

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota**

**SPECIAL 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

**December 16, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Halla Henderson, Chair.

2. ROLL CALL

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

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

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

4. INTERVIEW OF A FINALIST FOR THE POSITION OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Director Henderson provided an overview of the timeline to this point, including the work of Interim Superintendent Dr. John Thein. She also provided a recap of the work with BWP as the superintendent search firm, community engagement, leadership profile, and work with stakeholders, residents, and students. The task force was tasked with the assignment to narrow the candidates, and this is the first of three meetings with the final candidates. Many of the task force members were in the audience, and we need to ensure we are bringing folks with us when choices are difficult and different perspectives to move forward.

Director Ward then provided reflections on the day, including meetings with board members and Dr. Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed, visits to different sites in the district, participation in three virtual sessions with stakeholders, and lunch with board members and district leaders.

Board members also noted that community members are able to provide feedback on the form, which can be found on the superintendent search website - www.spps.org/superintendentsearch.

A. Dr. Rhoda Mhiripiri-Reed

Dr. Mhiripiri-Reed then responded to the below questions:

- Please take a few minutes to introduce yourself and explain why you believe Saint Paul Public Schools would be a strong match for your leadership style and personal values.
- The Board and SPPS believe that public engagement and transparency are critical to making decisions and charting the way forward for our schools. What did those principles look like in your previous school district's decision-making model? Would you suggest doing anything different as the superintendent of SPPS?
- Presentation: How would you prioritize improving student outcomes in reading, math, and science during your initial two to three years as superintendent? If given the opportunity to continue into years three to six, what strategies would you implement to sustain and further these improvements? Please provide specific examples of similar successes in your previous roles and explain how your experience equips you to lead this initiative effectively in SPPS?
- How will you lead the district towards an inclusive school culture where students with disabilities are fully integrated into the academic and social aspects of school life? How will you utilize your team to ensure we are in compliance with IEP requirements and providing the necessary tools to schools in order to deliver high quality services?
- In Saint Paul Public Schools, the diversity of the students we serve is a strength of our district and something we celebrate. What has been your experience serving and increasing proficiency for students who receive Multilingual Language Learning support? Please provide an example of how you have utilized data to improve educational practices and outcomes for students receiving MLL services.
- What does it take to transform the culture of an organization, and how would you approach this process? Have you undertaken such an effort in the past? If so, please provide details about your experience and the steps you took to achieve the change.
- As the leader of a school district, what has been your approach to developing leaders? What are key accountability measures you monitor? How did the demographics of your teaching and administrative staff change during your years as superintendent? What strategies did you use to attract and retain staff from underrepresented communities?
- What is your perspective on school district governance, including the roles of the Board of Education, staff, and community in decision-making and operations? How do you see yourself successfully managing the relationship with the Board to ensure the effective implementation and functioning of this governance model?
- How do you define "safe schools" in your present or most recent school community? How do you know how well your schools meet that definition? What have you found to be the most impactful ways to ensure your schools are safe places for learning? How might you adapt these strategies to meet the unique needs of SPPS?
- Our community appreciated the interested relationship between leadership who cares deeply about the students and community of SPPS, with differences in population in size. The Board asked to share specific of the approach to scaling-up to embrace the complexities, budget, leadership and accountability, and anticipation of how that would look at various points in the first year.

- What are the highlights of student outcomes that have been approved at your current current district and what did you do to achieve that improvement?
- Reflections on the time in the District.
- What do you need from this school board in order to be successful in your role?

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 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