

**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

**June 18, 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: Y. Carrillo, C. Franco, E. Valliant, H. Henderson, U. Ward, J. Vue, C. Allen; Interim Superintendent Thein

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

Director Henderston also noted the recognition of the new installation of the tribal flags seen behind the Board on the dais. Today In alignment with St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS) Achieves Initiative SPPS recognized and honored Minnesota's eleven indigenous nations with the installation and dedication of their tribal flags. This recognition included the traditional protocols of smudging and a song dedicated to honoring ALL flags and who the flags represent with the acknowledgement from SPPS retiree, Jerry Dearly of the Lakota nation. This honoring initiative was led by the late John Bobolink, the St. Paul Indian Education staff and American Indian Parent Advisory Committee on behalf of all our students, families and community.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA**

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Willa Cienian Capitol Hill Music Programs
2. Eliza Johnson Capitol Hill Music Program
3. Mohamed Mohamed Adams Spanish Immersion
4. Sarah Bober Elementary Librarians
5. Rochelle Pereira Proposed Budget and Music Programming

- 6. Peter Hendricks Central High School-Extracurricular Allocation for 2024-25
- 7. Michelle Wall Academic programming plans and budget for 2024-25
- 8. Earl Milton Split grade level classrooms at Adams Spanish Immersion
- 9. Aisha Williams Bullying
- 10. Jonah Grussing Capitol Hill Music Programs
- 11. Shana Dobie Institutional racism in SPPS
- 12. Khulia Pringle School Climate

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

**MOTION:** Director Henderson moved approval of the Order of the Consent Agenda with items 3A - Active Employee Life Insurance with Securian Financial; 3F - Contract with Golden Grand Home Care LLC for 1:1 Nursing Services; 3H - Request to Sign Contract with Blazerworks for Contracted Special Education Staffing Support; 5L - Rights & Responsibilities Handbook Revisions for SY2024-25, which were pulled for separate consideration. The motion was seconded by Director Carrillo.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of May 21, 2024
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of June 11, 2024

**MOTION:** Director Henderson moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of May 21, 2024, and the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of June 11, 2024. The motion was seconded by Director Ward.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**8. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of June 11, 2024

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on June 11, 2024, Superintendent Thein welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted it was an exciting week with the last day of school and excitement for the summer break.

The first presentation focused on Policy 816 - Environmental Health and Safety. The discussion from the Board on this information focused on further details for the threshold for indoor air quality, the timeline for finding and fixing water issues and coordination with Saint Paul Water Services for lead testing. This presentation also focused on the issue of air quality and asthma rates for schools and communities located near interstate corridors. Further questions

included information on the timeline for tree planting, as well as the current work to protect our students now and into the future.

The second presentation included information on the 2024 Legislative Session Update. Questions and further requests for information included details on the cell phone policy, the Medicaid reimbursement program, and VPK seats and budgeting in SPPS. Further details and discussion also focused on the allocations for free school lunch.

The third presentation was the SPPS Administrative Response To The 2023-2024 Latino Consent Decree (Lcd) Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Annual Report to the Superintendent and Board Of Education. Discussion from the Board and families included a request for further details on the benchmarks noted within the presentation, the plan to include an understanding of the history of the people within curriculum as opposed to nations overall, and the meeting schedule with families regarding curriculum. Further discussion also focused on the staff and teachers who will be teaching the curriculum, professional development for educators, the importance of the PAC and families in this work, and information on the implementation of the new curriculum and timeline. Families requested details on the sustainability of the process to ensure there is continuous improvement, professional development for educators to teach cultural appreciation, as well the importance for students to be represented in the classroom. Board members also noted questions about communications to families and the PAC about standards, as well as a thank you to the parents and families for their participation and voice.

The fourth presentation focused on the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Update. This presentation sparked robust discussion amongst the Board, with topics including the Board parameter regarding enrollment, and questions about East Early Childhood Hub and partnership with HeadStart. There was also discussion about the integration of recommendations from the Equity Committee and Safety and Sense of Belonging as a value, as well as a request for details on racial equity professional development. Information was also requested on the fund balance, total number of PreK seats year over year, a format for easier understanding of the relation of expense codes to program budgets, and breakdowns of Administrative budgets, including information about the UFARS standards. Board members also requested further information on iPad support budgets, expenses for textbooks versus books on iPads. The Board also noted the importance of information on budgetary decisions related to impacts to students in order to facilitate conversations in community. The Board also requested further information on partnerships and their continued work within SPPS.

Following adjournment, board members conducted a work session regarding Board Initiated Goals Governance.

**MOTION:** Director Ward moved to accept the report on the June 11, 2024 Committee of the Board meeting and approve the recommended motions and minutes of that meeting as published. The motion was seconded by Director Vue.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

## 9. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

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

- 2024
  - July 16
  - August 20
  - September 17
  - October 22
  - November 19

- o December 17

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

- 2024
  - o August 7 – Wednesday
  - o September 10
  - o October 8
  - o November 6 – Wednesday
  - o December 3

**10. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Superintendent Thein thanked everyone for their attendance at the meeting and ensuring their voices were heard. He assured the community that the school board and Administration listen to every comment and take them seriously.

He also wished everyone a joyous Juneteenth tomorrow, where the end of the bondage of Africa-American citizens is celebrated and encouraged everyone to reflect and remember the trials and tribulations our Black citizens did and continue to endure.

He also noted that summer school will be starting soon, and approximately 13,000 students from SPPS attend this program. The funding is separate for this as well. The 13,000 students who attend summer school comprise the largest school district, other than SPPS, in Ramsey County. He noted that SPPS is a 24/7 operation, and we are open year-round to serve the community.

Director Valliant noted clarification on Juneteenth. It is the celebration of African-American families in Texas being made aware that the Black community had been freed and the bondage was over.

**11. AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION**

**1. Consent Agenda**

**MOTION: Director Henderson moved approval of all items within the consent agenda withholding items 3A - Active Employee Life Insurance with Securian Financial; 3F - Contract with Golden Grand Home Care LLC for 1:1 Nursing Services; 3H - Request to Sign Contract with Blazerworks for Contracted Special Education Staffing Support; 5L - Rights & Responsibilities Handbook Revisions for SY2024-25 for separate consideration. Director Franco seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**1. Gifts**

**BF 33848** Acceptance of Gift from Horace Mann School PTA

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the gift from Horace Mann School PTA.

**BF 33849** Acceptance of Gift from Eric Dahlberg

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Murray Middle School to accept a monetary gift from Eric Dahlberg in the amount of \$5,000.00.

**BF 33850** Acceptance of Gift from Open World Learning Community Parent Teacher Organization Donation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the gift from Open World Learning Community Parent Teacher Organization.

**BF 33851** Acceptance of Gift from West St. Paul Commercial Club Class of 2024 Scholarship Gift

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the \$7,500.00 gift from the West St. Paul Commercial Club and provide a letter of appreciation for the gift.

**BF 33852** Acceptance of Gift of Donation from Rev. Dr. Darcel Hill

It is recommended that the Board approve the funds from Rev. Dr. Darcel Hill for MN STEM Partnership Program and Supplies for CFD Freedom Schools to code 19-005-505-321-5096-F45.

2. Grants

**BF 33853** Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Sauer Family Foundation

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

**BF 33854** Request for Permission to Apply for Matching Funds from Literacy Minnesota

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to apply for matching funds from Literacy Minnesota; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 33855** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to Allina Health

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to Allina Health; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

3. Contracts

**BF 33856** Active Employee and Early Retiree Health Insurance with HealthPartners

That the Board of Education approve a contract for employee health insurance coverage with HealthPartners, effective January 1, 2025.

**BF 33857** Active Employee Short-Term and Long-Term Disability Insurance with MetLife

That the Board of Education approve a contract for employee disability insurance coverage with MetLife, effective January 1, 2025.

**BF 33858** Active and Retiree Employee Dental Insurance

That the Board of Education approve a contract for employee dental insurance coverage with MetLife effective January 1, 2025.

**BF 33859** Contract Amendment #7 for Cuningham Group Architects for the American Indian Magnet School Addition and Renovation (Project # 1160-19-01)

That the Board of Education authorize Amendment #7 for Cuningham Group Architecture in the amount of \$7,324 for the American Indian Magnet School Addition and Renovation project (Project #1160-19-01).

**BF 33860** K-10 FASTBridge Reading Screener Renewal

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent into a contract with Renaissance. The total cost for services will not exceed \$205,000.

**BF 33861** Request to Sign the Contract between SPPS and Ramsey County Workforce Solutions – Correction

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

**BF 33862** RFB A24-4728-A – Playground Services

That the Board of Education authorize the award of Request for Bid No. A24-4728-A contract for playground services for a three year period beginning July 1, 2024 to E3 Services for an estimated annual cost of \$600,000.

**BF 33863** Procore Technologies Contract Amendment #1

That the Board of Education authorize award of Amendment #1 for Procore Technologies in the amount of \$7,590.

**BF 33864** Annual Renewal of Oracle ERP, Database, and Cloud Services Agreements with Collier IT, and Vendor Related Products and Services

That Board of Education authorizes District administration to enter into product and service renewal agreements, as presented, for a period of 12 months in the amount of \$2,156,480 for FY25, beginning July 1, 2024.

**BF 33865** Request to Sign the Contract between Minnesota State and Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) pertaining to PSEO by Contract Courses offered at the 3M Advanced Training Center

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the request to sign the contract between Minnesota State and SPPS pertaining to PSEO by Contract classes offered at the 3M Advanced Training Center.

**BF 33866** Contract between SPPS and Achieve Twin Cities

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the contact between SPPS And Achieve Twin Cities for the 2024-25 school year.

#### 4. Agreements

**BF 33867** Approval of an Employment Agreement with United Association of Steamfitters, Pipefitters, and Service Technicians, Local Union No. 455, to Establish Terms and Conditions of Employment for 2024-2027

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 United Association of Steamfitters, Pipefitters, and Service Technicians, Local Union No. 455, is the exclusive representative; duration of said Agreement is for the period of May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2027.

**BF 33868** Request to Sign Student Teaching Agreement with Minnesota State University, Mankato

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Student Teaching Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Minnesota State University, Mankato.

**BF 33869** District Rooftop Lease (Cell Tower) at Global Arts Plus Lower Campus

That the Board of Education authorize the execution of the Lease Agreement between the District and Dish Wireless, LLC for the (10) year term, with annual rent for the first year of Twenty-Nine Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$29,500), subject to all other terms and conditions of said agreement.

**BF 33870** Memorandum of Understanding between Bethel University and Saint Paul Public Schools (Harding High School)

That the Board of Education approve this MOU and authorize the Superintendent (or designee) to execute the Memorandum of Understanding between Bethel University and Saint Paul Public Schools.

5. Administrative Items

**BF 33871** Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and electronic transfers for the period April 1, 2024- April 30, 2024

(a) General Account	#772671-773711	\$67,949,448.16
	#0005221-0005257	
	#7005168-7005204	
	#0010060-0010253	
(b) Construction Payments	- 0 -	\$5,952,026.19
(c) Debt Service	- 0 -	<u>\$1,500.00</u>
		\$73,902,974.35

Included in the above disbursements are two payrolls in the amount of \$46,596,653.67 and overtime of \$279,287.12 or 0.60% 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 October 31, 2024.

**BF 33872** 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 June 26, 2024, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before this date.

**Human Resources Transactions**

**BF 33873** Transactions for May 1 – May 31, 2023

**BF 33874** Approval to Create a Cooperative Sponsorship between St. Paul Como Park and St. Paul Washington Technology Magnet

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the Cooperative Sponsorship for Football with St. Paul Como Park and St. Paul Washington Technology Magnet.

**BF 33875** Approval to Create a Cooperative Sponsorship between St. Paul Johnson and St. Paul Harding for the Girl's Swimming Program

That the Board of Education authorize Chief Collins to approve the Cooperative Sponsorship for Girl's Swimming with St. Paul Johnson and St. Paul Harding.

**BF 33876** Designation of an Identified Official with Authority (IOWA) for Education Identity Access Management

That the Board of Education authorize Superintendent John Thein as the Identified Official with Authority (IOWA) for Saint Paul Public Schools and Elizabeth McInerney as the Proxy Identified Official with Authority (IOWA) for Saint Paul Public Schools ISD 625.

**BF 33877** Facilities Department FY25 Purchases over \$175,000

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

**BF 33878** Phase Gate Approval of FY23 A/V Replacement Program at Central High School and LEAP at John A. Johnson (Project # 0680-23-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for FY23 A/V Replacement Program at Central High School and LEAP at John A. Johnson (Project # 0680-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

**BF 33879** Phase Gate Approval of the Hamline Elementary Secure Entry, Heating and Plumbing Replacement Project (Project #4160-25- 01): Gate #2 – Project Charter

That the Board of Education approve the Hamline Elementary Secure Entry, Heating and Plumbing Replacement project (Project #4160-25-01) at Phase Gate Check #2 – Project Charter.

**BF 33880** Phase Gate Approval of the Humboldt Senior High Kitchen HVAC (Project # 2142-25-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the Humboldt Senior High Kitchen HVAC project (Project # 2142-25-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$849,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

**BF 33881** Phase Gate Approval of the Theater and Stage Equipment Upgrades at Harding Senior High, Open World Learning, Washington Technology Magnet, and Highland Park Senior High (Project # 0925-22-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for Theater and Stage Equipment Upgrades at Harding Senior High, Open World Learning, Washington Technology Magnet, and Highland Park Senior High (Project # 0925-22-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

**BF 33882** Approval of Pay Equity Implementation Report

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve the Pay Equity Implementation Report and Request for Reconsideration of Pay Equity Non-Compliance submitted to the State of Minnesota Office of Management and Budget.

**BF 33883** Payment of Annual Property and Liability Insurance Premiums



That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to authorize the payment of up to \$3,700,000 in insurance premiums for fiscal year 2025.

**BF 33884** Minnesota Department of Transportation (“MN DOT”) Proposal to Purchase Rights to District Property – Farnsworth Lower

That the Board of Education execute and approve MN DOT’s proposal to purchase property and temporary easement and construction rights to a portion of the District property located at and around 1290 Arcade Street, St Paul, MN 55106 in the amount of \$24,700.00 for improvements to State Trunk Highway 61 and State Trunk Highway 5r around the District’s property.

**BF 33885** Minnesota Department of Transportation (“MN DOT”) Proposal to Purchase Rights to District Property - Johnson

That the Board of Education execute and approve MN DOT’s proposal to purchase property and temporary easement and construction rights to a portion of the District property located at 1349 Arcade Street, St Paul, MN 55106 in the amount of \$67,550.00 for improvements to State Trunk Highway 61 and State Trunk Highway 5r around the District’s property

6. Bids

7. Change Orders

**BF 33886** Change Order #5 for Camacho Contractors for the Bruce Vento Elementary - 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 Camacho Contractors for the Bruce Vento Elementary – New Construction project (Project # 1020-22-01) for the amount of \$309,400.

**BF 33887** Change Order #2 for General Sheet Metal Company for the Bruce Vento Elementary - 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 #2 for General Sheet Metal Company for the Bruce Vento Elementary – New Construction project (Project # 1020-22-01) for the amount of \$188,880.

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

**BF 33888** Active Employee Life Insurance with Securian Financial

Director Carrillo noted that he pulled this item for separate consideration because he is employed by Securian for his day job. He will be abstaining from the vote, and let the Board and community know that he is not involved in any financial gains from this agreement or contract, and to let the community know there is not a conflict of interest.

**MOTION:** Director Henderson moved that the Board of Education approve a contract for employee life insurance coverage with Securian, effective January 1, 2025. Director Allen seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

Director Allen                      Yes

**BF 33889**                      Contract with Golden Grand Home Care LLC for 1:1 Nursing Services

Director Franco noted a few questions on this item, including an update on the number of staff anticipated in the contract for services as well the projected cost, and where this contract is stated in the budget. Becky Schmidt, Director of Health and Wellness provided more details. Currently, this contract is for one-to-one nursing for students who generally require a high level of skilled nursing care in the event that a school nurse is absent or there is no other staff to cover, then the agency would fulfill this need. It is an all-day service, with eight hours for a nursing fee from the agency, and the specific dollar amounts can be provided to the Board.

**MOTION:**                      **Director Henderson moved that the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent to enter into a contract with Golden Grand Home Care LLC for 1:1 Nursing Services. Director Ward seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**BF 33890**                      Request to Sign Contract with Blazerworks for Contracted Special Education Staffing Support

Director Franco requested information on this item in regards to the number of different temporary service contracts. Assistant Superintendent Heidi Nistler provided information, including that all of the contracts for temp services in place for the 2023-24 school year did expire, and the team brings forward this item, with the same amount and expenses, with all costs eligible for SPED funding. Those costs are offset by not having expenditures due to vacancies. BlazerWorks does have access to different types of staff to cover different vacancies.

Director Franco confirmed that the contracts approved previously are no longer in effect, and this will be the only temp service with SPED for the FY25 budget. The previous contract expires on June 30th, and this contract will be in effect from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, with the only one brought forward, and will including school social workers and speech language pathologists, for the best possible change to fill those positions.

Director Franco also noted questions on the current market trends for these types of positions. Response: We are working with HR to identify long-term strategies to identify the staffing shortages, including partnerships with universities and University of St. Thomas for undergraduate licensure for SPED. While working on those long-term strategies, we can also leverage the help of the agency staff for the short-term challenges we are also facing.

**MOTION:**                      **Director Henderson moved that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve this contract. Director Ward seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**BF 33891**

Rights & Responsibilities Handbook Revisions for SY2024-25

Director Valliant requested to pull this item for further discussion. Her first question included the make-up of the committee, and wondering why there are no students or families present. Chief of Schools and Learning, Andrew Collins, provided additional information. The annual process for the revisions is in alignment to Policy 506.00, and the openness to seek additional perspectives. One of the updates in the process is to think about the handbook in regards to students for their rights and responsibilities, as well as staff. Administration works through the comments and shared beliefs. It also needs to be parent- and family-friendly. The purpose in this process is to update language, with no major changes. In the place of seeking additional perspectives, we can put that into place for next year.

Director Valliant also requested information on the definition of “horseplay.” Administration then responded with the definition as included in the handbook. She also noted questions on the definition of “manifest determination”, which includes a meeting of parents and families with staff to review the IEP of a student to determine the manner of the behavior. The definition of “intent” was also reviewed, as well as the differences in the definition of “restorative circles” and “community circles”.

Details on bus riding privileges were also reviewed, including the terminology involving “bus suspension.”

Director Franco also echoed the need to rewrite the handbook in partnership with families and students for optimal understanding and implementation. He also noted a question about the communication of the handbook and teaching the expectations to students and families. Administration noted that the goal of the handbook is to ensure that students have a user-friendly version that is reviewed in their Advisory or Foundations classes in the first weeks of school. Director Franco also noted questions around the accessibility for students and families. Chief Collins noted that the handbook is loaded onto student iPads and is translated into multiple languages on the SPPS website. It does review and contain a lot of information, and the messaging on the handbook varies by building for what works best for them and their families and students.

Director Allen noted questions about the different interpretations of this document and communications to ensure everyone understands the handbook. Chief Turner noted that in Parent Academy, the handbook is covered within one of the sessions. The ways in which a school relays information to families is what is different and varies by building, but the actual implementation of the policies and procedures is universal.

**MOTION: Director Henderson moved that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the proposed revisions made to the Rights & Responsibilities Handbook for SY24-25. Director Vue seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:	
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes

**FURTHER AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION**

1. Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

**BF 33892**

Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Proposed Budget

Chief Sager presented the FY24-25 Budget Update presentation. Within the presentation were details about:

- FY25 Budget Timeline and Budget Building Blocks

- Budget Reduction Target Progress
- FY25 Budget Driver & Output
- FY25 General Fund Revenue Sources and Expenditures Comparison
- Summary ALI Funds - Fund Balance Budget
- Fund Balance for FY25 Budget
- FY25 Budget for Board Approval

The FY25 Budget update starts off with the recapping where we started in the fall of 2023 with expiring funds, increased cost and declining enrollment leading SPPS to project a budgetary shortfall for FY25. From there on to the winter 2024, SPPS identified community values, instructional priority and established budget parameters. In the Spring 2024, additional decisions were made about what commitments to stop, reducing the budget gap and budget information meetings were held at schools for families and staff. Human Resources and DEED assisted with career resources for staff impacted by the reductions. June 2024, staffing reductions and SY24-25 service changes are finalized. The Proposed FY25 general fund budget of \$707.4 million and FY25 deficit spend of \$37 million proposed to close the remaining budget gap. The FY25 budget building blocks will continue to support school needs, requirements (constraints, obligations), community values & instructional priority and essential services. The presentation also summarized the driver and output that makes up the FY25 budget, with the general fund revenue sources, general fund expenditures comparison, a summary of budget funds and the proposed FY25 budget for Board approval.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

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

- Director Carrillo noted that we've heard from the community that one of the biggest issues that they have is concern for a lack of transparency. This is something that's not new. We have heard this over the years. It's something that I want to make sure that the community understands that it is not that we are listening to them, it is something that is currently in the process. We are thinking about how we can affect or transform our budget process going to further years, it is something that will have to be worked on as a board together. We will definitely need you to help and the input of members of the community as well. I definitely feel and share those concerns as well, at the same time it's easier when you have a background and understanding school budgets. I think what we need to do is we need to focus our efforts as a community of leaders to open up our planning process.
  - Especially on earlier calendar dates in the engagement round so that people can be able to speak their thoughts and truth about the numbers and priorities, but most importantly, we want to be able to build trust. It doesn't mean that we're going to overspend or we're going to be negligent with our funds. The most important thing is that our community is aware that we're going to be open books during these months, so that the process leading up into June is not full of question marks. I'll leave it at that. I think it's very open-ended because there is still work to be done. We as a board, are very, very committed to, so thank you.
- Director Franco- Have understanding of how the budget gets built on building blocks and the constraints that exist. I understand that we came from a budget deficit of 150 million dollars. Now to a place of what deficit spend that we're being asked to approve tonight for 37 million dollars which is going to reduce our fund balance to the minimum required by this body to about a quarter of a million dollars.
  - What we heard in the COB meeting and I want to acknowledge that; I know that there has been a lot of time, effort and energy from folks in this room spent in drafting and creating this budget. I know that every question that we ask is another task on your to-do list and I just want to say that I appreciate your work. I also just want to acknowledge that the questions that I have continued to ask are not because I want to waste time or have some "gotcha" moment. Really, I'm asking because we these folks here are required to vote on the budget and we have to understand that it really does reflect our values and provide the most positive impact possible to our students.
  - While I appreciate the one pagers of the data, I think that there were certainly some gaps there. There is a lot to do in terms of collecting program level data and being able to translate that into actual decisions. I recognize that asking some of these questions right now are a little bit rhetorical

for this conversation but I do want to have answers to some of them. The biggest piece is really understanding the full impact of these budget allocations.

- I am still unsure of some of the programmatic impacts by budgets and how they really are impacting learning. I have some concerns about coding, particularly around travel-related to non-grant funded positions in program budgets and classification of the administrative costs, which is higher than 4.8 million dollars as the budget, both present or where things are classified. Just trying to understand them more fully, just more clarity, on maybe less of the ledger and more narrative on the line-item budget. It's still hard to understand how much we spend on salary benefits versus materials, equipment etc. Interested in and diving deeper into what the Teaching and Learning budget entails as a 17 million dollar program.
- I recognize that there are certainly positions or material costs within that are essential, but really understanding the connection between the way that that 17 million dollar budget is way larger than any of our single school sites, how that impact is and that is some of the questions from folks that remain in the community. Continuing to understand the program allocation guideline specific to program level, staff or district level staff is something that I've continued to ask and still wonder how we come up with our calculations on some of the adverse so the like required positions versus suggested or invested in positions and how they're really impacting positive student outcomes. The total amount of budget that is allocated for contracted or temp services. Concerns about going through temp services and what kind of threshold is for when we decide to actually solve the bigger issue.
- There was another question that I know I asked, but really understanding fully when we got to April and our reduction target was closer to 17 million dollars and then we made the decision was made to sustain an additional 20 million dollars, and save a 20 million dollars in reductions, but school budgets were not impacted by that at all. Again, I am still trying to understand the threshold for the 20 million dollar reduction that was now sustained versus not being sustained is something that I have asked about. I have to imagine that there was a plan B,C and D because I know that you all had been working on that. Many questions that I still have that I know that I will have to, in this board, will be responsible for monitoring in the FY25 budget as we turn the page into the 24-25 school year.
- The biggest concern that I still have that we haven't really talked about is the impact on our students. What are the projected impacts to our students and their learning and their outcomes? I mean, just generally changes in the school lunch program. We know that culturally relevant meals are going to have a little bit of a hit this coming year. Media specialists at the elementary level. What are the impacts for students there? Recognizing that yes, we're still replacing TA positions, but what is that impact? Significant reductions on school-based maintenance support services that are going to keep our school safe and clean and what that impact looks like for buildings being open past a certain time. Significant reductions in out of school time programming without a solid plan or and how to leverage partnerships and actually maintain or increase some of those services. Reductions in all elementary arts and music classrooms, those impacts to our students. We can all agree that they are going to be impacted, but what are those impacts? How are we continuing to leverage our public infrastructure as a place for community building to keep students engaged? Reductions in early learning in Pre-K seats. Fewer non licensed staff members in many cases are the most representative of our students and our community, and who in many cases have the best relationships with students and families. Additional composite classrooms at the elementary level. What does the impact socially, emotionally and educationally for student outcomes? In many more impacts, these are just the ones that we have heard through communities. I don't know what the additional impacts are because we have yet to see those narratives. We've talked about the impact to the budget or the business operations of the district, but again the conversation around student outcomes and student impacts, I felt like it hasn't been our conversation.
- I'll just say that during my short few months on the Board and my longer term community work, what I hear most from my community is that they want their children to learn an environment that respects and teaches about their differences. They want high quality instruction, high quality before & after school programs, good lunches, opportunities to share feedback that actually translates to positive change and be able to build it together.

- My inclination is that, of course, this budget is going to get adopted by this board tonight through a majority vote. However, due to the outstanding questions and lack of clarity on how our adopted FY25 budget will actually impact our scholars' learning, experiencing and growth within the next school year, I'll be voting. No on the proposed FY25 budget. I also expect and anticipate that there will be greater involvement from the Board and the community. I anticipate the changes for the FY26 budget and that will, of course, be our responsibility to monitor.
- Director Ward - Thank you to Director Carrillo, for your comments. Speaking to something that we've all heard, which is there is a community desire for us to have a very transparent process that they can influence.
  - Thank you, Director Franco, for being so consistent in asking the questions that you have and advocating for that vision of a budgeting process and where people have real opportunities to provide feedback that actually result in specific changes. I can definitely empathize with your perspective, last year, I voted "No" on the budget for pretty much exactly the same reason. I want to thank you both for the work that you're doing and for your advocacy there.
  - We were provided with very detailed information about how our Administration was evaluating program effectiveness, which was a new and exciting step. That was really helpful for me as I tried to understand more about what we're doing and what we were spending our money on. We have been engaged more than we have been in previous years and I really appreciate that, so thank you to the Executive team and everyone who was involved.
  - Whenever people contact us or coming up and speaking to us, like today, I want to let them know that we hear what the people are saying and that we are not disagreeing with anything that we're hearing, I don't blame anyone for being frustrated with us or the budget this year, because that frustration, I feel it too. Whenever you know we hear complaints, I try and think about what exactly it is that I and the Board can do to address those concerns. This budget cycle is tough, we spend less on administrative costs than most districts. Can someone remind me how much was the target cut for administrative departments this year?
    - Chief Sager - 6 million dollars or about 11%.
  - Director Ward – That is pretty significant. Another thought was, let's see if there's any way that we could look at the fund balance of trying. Save programs for this year and do deficit spending. Well, we're already doing that. When people are coming to us and saying we need to make sure that we protect this program in this given school, I agree but also there are cuts that have happened to schools across the district not in isolated areas and we can't treat one school less fairly than another.
  - I'm going to vote "Yes", on this budget. It's not because I'm happy with the cuts that we're making, but it's because we are doing about as good as we can with a really bad situation. Part of my frustration last year was being really disappointed with our budgeting process while not seeing us as a Board, taking concrete steps to change what our process looked like and that is not true this year. Our Board is working in really specific concrete ways to change the way that we involve the community in making processes. One of the ways is B.I.G.G, Board Initiated Goals Governance. We are going to be asking community members across the district what they want to see from us and we are going to turn that feedback into specific goals that we are going to use to provide direction to the district. Please do and let us know your thoughts.
  - I think it's going to be a pretty significant change to the way that we operate and the way that we involve the community. Unless we get some really good news from the legislature or enrollment numbers really improve, it can be another hard year because we are deficit spending. We might be dealing with some similar conversations. I appreciate everyone who took time to come here to try to make their school better and especially to the students that came out to talk about their own experience genuinely. Thank you.
- Director Vue – One of the problems that was brought up to the Board a year ago was that when we got the fall final budget was 10 days before we voted and the direction that we gave administration was that we wanted to be more proactive with our community, determining what the priorities are and informing them about the budget process, from started at that budget cycle to this one and this is where we ended up at right now.
  - The presentation that Chief Seger gave us is not a perfect process, there's things we learn about this budget cycle that we will try to implement in the next budget cycle but the main thing I want to communicate to the community is that this is a tough budget cycle, tough decisions. We as a board know that a cut is somebody's job. A cut is how somebody provides for their family. A cut is

someone's career, it is their dreams, their visions with what they want to do for SPPS and its students. We don't lose sight of that. Some of the cuts that we're talking about here that are in these numbers are my friends. We as a Board understand the hurt, the pain and the disappointment that is coming from coming from the community. What I want to say to our community is that this Board is committed to create a stronger budget process, moving forward as Vice Chair Ward says that the input will be exercised within the budget.

- Director Henderson- A few reflections. 1, just a lot of gratitude to the colleagues I get to sit up here with. I think it's always not just informative, but inspiring to see the way that you all react and work together. It makes this easier to do not easier to move through because this is an incredibly difficult process, but to know that we are together. Trying to think about how we build systems that continue to progress and that work for our communities. I'm relatively pessimistic and this gives me a lot of hope, so, thank you for that.
  - The other thing I want to acknowledge is that we talk about our budgets as a living breathing and documents but they are also as Director Allen often points out, a moral document. They reflect the values and the things that we believe and the tension for me throughout this process has been the thing that I believe in is not the thing that we are necessarily going to get with this and that is not just painful, but it's disappointing internally for me as someone and I and I imagine for everyone in this room who was here because we believe in a high quality education that works throughout our students.
  - There is a level of Yes, we're moving through it, but there's a level of pain there as well for the folks in this room and so as I've been trying to rationalize how we sit here and how we move forward; I've also had to think about how we got here and it's not lost on me and I think I've shared this before here. It's not lost on me for a brief moment in time. We saw what was possible if there was a greater investment in public education. There was a moment where the federal government was able to provide us the resources for our schools to be able to breathe to be able to meet the needs to some extent of our students and now, we are here having to say we can no longer provide that same level of support. We have seen a shift and loss of revenue, both from the state level and then also within our city and the people who show up at our classrooms. We have seen declining enrollment which, as we all know, leads to declining funds for our school buildings. So, as I'm sitting here, all I can think is, it is not just the decisions that we're making today, but it's the decisions we've made in previous years, it's the decisions that previous lawmakers and bodies, such as ours have made that have gotten us to this moment.
  - A thought I've also shared with this board and with the community before. That doesn't mean that we stop here. It doesn't mean that we set everything down and say, we're approving a budget that actually doesn't reflect all of the things that we care about. There are some really wonderful investments that we were able to sustain and to move forward and I'm really excited about that but the work isn't ending here. There's work internally about how we communicate with each other. There's work entirely about how we move this budget process forward in a way that is externally facing and creates avenues for communities to shape and organize each other around what it is that we want in need. There is a desire that I hear and see for a process that is structured and transparent. So that in September, October and November, the community knows where we are in each process and can then give us the information that we need to sit here and say, actually I think we're off the mark and we might not even have to say, "I think we're off the mark".
  - Those are 2 pieces of work that I'm really excited to see. Move forward and I know this board is. The last step for me is I Keep going back to this desire and it was one of our parameters that we want to expand enrollment. We want to make sure that we have students in our buildings and this is a school system that works for them, but it's impossible for me to think of how we get there without understanding how we got to the number where we are right now. How did we get to the declining enrollment that we are at? No stabilized enrollment! We need that analysis. We need to understand the financial implications of 5, 10, 15 years of shifts have had and I want to just say that I think that is an analysis that I am excited to see more and more of and to really lead on.
  - The last thing I will add is that this is not a moment that exists just for St. Paul Public Schools, we can look across the river and we can see our colleagues in Minneapolis grappling with a lot of the same decisions. We look at districts around the state, who had to make substantial cuts and yes, a lot of that as has to do with the removal of our federal funds, but it's a lot of different factors and until

we understand what all of those factors look like and until we all come together to advocate and to push for the funding that we actually need to have sustainable long-term education in our buildings, then we're going to be here, years after year and I refuse to be here every year. So, I am going to leave it there.

- This is not the place that we wanted to be, but it is the place that we are and I am grateful for the work that has gotten us here. I'm grateful for this Board. I am grateful for the Administrations who have put in a lot of tireless nights to get us here.
- To the community, I hope that we can continue to think about how we can advocate together for the resources that we need. I hope that we can continue to come back together to think about what are the partnerships and the work that we need to do. I think we are all ready to move on that and now it's just getting going and we're there.

**MOTION: Director Henderson moved the approval and adoption of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Adopted Budget as presented. Director Valliant seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Franco	No
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes

## 10. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

### A. Policy Update

- a. SECOND READING: Policy 501.02: Student Vehicle Use: Parking on School Premises, Patrols, Inspections, and Searches

Laurie Olson, Director of Security and Emergency Management, then presented this Second Reading. The rationale for the proposed update to this policy was reviewed, as well as the purpose, definitions of terms within the policy, and next steps, including the Third Reading and Action at the July 16<sup>th</sup> Regular Meeting.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

### QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Franco requested information about the impact of this policy on the FY25 budget, including staffing. Response: There will not be an operational change in that our SSLs will continue to do the excellent work they currently do. We were careful when crafting the budget so that impacts would not feel the impact directly in buildings. There will be a different contact at the district level to support SSLs and one of the contacts will be Laurie Olson, Director of Security and Emergency Management.
- Director Vue requested information on the patrol and inspection of the exteriors of vehicles and the work for staff. Response: High school SSLs would, as part of their external patrols, conduct external walks around the building throughout the day, and they would look at parking lots for indications of tampering or broken glass, or to ensure no personal belongings were left on open seats in vehicles. With the internal search clause, there would need to be specific information to lead to the search, and would be rare to ask to enter a car. Director Vue confirmed that this applies to vehicles parked in school parking lots, not on public streets as well.

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



Director Ward then provided an update on this topic. He noted the debriefing of the student engagement sessions, and taking lessons for the next round of student engagement next school year. There have also been engagement sessions with staff, and the Board will continue to seek opportunities to engage the public throughout the summer.

He also provided details on an upcoming survey for those unable to attend the engagement sessions.

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 requested an update on the work regarding SEAB, and a request for SEAB updated to be added to the board meeting agenda.
- Director Henderson requested information on a wider analysis of the arts and music landscape in SPPS.

**B. Board of Education Reports/Communications**

- Director Vue noted his experience at the Hmong Student Recognition Event, and thanked Ms. Abrams, Mr. Matamoros, and Ms. Reyes from the Office of Family Engagement and Community Partnerships for their work. It was a great event where families and students were recognized in many different ways.
- Director Franco noted his experience at the 2024 graduation ceremonies, including at our alternative programs and Humboldt. It was great to celebrate with students and families.
- Director Carrillo echoed sentiments around graduation ceremonies, including his experience at the BridgeView graduation. He was also able to celebrate at larger, comprehensive high school ceremonies. One of the highlights is the partnerships with students and families on a journey of 13+ years of engagement. It is our hope that our work continues to focus on those moments, and to be able to experience the journey with students for a certain timeframe is impactful in this work.
- Director Valliant noted her experience at the Hubbs Center graduation ceremony, and thanked those graduates for their work in making time in their adulthood to go back to school to earn their GED for future opportunities. She also noted she was able to attend Central's graduation with Director Allen, and her niece was graduating, which was fun. She noted that her oldest son graduated in 2020 with a very different graduation experience due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and encouraged the District to reach out to the 2020 graduates with an opportunity to walk and celebrate in some way for something they missed at their high school graduation.
- Director Henderson noted that graduations are a celebration of the work of students, and the mental load to show up each day, and it can be a lot. It's an accomplishment and having the space to celebrate with them is meaningful. She also noted the upcoming Summer Graduation, which is a highlight as well for students with incredible opportunities.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

For clarity and to facilitate research, these minutes reflect the order of the original Agenda and not necessarily the time during the meeting the items were discussed.

Prepared and submitted by:  
Sarah Dahlke (and Xue Yang, Interim Assistant Clerk)  
Assistant Clerk, St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education