

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

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PAY26 LEVY**

December 2, 2025

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Director Vue, Director Carrillo, Director Franco, Director Valliant, Director Henderson

Director Ward and Director Allen were absent.

Superintendent Stanley

K. Bergstrom, General Counsel; and S. Dahlke, Assistant Clerk

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

MOTION: Director Henderson moved the Board approve the Order of the Main Agenda as published. The motion was seconded by Director Franco.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Pay26 Levy: Presentation of Proposal

Superintendent Stanley then welcomed Tom Sager, Executive Chief of Financial Services, to provide the presentation on the Pay26 Levy Information. The basics of school levy authority were reviewed, including:

- School levy authority is established in law
- The proposed school levy funds the 2026-27 school year. The FY27 budget will be adopted in June 2026.
- Most districts certify what Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) authorizes in September
- Levies contribute to approximately 20% to 25% of SPPS budget
- School districts are required to include budget information in the Truth in Taxation meeting

The next slides in the presentation included details on All Funds: Revenue by Source, as well as All Funds: Expenditure by Fund. The 2025-2026 General Fund Revenue Sources of \$731,543,107 were also reviewed, as well as the 2025-2026 General Fund Expenditures of \$767,046,514. Graphs were shown for each depicting the specifics in the overall budget.

Information was also presented on the determination of property tax, including the state legislature, taxing jurisdictions, and the county assessor. Major factors impacting property taxes were also reviewed, as well as major levy categories. Factors impacting school levies were also reviewed.

A levy recap showed the levy category, certified Pay25 levy, SPPS proposed Pay26 levy, and the difference. The percent change is 14.89%.

The key drivers of the Pay26 SPPS levy were also reviewed, and included:

- Slightly higher enrollment count compared to what was used last year
- November Voter Approved Referendum
- Employee Pension (OPEB) Adjustments
- Continued investment in SPPS Builds initiative as outlined and Board approved in July 2025

Information on the Before and After Voter Approved Referendum impacts were also highlighted, and included:

- Preliminary Pay 26 levy certification showed a total levy decrease of 1.98 percent.
- During referendum communication, the property taxes for a median valued home in Saint Paul was estimated to increase by \$309/year.
- The actual increase on a median valued home's taxes will be \$291/year
- Over 65 percent of voters supported this referendum.

The estimated annual property tax impacts to both homes, as well as commercial/industrial, based on increases in market value were also shown. Estimated Pay26 total school taxes for residential homestead were also shown. Details on the SPPS' five-year trend for annual property tax levy were also shared, including that prior to the successful referendum vote, in the past five levy cycles, the SPPS total levy has increased on average 3.5 percent per year and that the Consumer Price Index (Inflation) for this same period has averaged 4.9 percent per year. The total property taxes per student with comparisons to other nearby districts was shown. The property taxes as a percent of total budget with comparisons with other nearby districts was also shown. The property taxes as a percent of the General Fund with a comparison to other nearby districts was also highlighted. The debt service tax revenue per student with comparisons to other nearby districts was presented.

Details on the child tax credit were also presented, as well as the residential property tax refund information.

Finally, the Pay26 Levy Calendar was also reviewed, with the certification of the Pay26 levy by the Board of Education to be voted on at the December 16, 2025 Regular Meeting, followed by the certification of the Pay26 levy to Ramsey County by December 30, 2025.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION: None

5. PUBLIC HEARING

- James Keelkoff
- Greg Bleese

6. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Director Henderson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Director Franco.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 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