

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625  
Saint Paul, Minnesota  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Administration Building  
360 Colborne Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102**

**December 5, 2024  
4:30 PM**

**A G E N D A**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
- 2. ROLL CALL**
- 3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA**
- 4. 2024 SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE**
- 5. ADJOURNMENT**

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#BoldSubject#



**Saint Paul**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# 2024 Superintendent Search Update

Board of Education Special Meeting  
Dec. 5, 2024

# Background

- The Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education is conducting a nationwide search for a new superintendent
- The Board hired executive search firm BWP & Associates to assist in hiring the next superintendent
- The Board hired Dr. John Thein to serve as Interim Superintendent until a new superintendent is hired
- The Board received extensive feedback from the community that influenced the parameters of the search process

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# Superintendent Search Timeline

## Spring 2024

- Dr. John Their named interim superintendent
- RFP for executive search firm
- Dr. Their begins interim term
- Bids for executive search firm contract evaluated

## Summer 2024

- BWP & Associates hired as executive search firm
- BWP & Associates defines search timeline
- BWP starts recruiting potential superintendent candidates

## Fall 2024

- Community surveys and stakeholder meetings conducted
- BWP presents community engagement report and creates leadership profile
- BWP and superintendent task force review candidates

## December 2024

- Task force conducts first-round interviews
- ★ **Task force presents top candidates to the Board for approval**
- Board interviews finalists in public interviews
- Board selects preferred candidate for superintendent

**January 2025:** Contract and start date determined

# Superintendent Task Force

- Neveah Askew, Student
- Renejah (Hafsa) Bates, Student
- Danny Young, Gender & Sexual Diversity Parent Advisory Council
- Mina (Mee) Moua, Hmong Parent Advisory Council
- Caceelia Moe, Karen Parent Advisory Council
- Adrian Madariaga Rios, Latino Consent Decree Parent Advisory Council
- Zsame' Morgan, Parents of African American Students Advisory Council
- Farhiya Ali, Somali Parent Advisory Council
- Rachael Sewell, Special Education Advisory Council
- Jennifer Haynes, American Indian Parent Advisory Council
- Tyrone Terrill, African American Leadership Council
- Dan Wolff, Principals Association
- Leah VanDassor, Saint Paul Federation of Educators
- Mallory Washington, Teamsters
- Pat Pratt-Cook, Human Resources
- Halla Henderson, Board of Education
- Uriah Ward, Board of Education
- Carlo Franco, Board of Education

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# First-Round Interviews

- December 3-4: Task force interviewed candidates
  - Candidates names are not public per state statute
- Highly qualified pool of candidates who best matched the leadership profile and stakeholder priorities
- Robust discussion among task force members to identify the three top candidates

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# Superintendent Top Candidates



**Dr. Brenda Cassellius**



**Dr. Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed**



**Dr. Stacie Stanley**

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# Dr. Brenda Cassellius



- Dr. Brenda Cassellius is an experienced educator and public leader in large urban settings with more than 30 years of experience.
- She is currently CEO of Fresh Energy, a nonprofit organization that shapes bold policy solutions to transition Minnesota to a clean-energy economy.
- Dr. Cassellius previously served as superintendent of Boston Public Schools, serving 50,000 students and over 10,000 staff, where she played a pivotal role in implementing a “Quality Guarantee” to ensure all students had access to clean drinking water, air conditioning, and a robust system of support for their well-being and academic achievement.
- She served as Minnesota State Commissioner of Education for eight years under Gov. Mark Dayton; held leadership positions at Minneapolis Public Schools, East Metro Integration District, and Memphis City Schools; and started her career as a teacher in Saint Paul Public Schools.
- **Education:** Doctorate in organizational leadership and policy, University of Memphis; master’s degree in secondary education, University of St. Thomas; bachelor’s degree in child psychology, University of Minnesota

# Dr. Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed



- Dr. Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed is a committed educational leader who strives to find data-informed solutions to close opportunity gaps.
- She has been superintendent of Hopkins Public Schools since 2017, serving 6,900 students and over 1,000 staff. Dr. Mhiripiri-Reed has focused on advancing equity-focused programs and implementing the district's strategic plan, Vision 2031, which includes hiring diverse staff, improving student performance to erase achievement gaps, and preparing students for college and careers.
- She began her career as a teacher in Saint Paul Public Schools and has served in several leadership roles including associate superintendent at Monterey Peninsula Unified School District in Monterey, Calif.; director of leadership development at the District of Columbia Public Schools in Washington, D.C.; and the inaugural board chair for the nonprofit Black Men Teach.
- **Education:** Doctorate in education leadership, Harvard University; master's degree in education policy and administration, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities; bachelor's degree in psychology and teacher preparation, Yale University

# Dr. Stacie Stanley



- Dr. Stacie Stanley is a mission-driven leader committed to student and community engagement and educational equity.
- As superintendent of Edina Public Schools, serving 8,600 students and over 1,300 staff, she led the district's strategic plan to create accelerated student achievement across all demographic groups, including a comprehensive literacy plan.
- Dr. Stanley previously served as an associate superintendent at Eden Prairie Schools and has held school and administrative leadership roles in Burnsville-Eagan-Savage School District 191, Roseville Area Schools and East Metro Integration District.
- She is also the current president-elect of the Minnesota Association of School Administrators, the statewide organization of education leaders.
- **Education:** Doctorate in educational leadership, Bethel University; master's degree in education, St. Catherine University; bachelor's degree in K-8 elementary education, St. Catherine University

# Board Action

The Superintendent Task Force recommends that the Board of Education votes to select the candidates presented tonight as finalists for the position of Saint Paul Public Schools Superintendent

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