

**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 17, 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: Y. Carrillo, C. Franco, E. Valliant, H. Henderson, U. Ward, J. Vue, C. Allen

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

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

Director Henderson then provided a recap of the process and timeline to this point, including the interim leadership of Dr. John Thein, the work of the superintendent search firm BWP, and community engagement. From there, a leadership profile was developed, as well as a task force to narrow the candidate pool to three finalists. The task force was comprised on students, school board members, representatives from each PAC, several union leaders, and a member of Administration. It is important to ensure voices are centered and there are opportunities to think about the qualities of a finalist and how we will work together and the future model for decision making.

She also provided a brief overview of the day of events with Dr. Brenda Cassellius.

A. Dr. Brenda Cassellius

Dr. Cassellius 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?
- The Board is excited by the enthusiasm and thoughtful change management to do new things - how will you know when SPPS is in a place out of transformation towards sustainability and goals and practices that you put in place?
- For the topic of developing leaders, could you share strategies used to attract and retain leaders from underrepresented communities?
- How could a school district like SPPS improve on its commitment to the environment and climate change?
- Reflections on day in SPPS.

- 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 Carrillo 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 8:02 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