # 0175-21-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

**BF 33720** Phase Gate Approval of the FY25 Fire Safety Program at Hubbs Center, Belvidere Early Learning, E-STEM Middle School, Early Childhood Hub East, and Early Childhood Hub West (Project # 0652-25-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the FY25 Fire Safety Program (Project # 0652-25-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$1,386,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

### 6. Bids

**BF 33721** Phase Gate Approval of the Plumbing Plus project at Wheelock Early Learning Center, Eastern Heights Elementary, L'Etoile du Nord Upper, Groveland Elementary, Hubbs Center, Focus Beyond, John A. Johnson, Griffin Stadium, Dayton's Bluff, Highwood Hills, and Student Placement Center (Project # 0551-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4337-JG for the Plumbing Plus project at Wheelock Early Learning Center, Eastern Heights Elementary, L'Etoile du Nord Upper, Groveland Elementary, Hubbs Center, Focus Beyond, John A. Johnson, Griffin Stadium, Dayton's Bluff, Highwood Hills, and Student Placement Center project (Project # 0551-23-01) to Meisinger Construction Company for a lump sum base bid of \$1,366,200.

**BF 33722** Phase Gate Approval of the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation Project WS 0851 (Project #3210-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4464-JG for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01) to Northern Glass & Glazing, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$2,694,000.

**BF 33723** Phase Gate Approval of the Jie Ming Phase II Addition & Renovation (Project # 3090-21-01) – Playground Equipment: Gate #4 - Contract Award; Gate #4A – Finance Plan Update

That the Board of Education approve the award of playground equipment at the Jie Ming Phase II Addition and Renovation project (Project #s 3090-21-01) to Flagship Recreation for a lump sum base bid of \$323,613.

**BF 33724** Phase Gate Approval of the FY25 Fire Safety Program at Hubbs Center, Belvidere Early Learning, E-STEM Middle School, Early Childhood Hub East, and Early Childhood Hub West (Project # 0652-25-01): Gate #4 – Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of fire alarm installation and modifications at Early Childhood Hub West for the FY25 Fire Safety Program (Project # 0652-25-01) to Egan for a lump sum base bid of \$188,350.

**BF 33725** Phase Gate Approval of the FY24 Paving Program at John A. Johnson and Groveland Elementary (Project # 0800-24-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of concrete at Groveland Elementary for the FY24 Paving Program (Project # 0800-24-01) to RAK Construction, Inc for a lump sum base bid of \$210,360.

**BF 33726** Phase Gate Approval of the FY24 Paving Program at John A. Johnson and Groveland Elementary (Project # 0800-24-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of concrete and paving at Groveland Elementary for the FY24 Paving Program (Project # 0800-24-01) to Bituminous Roadways, Inc for a lump sum base bid of \$259,010.

**BF 33727** Phase Gate Approval of the FY24 Flooring Replacement Program at Johnson High School, Farnsworth Upper, and Battle Creek Middle School (Project # 0225-24-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of flooring at Battle Creek Middle School for the FY24 Flooring Replacement Program at Johnson High School, Farnsworth Upper, and Battle Creek Middle School project (Project # 0225-24-01) to St Paul Lino for a lump sum base bid plus Alternates B1 & B2 of \$378,540.

**BF 33728** Phase Gate Approval of the FY24 Flooring Replacement Program at Johnson High School, Farnsworth Upper, and Battle Creek Middle School (Project # 0225-24-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of flooring at Johnson High School and Farnsworth Upper for the FY24 Flooring Replacement Program at Johnson High School, Farnsworth Upper, and Battle Creek Middle School project (Project # 0225-24-01) to CFS for a lump sum base bid plus Alternates J1 & F1 of \$588,011.

**BF 33729** Phase Gate Approval of the FY24 A/V Replacement Program at Washington Technology Magnet and Journeys Secondary School (Project # 0680-24-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of a/v equipment at Washington Technology for the FY24 A/V Replacement Program at Washington Technology Magnet and Journeys Secondary School project (Project # 0680-24-01) to Bluum of Minnesota for a lump sum base bid of \$348,900.

**BF 33730** Phase Gate Approval of the Como Park Senior Athletics (Project # 4110-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of tennis courts at Como Park Senior Athletics (Project # 411-23-01) to Bituminous Roadways, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$337,343.

#### 7. Change Orders

**BF 33731** Change Order #1 for Morcon Construction for the Rondo Complex ARP HVAC RTU Replacement (Project # 3170-22-01)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent, Superintendent's Designee, or Facilities Director to sign Change Order #1 for Morcon Construction for the Rondo Complex ARP HVAC RTU Replacement project (Project # 1150-19-01) for the amount of \$1,145,391.

**BF 33732** Project Budget Modification Request and Finance Plan Update for the FY24 Paving Program at John A. Johnson and Groveland Elementary (Project # 0800-24-01)

That the Board of Education approve the budget modification to the FY24 Paving Program at John A. Johnson and Groveland Elementary project (Project # 0800-24-01).

#### **ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION**

**BF 33733** Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul Federation of Educators, Exclusive Representative for School and Community Service Professionals

**BF 33734** Approval of Employment Agreement between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul Federation of Educators, Local 28, Exclusive Representative for Educators

**BF 33735** Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul Federation of Educators, Exclusive Representative for Educational Assistants

#### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Ward noted that this item was pulled in order for members of SPFE to witness the approval. He also pulled it because he wanted to express gratitude to folks, especially as board members were more involved than in the past, and it was great to work with Administration to resolve the contract. He also appreciate the experience of working with and is grateful to the SPFE bargaining team, and appreciated the work to represent their membership and elevate the concerns of our educators. He is genuinely excited about the issues discussed and the common interest, and ability to work together toward a shared goal, and it's an exciting opportunity to work toward a positive change together.
- Director Allen thanked Administration and board members involved in the process, as well as SPFE. This year felt lighter and more positive, and all seemed to be hyper focused on getting the job done for the best interest of students. She looks forward to continuing to work together.

- Director Henderson thanked the teams for their work, and is excited to take the next steps and keep the work moving forward.

**MOTION: Director Henderson moved:**

- That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment for those School and Community Professional Employees in this school district for whom the Saint Paul Federation of Educators is the exclusive representative; duration of said Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.
- That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment for licensed educators in this district for whom the Saint Paul Federation of Educators, Local 28, is the exclusive representative; duration of said Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.
- That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment for those School and Community Professional Employees in this school district for whom the Saint Paul Federation of Educators is the exclusive representative; duration of said Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

Director Franco seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Director Valliant  | Yes     |
| Director Henderson | Yes     |
| Director Ward      | Yes     |
| Director Vue       | Yes     |
| Director Allen     | Yes     |
| Director Carrillo  | Abstain |
| Director Franco    | Yes     |

**FURTHER AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION**

1. Calendar Updates

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Craig Anderson, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning to present the Calendar Updates. The objectives include the modification of the previously approved 2024-2025 calendar to support teachers in grading, and to provide an overview of the community engagement and steps being taken to develop future year calendars.

Within the presentation, the rationale for the change was reviewed, as well as details on the 2024-2025 approved calendar in comparison to the proposed modifications to the SY24-25 calendar for a total of 174 days.

Following the motion with the below revisions, the presentation went on to detail the process for developing calendars for school year 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28. The Minnesota State Statute regarding the length of the school year and hours of instruction were shared, as well as parameters for SPPS, and the calendar process and timeline.



The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Vue requested information on the process for determining the rationale for these proposed changes. Response: We learned from this year and teacher feedback, as well as taking their feedback and using it as consideration for future calendars, including when staff development days occur mid-week. We are also striving to compose a more inclusive calendar for students, as well as considerations for staff and grading.

**MOTION: Director Henderson moved to approve the recommendation to change the 2024-2025 calendar, including:**

- **Revise the 24-25 calendar to change the end of Q1 from November 8 to November 7**
- **Change the conference day / staff development day from November 22 to November 8, and**
- **Change the secondary grading day / elementary staff development day from January 31 to January 27.**

**Director Carrillo seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**10. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**

A. FY25 Budget Update

Superintendent Gothard welcomed Tom Sager, Executive Chief of Financial Services, to provide this report. A FY25 budget updated timeline was shown, with allocations to schools in mid-March. The goals for the FY25 budget process were also reviewed, which include to build a balanced FY25 budget that:

- adheres to financial constraints
- demonstrates strong alignment to SPSS Achieves focus areas
- addresses students' learning needs, and
- reflects community values

The building blocks for the General Fund budget were also reviewed, including the role of school needs, requirements, community values, and essential services to compose the FY25 estimated budget. The budget reduction target process was also reviewed, with the FY25 budget reduction target of \$107.5M, and that \$71.3M in reductions have been identified, with \$36.2M in reductions to be determined. Details on the updated FY25 reduction target was also provided. The ARP-funded commitments to stop were also shown, as well as non-ARP funded commitments to stop.

Details for the school allocations guidelines were also presented, including:

- The School Allocation Guidelines provide information and guidance about how school budgets are allocated.
- The Division of Schools and Learning uses specific formulas and guidelines to allocate staffing and funding to schools.
- The Division of Schools and Learning works closely with all other divisions to ensure the school allocations are accurate and equitable.

Budget basics and allocations guidelines were also shown.

The next portion included information about sharing this information with the community, including the dates of the upcoming Parent Advisory Council meetings, school-based meetings, and continued monthly updates via email and on the website.

Next steps were also reviewed, with school allocations being sent on March 22; department allocations in mid-April; school information sessions for families in mid-April/early-May; meetings with ARP community partners in March/April; and the next Board budget update will occur in April.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

#### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Carrillo requested information on the school allocation savings noted within the presentation. Response: Within the Budget Workshops, there were multiple scenarios presented, and working within those scenarios about what a school may look like, we worked within the guardrails and delivery of service and budgetary constraints to arrive at the savings of \$5.5M. There were multiple scenarios shared, and while meeting the aspects of the bargaining agreements, there was allocation to flex and SELT determined the success of each scenario, as well as quantify the changes at the elementary level, as well as middle and high school levels.
- Director Ward requested information on the analysis of spending for different programs, and the determination of whether to start, stop, or sustain. Response: Part of the process was going through the thousands of initiatives and data, as well as feedback if it was working, and the impacts. We began with a large scale collection from the Research, Evaluation and Assessment team and collected various aspects of programs and commitments, including number of participants, to what degree the target group was serviced, alignment to strategic plan, and variations for cost. That data was then combined with information from larger groups around the strategic plan areas, and in looking at the student outcomes landscape, and contextualization of student needs, as well as information from principals and administration. SELT then spent the larger part of four days of protocols around decision-making and sorting with regards to alignment and constraints, strategic plan areas and the student outcomes landscape.
- Director Ward also noted that at the Budget Workshop, materials were provided to see the work being done with collecting quantitative and qualitative data, and looking at both results and anecdotal evidence, student affected, cost, and big-picture data in a massive budget shortfall.
- Director Franco encouraged Administration to think about ways to offer positions to those untenured, or invite them back.
- Director Vue requested information in how community values informed cuts, and encouraged the team to have a stronger correlation to community values. Response: We will take that advice as we work with communities and schools to build framework. In the work of the senior leadership team, they used the framework of instructional priority of literacy and did the sorting process, and then went back to the community value of connectiveness and did the same process, as well as the entire process for the value of safety.

- Director Carrillo also noted that it will be important to clarify with community on the cuts, values and understanding of connections in order to ensure we are explaining and clarifying for the community.
- Director Valliant requested information on the process for the order of the values process. Response: It was based on the three values, including literacy strategies, yellow buses, East African Elementary, Karen Language and Culture, and continued ways to ensure a sense of belonging in decision-making. It was noted that while the values are being used to determine cuts, they are also being used to determine investments.
- Director Ward noted a question about when the team hopes to have the remaining deficit determined or resolved. Response: We anticipate in the upcoming weeks of April or May. Allocations will go to departments based on the timeline, and then budgets will also be returned to Finance, and then loaded into the system.
- Director Henderson thanked the team, and noted it is a bittersweet time with a previous large investment and how to meet the needs of students, and then to have it so quickly taken away.

#### B. B.I.G.G: Board-Initiated Goals Governance

Director Ward then presented information on B.I.G.G: Board-Initiated Goals Governance. He provided a background of the plan, details for the process, and types of goals, including:

- Student outcome goals
- Programmatic goals
- District relations goals
- Internal goals

The timeline for this process was also detailed, as well as works cited and research articles.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

#### QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Vue noted his experience in learning the role of a board member, and it needs to be clear. Leadership cannot occur without goals, and they emphasize the need to exercise power and authority for the best interest of our students, and looks forward to starting the process for moving forward.
- Director Carrillo noted that this was a strong desire from the community for a goal-oriented board and a strong desire for connections with the community. We are embarking on a very strong sense of support, excitement, and hesitancy about the speed, but understanding we are committed to doing this work together, and we will face obstacles and timeline challenges. He feels encouraged to be embarking on this work together and the outcomes will be much better for the city of Saint Paul, and the Board has decided to set goals and work together with Administration to empower everyone and do great work for our students, families, and community.
- Director Henderson noted that we have a strategic plan to drive the district, but not a mechanism for the Board to be held accountable, and that is provided by this model. This plan may shift, but it's important to start the work now and then in the future to reassess. She is excited about the engagement model, and an opportunity to do good work in the public. There may be mistakes, but we must continue. She thanked Director Vue and former director, Jessica Kopp, for their work leading to this point, and the future for accountability and structure for the Board.
- Director Valliant noted that one of her first questions when on the Board was about the goals, and leadership needs goals and a vision. We teach our students to have a vision and goals, and the Board must do the same, while it may be complicated at first.

### C. Onward SPPS: Crossroads Calendar

Superintendent Gothard welcomed Jackie Turner, Executive Chief of Administration and Operations, to present this update.

The flexible school year state statute goals were reviewed, as well as the recommendation to pause at this time for the transition to Crossroads to the traditional school year calendar. Next steps include a school community engagement plan that will be co-created with families and staff, and the development of a new extended timeline to allow for additional input from families and staff to review and understand the data.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

#### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Franco appreciates the pause on this plan for now, and its important that we do bring in community, even if we fear the response. We need to do this work in partnership with administration and with the school community, and do this work collectively, especially when there is a change or pivot.

### D. Policy Update

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

#### a. SECOND 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:** None

#### b. SECOND 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:** None

**13. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

A. Information Requests/Responses and Items for Future Agendas

- Director Franco noted that in the recent onboarding sessions, there was brief information presented on the collaborations between the Office of School Supports and Security and Emergency Management, and is interested in learning more about their work to ensure our school communities feel safe with predictable responses.

B. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Franco provided his experiences at attending Black Wall Street at Humboldt, and that it was an opportunity for Black businesses from the community to join this event, and for our young people to meet with them and learn about the history of businesses in Saint Paul, including Rondo.
- He also highlighted the recent Como girls basketball game.
- He went on to note a meeting with Chair Henderson, Councilmember Rebecca Noecker, Parks and Rec Director Rodriguez, program manager of Sprockets, and Tony Walker, Director of Community Education for SPPS regarding out-of-school-time programming and extension of the school day, and how to lean on community partners, government services and public services agencies to work closely to leverage resources.
- Director Vue provided a report on his attendance at the service for John Bobolink, and provided a passage from the service that told of Mr. Bobolink's life and family. He thanked him and his family for his work. He ended his report with a poem and Native American prayer.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

**Director Ward moved to adjourn the meeting; Director Franco seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:14 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