

**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

**July 15, 2025
5:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:31 p.m. by Halla Henderson, Chair.

2. ROLL CALL

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

Y. Carrillo was absent.

J. Wikstrom Donaghue, 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 Allen.

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	Absent
Director Franco	Yes

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Kenya Williams</u> | Nicotine Free Generation Resolution |
| 2. <u>Verntrel Covington</u> | Nicotine Free Generation Resolution |
| 3. <u>Peter Hendricks</u> | Audit for FY24 |
| 4. <u>Holly Bleed</u> | Central Gymnastics |
| 5. <u>Stephen Smith</u> | Central Gymnastics |

5. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Director Henderson moved approval of the Order of the Consent Agenda with this item pulled for separate consideration:

- **2-c: Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minneapolis Foundation 4-e: Request for Approval to Create a Cooperative Sponsorship between St. Paul Highland Senior High and St Paul Central High School for Girls Gymnastics**

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	Absent
Director Franco	Yes

7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of June 10, 2025
- B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of June 10, 2025

MOTION: Director Henderson moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of June 10, 2025 and the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of June 10, 2025. 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	Absent
Director Franco	Yes

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of June 17, 2025

At the Committee of the Board Meeting on June 17, 2025, Superintendent Stanley began the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting and providing a high-level overview of the agenda.

The first presentation was the 2025 Residential Study Results. It was noted that the overall atmospherics are good regarding a referendum and there is momentum with support out there that the realization funding is inadequate. Board members also discussed the demographics of parents surveyed and reliance on email since the pandemic, the effects of the different names of this project in regards to community support, questions on the timing of the preliminary tax forecast, adequacy of the sample size, and a request for the

crosstabs of demographics and individual support. Superintendent Stanley noted she was pleasantly surprised at the level of possible support for an operating referendum, and also appreciates that the community is aware of the financial situation of the district. The Board noted we will need to continue to build a reputation in stewardship, transparency, and accountability. This will help our city to understand that we are co-partners in this process.

The next presentation was the Demographic Study, which included presentations on both enrollment trends and figures, as well as population maps within Saint Paul. Discussion from the Board included questions on the construction of housing sites beyond 2030, issues within middle school enrollment, details on residential births and live births, projected enrollment based on the kindergarten capture rate, enrollment rates over the past few years and the work of the Enrollment Committee, questions on ways the data was analyzed and the timing, and further clarification on the data for the population maps.

The next presentation was the SPPS Builds Annual Report and Facilities Master Plan 1.0 Update. The Board requested further details on the earnings after the fiscal year concludes, timeline of Hidden River, impacts to future projects with the contingencies, total value of assets, more details within the monthly construction reports to the Board, and the contingencies included, as well as the rationale for the agenda order and how the items relate and align, and the focus on secondary sites.

Within the Policy Update presentation, three policies were brought forth. The first, Policy 414.00: Tobacco-Free Environment, sparked discussion about situations where a student may unknowingly wear a logo or character associated with tobacco products, and related actions to work with students and families. The partnership with our American Indian Parent Advisory Committee on this policy was also discussed, as well the correlation with the Smudging policy.

The next policy was the review of Policy 408.00: Staff Hiring. The Board requested information on the Unrepresented group as noted in the policy.

The third policy was the review of Policy 413.00: Drug-Free Workplace. It was noted that this policy applies to anything containing THC or cannabinoids. The Board requested details on the hemp-derived materials as noted in the policy draft, and a recommendation to clarify the language around these items so as not to over include, while providing the most precise legal language.

Overall, the Board felt comfortable with moving these three policy updates forward to the three-reading process.

MOTION: Director Ward moved to accept the report on the June 17, 2025 Committee of the Board meeting and approve the recommended motions and minutes of that meeting as published. 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	Absent
Director Franco	Yes

9. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

B. 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 5:00pm)
- 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 Stanley addressed the federal funding freeze that has impacted every school district in the country this month. Of the nearly \$7 Billion dollars that are being withheld nationwide, in St. Paul, we are looking at least \$7.2 Million in Title funds that we budgeted for but have not received. These are real dollars that fund essential programs, including Adult Basic Education, services for English Learners, training for tenure track teachers, and direct student supports. At this time, we are not making any immediate programmatic or staffing changes. We have some funds we can use in the short term to cover this gap, but that is not a long term solution. We do not know if this freeze is permanent, how long it will last, or if we will get all or some of the money that is owed to us. I want to thank Attorney General Ellison and the 24 other states who are fighting to undo this unconstitutional, unlawful and harmful action. I have hope that what is right and lawful will prevail, while directing our team to plan in the event that it does not.

Director Vue requested information about the clarification of the different Title funds. Director Henderson noted that as we continue to monitor this situation and plan for the coverage, there will be continued conversations, and we all share the unease and tension around this reality.

11. AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

1. Consent Agenda

MOTION: Director Henderson moved approval of all items within the consent agenda withholding this item for separate consideration:

- **2-c: Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minneapolis Foundation**

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	Absent
Director Franco	Yes

1. Gifts

BF 34367 Acceptance of all Donations under \$5,000 from April 25th-June 30th, 2025

That the Board of Education approve these donations under \$5,000 from April 25th-June30th, 2025 which are to be used as public purpose and to assist in our fulfillment of public education for Saint Paul Public Schools students.

2. Grants

BF 34368 Request for Permission to Accept Funds from the Ramsey County Department of Public Health Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) Grant Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept funds from the Ramsey County Department of Public Health Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) grant program and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 34369 Request for Permission to Accept Funds from the Saint Cloud State University Confucius Institute Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept funds from the Saint Cloud State Confucius Institute mini-grant program and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

3. Contracts

BF 34370 COBRA and Retiree Direct Billing Services through Inspira Financial

That the Board of Education approve a contract for COBRA and Retiree Direct Billing Services coverage with Inspira Financial, effective August 1, 2025, at the proposed rates

BF 34371 ITB #A233680-RP: Prime Vendor Groceries

That the Board of Education authorize the establishment of ITB #A233680-RP to Cintas for the furnishing and delivery of grocery services for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027, for an estimated value of \$8,000,000 in year one and another \$8,000,000 in year two.

BF 34372 Maximum Hourly Rate Increases for Pre-Qualified Professional Engineers, Technology Consultants and Landscape Architects for Small Projects

That the Board of Education authorize the administration to adjust the terms of professional consulting services in accordance with the Request for Qualifications No. A21-1417-A to incorporate new maximum hourly billing rates per the above table.

BF 34373 Contract Amendment #4 for ATSR for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation (Project # 3081-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of Amendment #4 for ATSR in the amount of \$57,208 for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation project (Project #3081-23-01).

BF 34374 Contract Amendment #1 for H+U Construction for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation (Project # 3210-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of Amendment #1 for H+U Construction in the amount of \$50,000 for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01).

BF 34375 Contract Amendment #6 for Cuningham Group Architects for the Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion Academy Addition & Renovation (Project # 3090-21- 01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of Amendment #6 for Cuningham Group Architects in the amount of \$1,480 for the Jie Ming Mandarin Immersion Academy Addition & Renovation (Project # 3090-21-01).

BF 34376 Contract Amendment #2 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 #2 for Adkins Association in the amount of \$9,650 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 34377 Approval of an Employment Agreement With Cement Mason, Plasterers and Shophands Local 633 to Establish Terms and Conditions of Employment for 2025-28

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment of those employees in this school district for whom Minnesota Cement Masons, Plasterers and Shophands Local 633, is the exclusive representative; duration of said Agreement is for the period of May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2028.

BF 34378 Approval of an Employment Agreement with International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 82/Local 1324 representing Glaziers, to Establish Terms and Conditions of Employment for 2025-2028

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Employment Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment of those employees in this school district for whom the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 82 Local 1324 representing Glaziers, is the exclusive representative; duration of said agreement is for the period of June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2028.

BF 34379 Rescission of Shared Use Agreement for Parking Facilities Between Independent School District 625 and Twin City Friends Meetinghouse

That the Board of Education rescind the shared use agreement for parking facilities between the District and Twin City Friends Meetinghouse.

BF 34380 Land Lease Agreement with The Port Authority of the City of Saint Paul

That the Board of Education authorize the execution of the Land Lease Agreement between the District and The Port Authority of the City of Saint Paul, located at 0 Empire Drive.

5. Administrative Items

BF 34381 Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and electronic transfers for the period May 1, 2025- May 31, 2025

(a) General Account	#785654-786697	\$94,499,454.54
	#0011400-0011437	
	#7005525-7005549	
	#0012734-0012968	
(b) Construction Payments	- 0 -	\$12,465,924.61
(c) Debt Service	- 0 -	<u>\$2,500.00</u>
		\$106,967,879.15

Included in the above disbursements are three payrolls in the amount of \$71,861,635.73 and overtime of \$392,405.72 or 0.55% 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 November 31, 2025

Human Resources Transactions

BF 34382 Transactions for June 1 – June 30, 2025

BF 34383 Saint Paul Public Schools 2024-25 Wellness Policy Annual Report

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept this report and continue to support wellness promotion to Saint Paul Public Schools students, staff, and families through physical activity, healthy eating, and mental well-being.

BF 34384 Approval of the Employment Agreement for the Senior Executive Academic Officer

That the Board of Education approve the employment agreement with the Senior Executive Academic Officer effective July 15, 2025.

BF 34385 Phase Gate Approval of the 740 York RTU Replacement and Re-Roof (Project # 1140-25-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the 740 York RTU Replacement and Re-Roof (Project # 1140-25-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$5,048,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

BF 34386 Project Budget Modification Request and Finance Plan Update for the Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation (Project # 3210-23-01)

That the Board of Education approve the budget modification to Barack and Michelle Obama School Addition and Renovation project (Project #3210-23-01).

BF 34387 Project Budget Modification Request and Finance Plan Update for the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project (Project #3081-23-01)

That the Board of Education approve the budget modification to the Highland Park Middle School Entry Addition and Renovation Project (Project #3081-23-01).

6. Bids

BF 34388 Phase Gate Approval of the FY26 Fire Safety Program at Highland Park Senior High School, Wilson, and 1780 West 7th (Project # 0652-26-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of the fire alarm system replacement at Wilson (former LEAP) for the FY26 Fire Safety Program at Highland Park Senior High School, Wilson, and 1780 West 7th (Project # 0652-26-01) to Egan for a lump sum base bid of \$559,980.

BF 34389 Phase Gate Approval of the FY26 Fire Safety Program at Highland Park Senior High School, Wilson, and 1780 West 7th (Project # 0652-26-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of the fire alarm system replacement at Highland Park Senior High School for the FY26 Fire Safety Program at Highland Park Senior High School, Wilson, and 1780 West 7th (Project # 0652-26-01) to Egan for a lump sum base bid of \$740,810.

7. Change Orders

ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

BF 34390 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minneapolis Foundation

Director Franco noted he pulled this item because it lists his employer, the City of Saint Paul Right Track program as a partner in this grant submission, and he pulled it due to a conflict of interest.

MOTION: Director Henderson moved that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Minneapolis Foundation; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents. 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	Absent
Director Franco	Abstain

FURTHER AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

A. Resolution Relating to Determining the Necessity of Approving a New Referendum Revenue Authorization and Calling a Special Election Thereon

Superintendent Stanley presented this information and resolution. Included in the presentation was information on our commitment, our community, and our challenge. Details were also provided on the basic formula allowance trends and operating referendum comparison. Information was also shared about if voters approve the levy, and if voters do not approve the levy and the actions related to each. The Board requested action is:

The Administration recommends the SPPS Board of Education approves placing a voter-approved referendum on the Nov. 4, 2025, ballot to:

- Increase our operating levy by \$1,073 per student, per year
- If approved by voters, this would generate approximately \$37.2 million per year in additional revenue
- This levy would extend for 10 years with annual inflation increases
- The estimated tax impact on the average homeowner (\$289,200 value home) would be approximately \$26 per month or \$309 per year

Included within the resolution was the ballot language:

School District Question

Approval of New School District Referendum Revenue Authorization

The board of Independent School District No. 625 (Saint Paul), Minnesota has proposed to increase the School District's general education revenue by \$1,073 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The proposed new referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2025 for taxes payable in 2026 and applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

YES

NO

Shall the new referendum revenue authorization proposed by the board of Independent School District No. 625 (Saint Paul), Minnesota be approved?

BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The full presentation and resolution can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Franco noted the discussions on this topic and the unique situation to think about the quality of education that our students receive and the tax burden on the community. We are seeing bright spots in SPPS, and a lot of great folks, including Dr. Stanley, and there is a real momentum to continue. We cannot continue to cut our way to better outcomes for students, and he believed that the additional \$37M per year can help us to get there, and in support of the great work of SPPS and he looks forward to the work we can do together.
- Director Vue requested information at the arrival of asking for this specific amount. Response: We looked at the comparison cohort of other districts and their averages. We also looked at the anticipatory shortfall for FY27, which is how we arrived at the \$37.2, which is also the difference in FY26-27.
- Director Henderson requested information about the naming of the referendum with operating levy versus capital projects levy. Response: Both questions were tested in the community survey, and we saw the community supported an operating levy substantially over a capital projects levy – it was about 60% of those surveyed supported a projects levy, and 67% supported an operating levy.
- Director Henderson also noted that the tone and tenor around this topic has changes, and acknowledged that taxpayers in Saint Paul are often burdened with lifting the monetary resources for the City and County, who also have an obligation to our students to provide the best education possible. She is cautiously optimistic that we will be able to continue with our mission and work to partner with our allies at the Capitol. This is still a burden and doesn't solve every dilemma, and it doesn't solve the tension and fear we are feeling and moving to the reality with the federal dollars, and we need to pass this objective and continue to think about ways to better utilize dollars we have, and advocate and push for support from our state partners as well.
- Director Valliant requested details about the official newspaper. Response: The official newspaper of the district is the Legal Ledger, and that is approved as the official newspaper annually at the Annual Meeting in January.
- A board member also requested where community members can learn more. Response: If the Board approves this item, a website will be live at www.spps.org/vote with information on the referendum, voting information, a tax-impact calculator, early-voting information, etc.

- Director Franco also requested information on the ballot language, and to be included in the reading of the resolution motion.

BF 34391 Resolution Relating to Determining the Necessity of Approving a New Referendum Revenue Authorization and Calling a Special Election Thereon

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to approve the Resolution Relating to Determining the Necessity of Approving a New Referendum Revenue Authorization and Calling a Special Election Thereon, which includes the following:

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board (the Board) of Independent School District No. 625 (Saint Paul), Minnesota (the School District) as follows:

It is hereby found, determined and declared as follows:

1. The Board has investigated the facts and does hereby find, determine and declare that it is necessary and expedient to increase the School District’s general education revenue by \$1,073 per pupil, subject to an annual increase at the rate of inflation. The proposed new referendum revenue authorization would be first levied in 2025 for taxes payable in 2026 and applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.
2. The question on the approval of the new referendum revenue authorization of the School District shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the School District at a special election, which is hereby called and directed to be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

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	Absent
Director Franco	Yes

- B. Resolution to approve the District's FY27 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan Documentation for Submission to the Minnesota Department of Education and Stating the Official Intent to Proceed with and Authorizing the Issuance of not to exceed \$25,900,000 General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds, and not to exceed \$15,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds for the Purposes of the Betterment of Facilities within SPPSY27 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance and Related Financing Plan
 - a. FY27 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) Revenue Program Submittal To Minnesota Department Of Education (MDE) And Resolution Stating Official Intent To Proceed With And Authorizing The Issuance Of Not To Exceed \$25,900,000 General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds, And Not To Exceed \$15,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds
 - b. FY27 Long Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) Ten-Year Revenue Projection
 - c. Long-Term Facility Maintenance Ten-Year Expenditure Application (LTFM)
 - d. Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Application for Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Revenue Statement of Assurances

- e. FY 2026 & FY 2027 Financing Plan
- f. Resolution Stating Official Intent To Proceed With And Authorizing The Issuance Of Not To Exceed \$25,900,000 General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds, And Not To Exceed \$15,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds; Declaring Official Intent To Comply With Reimbursement Bond Regulations Under The Internal Revenue Code Of 1986; And Authorizing The Superintendent, Executive Chief Of Financial Services Or Executive Chief Of Administration And Operations To Award The Sale Thereof And To Take Such Action And Execute All Documents Necessary To Accomplish Said Award And Sale

Chief Sager reviewed this item, and noted, that:

- The Resolution authorizes the required financing to support the 5 year SPPS Builds Facilities plan through FY 2027. As part of this plan, the District intends to issue \$25.9 million in General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds, and \$15 million in General Obligation school building bonds
- Minnesota Statute 123B.595 requires the District to submit annually a ten-year LTFM facility plan outlining anticipated revenues and expenditures along with an indication of whether the District will issue bonds to finance the plan or levy for the costs. Documents required to be submitted to MDE include:
 - A summary of total planned expenditures by category for each of the next 10 years;
 - 10 year LTFM expenditure and revenue projection spreadsheets;
 - A statement of assurances that the District has reviewed the allowable uses of LTFM revenue to be executed by the Superintendent;
 - A Board resolution adopting the LTFM ten-year expenditure plan, and intent to issue bonds for purposes of financing facility projects.
- This current bonding issuance is one part of a broader financing structure to sustain the SPPS Builds Master Plan. The financing structure to support these construction and maintenance plans will be presented tonight by the District's Municipal Advisors from PMA Securities.

Michael Hart, V and Managing Director from PMA Securities, also provided information on the FY26 and FY27 Financing Plan.

The full presentation, as well as financial statements and resolution can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Franco requested information about the factors of real estate in this item, and the burden on individual homeowners. Response: This trend is not unique to Saint Paul, but the property tax system makes value judgments based on the school district levy, and commercial and apartment properties are declining in value, and it is the job of the assessor to do the best they can in estimating a value for the property based on what it would sell for in the open market. The median value of a home is \$289,000, and those values continue to increase. It's complicated system of the ways in which the dollars are split amongst the different property types. Director Franco appreciated the explanation and noted that factors exist that we may be less control of, and still impact the nut burden on individual homeowners, and we try to mitigate that as much as possible.
- Director Franco requested if the 5.5% was the same as previous years and the bonds interest rate details. Response: The resolution before the Board identifies the Superintendent, Executive Chief of Finance, or the Executive Chief of Operations and Administration to empower them to execute the bond sales and documents to not exceed 5.5%. The 5.5% is the ceiling, not the starting point.

The Board also requested details on how the figures may change based on 4.5%, with this resolution as a parameters resolution with the cap or ceiling.

BF 34392 Resolution to approve the District's FY27 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan Documentation for Submission to the Minnesota Department of Education and Stating the Official Intent to Proceed with and Authorizing the Issuance of not to exceed \$25,900,000 General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds, and not to exceed \$15,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds for the Purposes of the Betterment of Facilities within SPPSY27 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance and Related Financing Plan

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to approve the Resolution authorizing the FY27 Long-Term Facilities Maintenance Plan documentation for submission to the Minnesota Department of Education and the intent to issue General Obligation bonds as described, with the: Resolution Stating Official Intent To Proceed With And Authorizing The Issuance Of Not To Exceed \$25,900,000 General Obligation Facilities Maintenance Bonds, And Not To Exceed \$15,000,000 General Obligation School Building Bonds; Declaring Official Intent To Comply With Reimbursement Bond Regulations Under The Internal Revenue Code Of 1986; And Authorizing The Superintendent, Executive Chief Of Financial Services Or Executive Chief Of Administration And Operations To Award The Sale Thereof And To Take Such Action And Execute All Documents Necessary To Accomplish Said Award And Sale. 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	Absent
Director Franco	Yes

C. Facilities Five Year Plan and Facilities Master Plan 2.0

Chief Turner, Kathy Wallace, Interim Director of Facilities, and Jonathan Pettigrew, Manager of Facility Planning, presented this report.

The agenda included a SPPS Builds: Five Year Facilities Plan FY26-30 and the Facilities Master Plan renewal for 2026-2035 (FMP 2.0).

Included in the presentation was a timeline to show the facilities and strategic plan alignment.

Within the SPPS Builds: Facilities 5 Year Implementation Plan portion of the presentation, the purpose of SPPS Builds was reviewed, including project types, a highlight of American Indian Magnet School, athletic improvements, highlights of Obama Montessori and Middle School, Bruce Vento, Highland Park Middle, Hidden River Middle, and other ongoing projects. There was also a review of the SPPS Builds BOE gate checks. Within the five-year plan for Fy26-30, there are 164 projects in the FY26-30 plan, and includes major renovation projects, major infrastructure projects, targeted capital improvements, and asset/infrastructure preservation programs. Recommendations and timeline were reviewed for each of these categories. Green energy and sustainability were also discussed, as well as recommendations for major sustainability projects.

The Board action to approve the five year plan was voted on, with the adoption of the proposed 2026-30 Five Year Plan resolution (plan renewed annually), with Gate Check 1 establishes projects, with the Board affirming they meet prioritization criteria and strategically align with District's needs (Scope not finalized, so no budgetary guidelines are established).

Within the Facilities Master Plan Renewal: FMP 2.0 – Update portion of the presentation, the FMP 2.0 planning purpose statement was noted, as well as the guiding framework, workgroups, and focus groups. The initial highlights of workgroup findings were also presented/ The FMP 2.0 planning process timeline was also discussed.

The full presentation and SPPS Builds FY26-30 plan document can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Ward thanked the team for their work on buildings, which look beautiful, and it's exciting to see the updates happening. He also requested further information on solar panels on current buildings in SPPS. Response: Currently, Battle Creek Elementary has solar panels, and that building is due for a new roof next year, and we will be looking to re-install the array.
- The Board requested further information about solar on school buildings. There are a few factors – including existing building structure, capacity, and other criteria. An initial feasibility study in 2019 showed about 25 sites that could hold solar arrays, which included information about buildings that were re-roofed recently and structural factors. We are due for an update and more holistic look at it – in some of the at-risk federal incentives, there were provisions that allowed for the cost of engineering and structural reinforcement to allow support of solar systems to receive incentive funding. There are up to 25 buildings that could potentially have solar, but could include more. As much as possible, we do look at the feasibility in the re-roofing process and provisions for good candidates.
- What determines a good candidate for geothermal? Response: It is the availability of a reasonable site, and technical studies, including the Darcy system for groundwater and a closed loop through the aquifer to exchange heat with less square footage. We do intend to evaluate the Farnsworth project as a potential candidate for a geothermal exchange system.
- To the federal funding and the uncertainty, what are the contingencies? Is it a complete pause? Response: Initially, it means there will be a slower roll-out if we need to maintain the portion of state funding for solar, and may need to contribute more if the federal incentives aren't there, so the roll-out will be slower, and the payback will be longer.
- Director Allen requested information about the delays at Hidden River. Response: It was related to the way concrete was poured in in the upper floors in 192, and there were different tools and practices then, including "honeycombing" where the concrete is not well-vibrated into the forms and air pockets are removed as part of the reconstruction and figuration of the school. There was unexpected weakness in the design structure and additional time to install the fixes.
- She also noted questions about the work for inclusive bathrooms and bathroom fixtures for Muslim students, and the importance of these for students.
- Director Franco requested information about the roofing and solar on sites such as Como and Humboldt, and the long-term strategy of deciding not to do roofs them and to continue the disruptions for multiple projects over multiple years. For Como, the roof was not included as part of the major renovation. The decision for this was largely due to trying to spread the limited funds around the district as equitably as possible, and the roofs did have another 8-10 years, which is a significant value. It's the importance of the Facilities team and PMA to meet often and discuss –

there are resources through LTFM and Certificates of Participation and capital bonds, which all have very different rules and guidelines on how to use those funds, and it is a delicate balance and strategic. Director Franco appreciated this response and noted this is another way we are good financial stewards of the district and public dollars.

- Director Franco noted that as a board member, he hears from community members and folks in buildings that when timelines are adjusted, especially with 164 projects over 5 years, that it's difficult for them to manage the communication. Response: This plan does incorporate flexibility, and there is documentation at the end of the site pages with a tabulation of changes from the previous five-year plan, and a basic explanation for the shift.
- With the sunset of FMP 1.0 – to what extent did we accomplish what we set out to do, how did we meet expectations, and what did we learn to take into FMP 2.0? Response: We did accomplish FMP 1.0, and we learned of the incredible work and collaboration with Finance and Facilities to align with the budget, and will take these learnings into the upcoming FMP process. The decrease in contingencies will overall help the tax burden, and we anticipate \$8M to be gained in this learning. Secondly, the importance of being transparent and regular work updates to the Board overall in the oversight, including regular monthly updates on each project, tracking, and the project money and project itself is on track, as well as posting this information on the website for the visibility to the work and projects and where resources are being spent. Third, we learned from the FMP gate point checks, and the Board and Superintendent to provide oversight and more visibility and accountability to the Facilities team, with the Board approving each step of the plan before moving onto the next phase. We also learned to be realistic with projects, and to pace ourselves.
- Director Vue also requested details on the dashed squares in the presentation and the preliminary design phases.
- Director Vue requested information on the Txuj Ci project. Response: The schedule that was shared with the school families and community showed the number of activities before the design phase, and the completion of the master plan for framework to fit within and the FMP 2.0 to guide that project. It was also noted fiscal years in the plan.
- Director Vue also asked how the FMP 2.0 will align with the shaping of the Superintendent's strategic plan. It will be a triple track agenda, and the FMP 2.0 will move forward without a current strategic plan, and will begin shortly after the referendum, work around the strategic plan, which will be running at the same time and a new vision for moving forward with engagement from the community.

BF 34393 SPPS Builds: FY26-30

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to approve the adoption of the proposed 2026-2030 Five Year Plan resolution. 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	Absent
Director Franco	Yes

10. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

A. Executive Audit Summary Presentation for Saint Paul Public Schools

Staff from CLA then presented this update. Included in the presentation were details on required communications, audit results, financial results, and key issues/summary.

The audit results for the year ended 6/30/2024 are:

- Unmodified (Clean) Opinion
- Single Audit Items
 - Child Nutrition Program
 - Differences in meal reports and claims for CLICS noted. Net of 18 meals not claimed that could have been based on reports.
 - Education Stabilization Fund
 - None
 - Special Education
 - Procurement issues with 2 of the 3 contracts tested where items were not properly documented

(Overall, 2 items thus far compared to 7 in the Prior Year)

- Minnesota Legal Compliance
 - 3 of 22 items tested were not paid within 35 days.
 - Annual delegation of authority and related policy for electronic fund transfers.
 - 2 items compared to 5 in for the 2023 audit for legal compliance.
- Internal Control Over Financial Reporting
 - Material Weakness
 - SPPS has not been performing timely monthly cash reconciliations to the general ledger causing delay of the audit for FY24 and material adjustments to cash after the audit commenced.

CLA didn't note any instances of the District not complying with laws and regulations in accordance with yellow book auditing standards.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- This is an update to the progress of the ongoing FY24 audit? Response: Yes.
- When is the anticipated completion date? Response: We have been in contact with the auditors, and they are drafting the financial statements, so we anticipate in August.
- To the superintendent, what are your expectations to be back on track, and the vision for moving forward? Response: We will be meeting with the auditors and look forward to being back on track. There was a change in staffing and COVID, which are reasons, not excuses. We will be submitting the FY25 audit on time.
- Director Franco requested further details on the timeline of the audit. Response: The auditors have everything they need from the district and there will be a review in the audit areas and processes which we expect to be completed around the middle of August. There is also a plan in place for the FY25 audit with dates to the Finance team.
- Director Franco requested information on the process and discussion of the final results of the audit. Response: It will be a similar presentation to last year with an update on the highlights and changes, as well as trends. Typically, with audits of the school district, it is brought to the Board,

and a board action item to review and a formal approval process with an acknowledgment that it was received and accepted with the information provided.

- Director Franco noted the cash reconciliation reports as discussed in the presentation. What is the action plan for correcting areas such as this? Response: We work closely with the auditors who provide input and observation to make processes better. Our team has met and discussed a plan with three parts – staffing, prioritization on a monthly basis, and leveraging internal school finance systems more efficiently.
- Director Franco noted that in the final report, he would like to request information in addition to the insight to the timeline and process for when submissions occurred, awareness of the tracking and monitoring, and addition of the action for correcting the material deficiencies.
- Director Henderson requested information on how we are adjusting the process so that we don't have the timeline lag occur again. Response: In July we will begin the FY25 audit shortly and anticipate having stable staffing. There were a couple of areas that did have challenges, and we are looking to reconcile them so that we are back on track.

B. Policy Update

a. FIRST READING: Policy 408.00 – Staff Hiring

Pat Pratt-Cook, Executive Chief of Human Resources, presented this proposed update. The proposed changes include a transition to a new policy format, the general statement of policy, definitions, prohibition and exceptions, enforcement, and legal references.

The full presentation, and draft of the proposed updates, can be found in the BoardBook

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION: None

b. FIRST READING: Policy 413.00 – Drug-Free Workplace

Pat Pratt-Cook, Executive Chief of Human Resources, presented this proposed update. The policy changes were reviewed, including the transition to the new policy format, the policy purpose statement of “The purpose of this policy is to health and well-being of employees, students, and visitors by prohibiting the use of alcohol, toxic substances, medical cannabis, nonintoxicating cannabinoids, edible cannabinoid products, and controlled substances without a physician’s prescription” to align with statutory language, definitions, exceptions, and legal references.

The full presentation, and draft of the proposed updates, can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Allen noted questions about the controlled substances without a prescription and medical cannabis. She noted concerns about certain drugs that are opioid-based prescriptions, and can also be dangerous under the influence of them, and why one controlled substance is okay, but another is not. General Counsel also noted the conflict of the state law versus federal law regarding medical cannabis. The group will come back together to discuss to ensure staff are not penalized for accessing healthcare, while still ensuring we are maintaining licensing standards with employees.

c. FIRST READING: Policy 414.00 - Tobacco-Free Environment

Pat Pratt-Cook, Executive Chief of Human Resources, presented this proposed update. The proposed changes include a transition to a new policy format, the general statement of policy, definitions, prohibition and exceptions, enforcement, and legal references.

The full presentation, and draft of the proposed updates, can be found in the BoardBook

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Allen requested information on the use of vape-detection and facial recognition technology in SPPS. Response: We are aware of this technology, and there is no plan for SPPS to use this at this time.
- Director Allen also thanked the team for education around vaping, which is a major issue to address and she hopes there's a way to share information and education with parents to ensure they are not allowing children to vape in school.

13. BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. Information Requests/Responses and Items for Future Agendas

- Director Franco requested information on the role of Parent Advisory Councils (PACs), and how their role has shifted or changed.
- Director Allen requested information on professional development over the summer and feedback.

B. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Franco provided an update on the work of the SEAB Work Group, including the past history of work with YLI and the current work of looking into the next school year, and moving forward with a facilitator/coordinator position, and more intentionality with student leadership and advising in this process. Director Henderson echoed these thoughts, and is excited that the Board sees student leadership as a necessity.

14. ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

14. WORK SESSION

The work session was called to order at 9:02 p.m. by Halla Henderson, Chair.

Those in attendance were Director Henderson, Director Ward, Director Allen, Director Franco, Director Vue, Superintendent Stanley, J. Wickstrom Donoghue, T. Sager, E. Wacker, P. Pratt-Cook, S. Gray Akyea, J. Turner, A. Collins, M. Wall, and S. Dahlke.

The Board and Administration then reviewed District Relations Goals for Board Initiated Goals Governance (B.I.G.G.)

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

The work session adjourned at 10:21 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