

**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 and Saint Paul Cable Channel 16

**February 18, 2025
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: U. Ward, J. Vue, C. Allen, Y. Carrillo, C. Franco, E. Valliant, H. Henderson
Interim Superintendent Thein

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 Allen.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

4. RECOGNITIONS

BF 34143 Acknowledgment of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees

Anne Zielske, Harding Senior High science teacher, has been named Minnesota's winner of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST).

This prestigious honor recognizes the vital role teachers like Anne play in shaping the next generation of scientists, engineers, explorers and innovators. PAEMST is the highest award a K-12 math and science teacher can receive from the U.S. government.

BF 34144 Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Students

Fifty-four FIRST LEGO League (FLL) teams competed in the SPPS Regional Tournament on January 18. Nine of those teams from the following schools advanced to the State Competition on February 16: Capitol Hill Gifted & Talented Magnet, E-STEM Middle School, Highland Park Middle School, Horace Mann School, Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion and Randolph Heights Elementary.

Thank you to 3M for their continued generous support of SPPS students in FIRST Lego League coordinated through the Department of Alternative Education. The FIRST LEGO League (FLL) competitions are organized through High Tech Kids, a nonprofit that supports youth STEM programs in Minnesota.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. **Rainbow Espinosa** Board Resolution on Immigration Defense
2. **Jill van Koolwijk** Board Resolution on Immigration Defense

6. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Director Henderson moved approval of the Order of the Consent Agenda with no items pulled for separate consideration. The motion was seconded by Director Ward.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of January 21, 2025
- B. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of January 21, 2025
- C. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of January 25, 2025
- D. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 4, 2025
Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 7, 2025

MOTION: Director Henderson moved approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of January 21, 2025; Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of January 21, 2025; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of January 25, 2025; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 4, 2025; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of February 7, 2025. The motion was seconded by Director Allen.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of January 7, 2025

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on February 4, 2025, Superintendent Thein welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared details of National School Counselors Week and Black History Month, as well as the recognition of SPPS educators named as candidates for the 2025 Minnesota Teacher of the Year Awards.

The first presentation included details on the Txuj Ci Facilities Workgroup: Phase 2 - Finalize Vision. Questions from the Board to both Administration and parents on the workgroup included the alignment of this project with other projects within the facilities plan, and Board direction expected in March 2025. Questions also centered on the space for the program, including a new building within the city, school sites that may meet the criteria and are currently unoccupied, and potential for a site in a surrounding suburb. Board members also asked parents about their desires for a smaller building that may be more feasible currently, or larger building to accommodate growth. Information was also provided on the renewal of the Facilities Plan. Parents also shared their experiences in working with the Facilities team, their visions for Txuj Ci, and the extent to which the workgroup accomplished what it set out to do. The Board requested information on the distrust felt by families and how the process has helped them to regain trust. Details were also requested on the SPPS Builds Plan previously approved in July 2024, finances of the project, ways to strengthen programs while we wait for Txuj Ci, and how this project will coincide with current projects in the plan. More information was also shared on the overall timeline and data collection evaluation, and the recommendation for the workgroup to continue to meet and discuss. It was also suggested to use this as an experience in finding ways to break down distrust in other spaces and communities. The Board thanked parents and families for their work, and applauded their courage to continue to work on this topic in order to construct a better future for our children and grandchildren.

Following the adjournment of the meeting, the Board conducted a work session for a Budget Workshop which included discussion about school staffing allocations, referendum discussion, and communication timeline; and B.I.G.G.: Board Initiated Goals Governance.

MOTION: Director Ward moved to accept the report on the February 4, 2025 Committee of the Board meeting and approve the recommended motions and minutes of that meeting as published. The motion was seconded by Director Carrillo.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Franco	Yes

Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes

9. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

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

- January 7, 2025 (Annual Organizational Meeting at 4:00pm)
- January 21, 2025
- February 18, 2025
- March 18, 2025
- April 22, 2025
- May 20, 2025
- June 10, 2025 (Special re: Non-Renewals at 4:00pm)
- June 17, 2025
- July 15, 2025
- August 19, 2025
- September 23, 2025
- October 21, 2025
- November 18, 2025
- December 16, 2025

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

- January 7, 2025 (Annual Organizational Meeting at 4:00pm)
- February 4, 2025
- March 4, 2025
- April 8, 2025
- May 6, 2025
- June 10, 2025 • August 6, 2025 – Wednesday (Primary Election)
- September 9, 2025
- October 7, 2025
- November 5, 2025 – Wednesday (Election Day)
- December 2, 2025

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Thein noted the NAAPID events on February 10th in SPPS, and he was honored to attend at Como Senior and Benjamin E. Mays with Mayor Carter and Director Valliant. He thanked the parents and families, and caring adults who make a difference in the academic and lives of our students, as well as our supporting staff, community and learners.

In enrollment news, he announced that SPPS continues to attract new students and since October 1, SPPS has gained over 300 students with the overall district enrollment at 33,906 students.

He also noted that later in the meeting, the Board will vote on the contracts to accept Dr. Stacie Stanley as the new SPPS superintendent. She will be the first locally-born and raised, and educated superintendent

from SPPS in the history of the district, which is over 150 years. He is very proud that the Board will be taking this action, and congratulated her, as she is an extremely proud graduate of Central and grew up in the Rondo neighborhood, and will be a wonderful addition to SPPS.

11. AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

1. Consent Agenda

MOTION: Director Henderson moved approval of all items within the consent agenda withholding no items for separate consideration. Director Allen seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

1. Gifts

BF 34145 Ecolab Foundation Gift

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the \$5,000 from the Ecolab Foundation and provide a letter of expressing appreciation for the gift.

BF 34146 Highland Park Senior High Gift Acceptance of \$5,000.00

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to accept the donation of \$5,000.00 from Patrick McMullen for continued improvements to the musical band department needs and that the Superintendent send a letter of appreciation to Patrick McMullen.

2. Grants

BF 34147 Request for Permission to Accept Funds from the Climate Generation Youth Action Fund! Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept funds from Climate Generation's Youth Action Fund! grant and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 34148 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the MN Department of Agriculture's AGRI Urban Agriculture Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the MN Department of Agriculture's AGRI Urban Agriculture Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 34149 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the MN Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Boost Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the MN Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School Boost Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

3. Contracts

BF 34150 Form 470# 250004968 - Data Centers Upgrade and Site Switch Replacement

That the Board of Education authorize award of Form 470# 250004968 Core Switch Upgrade Heartland Business Systems for the purchase of technology connectivity hardware, core network switches, cabling, licenses, maintenance, and installation in the amount not to exceed \$385,095.76.

BF 34151 Request to Sign the Contract between SPPS and Ramsey County Workforce Solutions

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

BF 34152 Ricoh Fleet All-In-One Copier Lease Renewal

That the Board of Education authorize administration to approve the lease renewal proposal from Ricoh for 60-months, in the amount not to exceed \$3,625,311.60..

BF 34153 Contract Amendment #1 for TKDA for the EOS Dock Doors Lintels and Brick Replacement project (Project # 4000-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of Amendment #1 for TKDA in the amount of \$100,300 for the EOS Dock Doors Lintels and Brick Replacement project (Project # 4000-23-01).

BF 34154 Contract Amendment #1 for Adkins Association for the FY25 Instructional A/V Program at Battle Creek Middle School, Highland Park High School, and Txuj Ci Upper Campus (Project # 0680-25-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of Amendment #1 for Adkins Association in the amount of \$14,850 for the FY25 Instructional A/V Program at Battle Creek Middle School, Highland Park High School, and Txuj Ci Upper Campus (Project # 0680-25-01).

4. Agreements

BF 34155 Request to Enter into Agreement between SPPS, Local 49, & MNVirtual Academy

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve to enter into agreement between SPPS, Local 49, & MNVirtual Academy to develop an educational program for SPPS Seniors interested in equipment operation at the sandbox training center

BF 34156 Letter of Intent Regarding Future Lease Agreement with Saint Paul Port Authority

That the Board of Education authorize the execution of the Letter of Intent between the District and Saint Paul Port Authority, located at 0 Empire Drive.

5. Administrative Items

BF 34157 Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and electronic transfers for the period December 1, 2024- December 31, 2024

(a) General Account	#780600-781614	\$67,053,591.20
	#0011238-0011259	
	#7005414-7005434	
	#0011650-0011885	
(b) Construction Payments	- 0 -	\$16,492,825.86
(c) Debt Service	- 0 -	\$10,750.00
		\$83,546,417.06

Included in the above disbursements are two payrolls in the amount of \$46,460,881.42 and overtime of \$252,038.03 or 0.54% 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 June 30, 2025

BF 34158 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 February 18, 2025 should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before this date.

Human Resources Transactions

BF 34159 Transactions for January 1 – January 31, 2025

BF 34160 Project Budget Modification Request and Finance Plan Update for the Humboldt Senior High School AHU Replacement (Project # 2142-25-01)

That the Board of Education approve the budget modification to Humboldt Senior High School AHU Replacement - Project # 2142-25-01.

BF 34161 Phase Gate Approval of the FY26 Fire Safety Program at Highland Park Senior High School, Wilson, Hazel Park Elementary, and 1780 West 7th (Project # 0652-26-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the FY26 Fire Safety Program at Highland Park Senior High School, Wilson, Hazel Park Elementary, and 1780 West 7th (Project # 0652-26-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$2,731,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

BF 34162 Phase Gate Approval of the FY25 Instructional A/V Program at Battle Creek Middle School, Highland Park High School, and Txuj Ci Upper Campus (Project # 0680-25-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the FY25 Instructional A/V Program at Battle Creek Middle School, Highland Park High School, and Txuj Ci Upper Campus (Project # 0680-25-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$4,468,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

BF 34163 Phase Gate Approval of the Farnsworth Aerospace Lower Major Renovation and Addition Project (Project #1090-25-01): Gate #2 – Project Charter

That the Board of Education approve the Farnsworth Aerospace Lower Major Renovation and Addition project (Project # 1090-25-01) at Phase Gate Check #2 – Project Charter.

BF 34164 Phase Gate Approval of the Dayton’s Bluff Elementary Lead-in-Water Remediation (Project # 1060-25-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the Dayton’s Bluff Elementary Lead-in-Water Remediation (Project # 1060-25-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$823,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

BF 34165 Phase Gate Approval of the Highwood Hills Elementary Lead-in-Water Remediation (Project # 2120-25-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the Highwood Hills Elementary Lead-in-Water Remediation (Project # 2120-25-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$357,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

BF 34166 Phase Gate Approval of the FY23 Roofing Replacement Program at Journeys Secondary (Project # 0175-23-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the FY23 Roofing Replacement Program at Journeys Secondary (Project # 0175-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$2,667,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

BF 34167 Project Budget Modification Request and Finance Plan Update for the Multi-site Boiler Replacement at Battle Creek Middle School and Hazel Park Preparatory Academy (Project # 0575-25-01)

That the Board of Education approve the budget modification to Multi-site Boiler Replacement at Battle Creek Middle School and Hazel Park Preparatory Academy (Project # 0575-25-01).

BF 34168 Phase Gate Approval of the Multi-site Boiler Replacement at Battle Creek Middle School and Hazel Park Preparatory Academy (Project # 0575-25-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of bid for the Multi-site Boiler Replacement at Battle Creek Middle School and Hazel Park Preparatory Academy (Project # 0575-25-01) to SVL Hydronic Solutions for a lump sum base bid of \$1,834,805

BF 34169 Settlement of Claim

That the Board of Education approve the Settlement Agreement in the above-referenced matter; authorize its Superintendent to sign the Settlement Agreement; and authorize School District administration to issue payment and otherwise perform the Settlement Agreement.

6. Bids

BF 34170 Furniture Acquisition Award for the FY24 Furniture Replacement Program at Harding Senior High School (Project # 0160-24-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of cafeteria tables for the FY24 Furniture Replacement Program at Harding Senior High School to Innovative Office Solutions for a lump sum base bid of \$261,383.

BF 34171 Furniture Award for the Hidden River Middle School Renovation and Addition Project (Project #3140-20-02)

That the Board of Education authorize award of furniture for the Hidden River Middle School Renovation and Addition (Project # 3140-20-02) to Acre for a lump sum base bid of \$1,662,000.

BF 34172 Furniture Award for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project (Project #3081-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of the Phase II furniture for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project (Project #3081-23-01) to Acre for a lump sum base bid of \$446,400.

BF 34173 Furniture Award for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation (Project # 3210-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of furniture for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation (Project # 3210-23-01) to Acre for a lump sum base bid of \$1,457,000.

BF 34174 Phase Gate Approval of the Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements Project WS 02A (Project # 2070-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A25-5254 for Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements (Project # 2070-23-01) to National Demolition for a lump sum base bid plus Alternates #2 & 3 of \$455,550.

BF 34175 Phase Gate Approval of the Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements Project WS 05A (Project # 2070-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A25-5257 for Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements (Project # 2070-23-01) to Construction Systems for a lump sum base bid plus Alternate #2 of \$415,676.

BF 34176 Phase Gate Approval of the Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements Project WS 06A (Project # 2070-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A25-5258 for Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements (Project # 2070-23-01) to Meisinger Construction for a lump sum base bid of \$341,000.

BF 34177 Phase Gate Approval of the Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements Project WS 07A (Project # 2070-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A25-5259 for Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements (Project # 2070-23-01) to Central Roofing for a lump sum base bid plus Alternate of \$1,180,140.

BF 34178 Phase Gate Approval of the Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements Project WS 09A (Project # 2070-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A25-5264 for Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements (Project # 2070-23-01) to Commercial Drywall for a lump sum base bid plus Alternate #2 of \$375,700

BF 34179 Phase Gate Approval of the Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements Project WS 09B (Project # 2070-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A25-5265 for Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements (Project # 2070-23-01) to Kirk Acoustics for a lump sum base bid of \$241,740.

BF 34180 Phase Gate Approval of the Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements Project WS 09C (Project # 2070-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A25-5266 for Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements (Project # 2070-23-01) to Sonus Interiors for a lump sum base bid of \$208,225.

BF 34181 Phase Gate Approval of the Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements Project WS 21A (Project # 2070-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A25-5268 for Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements (Project # 2070-23-01) to Nasseff Mechanical for a lump sum base bid of \$196,650.

BF 34182 Phase Gate Approval of the Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements Project WS 22A (Project # 2070-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A25-5269 for Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements (Project # 2070-23-01) to Northland Mechanical for a lump sum base bid plus Alternate #2 of \$713,800.

BF 34183 Phase Gate Approval of the Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements Project WS 23A (Project # 2070-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A25-5270 for Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements (Project # 2070-23-01) to Nasseff Mechanical for a lump sum base bid plus Alternates #2 & 3 of \$5,107,430.

BF 34184 Phase Gate Approval of the Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements Project WS 26A (Project # 2070-23-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A25-5271 for Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements (Project # 2070-23-01) to Cap Electric for a lump sum base bid plus Alternate #2 of \$1,350,200.

BF 34185 Phase Gate Approval of the Johnson High School Athletics Improvements (Project # 1150-24-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A25-5199 for the Johnson High School Athletics Improvements project (Project # 1150-24-01) to Morcon Construction for a lump sum base bid of \$796,800.

BF 34186 Phase Gate Approval of the Johnson High School Athletics Improvements (Project # 1150-24-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of field lighting at Johnson High School Athletics Improvements project (Project # 1150-24-01) to Musco Sports Lighting, LLC for a lump sum base bid of \$306,772.

BF 34187 Phase Gate Approval of the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project WS 32H (Project #1020-22-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A24-3949-JG for the Bruce Vento Elementary - New Construction Project (Project #1020-22-01) to Sunram Construction for a lump sum base bid of \$543,475.

7. Change Orders

ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION - None

FURTHER AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

1. Action on the Contracts of the New Superintendent

Director Henderson noted that there are two separate contracts for Dr. Stacie Stanley. One is short-term that starts on May 12, 2025 and ends on June 30, 2025. The long-term contract begins on July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028. The process to this point has been a good learning experiences, and an opportunity to

have clear expectations for the new superintendent in a way that is clear, relevant, and needed. Within the contract terms are exciting pieces to continue to build relationship with the Board and district goals.

Director Vue requested information for the rationale for the short-term and long-term contracts. Director Henderson noted that the short-term contract is to complete the school year, and a further contract for the duration. General Counsel Long noted that superintendent contracts generally are for July 1 to June 30 and did not think it was advisable to have a superintendent contract begin in the middle of May, and with the desire of the Board and Dr. Stanley, to bridge the gap to have a contract with the cycle of July 1 to June 30th.

Director Ward noted that the way the long-term contract is set-up also affects the evaluation schedule to a degree, and will fit into the typical schedule of a superintendent contract. Director Henderson noted the request to start before the end of the school year, and this was a way to make it happen.

Director Vue requested additional information on Portion B of the contract and the language that insinuates compensation that does not list a specific dollar amount, especially in terms of pension and SPTRF, and details of the 75% of the contribution and cost to the district. General Counsel Long noted that is based on the contribution on the percentage of the annual gross salary and the number will vary, but is about \$17,000 for the first year of the contract. Director Vue also requested more details on Portion H of the contract regarding annual life insurance. General Counsel Long will send the costs of the premiums.

Director Vue requested information on the total compensation package for the entirety of the three years. It was noted that it would be approximately \$334,300.

Director Henderson noted that through conversations with board members, there was a salary cap. Director Franco noted that the contract is reflective of previous superintendents and comparable to those in neighboring districts. He also shared the variable of being the superintendent of the second largest school district in the state and the amount of work for the next superintendent. Director Henderson noted that we want to be a marketable district, and want our folks to be here and to pay them accordingly.

BF 34188 Superintendent Contract: May 12, 2025 to June 30, 2025

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to approve the short-term Superintendent Contract which commences on May 12, 2025 and shall end on June 30, 2025. Director Allen seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

BF 34189 Superintendent Contract: July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to approve the three-year Superintendent Contract which commences on July 1, 2025, and ends on June 30, 2028. Director Carrillo seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

2. Resolution for District Practices relating to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

Director Henderson noted that in 2017 the Board passed a similar resolution, which is still in effect and will continue, and that there are a number of factors to bring back to the forefront, in that we are seeing attacks on our vulnerable populations from a level of government, and this resolution tells the community that we are affirmed and standing with families and students. This resolution is similar to the one from 2017, with additions and changes to make the language firm and clear, and goals to continue to protect our students, while recognizing there are some things we cannot guarantee, but there are levers to support and affirm to students and families about what is possible.

The Board thanked educators and Director Franco for their work, and there is more to come and to feel strongly about other ways to protect students, and this is one of the tools in the toolbox.

Director Carrillo thanked the board members to stand firm in the solidarity with those who may not feel like they can defend themselves, and we as a community can raise our voice in unison against the predatory behavior. We are a district that follows the law, but also clear in our commitment against injustice. He thanked the Board for the support, and as a message to families that we will continue to fight for them and for all students to have access to SPPS.

Director Franco noted he is glad that the resolution is brought forth again for adoption, and that it is important to write how we show as a District, and further conversations to codify this language into our ongoing practice. We hear from community members the need for this level of communication to go to families in the larger community, because there is a sense of fear and unknown about the current practices and procedures.

The Board also requested information on the training for clerks or building administration who will be responsible for the implementation of this resolution. General Counsel Long noted that an email was sent to all staff on January 31 about steps for building administration and staff to take in the event that ICE presents itself on SPPS property, as well as talking points for staff and responding to inquires from students and families with different resources to provide to families. There are also links to existing policies and procedures, as well as an email from Superintendent Thein regarding similar issues. Since that email was sent, there was also training conducted with school building administration and was repeated a couple days later with other district leaders not at school sites. There were two virtual training opportunities and provided in writing al school staff. There will also be sessions with local legal resources that will be at school-based sessions geared towards students' and families' individual rights, as well as the assistant city attorney hosting a session at LEAP.

Director Franco appreciated the refresh on the practices, and to continue to track the effects of the new executive orders on the district. He also appreciates staff across the district and feels there is a correct level of detail in the communications and training, and that schools are well-equipped. The support provided to families is even more critical, and the Board implored all folks working with students to continue to approach them with understanding and genuine care.

Director Henderson noted that our school communities are on track and doing the work to keep our students safe and prepared, and the supports for our school communities is vital.

The full resolution can be found in the BoardBook.

BF 34190 Resolution for District Practices relating to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to approve the Resolution for District Practices relating to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Director Franco seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

3. Policy Update

a. THIRD READING: Policy 550: Cell Phones and Personal Electronic Devices

Superintendent Thein then introduced Jodi Danielson, Director of Schools and Learning, to present this third reading. Included in the presentation were a review of proposed legislation, the updated policy recommendation, recommendation to approve the policy, and next steps.

The proposed new legislation states that “Beginning with school year 2026-2027, must prohibit cell phones and smart watches in school for grades K-8 and prohibit in classrooms for grades 9-12; includes exceptions.” We are moving forward with the recommendation included based on current legislation, and if passed, we will be able to adjust.

The rationale for the policy was also reviewed, with MN legislature made a law in spring 2024 that all school districts must have a district policy regarding cell phones to minimize the impact of cell phones and personal electronic devices on academic performance, mental health, learning environments, and effective teaching.

The alignment of the community feedback and where it shows in the policy were also presented.

The implementation plan was also shared, including soliciting perspective for proactive steps with breakout session with mental health teams on March 7, and a team of stakeholders to develop a resource toolkit for schools. Communications will also be including information on this policy in Rights and Responsibilities and school communications to communities.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Ward requested information on the likelihood of the current cell phone policy bill at the legislature to pass. He also noted the recent conversation with students at Macalester about the bodies of government that are most influential to schools.
- Discussion also focused on the use of smart watches in the policy. Response: Principals' feedback may have included that challenges to the language for implementation may be more difficult, and responsibility for elementary students and the very high level of management around cell phone use.
- Director Valliant noted that many students are not accustomed to analog watches, and will still need to be able to see the time, and are more comfortable with digital watches. Many who have phones also use them as a way to tell time, and if phones are not allowed in school, students may not know what time it is if they cannot use their phone or smart watch.
- Director Vue appreciated the work of leadership and gathering information, with special thanks to Ms. Danielson, and that this has been one of the better policy implementation processes since he has been on the Board.
- Director Carrillo also appreciated the process and engagement process, and thanked the leadership team for rolling this policy out quickly and identifying the target groups, and the compilation of data and presentation.
- He also noted that this policy in no way changes or alters the students and adults rights and responsibilities that exist for electronic devices.
- Director Ward then brought the conversation back to smart watches within the policy, and the difficulty in determining if a student was using it as a watch or a feature of the phone.
- The options for smart watches are to leave it as it stands, as it was previously written, or another option.
- Director Allen noted she is comfortable with the language as is that students wearing smart watches are not supposed to have them or using them, and making it clear if misuse occurs to have a conversation with them and call home to their family.
- Director Carrillo noted he is also comfortable with the language as is because while we do use watches to keep track of deadlines, this is a gray area where we may not be able to monitor the activity of a smartwatch, including recording videos in places where cameras are not allowed. The level of monitoring increases where it becomes difficult for administration to determine if a student is using it in the right or wrong ways, when it is inconspicuous. He agreed that it should be kept as is and ensuring we educate students about the responsibility.
- It was also noted that a future legislation may potentially ban these, at which point, this would be a moot point.
- Director Vue noted he is also in favor of keeping it as is.
- Director Franco noted that families utilize smart watches to track their child, and while he is okay with keeping it as is, we should also be prepared to hear feedback about families who are concerned about the ability to track the location of their child.
- Director Valliant noted concerns about how students will be able to tell time, especially if they need to do other things during their passing times and to be back in class on time.
- Director Henderson also struggled with this item from her personal experience in helping a family member with a smart watch and the ability to do other things while working on homework. It will be a challenge to determine if a student is using their smart watch like a cell phone to check text messages, or simply checking the time. She also agreed with it as written in the policy.

- Director Franco noted that in researching the Senate files, there is bipartisan support in the Senate, with no file number yet, but the policy may need to be changed if smart watches are included after the legislative session for a revision.
- Director Franco noted questions about digital passes, as well as a conversation about iPads.
- Director Allen noted the that people previously learned to tell time by the sun, and the need for students to look beyond looking at their phone, and to understand the feeling of time and to be aware of passing time.
- Director Ward thanked the team for their work and community engagement, and this policy has been on the minds of many. This will be difficult to implement, and we've discussed the importance of beginning to ease the transition so students have consistency in all classrooms, including with smart watches. He is also comfortable ith the language as written.
- Director Henderson thanked Ms. Danielson for her work, and typically by the third reading, the conversation is very dry, but with each reading for this policy, there has been rich discussion and questions. It is not a perfect policy, but is crafted in a way that is equitable as possible and bringing stakeholders together. She thanked the cell phone policy work group and is proud of the process.

BF 34191 THIRD READING: Policy 550: Cell Phones and Personal Electronic Devices

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to approve the Policy 550: Cellular Phones and Personal Electronic Devices. Director Franco seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

4. Fiscal Year 2024-25 Revised Budget

Superintendent Thein welcomed Tom Sager, Executive Chief of Financial Services, to present this information. The topics includes the revenue changes – all funds, expenditure changes – all funds – projected FY 24-25 ending fund balances, and recommendation and approval.

Figures were shown for All Funds – Revenue Changes for the adopted budget, revision, and revised budget in the areas of General Fund, Food Service, Community Service, Building Construction, and Debt Service.

Revenue Changes for the adjustment to project General Education, SPED revenue and Others, as well as the adjustment for ARP funding, adjustment for general programs, and adjustment in Food Service, Community Service, Building Construction and Debt Service.

The revised revenue by source for all funds by state aid, federal aid, property tax, and other revenue were presented, as well as revised General Fund revenue sources.

Expenditure changes within the General Fund, Food Service, Community Service, Building Construction, and Debt Service were also shared, as well as graphs showing the revised expenditures by fund and revised General Fund expenditures.

A summary for all funds with fund balance budget was also shared, and included the beginning fund balance, revised revenue budget, revised expenditure budget, and estimated ending fund balance in each of the five funds.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Franco requested information on the total number of FTEs that were added, including 12.9 teachers and an additional revenue stream to hire 12 additional custodians.
- Director Ward requested additional details on the timeline for the hiring of the additional custodians in relation to community feedback.
- Director Carrillo requested information on the building and construction funds expenditures and revisions. Chief Sager provided additional information, and that the ways in which the funding flows do not always align with building construction, which is the rationale for the shown discrepancies. Director Carrillo encouraged Administration to present that explanation within the presentation for our community to understand the reasons the numbers show this way.

BF 34192 Fiscal Year 2024-25 Revised Budget

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Revised Budget as presented. Director Ward seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

10. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

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

Director Ward and Director Henderson then led the Board through an update on B.I.G.G.: Board Initiated Goals Governance. Information was shared on the gathering and interpreting of feedback, consistent themes for the development of goals, BIGG survey development, and information on community engagement sessions.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Vue noted the rationale for the second survey in that the second survey will be used to refine and ensure the feedback is accurately heard and implemented and the process for how it will be implemented.
- Director Henderson noted she is excited to see this process, and is grateful to those in Administration for their support and alliance in this work. She is excited for the ways in which the goals will show up and shape conversations within the District.

13. BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. Information Requests/Responses and Items for Future Agendas

- Director Franco requested information on the process for evaluations of coaches and expectations for them, as well as full program development for coaches to obtain the next level in their coaching careers.

B. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Franco shared his time at Cherokee Heights in the PreK classroom for College Bound Deposit Day, as well as at a celebration event at LEAP with Director Henderson. He also has attended athletic events across the city and retired the need for every young person to have access to athletics and a high-quality experience. He also noted the hockey event at Johnson as a fundraiser for a three-year old battling cancer and the alumni and families who attended, and the event that was led by a senior student.
- Director Henderson shared her time at LEAP, as well as at the NAAPID event at Nokomis South. She also shared her experience in visiting Highwood Hills and their celebration event. She thanked Dr. Lawson for her work. Director Henderson also shared about her time in joining a class at Macalester to speak about governance.
- Director Valliant shared her experience in visiting Benjamin E. Mays for NAAPID with Dr. Thein and Mayor Carter. She also thanked the schools for their work with all students, as well as an update on her students' work in Foundations.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

14. WORK SESSION

The work session was called to order at 8:01 p.m. by Halla Henderson, Chair.

Those in attendance were Director Henderson, Director Ward, Director Valliant, Director Allen, Director Franco, Director Carrillo, Director Vue, Superintendent Thein, T. Sager, J. Danielson, E. Wacker, C. Long, K. Thao, C. Landreau, D. Moser, P. Pratt-Cook, S. Gray Akyea, S. Koppen, H. Nistler, A. Kunz, L. Bolopue, and S. Dahlke. Community members and families from Chelsea Heights were also in attendance.

The Board then conducted a work session regarding the FY26 budget.

Director Henderson motioned to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Director Allen, and passed by acclaim.

The work session adjourned at 9:32 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