

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

January 20, 2026  
5:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by Uriah Ward, Chair.

**2. ROLL CALL**

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

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

**3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA**

**MOTION: Director Ward moved approval of the order of the main agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Allen.**

Director Vue then requested a motion to amend the order of the main agenda, and requested an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) Update in terms of the school preparedness and readiness, and the plans for the building leads if I.C.E. were to enter school grounds. Director Ward suggested that it be added to the Superintendent's Report. Director Vue noted that this is an important standalone item, and it should be included as a separate item. Director Vue also noted that it could be included as the first item within Informational Agenda Items. Director Ward noted the motion to add a report on I.C.E. and the District's response to I.C.E. enforcement to take place of 11-A, and moving all further items down one place.

**MOTION: Director Vue moved approval of the amendment to the order of the agenda – which includes the addition of a report on Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the District's response to be added within Informational Agenda Items, and take the place of 11-A, therefore moving all further items down one place on the agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Carrillo.**

Director Franco noted that while it will be added to the agenda, there are items that we may not be able to share. He is supportive of the discussion and update, and as a reminder to the community, there may be some confidential details. Director Ward noted that a presentation is not prepared, but a discussion that has been top of mind for many, and will not look like a typical presentation.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**MOTION:** Director Ward moved to approve the agenda as amended. The motion was seconded by Director Vue.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**5. RECOGNITIONS**

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- |                           |                                    |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. <u>Alli Kildahl</u>    | I.C.E. Response                    |
| 2. <u>Erin Steffes</u>    | SPFE Immigration Defense Committee |
| 3. <u>Sandy Velazquez</u> | LCD PAC Immigration Concerns       |
| 4. <u>Nallely Castro</u>  | LCD PAC Immigration Concerns       |

**6. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

**7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

- A. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of December 18, 2025
- B. Minutes of the Special Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of December 18, 2025
- C. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of December 30, 2025

- D. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Education of January 6, 2026
- E. Minutes of the Special Emergency Meeting of January 14, 2026

**MOTION: Director Ward moved approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of December 18, 2025; Minutes of the Special Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of December 18, 2025; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of December 30, 2025; Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Education of January 6, 2026; and Minutes of the Special Emergency Meeting of January 14, 2026. The motion was seconded by Director Carrillo.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

## 8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of January 6, 2026

Topics at the January 6, 2026 Committee of the Board meeting included:

- SPPS Athletics Update
- Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Update
- Policy Update For:
  - Policy 701.00 - Investment and Banking
  - Rescissions of Policy 703.00 - Annuities & Policy 705.00 – Investments
  - Policy 706.00 - Grants and Gift
- Resolution Establishing Process for Filling Board Vacancy

Full minutes of the Committee of the Board meeting can be found in the BoardBook, on the Board of Education website, or the full audio can be found online.

**MOTION: Director Ward moved to accept the report on the January 6, 2026 Committee of the Board meeting and approve the recommended motions and minutes of that meeting as published. The motion was seconded by Director Allen.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

## 9. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

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

- January 6, 2026 (Annual Organizational Meeting at 4:00pm)
- January 20, 2026
- February 17, 2026
- March 17, 2026
- April 21, 2026
- May 19, 2026
- June 9, 2026 (Special re: Non-Renewals at 4:00pm)
- June 23, 2026
- July 14, 2026
- August 18, 2026
- September 22, 2026
- October 20, 2026
- November 17, 2026
- December 1, 2026 (Truth in Taxation Hearing at 6pm)
- December 15, 2026

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

- January 6, 2026
- February 4, 2026 – Wednesday (Precinct Caucus)
- March 3, 2026
- April 14, 2026
- May 5, 2026
- June 9, 2026
- August 5, 2026 – Wednesday (Primary Election)
- September 1, 2026
- October 6, 2026
- November 4, 2026 – Wednesday (Election Day)
- December 1, 2026

**10. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Superintendent Stanley noted that this is a very tough time for our community, and provided updates within a few areas. The first was the Optional Temporary Virtual Learning Plan for families who would prefer to learn from home for a short-period of time. Thousands of students were registered by the Sunday deadline, indicating a significant need in the community for this safety measure. Academic and operations teams worked through the weekend to implement this plan. Teachers and support staff are currently in buildings receiving guidance. Students (both in-person and virtual) are scheduled to return to instruction on Thursday, January 22, 2026. A Memorandum of Agreement was signed with the teachers' union (SPFE) to ensure synchronous learning options are available. She thanked SPFE, as well as our community partners to support our students in technology resources, including hotspots, as well as temporary food assistance. Regarding the timeline, there is currently no set date for the optional virtual program to end. The program will end only when families feel safe dropping their children off and students feel safe

journeying to and from school. The plan will be reviewed weekly. She thanked the community, the Board, the staff, SPFE, and other union representatives for their collaboration in these efforts.

She noted that she will hold her remarks regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) and the District's response until later in the meeting, but acknowledged the pain and suffering within our community.

She also noted that Governor Walz has proclaimed January 19-25 as Paraprofessional Recognition Week. There are over 20,000 paraprofessionals in Minnesota. They are credited with being integral to student achievement and, crucially, the social and emotional well-being of students during these tough times. The support and services provided by paraprofessionals are integral to our student achievement. Their dedication supports safe, effective, and engaging learning, and they provide safe and effective and engaging learning environments each and every day. She encouraged the community to personally thank paraprofessionals for making students feel welcome and safe.

Director Ward noted thanks to the Senior Executive Leadership Team and SPFE in their work together on a M.O.U., and thanked the Superintendent for responding to the community's concerns. He also thanked SPFE for their focus on working through the concerns, and is grateful for their partnership. He also thanked Director Valliant and Director Franco for being present in those meetings.

Director Vue noted questions on at what point the entire school would go to virtual learning, depending on the demographics. Superintendent Stanley noted that currently some schools are at 30%, while other have very few students enrolled. We will continue to watch the enrollment. It would need to be 80-90% before moving to a full online option. SPPS Online school is also an option. We want to be able to keep our students, especially those in immersion programs, to be immersed in the language that they're learning and we know that is important.

Director Allen thanked the community who has continued to show up for our students, and to the paraprofessionals for their work in the buildings.

## **11. AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION**

### **1. Consent Agenda**

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

### **1. Gifts**

**BF 34547** Highland Park Senior High Gift Acceptance of \$15,000.00

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the donation of \$15,000.00 from Scott Milburn for continued band, woodshop and library needs and that the Superintendent send a letter of appreciation to Scott Milburn.

**BF 34548** PTA Donation of China Sprout Graded Reading Books

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the donation of China Sprout graded reading books from the Jie Ming PTA.

**BF 34549** Acceptance of Gift from Ecolab to Riverview Spanish/English Dual Immersion School

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the donation of \$5,000.00 from Ecolab for the 5th grade retreat, community building, and subsidization of field trip expenses.

2. Grants

**BF 34550** Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Local Climate Action Grant Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Local Climate Action grant program; to accept funds; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

3. Contracts

**BF 34551** Transportation Department Yellow School Bus FY 26 Purchases/Contracts over \$175,000

That the Board of Education authorize the purchase order/contract listed for the Transportation Department anticipated to be over \$175,000 in total.

4. Agreements

**BF 34552** Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625, Saint Paul Public Schools, and the Association of Supervisory and Administrative Personnel, Exclusive Representative for Supervisory Employees.

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 supervisory employees represented by the Association of Supervisory and Administrative Personnel for the duration of this agreement for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027.

**BF 34553** Request to Sign Student Teaching Agreement with Western Governors University

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Student Teaching Agreement between Saint Paul Public Schools and Western Governors University.

5. Administrative Items

**BF 34554** Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and electronic transfers for the period November 1, 2025- November 30, 2025.

### **Human Resources Transactions**

**BF 34555** Transactions for December 1 – December 31, 2025

**BF 34556** Phase Gate Approval of the Como Park Elementary Pool AHU Replacement (Project # 4090-25-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the Como Park Elementary Pool AHU Replacement (Project # 4090-25-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$835,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

**BF 34557** Phase Gate Approval of the Washington Technology Cooling Tower Replacement (Project # 4040-26-02): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the Washington Technology Cooling Tower Replacement (Project # 4040-26-02) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$563,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

**BF 34558** Phase Gate Approval of the Washington Technology Magnet Pool Piping Replacement (Project # 4040-25-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the Washington Technology Magnet Pool Piping Replacement (Project # 4040-25-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$524,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

**BF 34559** Phase Gate Approval of the Wellstone Elementary Playground Replacement (Project # 4260-26-01): Gate #3 – Project Budget

That the Board of Education approve the Wellstone Elementary Playground Replacement (Project # 4260-26-01) at Phase Gate Check #3 – Project Budget; setting the final project budget at \$763,000 and indicating direction to proceed with construction bidding.

**BF 34560** Phase Gate Approval of Hidden River Middle School Renovation and Addition (Project # 3140-20-02): Gate #5.1 – Project Close-out

That the Board of Education accept this report provided for Hidden River Middle School Renovation and Addition (Project # 3140-20-02) at Phase Gate Check #5.1 – Project Close-out.

**BF 34561** Phase Gate Approval of Print Copy Mail Center AHU Replacement (Project # 4000-23-02): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for Print Copy Mail Center AHU Replacement (Project # 4000-23-02) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

**BF 34562** Phase Gate Approval of FY22 Roof Replacement Program at EXPO School for Excellence, Groveland Park Elementary, Wellstone Elementary, and Johnson Senior High School (Project # 0175-22-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for FY22 Roof Replacement Program at EXPO School for Excellence, Groveland Park Elementary, Wellstone Elementary, and Johnson Senior High School (Project # 0175-22-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

6. Bids

**BF 34563** Phase Gate Approval of the Johnson High School Athletics Improvements (Project # 1150-24-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of track surfacing and turf at Johnson High School Athletics Improvements project (Project # 1150-24-01) to FieldTurf for a lump sum base bid of \$1,231,124.

**BF 34564** Phase Gate Approval of the Washington Technology Cooling Tower Replacement (Project # 4040-26-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of the Washington Technology Cooling Tower Replacement (Project # 4040-26-02) to Trane Technologies for a lump sum base bid of \$498,432.

7. Change Orders

**ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION - None**

**FURTHER AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION**

A. **Policy Update**

- a. THIRD READING: Policy 535.00: Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)

Beth Coleman, Assistant Director, School Counseling & Career Pathways and John Eschenbacher, Lead High School Counselor, then presented this item.

This policy was adopted in 2018, and this is the first revision since the adoption. Proposed updates include a change to the new format, and there were slight adjustment to the wording, two items were added, and a definition of Post Secondary Enrollment Options was included.

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

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:** None

**BF 34565** THIRD READING: Policy 535.00: Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)

**MOTION: Director Ward moved to approve the proposed revisions to Policy 535.00: Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO). The motion was seconded by Director Henderson.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

b. THIRD READING: Policy 521.00: Student Surveys

Kara Arzamendia, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment, then presented this item.

Changes to the proposed updated policy include a transition to the new policy format with a General Statement of Policy, changes to the section where no student is required to participate in a survey that contains certain topics, updates to the list of topics that are considered more sensitive in nature, and updates to the outdated gendered language.

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

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:** None

**BF 34566** THIRD READING: Policy 521.00: Student Surveys

**MOTION:** Director Ward moved to approve the proposed revisions to Policy 521.00: Student Surveys. The motion was seconded by Director Henderson.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

c. THIRD READING: Policy 618.00: Research

Kara Arzamendia, Director of Research, Evaluation and Assessment, then presented this item.

Proposed updated include a Policy Purpose, definitions, additions of district or programs as a research entity, and addition of a designee to develop procedures by which research projects may be approved.

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

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:** None

**BF 34567** THIRD READING: Policy 618.00: Research

**MOTION: Director Ward moved to approve the proposed revisions to Policy 618.00: Research. The motion was seconded by Director Allen.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

d. **THIRD READING: Rescission of Policy 702.01 - Bonded Officers and Employees**

Daniel Moser, Executive Director of Financial Services, then presented this proposed rescission. The rationale for the proposed rescission was reviewed, including that MN Statute 123B.14 Subd. 6 - Performance Bond; When the duty devolves upon any person employed by a board to receive money and pay it over to the treasurer of the district, the district must require a bond from such person and pay all premiums therefor. The amount of each bond shall be fixed by the board and the bond approved by it. The bond must be not less than \$500 conditioned for the faithful performance of the duty and be filed with the clerk. In lieu of individual bonds, the district may prescribe and keep in effect a schedule or position insurance policy or blanket bond in such aggregate amount as the district determines, insuring the fidelity of such persons in the amount of not less than \$500 for each such person.

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

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:** None

**BF 34568** **THIRD READING: Rescission of Policy 702.01 - Bonded Officers and Employees**

**MOTION: Director Ward moved to approve the proposed rescission of Policy 702.01 - Bonded Officers and Employees. The motion was seconded by Director Carrillo.**

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

e. **THIRD READING: Policy 606.50: Selection and Reconsideration of Library Material**

Craig Anderson, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, then presented this proposed new policy.

The full language was reviewed, and included the purpose, general statement, definitions, responsibility for selection of library materials, individual student access to specific library material, and reconsideration of specific library material.

A new addition since the Second Reading was:

*The Superintendent or designee is responsible for ensuring this policy is implemented consistently and adhered to across all schools, including oversight of library material selection, maintenance, and reconsideration processes in accordance with applicable law and School Board policy.*

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

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:** None

**BF 34569** THIRD READING: Policy 606.50: Selection and Reconsideration of Library Material

**MOTION:** Director Ward moved to approve the proposed new Policy 606.50: Selection and Reconsideration of Library Material. The motion was seconded by Director Vue.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

f. THIRD READING: Policy 504.00: Drug Free Schools

Kathy Kimani, Director, Office of School Support, presented this update.

Within the presentation were details on the review committee, policy purpose, general statement, definitions, exceptions, and enforcement.

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

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:** None

**BF 34570** THIRD READING: Policy 504.00: Drug Free Schools

**MOTION:** Director Ward moved to approve the proposed revisions to Policy 504.00: Drug Free Schools. The motion was seconded by Director Valliant.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

## 10. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

### A. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the District's Response

Superintendent Stanley noted that the planning began in August with the emergency operations protocols where every school has an emergency operations plan. In September, there was a creation of a more comprehensive plan, including Legal and interagency collaboration. There is also a communications plan, operations plan, including Student Placement, nutrition services, and Office of Family Engagement.

We are also working to ensure our communications are sent in a variety of ways to meet the needs of families – including robocalls that are translated, as well as videos.

Our SSLs and SEM staff are out in the community to ensure that are families, students, and parents are safe, and working with the SPPD.

She also noted the optional temporary move to virtual learning for families to bring a greater sense of safety. We also are working with our community partners to ensure there is outreach from community agencies because there are needs from families. She also noted the partnership with SPFE.

She noted that we know and understand the trauma occurring in our community. Our students are seeing officials with weapons on their way to school. It is not an experience that has occurred in Minnesota before. We are working closely with our partners at SPPD and our internal Security and Emergency Management team to minimize the trauma to our students and families. We need to be thoughtful about our community, in our outreach, and to be as culturally responsive as possible.

Director Vue noted questions about a centralized location for information for families. Superintendent Stanley noted the website [www.spps.org/immigration](http://www.spps.org/immigration), which continues to be updated with new information, and curated with resources. We have transitioned to frequent communications through video or robocalls to ensure families receive the information and in the most culturally-responsive way, which is verbally in their first language. She thanked the Communications team for their work and flexibility in this work.

Director Henderson expressed gratitude for staff showing up despite their own fear and emphasized the district's commitment to remediation and support once students return to classrooms.

Superintendent Stanley noted the menu of options for staff to meet the needs of our students, and working with principals to ensure they have the clarity they need for consistency across all schools. There have been conversations with staff of targeted communities for a better understanding of their needs and supports, which has been helpful in our planning.

Director Franco noted the conversations between board members on this topic since before October 2024. He noted that the superintendent has been instrumental in preparing for this work. This is the largest operation of ICE agents collectively in one space at one time, and what we know is that this is beyond what they claim it to be. We know that this is a targeted political attack on our state. He noted a call to the community to be a caring adult to students. The school district cannot manage this crisis alone and issued a direct call to community members who have privilege and feel safe. He urged neighbors to simply walk children to bus stops or wait with them. He emphasized that community members do not need official permission or a formal program to be a "trusted, caring adult" and help ensure student safety at stops. He also identified three specific systemic policy demands where urgent political action is needed to support the

district's efforts, including separation ordinances in the city of Saint Paul, a push forward on a waiver for the 15-day drop rule, and the flexibility to pivot to e-learning if needed. He argued that the "excuse of process" is delaying urgent protection. He wants an ordinance that ensures local community policing is distinct from federal immigration enforcement to truly protect residents. He called on state leadership to issue a temporary waiver so students are not automatically unenrolled/dropped from the system if they miss 15 consecutive days of school due to fear. He requested immediate flexibility to pivot specific schools to e-learning during "emergent" situations without waiting for slow administrative approvals, noting the state is not currently meeting the "moment of urgency."

Director Allen raised concerns about learning loss, citing the known impacts of fear and the previous shift to online learning in 2020, including questions on what lessons from the 2020 experience are being applied now to prevent similar learning loss and what plans are in place to offset this loss when students eventually return to the classroom? Response: Dr. Stanley identified social isolation as the primary negative lesson from 2020, noting it led to significant mental health struggles for students. Synchronous learning is prioritized to ensure live, simultaneous learning sessions, and engagement with peers and teachers in real-time. School connection and structure was also discussed, including that SPPS is keeping students connected to their specific enrolled schools. This decision honors families' commitment to their specific school communities. The curriculum focus in elementary is on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) via simultaneous meets, plus explicit instruction in Reading and Math at grade-level standards. At the secondary level, there is "student centered approach" to help students access content and complete the quarter. Union partnership was also shared, including the collaboration with SPFE, noting that the union provided the flexibility needed to make simultaneous meets and school-specific connections possible. The district and SPFE have committed to weekly meetings to troubleshoot issues and retool the plan as the situation evolves, acknowledging they do not know how long this model will be needed.

Director Allen noted that social-emotional support shouldn't just be about curriculum; it needs to be about fun and friendly competition to keep students engaged and break the "cycle of isolation." She argued that competitive activities make students feel connected even when they are physically apart. She called for "out of the box" ideas to recreate the community feel of 2020, suggesting virtual dance parties, interactive games, virtual movie nights, and competitions.

Director Valliant noted that the district has moved seamlessly from one crisis (alluding to the pandemic) into another. However, she made a sharp distinction regarding the current situation with ICE: unlike previous challenges, "this one is intentional." She urged the governance team and staff to hold two seemingly opposite concepts together: maintaining strict accountability for their work while extending grace to one another during this high-stress time. She also reminded all that we are working to care for others in a human-centered focus.

Director Ward expressed deep frustration and horror regarding the current events, describing the situation as "horrible," "unnecessary," and a betrayal. He noted the profound difficulty of seeing neighbors "losing folks" due to actions taken by a government that is "ostensibly supposed to be looking out for our best interests." To cope with the "horrifying" reality, Chair Ward shared that he focuses on sources of pride to "keep himself sane." He expressed deep gratitude for the Board and Administration, noting that he is proud to serve alongside his colleagues, and community solidarity and the community as "amazingly unified" in both their analysis of the injustice occurring and their desire to do as much as possible to stop it. He concluded by affirming that St. Paul is a "really special community," evidenced by how residents, staff, and leadership have rallied together to respond to the crisis.

## B. Board Initiated Goals Governance (B.I.G.G.)

Carita Green, Executive Director of Executive Director, College and Career Pathways and School Supports, then presented this report.

The purpose is to report on the progress of the B.I.G.G. student outcome goal of:

The percentage of SPPS students who complete a career inventory before graduation will increase from 78% of students in 2024 to 99% of students in 2029.

Information about the data was shared.

Results included that 78% of current seniors have taken one or more career inventories; 21 pct. pts. away from 2029 target.

Career Pathways information was also shared, including that each comprehensive high school will offer four Career Fields with at least one stackable Career Pathway for each field. Career Fields allow students to gain foundational career knowledge and skills. Career Pathways must be in high wage and in-demand areas. Students may find out that the career pathway is not for them and switch pathways. Work-based Learning Coordinators are available.

Districtwide programs include:

- Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)
- Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)
- Automotive Service Technician
- Education Pathway
- Finishing Trades
- Operating Engineers
- Spring Internships
- Industry Certification

Senior Survey response data was also shared.

Action steps for SY25-26 include:

- Implement Districtwide Operating Engineers Course (Sandbox)
- Expand Black Men Teach Partnership
- Add Career Pathway Options to Senior Survey
- Facilitate Parent Advisory Council Presentations

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Carrillo requested information on the strategies to capture the remaining ~20% of students who have not completed their career inventories. He emphasized that while 100% completion is difficult, the goal is for every student to be aware of their future options. He wanted to know what specific steps would be taken between now and 2029 to increase these numbers. Response: There are immediate actions for current seniors including targeted outreach and since the data system tracks exactly who has not finished the inventory, Work-Based Learning Coordinators and counselors will personally reach out to those specific students before the end of the school year to

encourage completion. Long-term systemic fixes include consistent advisory periods across all high schools is a relatively new development. By embedding these inventories into Foundations and Advisory classes (starting as early as 8th grade), they expect participation to increase naturally over time. The Career Pathways team will monitor completion rates centrally and direct school staff to follow up with students who are flagged as incomplete.

- Director Allen reflected on the administrator's tenure, noting that when they first joined the district a few years ago, she had "so much to say and so many questions." She expressed gratitude that those initial concerns have been addressed, stating that she now sees "great work showing up" and that students are finally receiving the exact opportunities she had been advocating for. Ms. Green acknowledged the praise, admitting that when they first arrived, the district's career opportunities were "not clear" and the information didn't even exist on paper. They credited their team for working extensively with principals to identify these pathways and create clear resources (such as the link provided in the presentation) that were previously missing.
- There was also a question about the Operating Engineers program, and that it is excellent to see students receiving both college and apprenticeship credits. This specific pathway allows students to become full-time employees, offering a substantive step toward a well-paying job that supports them as they transition into adulthood. There has been discussion on the need for more trade presence in schools—acknowledging that while college is one path, many students will find success in fields that require different training. Seeing a structured pathway to a career during high school is exactly what we need to set kids up for success.
- Director Valliant noted the presentation on this work at the recent MSBA Conference and booklet. She went on to recognize the practical value of internships in helping students build professional resumes. She also recommended that administration increase outreach to 8th-grade students to ensure they are aware of these career opportunities prior to entering high school.

### C. Policy Update

#### a. SECOND READING: Policy 701.00 - Investment and Banking

Daniel Moser, Executive Director of Financial Services, the presented this proposed update. Changes include merging three policies (701.00, 703.00, and 705.00) into one policy, a transition to the new format, new section of policy purpose, general statement of policy, electronic fund transfers (EFTs), and position title changes. It was noted that, per the discussion at the First Reading, the resolutions to divest in fossil fuels and prevent investment in private prisons were added to both the policy and the cross references.

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

### **QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- Director Franco requested clarification on the date of the Third Reading, as it was noted as March 2026 Regular Meeting in the presentation.
- Director Valliant requested clarification on the process and cadence are for submitting the list of Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) transactions to the Board. Response: Transactions exceeding a certain threshold are compiled into a comprehensive list and presented for Board review and approval via the consent agenda at the next regular meeting.
  - Director Valliant noted further questions because the policy states "all EFT" and doesn't state that it's over a certain threshold. Administration noted that edit can be made for the next reading

- o Director Franco elaborated on the discussion regarding financial transparency and EFT reporting. He noted that the current "Monthly Operating Authority" report presents aggregate totals per account, whereas the policy text implies a list of "all transactions." To address this discrepancy, Director Franco sought Board consensus on Vice Chair Valliant's suggestion to explicitly include a monetary threshold in the written policy, ensuring clarity on which transactions require Board review.
- b. SECOND READING: Rescissions of Policy 703.00 - Annuities & Policy 705.00 – Investments

Daniel Moser, Executive Director of Financial Services, the presented the proposed rescissions of these policies because they are moving to the proposed updated to 701.00 – Investments and Banking.

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

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- None
- c. SECOND READING: Policy 706.00 - Grants and Gifts

Daniel Moser, Executive Director of Financial Services, the presented the proposed updates of this policy, which included a transition to the new policy format including a policy purpose and general statement of policy, and more substance than the previous policy which include “The School Board supports accepting grants, gifts, and bequests that align with the district’s mission and policies. Donations require appropriate approvals, with gifts over \$5,000 needing Board approval, and all accepted contributions becoming district property, documented, and used according to donor intent under the Superintendent’s oversight.” Once a gift/grant is accepted, it becomes district property and ensure it is used for the “public purpose.”

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

**QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:**

- None

**13. BOARD OF EDUCATION**

A. Information Requests/Responses and Items for Future Agendas

- Director Franco requested a deep dive into Rights and Responsibilities handbook and revitalization process.
- Director Vue requested monitoring on Temporary Optional Virtual Learning.
- Director Allen requested data within athletics of students who were ineligible at the end of the semester and separated by school.

B. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Ward noted that with the resignation of Director Vue, the application process for the board seat on an interim basis is open, and encouraged those interested to apply with information on the Board of Education website under “2026 Vacancy.”

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 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