

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](http://www.spps.org/boe) and Saint Paul Cable Channel 16

November 19, 2024  
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: E. Valliant, H. Henderson, U. Ward, J. Vue, C. Allen, Y. Carrillo, C. Franco  
Interim Superintendent Thein

K. Walker, Assistant 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 Vue.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**4. RECOGNITIONS**

**BF 34034** Acknowledgment of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees

**Mark Bauch**, a special education educational assistant at Washington Technology, has been named the 2024-25 Education Minnesota Education Support Professional (ESP) of the Year.

Mark is in his 14th year as an educational assistant for ninth-grade special education students at Washington. "While I am in the classroom, I will go around the whole classroom while keeping an eye on

my (special education) students,” he said in nomination materials for the award. “I never want the kids that I work with to be singled out.”

Mark was born and raised in St. Paul, which allows him to connect not only with his students but with their families. “Because I was born and raised here, I tend to know the families of my students,” he said.

Mark’s colleagues say that he is respected by students and staff alike, both for the relationships he builds and the expertise he brings to the classroom. “Many staff members frequently consult him for advice, whether for instructional support or behavior management,” said Tim Hayden, special education teacher at Washington. Mark is particularly skilled at working with students facing the greatest learning challenges. “Where others see difficulty, Mark sees opportunity,” Hayden said.

As the 2024-25 ESP of the Year, Mark will receive an iPad or Chromebook and a \$1,200 honorarium. He will also receive an all-expenses paid trip to the National Education Association ESP Conference next spring.

“Education support professionals are the backbone of our public schools, and schools simply can’t function without them,” said Education Minnesota President Denise Specht. “Mark’s passion for his students, support for his colleagues and commitment to his community exemplify the best that Minnesota ESPs have to offer.”

**BF 34035** Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Students

1. **Johnson Senior High School** is Saint Paul Public Schools’ First Unified Champion City School.

Johnson has shown a commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 national standards of excellence centered around the three Unified Champion Schools (USC) pillars of Unified Sports, Inclusive Student Leadership and Whole School Engagement.

Johnson Senior High School is the first Unified Champion City School to become a National Banner School.

From Special Olympics MN's nomination: "From involvement in Unified Soccer and Basketball to jumping into the icy waters of Lake Nokomis as part of a Cool School Plunge, Johnson's Unified program exemplifies how the Inclusion Revolution and Special Olympics can impact students, educators, and entire schools."

2. Highland Park Senior High School's **Tenzing Walker** was named Mr. Soccer for Class AA. This award goes to the best soccer player at the Class AA level throughout the state.

Walker is the first-ever Mr. Soccer from Highland Park Senior, and for the St. Paul City Conference. He finished his Highland Park career as the school’s all-time leading goal scorer, with 33 goals and 22 assists. The Scots finished second in the conference, and Walker was awarded with the St. Paul City Player of the Year as well.

3. The Highland Park Senior High School girls cross country team placed first overall in the Class AA State Tournament. **Grace Lewis-Mosher** and **Claire Vukovics** finished first and second - the first

runners in Highland Park cross country history to finish 1-2 in a State Tournament. The team even earned a shoutout on ESPN's New York City Marathon coverage.

On the boys side, Como Park Senior High finished in fourth place in State - with **Charlie Loth** (seventh place) and **Arthur Anderson** (19th) both finishing All-State. Como Park achieved their highest placement ever at the Boy's State Cross Country meet with a Fourth overall finish as a team.

Highland Senior finished ninth, with Mason Deegan earning All-State.

The cross country State Meet finishers are:

#### **Class AA Girls**

**Grace Lewis-Mosher** (Highland Park) 1st place

**Claire Vukovics** (Highland Park) 2nd place

**Samantha Palm** (Highland Park)

**Ruby Peterson** (Highland Park)

**Ellile Moore** (Highland Park)

**Ingrid Haaland** (Highland Park)

**Zoe Moore** (Highland Park)

**Lilly Coyle** (Como Senior)

**Lu Beckman** (Como Senior)

**Hanna Koch** (Highland Park)

**Alice Rapacz** (Highland Park)

#### **Class AA Boys**

**Charlie Loth** (Como Senior) 7th place

**Mason Deegan** (Highland Park)

**Arthur Anderson** (Como Senior)

**Ben Clark** (Como Senior)

**Jack Douglas** (Como Senior)

**Hazel Small** (Como Senior)

**Logan Small** (Como Senior)

**Niko Turnure** (Como Senior)

**August Johnson** (Highland Park)

**Theo Hennem** (Highland Park)

**Noah Waln** (Highland Park)

**Charles Johnson** (Highland Park)

**Cooper Foss** (Highland Park)

**Colin Johnson** (Como Senior)

**Leif Loge** (Highland Park)

**Toby Hennem** (Highland Park)

4. **Aleia Lueck**, a junior at Como Park Senior High, competed in the AA State Swim & Dive Tournament this past weekend. Aleia finished in fourth place in the Girls 50 Yard Freestyle A final event. She also finished in sixth place in the 100 Yard Backstroke A Final event.

5. Central High School Swim & Dive Team State Meet participants are **Cecily Jones, Hannah Johnson, Turin Johnson, Ella Neal, Imogin Forys and Lila Mae. Sandy Whitaker** is the Central Girls Swim & Dive Coach.
6. The following student athletes from Central Senior High competed in the State AAA Cross Country Meet: **Laura McClary, Halina Tompkins, Nora Murphy, Elsa Lindfors, Lilian Schauer, Katie Norton-Bower, Rosie Reeder.** The Central girls finished 15th overall at state.

**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b><u>Marianne Milligan</u></b></li> <li>2. <b><u>Abdirahaman Ali</u></b></li> <li>3. <b><u>Dashawn Robinson</u></b></li> <li>4. <b><u>Kananisa Abanessa</u></b></li> <li>5. <b><u>Terryce Jett-Lewis</u></b></li> <li>6. <b><u>Elijah Wagner</u></b></li> <li>7. <b><u>Ryan Alexander-Cohen</u></b></li> <li>8. <b><u>Lashay Matthews-Deloatch</u></b></li> <li>9. <b><u>Siariya Goss</u></b></li> <li>10. <b><u>Miriam Rangel</u></b></li> <li>11. <b><u>John Brodrick</u></b></li> <li>12. <b><u>Kaiti Shelton</u></b></li> </ol> | <p>Return of 4 days of after school programming</p> <p>Educational Experiences for Black Youth</p> <p>Educational Experiences for Black Youth</p> <p>Educational Experiences for Black Youth</p> <p>Educational Experiences for Black Youth</p> <p>Educational Experiences for Black Youth</p> <p>Educational Experiences for Black Youth</p> <p>Educational Experiences for Black Youth</p> <p>Educational Experiences for Black Youth</p> <p>Facility Assessment for Elem. and Middle Capacity</p> <p>Thanks for work w/ UHC and HP</p> <p>Benjamin E. Mays Afro-centric focus planning</p> |
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**6. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Director Henderson moved approval of the Order of the Consent Agenda with item 3-a: Request to Sign the Contract between the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation (Right Track) and SPPS pertaining to the 3M STEP Program pulled for separate consideration. The motion was seconded by Director Franco.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of October 22, 2024

**MOTION:** Director Henderson moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of October 22, 2024. The motion was seconded by Director Vue.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes

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

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of November 6, 2024

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on November 6, 2024, Director Ward recapped the recent election, and reiterated the values that we as a District have expressed, including that everyone can join, grow, learn, be respected, and be supported in SPPS. Within the Superintendent’s Announcements, Dr. Their thanked our staff for their care of our students during the election season, as well as the mock election, and thanked administrators for their help on Election Day in our buildings. He also noted that United Healthcare and HealthPartners have settled their agreements, and he thanked the Board for showing that they care about our employees.

The first report was the Cell Phone Policy Plan, with Board discussion at three points. For the level of detail in the policy, the Board shared the need for enough detail to support teachers and not to over penalize students, clear expectations for when devices can and cannot be used, intensity of the policy, different options for the policy, the need for a standard rule and uniformity across the district, expectations that could begin in elementary school, and guidelines for how it will be enforced. For a review of the assumptions and the grounding process and outputs discussion, the Board discussed the implementation timeline, further details on exceptions for medical needs, a tiered response protocol, cell phone use for instructional purposes, discussion on this policy to not perpetuate inequitable practices, modeling of this policy by staff and collective accountability, details of expectations for staff, parent or family communication to students while in the classroom, grace for emergency situations, and parent engagement and surveys. The Board then discussed the engagement process and potential modification process, noting the work with the Policy Work Group, engagement for classroom educators and tools for them to enforce this policy, focus groups, including an additional staff focus group, support for clerks, and timeline of engagement within the three readings process.

The next presentation included a report on the SPPS draft 2025 legislative agenda. Questions and discussion from the Board included the safety of funding for K-12 education, reporting to the Board and community about the legislative process, the dollar amounts for each proposal, the importance of a unified front at the capital and work of partner organizations, as well as questions about medical reimbursements for mental health.

The next presentation was the Facilities Master Plan 2.0. This presentation sparked discussion about the details on the facilities use and utilization report, staffing for the infrastructure investments and budgetary impacts to the facilities staff and upkeep of our buildings, impacts of enrollment shifts, interests and marketability of buildings, checkpoints for reporting to the Board and cadence of information, and details on the engagement and consultation work.

**MOTION:** Director Ward moved to accept the report on the November 6, 2024 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 Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes
Director Ward	Yes
Director Vue	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Franco	Yes

## 9. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

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

- 2024
  - December 17

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

- 2024
  - December 3

### C. Action on Proposed 2025 Schedule for Regular and Committee of the Board Meetings

**MOTION:** Director Henderson to approve, seconded by Director Vue, the proposed schedule of meetings for the 2025 calendar year as follows:

#### 2025 REGULAR MEETING DATES

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

#### 2025 COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD MEETING DATES

- January 7
- February 4
- March 4
- April 8
- May 6

- June 10
- August 6 – Wednesday (Primary Election)
- September 9
- October 7
- November 5 – Wednesday (Election Day)
- December 2

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

- D. Motion to Schedule a Special Meeting of the Board of Education on December 5, 2024 regarding the Superintendent Search

**MOTION: Director Henderson moved to schedule a special meeting of the Board of Education on Thursday, December 5, 2024 beginning at 4:30pm regarding the Superintendent Search, and where the Superintendent Search Task Force will present recommended candidates to the Board, and to the public. Director Vue seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

## 10. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Thein offered congratulations and a happy new year to the Hmong community of SPPS. He attended the Hmong New Year celebration at Harding last Friday, and really enjoyed it, and thanked the staff and community for the wonderful program and great joy.

He went on to note that on Wednesday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at American Indian Magnet, there will be a debut screening of film about the SPPS literacy journey, and provided a recap of the documentary including that over the past three years, SPPS has been changing literacy teaching to positively impact student outcomes in reading.

## 11. AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

### 1. Consent Agenda

**MOTION:** Director Ward moved approval of all items within the consent agenda withholding item 3-a: Request to Sign the Contract between the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation (Right Track) and SPPS pertaining to the 3M STEP Program for separate consideration. Director Vue seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

1. Gifts

**BF 34036** Minneapolis Foundation (Twin Cities' Dunkers) Donation to SPPS Athletic Department and SPPS High School Athletic Programs

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to receive, and disbursement of the donated funds as listed herein.

2. Grants

**BF 34037** Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Ecolab Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the Ecolab Foundation to support relationship building for teachers through team building activities as well as transportation support; to accept the funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents

**BF 34038** Request for Permission to Submit to the Travelers and Travelers Foundation Academic and Career Success Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Travelers and Travelers Foundation Academic and Career Success grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 34039** Request for Permission to Accept Funds from the CHS Foundation's National FFA Convention Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept funds from the CHS Foundation's National FFA Convention grant program and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 34040** Request for Permission to Submit to the Minnesota Department of Education's Grow Your Own Early Childhood and Family Education Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Minnesota Department of Education's Early Childhood and Family Education Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 34041** Request for Permission to Submit to the Federal Communications Commission's Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Federal Communication Commission's Schools and Libraries Cybersecurity Pilot Program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 34042** Request for Permission to Accept Ecolab's FIRST Robotics Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept grant funds from Ecolab's FIRST Robotics Grant program and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 34043** Request for Permission to Submit to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's Child Care Economic Development Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's Child Care Economic Development; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 34044** Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from Allina Health

The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to accept funds from Allina Health's Change to Chill grant program and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 34045** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the US Department of Agriculture's AGRI Full Tray Farm to School and Early Care Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the US Department of Agriculture's AGRI Full Tray Farm to School and Early Care Grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

3. Contracts

4. Agreements

**BF 34046** Alexandria Community and Technical College - University Partnership Agreement with SPPS

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve this partnership with Alexandria Community and Technical College for student internship experiences for speech-language pathologist assistants.

**BF 34047** Request to Sign the School Counseling Internship Agreement with Minnesota State University, Mankato

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the School Counseling Internship Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Minnesota State University, Mankato.

**BF 34048** Request to Sign the School Counseling Internship Agreement with St. Cloud State University

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the School Counseling Internship Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and St. Cloud State University.

**BF 34049** Request to Sign the School Counseling Internship Agreement with University of Mary (North Dakota)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the School Counseling Internship Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and the University of Mary

**BF 34050** Request to Sign the School Counseling Internship Agreement with University of Wisconsin – River Falls

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the School Counseling Internship Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and University of Wisconsin – River Falls.

**BF 34051** St. Mary’s Social Work Professional Agreement

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve this partnership with St. Mary’s for student internship experiences for social work.

**BF 34052** University of Wisconsin Eau Claire Partnership

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve this partnership with University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire for student internship experiences for speech-language pathologists.

**BF 34053** Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625 and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, District Council 5, Local Union No. 844, Representing Clerical and Technical Employees

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment for American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, Local Union No. 844, District Council 5, representing clerical and technical employees in this school district; duration of said Agreement is for the period of July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2026.

5. Administrative Items

**BF 34054** Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and electronic transfers for the period September 1, 2024- September 30, 2024.

(a) General Account	#777716-778614	\$48,356,255.99
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	#0011144-0011167	
	#7005332-7005354	
	#0011060-0011231	
(b) Construction Payments	- 0 -	\$14,027,835.14
(c) Debt Service	- 0 -	\$2,000.00
		\$62,386,091.13

Included in the above disbursements are two payrolls in the amount of \$43,233,201.98 and overtime of \$310,250.77 or 0.72% 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 March 31, 2025

**BF 34054-1** 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 November 19, 2024, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before this date.

**Human Resources Transactions**

**BF 34055** Transactions for October 1 – October 31, 2024

**BF 34056** Settlement of Insured Claim

That the Board of Education approve the settlement of the above referenced lawsuit, authorize the Superintendent to sign the Settlement Agreement, and authorize and direct its insurer to issue payment in the amount of \$75,000.

**BF 34057** Phase Gate Approval of the Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building

That the Board of Education approve the Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements (Project # 2070-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$20,488,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

**BF 34058** FY2025 Indoor Air Quality Management Plan

That the Board of Education adopt the IAQ Management Plan by approval of this agenda item.

6. Bids

**BF 34059** Phase Gate Approval of the FY23 Mechanical Replacements at Nokomis Montessori North and Highland Park Senior High School (Project # 0579-23- 01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of Bid No. A25-5009 for the FY23 Mechanical Replacements at Nokomis Montessori North and Highland Park Senior High School (Project # 0579-23-01) to Nasseff Mechanical for a lump sum base bid of \$982,108.

**BF 34059-1** Phase Gate Approval of the Nokomis Montessori Magnet South Playground Replacement (Project # 1220-26-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of playground equipment at Nokomis Montessori Magnet South Playground Replacement project (Project # 1220-26-01) to Flagship Recreation for a lump sum base bid of \$358,580.

7. Change Orders

**ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION**

**BF 34060** Request to Sign the Contract between the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation (Right Track) and SPSS pertaining to the 3M STEP Program

Director Franco noted that he pulled this item for separate consideration because he is employed by the City of Saint Paul with Right Track, and he will be abstaining from this item due to conflict of interest.

**MOTION: Director Ward moved that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the contract with the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation (Right Track) for FY25. Director Valliant seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**FURTHER AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION**

1. Policy Update
  - a. THIRD READING: Budget Policy

Director Ward presented this report. He noted that there were no changes from the second reading, and this policy was submitted to the work group at the beginning of this calendar year, and with the seating of the new board members, and discussions in Policy Work Group, the language was changed to be more workable, and the hope is to bring it forward to provide the community with a clear pathway to shape the spending decisions, and for the Board to present a greater opportunity to represent the community who brought them here.

Director Vue noted that it will be important to have meeting days schedules for the budget process as outlined in the policy, and there should be dedicated time on the calendar, just as the future Regular and

Committee meetings were scheduled earlier in the meeting. Director Ward noted that he is excited to work on that aspect, and to work on the scheduling for next year for the build-up to the next budget adoption in June. He is open to watching the implementation and modifying it as needed, and encouraged his colleagues to monitor it, note anything that was missed, and work to ensure the success of the policy.

Director Henderson shared with the community the next steps. The policy notes a public input session in the fall prior to Winter Break, and while that may not happen this year, there will need to be conversations, and working sessions, which will occur prior to the third full week in January as an opportunity for the Board to come together to advise Administration on what they want to see in the budget options going forward, and will be a public meeting to see the process and work, and note concerns that are directly related to them to the Board.

Director Carrillo echoed Director Ward on the sentiment of the policy, and the ultimate goal is something the community is asking for and has been asking, and he is happy and expecting to see how we enter a new era of communications with the community and in a way that supports staff and maintains the integrity as an organization, and is overall, a good step for us.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

**BF 34061**      THIRD READING: Budget Policy

**MOTION:      Director Henderson moved to approve the proposed policy - Budget Policy. Director Ward seconded the motion.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

2. Resolution Relating To \$59,900,000 General Obligation School Building And Facilities Maintenance Bonds, Series 2024B; Ratifying The Award Of Sale, Prescribing The Form And Details And Providing For The Payment Thereof

Superintendent Thein then introduced Tom Sager, Executive Chief of Financial Services, to present these items. Within the presentation was information on the purpose of the G.O. School Building and Maintenance Bonds, Series 2024B in that the bonds will be used to provide funds for various capital projects and facilities maintenance projects identified by the District, the mechanism, and the authority. The Bid Summary was shared, as well as the Sale Summary, and next steps. Information was also shared on the G.O. School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2024C, including the purpose of a refund the outstanding maturities of Series 2013B and 2015A School Building Bonds to achieve debt service savings, the mechanism, and the authority. The Bid Summary was shared, as well as the Sale Summary, the Savings Detail, and the calendar overview.

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Valliant requested information on the explanation of a bond and how they work. Response: Bonds are like a mortgage on a house, with a par amount and a premium. Information on the interest rates was also noted. Bonds are secure, and if a bond is issued and matures in five years with a 3.7% interest rate, the owner of the bond would receive that interest throughout the life of the bond, and in five years would receive the full amount.
- Director Carrillo requested information on the bond rating and the rating for SPPS in comparison to other districts in the state. Response: The bond rating was through the firm Moody's and was affirmed at AA, which is a very solid rating and does make a difference in interest rates, and for the overall financial structure of the district, every percentage point does make a difference over a 20 year period.

**BF 34062** Resolution Relating To \$59,900,000 General Obligation School Building And Facilities Maintenance Bonds, Series 2024B; Ratifying The Award Of Sale, Prescribing The Form And Details And Providing For The Payment Thereof

**MOTION:** Director Henderson moved to approve the Resolution Relating To \$59,900,000 (fifty-nine million, nine hundred thousand dollars) General Obligation School Building And Facilities Maintenance Bonds, Series 2024B; Ratifying The Award Of Sale, Prescribing The Form And Details And Providing For The Payment Thereof. Director Carrillo seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

3. Resolution Relating To \$13,415,000 General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2024C; Ratifying The Award Of Sale, Prescribing The Form And Details And Providing For The Payment Thereof

**BF 34063** Resolution Relating To \$13,415,000 General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2024C; Ratifying The Award Of Sale, Prescribing The Form And Details And Providing For The Payment Thereof

**MOTION:** Director Henderson moved to approve the Resolution Relating To \$13,415,000 (thirteen million, four hundred and fifteen thousand dollars) General Obligation School Building Refunding Bonds, Series 2024C; Ratifying The Award Of Sale, Prescribing The Form And Details And Providing For The Payment Thereof. Director Valliant seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:** None**10. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS**A. Financial Literacy PreK-12

Superintendent Thein then welcomed Craig Anders, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning and Dr. Charlotte Landreau, Director of the Office of Innovation, to present this report.

The report began with a grounding in Minnesota State Statute 120B.024 which states, “b) Students who begin grade 9 in the 2024-25 school year or later must successfully complete a course for credit in personal finance in grade 10, 11 or 12. A teacher of a personal finance course that satisfies the graduation requirement must have a field license or out-of-field permission in agricultural education, business, family and consumer science, social studies or math.”

Information was then shared on Pre-Kindergarten lessons, including four play-based lessons per school year, as well as activities in PreK. Elementary K-5 lesson information was also shared, as well as information on the fifth grade BizTown activity. In middle school 6-8 financial literacy, information was shared on the mini-units in Foundations, and the grade 8 Finance Park activity and Junior Achievement Finance Park onsite simulation. Details were also shared on the high school 9-2 financial literacy components, current personal finance standards, current personal finance courses, Minnesota statute on unique personal finance course, new course development process for 2023-2025, the new personal finance as a graduation requirement, personal finance curriculum outline, and next steps.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Carrillo noted the community justice in the arena of learning about finance, and how students can connect with this topic in their neighborhoods and the changes that they can make and their individual contribution. Response: That was a theme in the work group, and Ojamba Place and the East Side Housing partners centered how students develop an understanding and their role of developing personal finance in the context of community, and it’s societ-ywide and personal. It was put into the space and theme of student’s critical ethnic studies and their pride in the community, and developing advocacy and connection in their lives and society.
- Director Carrillo also noted the partners and businesses and community organizations to come to the classroom and collaborate with teachers, and a framework for their work in the course development. Staff noted that there are assorted activities where partners are connected, but are not a part of every unit. Teachers sort through the curriculum and plan for next year and the plan for partner organizations, but there is a balance.
- Director Vue requested information on anticipated outcomes of the course. Response: It was noted it was an elective course and when it is broadened to all students, there will be different access to it, including for MLL students, and to be intentional in the course development and materials available to all students. There will also be ongoing teacher support and development, with an excited 12 teacher cohort currently. We need it to be valuable for students and will continue

to build upon the themes and ensure students are benefiting from the information with culture and identity built into the curriculum, and the reasons it is important for them.

- Information on the broad range of licenses of educators was also requested, with support for all teachers and to try the curriculum and scheduling time and with site administration to determine who will teach the courses.
- Director Franco noted questions about the Office of College and Career Readiness and their work in this course, and how we will continue to elevate the work in terms of internships, and the students' futures.
- He also requested details on the considerations of human development into building the course. Administration provided details on the start in elementary school about the identity of the student and themselves as a consumer, and then it builds to identifying different career options, and then builds to being a lifelong learner about the student and their interests and how finances impact their interests. BizTown was discussed and the different roles in the community and impacts on careers, housing, etc. There are also opportunities in the summer for Right Track and other developmentally appropriate opportunities.
- Director Franco also requested information on the best grade to receive this information for young people, and is curious to see the trends that emerge as data is pulled, and also requested information on the assessment of the number of FTEs necessary for this course to be districtwide next year. He also reiterated that he is excited about this work and encouraged thinking about this topic at a local level, with predatory lending in neighborhoods, check cashing, and how to relate it to health as well. He noted research and work of financial empowerment with the City, and the research on framing on wealth justice and building wealth as a community as generational and foundational. He appreciates and looks forward to this work and its progress.
- Director Henderson noted the different cultural practices regarding this topic and how that was considered. Response: That example was discussed in the work group with robust conversation, and students have the right to all information, with options for students and families, and in the curriculum, there is alternative text or activity. The community partners were also helpful in expressing that and with resources to navigate it.
- Director Henderson also requested information on ways in which to incentivize the plan that works for students, as they are signing paperwork and loans and to understand the impact of those decisions. Administration noted that developmental appropriateness, and those choices within the personalized learning plan with counseling curriculum and college and career readiness. It will be important for all students to have access.
- Director Allen noted that she appreciates that this is embedded into the curriculum, especially in early grades, because finances are embedded into all we do, and it will be important to continue to embed them into education. She also noted questions on how to enroll teachers to fill those roles, with communication with all teachers and presenting at Leadership Academy. The other part is supporting them with a robust curriculum with options, and twelve current teachers who are leading and excited about this work. In terms of communicating with students, information is presented in Advisory, and also letting students and families know through schools and principals. In terms of figuring out schedules, especially for those students who may be in music or an immersion program, the students do work with their counselors in January and with scheduling. One of the initiatives is also a districtwide virtual course, which is an asynchronous option. Director Allen noted that it's important that this won't hinder our students from things such as science, math, immersion, other world language skills, and financial literacy should be embedded everywhere.
- Chair Henderson noted that information on loans and such would be best in middle school to understand the cost of college and to have the choice to enroll in PSEO classes to save money on graduating from high school with an associate's degree.
- Intellectual property and understanding information to earn money was also noted.

- Director Valliant noted she is excited it is off to a good start and encouraged the district to continue to find ways to thread it throughout the rest of the school time careers of students, including examples of taxes and ways to connect it to the legislature at the state level and federal level.
- B. Discussion to Move School Board Elections to Even-Numbered Years

Director Henderson and Director Ward introduced this item, including the statement issued by the Board:

On November 5th, voters approved a ballot referendum to shift city elections to Presidential election years. This means that the Saint Paul Mayor and members of the Saint Paul City Council will all be elected together once every four years on even-numbered years beginning in 2028. This resolution did not shift elections for the Saint Paul Board of Education, which elects its members to staggered four year terms in odd-numbered years.

If nothing else changes, the Saint Paul Board of Education will be the only entity elected every odd-numbered year in Saint Paul. This raises some concerns. We expect that voter turnout would be much lower than it has been for School Board elections. Since we will no longer be splitting the administrative costs of the election with the City of Saint Paul, continuing to hold our elections in odd-numbered years may be cost-prohibitive. And it appears as if there is a desire in our community to hold elections in even-numbered years.

They noted the cost comparisons of keeping the school board voting schedule as is, or changing it to align with the City, as well as the options to move to even-year voting, which would require lengthening terms of some board members by one year, or shortening the terms of some board members by one year.

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Vue requested information on the statute that relates to this item, which states that the statute empowers the Board to have an election either in an odd or even year, and a change by resolution. This item will require a resolution and vote to change. The terms of board members will either need to be lengthened by one year or shortened by one year.
- Director Vue also noted that while the Board is not voting on this item tonight and it is informational, the intention is to vote on the resolution to either lengthen or shorten terms at the December Regular Meeting. He suggested that there is not enough information at this point, he encouraged board members to state information that they need to make an informed decision.
- The costs for elections, as well as importance of feedback from community members, were also noted, and importance of the maximum amount of dollars to be spent on community and kids.
- Chief Turner provided an overview on the cost comparisons.
- Director Carrillo noted concerns about the outcome, including in the years served by board members and the effects of this decision on those terms.
- Director Ward noted the pros and cons of the change to even year voting in coordination with the city elections. He believes it makes the most sense to move to even-year voting, because with only the school district races on the ballot, turnout may be low. The fiscal impacts are also a benefit in sharing the costs of the election with the city. He also noted that he would be in favor of lengthening the terms in order to align with even-year voting, because three elections in three years if terms were shortened would be expensive and disruptive, especially at a time when the new superintendent would be onboarding, as well as the adoption of a new governance model and new budget policy.

- Director Vue noted that he believes a vote on the resolution at the upcoming Committee of the Board meeting would be too soon, and would be in favor of it being introduced at the Committee of the Board in December, and then a vote at the Regular Meeting in December.
  - Director Henderson noted it will be important to make a decision soon for those in the community who may be interested in running, as we are receiving questions about it, and it will be important for the community to know the outcome and what to expect. She noted that two resolutions could be presented at the Committee of the Board meeting, and if the Board still does not feel ready to vote on them at that meeting, they could then reassess.
- Director Valliant noted that she would be in favor of extending terms to align with even-year voting and that this change is within the purview of the Board, and will also wait to see the kind of feedback received from community members.
- Director Ward noted that he was hoping to be able to vote on this issue at this meeting, but will wait to see the resolutions and time to consider the language. He will also wait for the December Committee of the Board meeting in order to give community members an opportunity to provide feedback.
- Director Allen noted she would be comfortable with waiting until the Regular Meeting to vote on this item, as it will be important to solicit feedback. She also noted that this is a decision for an additional year of time to be on the Board for some board members. She noted that they may have joined the Board to be committed for four years - not five.
- Director Carrillo noted that he believes this should be presented and voted on at a Regular meeting, as it is fairly consequential to the electorate, and that Committee of the Board meetings are reserved for emergency votes, and a vote at the December Regular Meeting would not be much later than the Committee of the Board meeting and would allow time to hear from community. His inclination is to extend the terms, but will listen to feedback and connect with others.
- There was a question noted about the resolutions and if they will contain the cost breakdowns. Response: That information can be provided, but would not be part of the resolution because it would change every year.
- Director Franco noted that the draft resolution should be presented soon, and suggested a social media post, and video explaining the change, with translations and intentional seeking of feedback.
- Director Valliant noted it will be important to share the costs of elections.
- It was noted to come back to the Committee of the Board in December with information and draft resolutions, as well as next steps.
- Assistant General Counsel Walker noted the state statute and a plan for an orderly transition from odd-year voting to even-year voting.

C. Superintendent Search: BWP Search Process Update

Director Henderson then shared an update on the superintendent search process. On November 18th, there was a task force meeting where members of the community, families, staff, and administration members underwent training on the process, and grounding and overview of the work ahead. It was an opportunity to dig into what it was we are doing and the expectations around the interview process. Our search firm, BWP, also met with board members to prepare for the interview process, which will occur in early December as the first round. There are a lot of moving pieces and the work is continuing, and while she couldn't share too many details, it is an exciting space together and share collaborations with others from different backgrounds, perspectives, and goals to come together to see the important task for thinking of how to find and hire the next leader of the district.

### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Franco added information on the timeline with the first round of interviews to be December 3rd and 4th, and the week of December 16th for the final interviews with the full Board, and finalists presented from the Task Force.
- The meeting scheduled for December 5th will be the presentation of the finalists from the Task Force, and the community is encouraged to view this meeting.
- Director Vue noted that the Board voted to approve a new meeting for the superintendent search on December 5th beginning at 4:30 p.m. and to ensure that the website conveys the same information.
- Director Allen noted a disturbing issue of the search process in that there is a state statute that prohibits the Board from viewing all the applicants who applied to the district. As a board member, she and her colleagues have two jobs - to hire the superintendent and watch and finalize the budget. The Board does not see the pool of applicants to ensure they are hiring the best superintendent. That is concerning, and while there is a search firm and funds for the experts in this work, the statute is concerning with the restriction on how Board hire a superintendent. It's frustrating and doesn't seem fair to choose from only three candidates.
- Director Carrillo echoed Director Allen's concerns and noted that it is to protect the candidates who may be employed by other districts, and their Board may ask "why is SPPS better than our city?" That aspect also frustrated him, and feels that information on the process and statute should be added to the website to describe to our community how we got here, the work of the consultants, the process and parameters, and helpful explanations for those not on the task force on the website to explain the details.
- Director Ward noted it is frustrating, and as soon as the information is presented to the Board, it is public information and could put the candidate's current job at risk. He acknowledges the frustrations are real, but also feels good about the work of the task force and is optimistic about the outcomes.
- The Board also noted an actionable item to this concern and suggested to add it to the legislative agenda as the second largest district in that state.

### **13. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

#### **A. Information Requests/Responses and Items for Future Agendas**

- Director Franco reiterated his request for conversations about staffing in buildings, especially facilities staffing levels, for a sustainable staffing model to maintain the current infrastructure, as well as the future infrastructure changes as noted in the Facilities Master Plan 2.0. He noted that there have been emails from staff and students, as well as families, to ensure we're engaging in conversations about staffing. He noted that with the snow about to fall, the Operations team will need to discuss and update the Board, for an understanding of the plan to maintain safety in buildings, as well as cleanliness.
- He also requested information and an audit on the athletics in SPPS, including current practices, structure, budget, and program offerings, current leadership, current policies and procedures to ensure every young person interested in participating is able to and has an opportunity.
- Director Valliant requested an update on Artificial Intelligence in SPPS, and how students can use it, not use it, benefits, use as a tool, benefits, and dangers.

B. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Carrillo attended the cross-country running event, and was proud to see SPPS represented, and he congratulated the students and coaches for creating a community of excellence.

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 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