

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

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102, and**

**February 7, 2025
2:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 2:41 p.m. by Halla Henderson, Chair.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Staff: J. Thein, T. Sager, A. Collins, J. Turner, S. Dahlke, J. Grathwol

Saint Paul Delegation: K. Vang Her, E. Cha, D. Pinto, L. Lee, S. Pappas, M. Pérez-Vega, S. Hussein, C. Oumou Verbeten

Community: G. Abbott

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. It passed by acclaim.

4. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Henderson welcomed everyone to the meeting, and noted this is an opportunity to have a n honest and fruitful conversation about our priorities and potential for the year, and to build the relationship together.

She then provided a brief update on the hiring of our new superintendent, Dr. Stacie Stanley who will be joining us this spring. The contract negotiations have been completed, and it will be voted on at an upcoming Regular Meeting.

She also noted the new governance model, and the support for our students, families, staff, and community during this tumultuous and dangerous time.

Superintendent Thein welcomed those from the Senate and House of Representatives, and expressed gratitude for their hard work and efforts to care for our children and community. We are grateful for them and their work. The previous session was very good for our schools and community, and we know this

session will be difficult, but the work is so important. He noted that we all do work that is good for our students, community, parents, and staff, and the Saint Paul Delegation does the same.

5. INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Jim Grathwol, Lobbyist, then provided an overview of the SPPS Legislative Agenda for 2025. Topics include:

- General Education Formula
- Special Education Formula
- English Learner Formula
- Compensatory Revenue Formula
- Extended Time Revenue
- Fund State Mandates
- School District Levy Authority

The Board and Delegation also discussed increased enrollment in SPPS, success of the dual language programs and ways to support them, the READ Act and its challenges, and community engagement and permitting in SPPS to meet the needs of the community. Pensions in the school district and recruitment and retainment of teachers was also discussed, as well as ways to support teachers, especially those from countries outside of the United States, to serve in bilingual programs who may not meet the current licensure tiers.

The Board also requested information on the statutes for the superintendent search, and the statutes that govern the information to the full Board. Afterschool funding and grants were also discussed, as well as a request from the Delegation for a memo with details on the federal funds, IDEA grants and federal funding streams for SPPS, with attention to unemployment insurance for special education paraprofessionals. Property tax and levies were also briefly discussed.

6. Q & A

7. ADJOURNMENT

Director Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting; Director Carrillo seconded the motion. It passed by acclaim.

The meeting adjourned at 4:07 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