

Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee

Saint Paul School District #625
651-767-8152

City of Saint Paul
651-266-8510

County of Ramsey
651-266-8008

JPTAC AGENDA
Monday, June 22, 2026

8:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Saint Paul Public Schools
360 Colborne, Saint Paul
Room 5A

1. Call the Meeting to Order – Board of Education Director, Carlo Franco, called the meeting to order at 8:37 a.m.

Members present were:

Halla Henderson	Saint Paul Public Schools
Carlo Franco	Saint Paul Public Schools
Stacie Stanley	Saint Paul Public Schools
Rebecca Noecker	City of Saint Paul
Nick Stumo-Langer	City of Saint Paul
Hwa Jeong Kim	City of Saint Paul
Cheniqua Johnson	City of Saint Paul (arrived at 8:40 a.m.)
Garrison McMurtrey	Ramsey County
Mai Chong Xiong	Ramsey County
Rena Moran	Ramsey County
Ling Becker	Ramsey County

Members absent included:
Yusef Carrillo

Saint Paul Public Schools

2. Approve Agenda

MOTION: Director Franco moved to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Councilmember Noecker. The agenda was approved by a vote of the attendees.

3. Approve Minutes from March 23, 2026 Meeting

MOTION: Director Franco motioned to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 15, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Moran. The motion was approved by a vote of the attendees.

4. Legislative Updates
 - Ramsey County

Ling Becker, County Manager, began by introducing Jolie Wood, Government Relations Directors, as well as three new specialists to complete the team. Legislative victories and funding topics included SNAP Administration Aid, with counties to secure \$10.7 million in statewide one-time funding to assist with administrative burdens imposed by federal legislation. Ramsey County expects around \$1 million of this, against an estimated \$4 million administrative cost and about an \$8 million benefit impact. Within child welfare and social services, the County received administrative funding for the Minnesota African-American Family Preservation Act and secured \$90 million statewide to modernize legacy social service IT systems. In housing and emergency rental assistance, the County secured extensions for local homeless prevention aid and \$40

million statewide for emergency rental assistance. Ramsey County must distribute \$5.6 million of this funding by the end of the year. In economic development, the county extended the mortgage registry and deed tax funding the Environmental Response Fund for brownfield remediation and advanced discussions on the Capital Complex Account program.

Legislative setbacks and concerns included LTSS cost savings shift, with counties identified \$122.6 million in long-term services and supports (LTSS) savings to avoid state cost-shifting. However, the state legislature absorbed that \$122.6 million back into the general fund without giving counties credit. Ramsey County received no bonding dollars for Aldrich Arena or the Park at Rivers Edge (\$28 million gap requested). County Manager Becker detailed the county's \$320 million "Building Stronger Together" economic development strategy. The county has obligated ~\$100 million of its own funds for the Rivers Edge land bridge/park project to ensure momentum regardless of state bonding outcomes.

For the 2027 legislative outlook, high turnover is anticipated, with over 20% of state legislators retiring or seeking other offices, including 7 of the 23 members in Ramsey County's delegation

- City of Saint Paul

Jennifer O'Rourke, Government Relations Director for the City, then reported that the city successfully capitalized on existing city assets in the state bonding bill, including utilities under West 7th Street, Roy Wilkins Auditorium and RiverCenter Arena infrastructure, Como Zoo Big Cats exhibit (\$9+ million), Fridley water station and statewide water infrastructure, CHS Field (\$1 million) and initial funding for the Museo Latino, and the extension for the Victoria/Inclusive Playground project off West 7th Street.

For property tax relief, there will be \$125 million in statewide one-time tax relief will provide a direct \$173 property tax credit per homeowner household (capped at \$142,000 household income), and for the non-fatal shooting project, there is \$95,000 secured statewide for a joint city-county initiative.

Future legislative priorities include extending the half-cent sales tax for RiverCenter Arena, statutory reimbursement for city law enforcement costs during state-level events (~\$6 million annual impact; increasing state operational funding for Metro Parks (currently funded at ~10% vs. the statutory 30% goal), and reforming Local Government Aid (LGA) formulas.

- Saint Paul Public Schools

Jim Grathwol, Legislative Liaison, then provided an update, which included education funding gains and protections. For the General Education Formula, the historical link tying general education funding to inflation (2–3%) was maintained/ Within English learner (EL) and Medicaid, there was an increase to the base EL funding and concentration aid (though SPPS still cross-subsidizes \$20 million as aid covers only ~44% of total costs), and expanded Medicaid billing for school-based health and mental health services. Within compensatory revenue, there was \$10 million secured in statewide hold-harmless funding.

Setbacks and cross-subsidies, included a special education aid cut, with the Legislature cutting \$250 million from planned statewide special education cross-subsidy aid increases. SPPS continues to face a ~\$30 million annual special ed cross-subsidy (totaling \$50 million combined with EL). A Blue Ribbon commission was formed to study special education savings, though it was noted it was created to balance future state budgets.

Within the update of the permanent school fund constitutional amendment discussion, it will appear on the ballot to modernize investment management of the \$6.3 billion Permanent School Fund to increase yield to 4.5%. This will generate an additional \$28 per pupil statewide without affecting property taxes. For SPPS, this will add about \$950,000 annually, raising its total allocation to about \$3 million. SPPS is participating in a statewide campaign to educate voters, as unvoted constitutional amendment questions are counted as "no" votes. There was also discussion on the Cruz-Guzman school integration lawsuit.

5. Update on Progress Towards Framework and Efficiencies

Ms. Becker then led this discussion. The JPTAC group is shifting from a government-relations-focused body to an executive-led collaborative model. This transition ensures that the County Manager, City Chief of Staff, and SPPS Executive leadership drive the agenda, providing continuity across political election cycles.

The Open-Ended Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) would allow for operational nimbleness. Currently, moving funds or sharing resources between jurisdictions involves a 12-to-18-month legal process for each individual agreement. An open-ended JPA creates a standing legal framework that allows the entities to respond instantly to emergent needs, such as Youth Violence Prevention or the deployment of ARPA funds, without being paralyzed by administrative friction.

Cross-Jurisdictional Synergy Opportunities includes shared procurement to move from individual purchases to joint fleet and equipment acquisitions to leverage economies of scale; joint HR and training for co-located training for data privacy, cybersecurity, and diversity to eliminate redundant vendor fees; and real estate mapping to actively map all publicly owned assets to ensure that no jurisdiction signs a new lease if underutilized space exists within a partner entity's portfolio; as well as shared services, which includes exploring a three-way partnership for the existing city-school print shop.

6. Property Tax Cycle Updates

Each jurisdiction then reviewed their budget calendars, which is essential for transparency to the taxpayers who "write one check to many places." Peak taxpayer inquiry typically occurs between **November 12 and 14**, when estimated tax statements are mailed.

2026 Property Tax Key Dates

<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Key Date / Milestone</u>	<u>Event Description</u>
Ramsey County	September 22, 2026	Passing of the 2027 Levy
Ramsey County	December 3, 2026	Truth in Taxation Hearing
City of St. Paul	Mid-August 2026	Mayor's Budget Address
City of St. Paul	September 23, 2026	Maximum Levy Vote
City of St. Paul	November 30, 2026	Truth in Taxation Hearing (6:00 p.m.)
City of St. Paul	December 2, 2026	Final Budget & Levy Certification
SPPS	September 30, 2026	Preliminary Levy Submission to MDE
SPPS	December 1, 2026	Truth in Taxation Meeting
SPPS	December 30, 2026	Final Levy Certification

7. Member Discussion of Agenda and Future Meeting Dates:

- Discussion on September 2026 Date (Ramsey County begins to chair meeting)

8. Adjourn

MOTION: **Director Henderson motioned to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Director Franco. The motion passed by accliam.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.