

**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

**April 23, 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: U. Ward, J. Vue, Y. Carrillo, C. Franco, E. Valliant, H. Henderson
Superintendent Gothard

C. Allen was absent.

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 add Recognition of Superintendent Dr. Joe Gothard's Service to Saint Paul Public Schools to the agenda within Recognitions. The motion was seconded by Director Carrillo.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

4. RECOGNITIONS

BF 33738 Acknowledgment of Good Work Provided by Students

1. **Bobby Arnold**, a senior at Johnson Senior High School, has been chosen by Superintendent Joe Gothard to receive a \$5,000 scholarship award from the American Association of School

Administrators (AASA). Bobby will attend Augsburg University in the fall and major in Education. He would like to become a teacher.

"I want to become a principal. I want to start off as a teacher, and social worker. Hopefully one day I can be a superintendent to help inner-city schools get funding and resources other schools have. This is a dream of mine and I'm going to work as hard as I can to get there," Bobby Arnold said.

Bobby was featured on Fox 9 News earlier this month for a poetry book that he recently published called "The Falling Uprise." He is bringing awareness to mental health through his poetry.

Dr. Joe Gothard was named the National Superintendent of the Year on February 15. A \$10,000 college scholarship will be presented in the name of the AASA National Superintendent of the Year to a student in the high school from which the superintendent graduated, or the school now serving the same area. Dr. Gothard decided to split the scholarship between a student from SPPS and a student from his alma mater in the Madison school district.

2. JROTC Cadet **Anthony Landaverde Guillen**, a senior at Como Park Senior High School, was awarded the highest award for achievement in the Marine Corps JROTC for the Northwest Region of the United States last November at the MCJROTC Marine Corps Birthday Ball Celebration.

The Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement is awarded to only one Marine Corps JROTC cadet each year in the Northwest Region.

Anthony was nominated by Senior Marine Instructor Sergeant Major James C. Kirkland, based on the following criteria: An MCJROTC and academic class standing in the top 5%; demonstrating exemplary military leadership; and demonstrating leadership in scholastic activities, community activities, and interscholastic athletic participation.

Anthony is currently serving as the 28th MCJROTC Commanding Officer at Como Park Senior High for the 2023-24 school year. He was chosen for this leadership role last spring.

3. Fifty-five FIRST LEGO League (FLL) teams competed in the SPPS Regional Tournament on January 27, 2024. Nine of those teams from the following schools advanced to the State Competition on February 18:

Randolph Heights Elementary, Open World Learning, Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion, Horace Mann Elementary and Capitol Hill Gifted and Talented Magnet.

One team from Capitol Hill, **The Lego Llamas**, an all-girl team, will be advancing to compete nationally at the Florida Sunshine Invitational in June. The Lego Llamas received a \$10,000 grant from the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation to help pay for their trip.

Thank you to 3M for their continued generous support of SPPS students in First Lego League coordinated through the Department of Alternative Education. The FIRST LEGO League (FLL) competitions are organized through High Tech Kids, a nonprofit that supports youth STEM programs in Minnesota.

BF 33739

Acknowledgment of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees

1. Multiple SPPS school counseling programs have recently earned Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) designation from the American School Counselor Association (ASCA). The RAMP designation recognizes schools that are committed to delivering an exemplary school counseling program. Honorees are awarded for aligning their program with the criteria in the ASCA National Model, a framework for a data-informed school counseling program. Research findings indicate fully implemented school counseling programs are associated with a range of positive student educational and behavioral outcomes.

SPPS 2024 RAMP recipients are:

- E-STEM Middle School
 - **Courtnie Conyers and Courtney Queen**
- Expo Elementary
 - **Lauren Strong and Laurel Flores**
- Highland Park Middle School
 - **Nou Katzmarek, Elisabeth Mulvaney, and Danielle Seifert**
- Txuj Ci HMong Language & Culture Lower
 - **Shoua Chang and Cynthia Kaste**

SPPS now has 15 RAMP schools - two of which are reRAMP schools and four of which are Schools of Distinction. Current SPPS RAMP Schools:

- Adams Spanish Immersion Elementary
- Battle Creek Elementary*
- Bruce Vento Elementary
- Capitol Hill Gifted & Talented Magnet – reRAMP
- Cretin-Derham Hall (SPPS Counselors)
- Eastern Heights Elementary
- E-STEM Middle School
- Expo Elementary
- Farnsworth Elementary Lower Campus*
- Frost Lake Elementary ●
- Highland Park Middle School ● John A. Johnson
- Randolph Heights Elementary*
- Saint Paul Music Academy* - reRAMP
- Txuj Ci HMong Language & Culture Lower Campus

2. The **Nutrition Services** team has received the Innovation in the Cultural Diversity of School Meals Recognition Award from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food and Nutrition Service and Action for Healthy Kids (AFHK). In a recent email, the USDA and AFHK said: "We are honored to be the first to congratulate you on your incredible achievement of elevating school nutrition in your School Food Authority (SFA). Thank you for your hard work, constant resilience through new challenges, and daily dedication to providing your students with the nourishment they need to learn, grow, and play. We deeply appreciate and respect your continuous efforts to provide your students with more nutritious school meals."

To celebrate their success, the USDA and AFHK said the SPPS Nutrition Services team will receive the following: ●

- National and local recognition by USDA and AFHK
 - An all-expense paid invitation to the Healthy Meals Fall 2024 Summit in Las Vegas, Nevada
 - Healthy Meals Incentives (HMI) Recognition Awardee Toolkit with promotional resources that will help you publicize your success to local media and your school community
 - A banner to showcase your accomplishment.
3. Deb Henton, executive director of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA), is recognizing **Dr. Gothard** for his role as president of the organization for the 2023- 24 school year. The Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) is a private nonprofit member service organization representing educational administrators throughout Minnesota. Members include school superintendents, directors of special education, curriculum and technology leaders, central office administrators, and higher education administrators and professors. MASA is presenting Dr. Gothard with a \$1,000 honorarium, to be awarded to a Saint Paul Public Schools student or school.

BF 33740 Resolution of Recognition of Superintendent Dr. Joe Gothard's Service to Saint Paul Public Schools

WHEREAS, he led the district in the creation and implementation of the SPPS Achieves strategic plan;

WHEREAS, he led a successful referendum campaign to increase the district's tax levy in 2018;

WHEREAS, he helped schools, students, families and staff transition to distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, he made decisions throughout the pandemic in the best interest of the health and safety of the community while continuing to engage students in learning;

WHEREAS, he received national recognition for his innovative and strategic approach to using federal COVID relief funds to return to learning and recover from the pandemic;

WHEREAS, he was named 2024 Minnesota and National Superintendent of the Year;

WHEREAS, he served as a mentor, role model and friend to countless students, staff, colleagues, and members of the Saint Paul Public Schools community during his tenure as superintendent;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Education for Saint Paul Public Schools recognizes and appreciates Dr. Joe Gothard for his seven years of service as the district's superintendent on this twenty-third day of April in the Year Two Thousand and Twenty Four.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Vue noted that he has tremendous respect for his predecessors who brought Dr. Gothard to SPPS, and there is tremendous work ahead. In the past 7 years, no one could have predicted what SPPS has had to ensure, and Dr. Gothard has needed to work with an ever-changing Board in trying to meet the needs of 7 individuals which can be difficult. The elections have changed the Board, as well as a death of a board member and interim appointments. He has needed to reshape his leadership team, and many former leaders have gone on to other roles in other organizations. Schools have been closed and reopened, and there was criticism for both. He has been the face of education for the District, local government, and on the national stage, at the labor relations

bargaining table and at schools with students leaders. He was recognized by his peers as National Superintendent of the Year, and provided leadership during COVID-19 pandemic, which was a dark time in public education and his guidance was needed the most. He has provided stability during a time when SPPS could have been pulled apart. He thanked Dr. Gothard for giving SPPS the best of himself and he wished him well.

- Director Carrillo noted that he began on the Board as an interim board member in 2021, and while it was a lot of learning the role of the school board and to be an effective director, he was also learning to navigate the chaos of the pandemic, and was incredibly impressed by the leadership of Dr. Gothard during this time and his willingness to connect to understand the work. He appreciated his leadership. Madison is taking a good one, and Director Carrillo noted that we appreciate Dr. Gothard and are very happy to have one of the longest serving superintendents and it was an honor to have served with him.
- Director Ward noted that he has served with the Superintendent for as long as he's been on the Board, and it has been wonderful to get to know him, and he has been accessible for questions and discussion. While serving during a turbulent time, Superintendent Gothard found a way to be respectful and thoughtful through controversy and unease. He is sad to see him go, but also realized the amazing opportunity for him in Madison.
- Director Valliant recalled contacting the Superintendent late at night with issues, and he would respond. She thanked him for being a really good superintendent and responsive to her both as a parent and a board member. She is happy he is able to go home to Madison.
- Director Henderson noted that we ask a lot of our leaders, and to be clear, strategic, but also nimble and flexible. She has watched Superintendent Gothard lead this district with grace and humility, as an educator. She noted that when he shows up with staff, his team, students, he is an educator first. That speaks to much to his character and she is very happy he can go home to continue to work in Madison, and encouraged him to remember Saint Paul. She thanked him for his care and service.
- Superintendent Gothard thanked the Board for this surprise, and noted that he is excited and appreciative of the opportunity in Madison. But a couple other things are also true – there is power in leaving somewhere with these feelings. He leaves respect for board members, students and staff. It is challenging work, but that's why he is in leadership and to be able to grow and respond, and looks for ways to show up better for the people served. He also thanked his team – another reason he has chosen to stay in SPPS for so long. They are a very close unit, and complement each other in great ways. They show up in the best way to serve students. SPPS will always be special for him and his family as his son graduated from Central, and also has family roots in Saint Paul, which he previously didn't know. He leaves with great reverence and great excitement. He also welcomed back Dr. John Thein as interim superintendent. He was able to attend a recent team meeting, and he is ready to get back to work in SPPS. In terms of the permanent superintendent, there will be great interest in SPPS, and it's a great, challenging place, and it's the people that make this place great.

MOTION: Director Henderson moved approval of Resolution of Recognition of Superintendent Dr. Joe Gothard's Service to Saint Paul Public Schools. The motion was seconded by Director Vue.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Absent
Director Carrillo	Yes

Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Amy Cram Helwich and MNUDL Funding for Urban Debate League
2. Stacey Alcenat Concern about teacher
3. Michelle Wall Budget Allocations
4. Jennifer Hartman Equity with facility fees
5. St. Paul Football Club Importance of Program

6. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 19, 2024
- B. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of March 19, 2024
- C. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of April 16, 2024

MOTION: Director Henderson moved approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of March 19, 2024; Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of March 19, 2024; and the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of April 16, 2024. The motion was seconded by Director Vue.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of April 3, 2024

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on April 3, 2024, Superintendent Gothard began the meeting by providing his experiences at both the Live Unified event, in partnership with the Special Olympics Minnesota, as well as the 31st Honors Concert at the Ordway. Board members appreciated the update, especially on the Live Unified event as our youth are able to collaborate in spaces and build relationships with their peers.

The next presentation included information on the Fiscal Year 25 Budget Update. Discussion from the Board included questions on important upcoming dates as the budget is finalized, the fund balance and days of instruction it could fund, and recommendations on the fund balance by MDE. Further details were also requested on the noted reduction of materials in Schools and Learning, lunch menu changes, proposed reductions in Equity, Strategy and Innovation, as well as cost savings in FTEs and projected salaries. Other questions also included the request for evaluation tools of the efficiencies noted, efforts in this year's budget compared to last year's, and further details on the school-based budget meetings. Information was also requested on the decisions around the fund balance and the impacts in future years, as well as the Board-adopted budget parameters and their effects on the upcoming budget.

The next item was the Amendment of the Superintendent Contract, with details provided by our General Counsel. Based on this amendment, and by mutual agreement of the Board and Superintendent, Dr. Gothard has requested that the end date of his employment at SPPS be Friday, May 17, 2024. This document serves as the formal resignation and change of alteration of end date. A board member requested information on the action of this item at this meeting, as opposed to a Regular Meeting, and it was noted so that there was clarity for all on the timeline, and it also aligns with the next item on the agenda. The Board then voted to approve the Amendment to and Termination of Superintendent Contract.

The next item included discussion of the Interim Superintendent Contract. The Board noted that they have made the decision to enter into a contract with Dr. John Thein, who was also the former interim superintendent in SPPS. He has graciously accepted and is enthusiastic to return. Questions focused on the overlap of Dr. Thein and Dr. Gothard, and the rationale for the Board's choice. Superintendent Gothard noted he has connected with Dr. Thein and will support him as he is able. Board members also thanked each other for their work in this important process, as well as a note that they look forward to working with Dr. Thein, as he has been the interim superintendent in other districts and has experience in other sizable districts as well. The Board then voted to approve the Employment Agreement for Interim Superintendent.

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 April 3, 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 Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Absent
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes

9. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

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

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

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Gothard provided a brief statement that acknowledged how meaningful it was to present the recent scholarship to a student, Bobby Arnold, and it was great to see so many students in the space for Recognitions, and he is very proud of our students in SPPS. There is a lot of work to do, but there is also a lot of work in which to be proud of as well.

11. AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

1. Consent Agenda

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

1. Gifts

BF 33741 Approval to Accept Donations to Reimburse the Central Athletics (A001) Account for the Trip to Washington, D.C. to Attend the VP's Women in Sports Reception on March 27, 2024

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the donations from the PAC to reimburse the Central Athletics (A001) Account.

BF 33742 Request to Accept a Gift/Scholarship Award from AASA, The School Superintendents Association

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the \$5,000 scholarship award from AASA.

2. Grants

BF 33743 Resolution Supporting the Safe Routes to School Boost Grant

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Saint Paul Public Schools authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a grant agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for financial assistance to fund a Safe Routes to School Boost Grant and eligible expenses.
2. That the Superintendent is authorized to execute such Agreement and any amendments without further approval by the SPPS Board of Education.

Adopted and approved at a duly called meeting, this 23rd day of April, 2024.

BF 33744 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education's Agricultural Education Summer Grant

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

BF 33745 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the MN Department of Agriculture's AGRI Urban Agriculture Grant

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

BF 33746 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to MN State Colleges and Universities/Minnesota Department of Education

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit an application to the MN State Colleges and Universities/Minnesota Department of Education for funds to expand CTE programming in the district; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33747 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation's Academic Enrichment Grant Program

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

BF 33748 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the MN Department of Human Services' American Indian Intervention Prevention Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the MN Department of Human Services' American Indian Intervention Prevention Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33749 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to Renewing the Countryside's Twin Cities Urban Agriculture Micro-Grant Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to Renewing the Countryside's Twin Cities Urban Agriculture Micro-Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33750 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education's Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to accept a grant from the Minnesota Department of Education's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program to provide fresh fruit and vegetables in the district; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33751 Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Protolabs Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from The Protolabs Foundation; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33752 Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation to support families and children at Freedom Schools in SPSS; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33753 Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Minnesota Office of Higher Education's Get Ready/GEAR UP Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from Minnesota Office of Higher Education's Get Ready/GEAR UP to fund college and career readiness programs at Freedom Schools; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33754 Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from Twin Cities Public Television

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from Twin Cities Public Television; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33755 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education's Special Education Teacher Pipeline Grant

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

BF 33756 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education's Full-Service Community Schools Grant - Txuj Ci HMong Language and Culture Lower Campus

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

BF 33757 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education's Full-Service Community Schools Grant - Highwood Hills Elementary

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

BF 33758 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education's Full-Service Community Schools Grant - Hamline Elementary

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

BF 33759 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Department of Education's Closing Educational Opportunity Gaps Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Minnesota Department of Education's Closing Educational Opportunity Gaps Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 33760 Request for Permission to Accept a Gift from Great River Greening

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a gift of time and resources for a canopy expansion project from Great River Greening and to implement the project as specified in the Memorandum of Understanding.

3. Contracts

BF 33761 Amendment to the Contract for Conversion of Student Records to Digital Format

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve additional funds of \$85,000 to the existing contract of \$160,000 for a total of \$245,000 to complete the student records conversion project with AMI Imaging Systems, Inc.

BF 33762 Request For Proposal (RFP) A24-4487-MO Pupil Transportation Services School Years 2024-25 and 2025-26

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to award contracts based on responses to Request for Proposal No. A24-4487-MO for Student Transportation for School Year 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 with the ability to extend two additional years.

BF 33763 Approval for a Contract that Exceeds \$175,000 with eCapital Advisors LLC for Continuing Oracle EPM support through 2024

That Board of Education authorizes the Finance Office to execute a contract amendment to add \$58,000 to the existing contract with eCapital Advisors LLC to increase the service support by 290 hours.

BF 33764 Contract with BrightStar Care of St. Paul to Address Health Staffing Shortages through Temporary Support

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a contract with BrightStar Care of St. Paul for temporary RN and/or LPN health services.

BF 33765 Contract Amendment #2 for Snow Kreilich Architects for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation (Project # 3210-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of Amendment #2 for Snow Kreilich Architects in the amount of \$5,000 for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01).

BF 33766 Contract Amendment #2 for Dunham Engineering for the Rondo Complex ARP HVAC RTU Replacement (Project # 3170-22-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of Amendment #2 for Dunham Engineering in the amount of \$79,600 for the Rondo Complex ARP HVAC RTU Replacement project (Project # 3170-22-01).

BF 33767 Contract Amendment #2 for ATSR for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation (Project # 3081-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of Amendment #2 for ATSR in the amount of \$12,600 for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01).

BF 33768 Request to Sign the Contract between SPPS and Ramsey County Workforce Solutions

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Contract between Saint Paul Public Schools and Ramsey County Workforce Solutions.

4. Agreements

BF 33769 Approval of Employment Agreement with Laborers Local 563, to Establish Terms and Conditions of Employment for 2024-2027 Employment Contract

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment of those employees in this school district for whom the Laborer's Local 563 is the exclusive representative; duration of said agreement is for the period of May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2027.

BF 33770 Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools and Saint Paul Principals' Association

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment for principals' in this school district for whom the Saint Paul Principals' Association is the exclusive representative; duration of said agreement is for the period of July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025.

5. Administrative Items

BF 33771 Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and electronic transfers for the period February 1, 2024- February 29, 2024

(a) General Account	#770186-771539	\$71,360,157.70
	#0005169-0005203	
	#7005101-7005140	
#0009703-0009884		
(b) Construction Payments	- 0 -	\$4,789,391.55
(c) Debt Service	- 0 -	\$2,200.00
		\$76,151,749.25

Included in the above disbursements are two payrolls in the amount of \$47,523,336.65 and overtime of \$275,049.89 or 0.58% 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 August 31, 2024

BF 33772 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 May 1, 2024, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before this date.

Human Resources Transactions

BF 33773 Transactions for March 1 – March 31, 2023

BF 33774 Settlement of Claim

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

BF 33775 Approval of 2024-2025 Sabbatical Leave Applications

That the Board of Education authorizes the Sabbatical Leave recommendation for Ms. Laura Ostertag and Mr. Nicholas Keller for the 2024-2025 school year.

BF 33776 Phase Gate Approval of the Multi-Site Electrical System Replacement at Harding Senior High School and Central Senior High School (Project # 0651-23-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the Multi-Site Electrical System Replacement at Harding Senior High School and Central Senior High School project (Project # 0651-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$3,745,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

BF 33777 Phase Gate Approval of the EOS Dock Doors Lintels and Brick Replacement Project (Project # 4000-23-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the EOS Dock Doors Lintels and Brick Replacement project (Project # 4000-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$1,799,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

BF 33778 Phase Gate Approval of the Multiple Site Fencing Installations at Como Park Elementary, Highland Park Elementary, Farnsworth Lower Elementary, Eastern Heights Elementary, Txuj Ci Lower, Global Arts Plus Lower, Early Childhood Hub West, and Battle Creek Elementary (Project # 0804-24-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the Multiple Site Fencing Installations at Como Park Elementary, Highland Park Elementary, Farnsworth Lower Elementary, Eastern Heights Elementary, Txuj Ci Lower, Global Arts Plus Lower, Early Childhood Hub West and Battle Creek Elementary (Project # 0804-24-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$180,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

BF 33779 Phase Gate Approval of FY22 Instructional A/V Replacement Program at Harding and Murray (Project # 0680-22-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for FY22 Instructional A/V Replacement Program at Harding and Murray (Project # 0680-22-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

6. Bids

BF 33780 Equipment Acquisition Award for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation (Project # 3210-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of A/V equipment for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project to Bluum of Minnesota for a lump sum base bid of \$213,910.

BF 33781 Furniture Acquisition Award for the FY24 Furniture Replacement Program at Harding Senior High School (Project # 0160-24-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of furniture for the FY24 Furniture Replacement Program at Harding Senior High School to ACRE for a lump sum base bid of \$823,085.

BF 33782 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 dugouts for the Como Park Senior Athletics (Project # 411-23-01) to RAK Construction, Inc. for a lump sum base bid plus Alternate 1 of \$284,305.

BF 33783 Phase Gate Approval of the Multi-Site Electrical System Replacement at Harding Senior High School and Central Senior High School (Project # 0651-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4572-JG for the Multi-Site Electrical System Replacement at Harding Senior High School and Central Senior High School project (Project # 0651-23-01) to Master Electrical, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$1,340,000.

BF 33784 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 Bid No. A24-4477 for the FY24 A/V Replacement Program at Washington Technology Magnet and Journeys Secondary School project (Project # 0680-24-01) to RAK Construction for a lump sum base bid plus Alternate 1 of \$610,608.

BF 33785 Phase Gate Approval of the Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping, and HVAC Replacement Project WS 0610 (Project # 4260-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4553-JG for Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping, and HVAC Replacement project (Project # 4260-23-01) to Frerichs Construction Company for a lump sum base bid of \$1,077,000.

BF 33786 Phase Gate Approval of the Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping, and HVAC Replacement Project WS 0750 (Project # 4260-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4554-JG for Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping, and HVAC Replacement project (Project # 4260-23-01) to Central Roofing Company for a lump sum base bid of \$698,120.

BF 33787 Phase Gate Approval of the Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping, and HVAC Replacement Project WS 2200 (Project # 4260-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4557-JG for Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping, and HVAC Replacement project (Project # 4260-23-01) to Davis Mechanical Systems for a lump sum base bid of \$2,690,000.

BF 33788 Phase Gate Approval of the Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping, and HVAC Replacement Project WS 2300 (Project # 4260-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4458-JG for Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping, and HVAC Replacement project (Project # 4260-23-01) to Thelen Heating & Roofing, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$2,126,000.

BF 33789 Phase Gate Approval of the Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping, and HVAC Replacement Project WS 2600 (Project # 4260-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4559-JG for Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping, and HVAC Replacement project (Project # 4260-23-01) to Master Electric, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$220,320.

BF 33790 Phase Gate Approval of the Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping, and HVAC Replacement Project WS 3100 (Project # 4260-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-4560-JG for Wellstone Elementary Plumbing, Piping, and HVAC Replacement project (Project # 4260-23-01) to St. Paul Utilities and Excavating, Inc. for a lump sum base bid of \$284,000.

7. Change Orders

BF 33791 Change Order #1 for Kraft Contracting, LLC for the Creative Arts ARP HVAC Upgrades (Project # 2170-22-01)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent, Superintendent's Designee, or Executive Director of Administration and Operations to sign Change Order #1 for Kraft Contracting, LLC for the Creative Arts ARP HVAC project (Project # 1150-19-01) for the amount of \$482,637.

BF 33792 Change Order #3 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 Executive Director of Administration and Operations to sign Change Order #3 for Morcon Construction for the Rondo Complex ARP HVAC RTU Replacement project (Project # 1150-19-01) for the amount of \$1,769,643.

BF 33793 Change Order #5 for Veit & Company for the Bruce Vento New Construction Project (Project # 1020-22-01)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent, Superintendent's Designee, or Executive Director of Administration and Operations to sign Change Order #5 for Veit & Company for the Bruce Vento New Construction project (Project # 1020-22-01) for the amount of \$588,795.

ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION - None

FURTHER AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

1. B.I.G.G: Board Initiated Goals Governance Update

Board members then provided updates on this work. Director Ward noted this vote is not adopting the goals, but a check-in amongst board members to approve the process. This has been a collaborative process, and there will be regular updates and votes on the process to ensure the Board is on the same page with progression in moving the work forward to develop the goals.

Director Henderson provided an update on the work thus far, and asked board members leading each sub-work group to also provide updates. There have been work sessions at Committee of the Board meetings, as well as a Special Meeting last week to discuss the results and requisitions for information, with guidance and parameters on successful community engagement. The sub-work groups have focused on engagement and data/questions for engagement.

Director Carrillo provided an update on the data and information gathering work, which includes the formation of questions to bring to community, and that the Board is looking forward to working with students as the core of the focus and to create a meaningful space for students. Director Vue and Director Allen are also working within this sub-work group, and they are also looking at data previously collected and to utilize that to create meaningful questions.

Director Franco provided an update on the community engagement sub-work group, and the plan for this work. The first step will be to go to school communities to engage with the 18 programs serving 9-12 graders. The entire Board will be involved in this work to meet with young folks to outline the goals, and they are excited to meet with students. The district team has also been great in guiding and providing the capabilities to support this work in centering our young people. He thanked the team for their work and is

grateful for the support. He added that this model of bringing this work to the Regular Meetings is also an accountability measure to ensure the community is aware of the plans.

Director Vue noted the rationale for the community to be interested in this work – including that students are at the focus, and what they are experiencing, and their academic performance. Another reason is for the Board to show their work to the the community and to provide feedback on the progress and to be accountable and transparent. These are Board-initiated goals, and the heavy work is on the Board, and this work will depend on the Board moving it forward.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION: None

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to approve the proposed process and timeline for **B.I.G.G: Board Initiated Goals Governance.** Director Ward seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

10. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

A. 2024-2025 School Choice Season

Superintendent Gothard then welcomed Chief Turner to present this information. We typically look at previous years of data for reflections and analysis, but with COVID, we are restarting and not comparing data to COVID years – this is new baseline data information.

Within the presentation, details included information on admission priorities, lottery facts, and lottery results for kindergarten and grades 1-12. Schools with waiting lists were also reviewed, as well as PreK lottery results. Data for enrollment support schools was also shown, including 2024-2025 acceptances in comparison to the 2023-2024 acceptances.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Carrillo requests information on the waitlist and the timing for students to remain on the waitlist. Response: On average, it is about 2-3 weeks, because by that time, students are in their current school and it is sometimes disruptive to move.
- Who manages the waitlist? Response: Student Placement Services.
- Is there a PreK waitlist? Response: Yes, there is.
- He also requested information for families who choose within the selection window, as well as those who choose outside the window. It was noted that every family chooses a school for their students, and there is not a default for a school.

- Director Ward requested information on the enrollment success of Highwood Hills. Response: There were intentional conversations between Dr. Lawson and Dr. Adam about how to be respectful of both schools. Dr. Lawson and her team also worked with the community and her neighborhood, as well as with the new apartment complex near the school for engagement. The school also worked with Ms. Williams to ensure that no family was turned away from Highwood Hills and to collectively work together to find ways to welcome them to the school community.
- Director Valliant requested information on family communication for the waitlist after the 2-3 week monitoring period. Response: We do monitor the list from March to September, and once school starts for about the third week in September is when it is not actively monitored. Families are asked to continue to call, and we do update them in there are programs that opened to a new class and additional resources are available for a new section.
- Director Franco requested information on additional staff allocations for sites with physical capacity. Response: It is an opportunity for Administration and Operations to work together as a team and look for sections that can be opened, as well as with Finance and REA for allocations and projections. We also don't know if students will come to the school in September, so it is about finding that balance.
- Director Henderson requested details on the sustainability of initiatives in support of enrollment at schools. Response: The investment was a good jumpstart, and for school professional development and toolkits, those can be reused and we don't need to continue to pay for over and over again since we have the framework to do this work in the future. An example in Riverview was also noted with the excitement of the principals, and to see the fruits of the labor with the increase in enrollment.
- Superintendent Gothard also thanked Ms. Williams, Director of Student Placement Center, and Erin Moline, Assistant Director of Student Placement Center.

B. FY25 Budget Update

Superintendent Gothard began this report with a few notes. He thanked Chief Sager and the Office of Innovation for the budget process this year. He then reviewed the types of funds and timelines of funds from the federal government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. He noted that with these funds we determined to see investments in practices that were innovative and could continue once funding expires, we did not want to spend all funds in the first year, and we wanted to spread out and monitor the funds over time. We also created the Office of Innovation to implement and monitor the funding and plans. He also noted financial data for the other five metropolitan districts in the Twin Cities area, and the financial cliff that all are experiencing with the loss of this funding. With ARP funds, we adopted a new math curriculum, as well as purchases and other investments in HVAC and other deferred maintenance projects. We also added to the general fund building allocations with additional staff who benefited students. We do need to decide what to stop and what to sustain though. We also increased the number of community partners as we cannot do this work alone. SPPS has been nationally recognized for the plan and singled out for strategies – we need to work together to stabilize and increase enrollment in order to impact revenue; we need to advocate for public education and funding from the legislature; we have shown care and kindness for staff experiencing displacement.

He then welcomed Chief Sager to present this update.

Information included with the report to share with the Board and community:

- An update on the FY25 budgeting process and progress toward building a balanced budget
- Update on school budget meetings

- Overview of department budget reductions
- Progress toward Board budget parameters
- Next steps and timeline in the FY25 budget process

The FY25 budget building blocks were reviewed, which include school needs, requirements, community values and instructional priority, and essential services.

School budget updates included an overview and update on meetings with principals, meetings with families, and information about the budget impact on after school/extracurricular activities.

Within the division and department budget updates portion, an organizational chart showing the different divisions and departments was reviewed, with information on the department budget reductions by division including the FY24 budget, the FY25 budget and the change.

The Board's budget parameters were then reviewed, and the corresponding actions and impacts on the FY25 budget and alignment to these parameters.

The next portion focused on the budget outlook and next steps, including the budget reduction target process, deficit and financial outlook, and the FY25 budget timeline and important dates.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Ward noted that for Board budget parameter 2, the original parameter stated language that included the work of the Enrollment and Retention Committee, and there was to be dedicated funding for this work, which was not listed. Response: We did remove that very specific language because it was so specific and targeted.
 - Director Ward noted that was intentional language and a directive from the Board which cannot be removed and needs to be included.
- How much of the fund balance will be used? What will be percentage be of the fund balance after that use? Response: Approximately \$29M is planned to be used, and we anticipate the fund balance for FY25 to be around 5.6% or 5.7%.
- Director Ward also requested information on further details for funding for MN Urban Debate League via email.
- Director Carrillo reiterated Director Ward's note about the budget parameter language, and it is important to not be diluted and to keep the full language.
- He also requested information about current funding and options, for programs such as MNUDL, and for the Board to be aware of the costs and other options available, including through partnerships and grants. Superintendent Gothard noted that any decision to add additional funding to one program means another program will have less, and it will be important to work closely with Administration to understand those impacts.
- Director Franco requested information about the note that department budget reductions do not include school-based positions. More context was then provided. Director Franco also noted that we don't want to see reductions to classrooms or schools, but reductions are also occurring across the district.
- Superintendent Gothard noted that the allocation guidelines are objective and there are contractual agreements that show staffing based on enrollments. Some schools were also overstaffed with ARP funds, and there may be changes related to that. Some of our Title I funding may also change.

- Director Franco also noted the change from the reduction figure at the Committee of the Board meeting of \$19.7M, to today's figure of \$28.9M. Response: As we continued to work the numbers, we discovered we needed to include real costs and real expenses, as well as extracurriculars and supplemental pay, and utilities. With these budget figures, we do believe these are the updated figures and does reflect what we anticipate we will be spending in those areas in FY25.
- Director Vue requested information on the toolkit provided to principals this year. Response: We did have a toolkit last year, which has doubled in length and is more comprehensive. The largest piece of positive feedback is the transparency. There are also running notes, so next year's kit will be larger and even more comprehensive for administration. One piece is the amount of information and links contained in the document, and the budget process and school funding. The other piece is if there is a reduction, to explain the rationale. It is a robust document with necessary information and we are also looking for feedback and for the community to also engage with it as well.
- Director Henderson noted the interest and excitement from the Board about the next legislative session, and encouraged the Board and Administration to be there and advocate, so we continue to not find ourselves in this space. This is taxing for the community and the Board, and she also noted the increase in potential cuts, and encouraged folks to push and be creative for 2025 and beyond.

13. BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. Information Requests/Responses and Items for Future Agendas

- Director Vue followed-up on his request for a school safety presentation, as well as an update on Ethnic Studies.
- Director Valliant followed-up on her request for our efforts in addressing artificial intelligence and critical thinking, in relation to the prevalence of misinformation and AI programs.
- Director Henderson requested a report on restorative practices in buildings, as well as actions regarding the energy plan and that work moving forward.

B. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Carrillo provided a report on the MN First Robotics Competition held at the University of Minnesota on April 7th, and the four teams from SPPS. He noted the amazing amount of work to create the bots and the coordination, with programming, servos, and controllers. He also noted upcoming events involving robotics, and thanked all involved.
- Director Franco noted his attendance at a recent Humboldt PTO meeting with program updates, Safe Routes to Schools updates, and it was great to see new families and staff celebrating. He also attended the Athletics Advisory Committee meeting recently and noted his interest in athletics as an extension of the school day and the continued support of them. He also shared his experience at the Districtwide Career Pathways Center and attending the Education Pathways class, with the opportunity to observe students discussing a reading assignment and asking questions. It was great to see our future potential educators, and the Pathways program is critical to that work, and the young folks in the room demonstrated that and he is excited for many of them to eventually become educators in SPPS.
- Director Henderson noted her tour of Nutrition Services with Director Valliant earlier, and the opportunity to see how food is cooked, and it was wonderful to see the time, care, and consideration to the food provided. She also noted that earlier in the month she was able to attend a Science Fair as a judge. She also noted that she met with folks regarding climate advocacy work, and there is excitement to keep that work moving.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 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