

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 20, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:52 p.m. by the Chair, Ms. Street-Stewart.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Ms. Kong-Thao, Mr. Goldstein, Mr. Oertwig, Mr. Brodrick, Ms. Street-Stewart, Mr. Conlon, Superintendent Carstarphen and Ms. Polsfuss, Assistant Clerk

ABSENT: Ms. Carroll

III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

1. Order of the Consent Agenda

The Chair noted the list of individuals related to Item 21, Immunization Exclusions was to be found at places.

MOTION: Mr. Oertwig moved approval of the Consent Agenda as published, seconded by Ms. Kong-Thao.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

2. Order of the Main Agenda

The Chair indicated the St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Report has been moved to Board Reports; that there are additional items relative to the CBFAC appointments at places and that there was one additional recommendation for appointment at places.

MOTION: Ms. Kong-Thao moved approval of the Main Agenda as revised, seconded by Mr. Conlon.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education January 16, 2007
2. Minutes of the Special Closed Board of Education Meeting January 31, 2007

MOTION: Ms. Kong-Thao moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Board of Education Meeting for January 16, 2007 and the Special Closed Board of Education Meeting of January 31, 2007 as published. Motion seconded by Mr. Conlon.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

V. RECOGNITIONS – None

VI. PROGRAM UPDATES – None

**VII. INFORMATION REQUESTS AND RESPONSES
ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

1. St. Paul Teachers' Retirement Fund Audit Report – This item was moved to XIV. Board Reports.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Meeting of January 23, 2007

Ms. Kong-Thao stated items addressed at this meeting included: Military Recruiters in the Schools; a Discussion on the Structure of Public Comment at Board Meetings and further Discussion on Committees Reporting to the Board.

- **Military Recruiters in the Schools**

The Superintendent and her Chief of Staff provided a review of the following information:

- Looking at the nature of physical access to students
- The frequency of access to buildings
- The role of counter-recruitment groups
- The rights of any outside group to offer physical gifts of any kind to students in the schools
- Follow-up on the 'opt-out form' provision to families
- The provision in the NCLB that permits districts to be included in the opt-out provision giving students the option to opt themselves out
- Notification of interested parties in advance of the meeting so they can attend
- Review of information pertaining to Saint Paul Public Schools Policy and Procedures

There was extensive discussion and a number of individuals provided public input on the subject both pro and con.

The Superintendent suggested 3 ways to address the issue:

- View it from the policy perspective,
- View from a Saint Paul Public Schools High School practice perspective
- View it as an issue around implementation of the policy or practice.

The Superintendent reiterated that, by law, the District is required to give military recruiters the same access to secondary school students as the District provides post-secondary institutions or prospective employers. She also offered several observations on the policy/law perspective to the issue. She stated it is very important for Administration to have direction from the Board on access, so it can be put into practice and high schools can be held accountable for providing fair access

Following further intensive discussion on the issue and discussion on structuring a motion, the following were presented to the Board for their approval:

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Carroll and seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart that the Board of Education direct Administration to further explore with all grade 7 through 12 schools in the District how the issues of location, supervision, scheduling and frequency of visits, might be best handled so that recruiting access is equal.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Carroll and seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart that the Board of Education direct Administration to develop a formal mechanism to pursue how the Opt Out form could be modified in such a way it allows minors to sign, that it allows that option as permitted under No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and the State's definition of secondary. That it is made available in grades 9-12 so that the students can do this anytime in the year and anyone who is legally allowed to know can contact the school to verify whether or not a form has been completed.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Absent
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	No

Mr. Conlon indicated he voted no as he does not feel this is necessary and asked if an "opt back in" option had yet been determined. The response was it is yet to be determined and with the current form, once it has been signed and submitted it remains in effect until graduation or they leave the district.

- **Further Discussion on Committees Reporting to the Board**

The Board Chair provided background information on what the role of these advisory groups is to the Board indicating the Board now has an opportunity to maximize the benefit of the committees to the Board.

The committees mandated through law are:

- Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)
- Latino Consent Decree (LCD)
- Community Education Citywide Advisory Council
- American Indian Education Program

Following extensive consideration of the committees' relationships to the board, duties, mandates, etc. the following motion was made:

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Carroll and seconded by Mr. Oertwig that the Board of Education direct Administration to work directly with these four required committees (the American Indian Education Program, the Community Education Citywide Advisory Council, the Latino Consent Decree Parent Advisory Committee and the Special Education Advisory Council), to ensure that they all report to the Board annually and as frequently as necessary to ensure that the Board is properly informed of their perspective when the Board is making a decision.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes

Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

Superintendent Carstarphen reported on the meetings that had taken place between the Board Chair, the Superintendent and advisory committee representatives outlining the expectations voiced by the committee representatives.

The Superintendent then discussed several ways the Board could begin to work with the committees on issues; this resulted in further discussion and the following motions:

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Carroll and seconded by Mr. Conlon that the Board of Education direct Administration to work with the Gifted Services Advisory Council to define a robust working relationship and over time Administration find appropriate ways to report back to the Board on the performance of gifted students.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	No
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

Mr. Oertwig stated his vote in opposition was to voice his disagreement with removing the reporting relationship from the Board and making it advisory to administration as he felt it was very important that this committee have a direct relationship with the Board.

Mr. Brodrick stated he had shared the same concerns as noted above and initially voted no on this item. However, after talking with committee members who felt the new status will still allow them to have good relationship with administration and the Board; he indicated he would now vote yes.

The Chair then moved on to appointments to the CBFAC Committee stating information had been provided at places on current applications for the Committee. She noted one change as one approved member had resigned. A new applicant had been received so the numbers remain the intact based on the Board action for a full compliment to the committee.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Carroll and seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart that the Board of Education task the Citizens Budget and Finance Advisory Committee (CBFAC), to work with Administration and ERS to provide the Board with their insights. The Board approved and appointed committee members as follows: Keith Hardy, Matt Flory, Metric Giles, Alvaro Patino, Joe Reid, Kathy Kelley, Amy Nelson, Tonicia Abdi-Salaam, JoAnn Clark and a student yet to be named.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

The Board expressed its thanks to the citizens who serve on these committees stating their input is important and extended its thanks to Lois Rockney for pulling together the CBFAC Committee applications for action.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Carroll and seconded by Mr. Brodrick that the Board of Education seek applicants for the Capital Expenditure Advisory Committee (CEAC), by inviting the fifteen (15) members to reapply as well as going through regular Board and District channels.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

- **Discussion on the Structure of Public Comment at Board Meetings**

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Conlon and seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart that given the lateness of the night that the next item scheduled (Item IV. Discussion on Structure of Public Comment at Board Meetings) be rescheduled to the next Committee of the Board Meeting on February 6, 2007.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

2. Meeting of February 6, 2007

Ms. Kong-Thao listed Items addressed during the meeting which were: Second Budget Revision for the 2006-07 Budget; 2007-08 Budget Priorities and Guidelines; Action on the Appointment to the Citizen's Budget and Finance Advisory Committee and the Capital Expenditures Advisory Committee; Discussion on the Structure of Public Comment at Board Meetings and Further Discussion of Assignment of Board Representation on Outside Committees/Boards

- **Educational Resource Study (ERS) Report**

The Chief Business Officer introduced the two consultants from the Educational Resource Study (ERS) Group who made a preliminary presentation on their study entitled, "Improving Student Performance thru a Strategic Use of Resources." He indicated ERS works in five areas: strategies for professional development and school support, school performance management, rethinking school funding, redesigning school resources and school system design.

The study is looking at several areas: Special Education, elementary, middle and secondary schools and professional development.

Key questions which are being addressed include:

- What are the core strengths which can be built upon
- What are the key problems facing the District
- Are there resource allocations which can be utilized to help address these areas
- What resources can be deployed to meet the priority challenges
- How much is invested into students and into schools.

At the end of the process the question will become how to redeploy existing resources to meet the challenges. The timeline for the SPPS study includes conducting the study and gathering information and data from November through March with reviews with District leadership and an interim presentation to the Board during that time. March and April will bring final recommendations to the District administration with continued support provided on request.

The Superintendent stated the study was made possible through a grant from a local St. Paul business who extended the resources for the work with ERS thus enabling the very early start on the project allowing the study to stay on a very tight timeline. She extended her appreciation for this support.

- **Quarterly Financial Report**

This report reflects the budget as revised by the Board in the fall. The revenue is projected to be very close to what was anticipated in the adopted budget. Projections for expenditures suggest they will be below adopted budget by \$15.2 million in the General Fund. If this pattern continues, the unreserved undesignated fund balance at year end will be 5.9% which is .9% or \$5 million higher than what is dictated by Board policy.

The fully financed budgets were also reviewed briefly and it was noted these would be down slightly. The major change is in the Construction Fund where it is projected the budget will be down by \$5,750,000 (expenses related to the ALC construction project on University Avenue).

- **Winter Revision to the FY 2006-07 Budget**

The only revision requested is to the Fully Financed Budgets in the General Fund and the Community Service Fund which increases both revenue and expenditures in these funds by \$11,620,986. The revision represents new grants received since the budget was adopted in June, 2006, as well as revisions to existing grants.

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Oertwig, that the Board of Education approve the winter budget revisions to the 2006-07 budget as detailed in Exhibit B (attached).

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

- **Budget Guidelines for the 2007-08 Budget**

This document lays out the planning guidelines that were used by administration and by principals as they work through their budgets. It lays out some of the parameters and the budget philosophy as it relates to the Board's ends.

The General Guidelines will include the following information:

- The base budget (the 2006-07 adopted budget is the base budget for 07-08)
- Budget structure including revenue and expenditures
- Presentation format
- Expansions and reductions
- Enrollments
- Inflation
- Average salary & benefit calculation data
- Student weighted formula
- Fund balance
- Budget calendar
- Fully financed programs
- Intra-school budgets

Specifics for each area were discussed with the Board along with examples of the report layout when the final budget is presented to the Board.

With regard to the Referendum, administration will be very carefully laying out for schools and programs how they will need to account for referendum monies. These will be tracked carefully through the use of specific budget codes. The monies will only be able to be budgeted within these codes and spent within these codes. All programs/schools will be accountable for referendum funds they receive and spend.

MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved, seconded by Ms. Carroll, that the Board of Education approve the Budget Guidelines for the preparation of the 2007-08 Preliminary Budget, the 2007-08 Adopted Budget and the Budget Planning Timeline with the understanding that they may be adjusted with information provided by ERS early in the budget cycle.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

- **Action on Appointments to Citizen's Budget and Finance Advisory Committee (CBFAC) and the Capital Expenditures Advisory Committee (CEAC)**

The Superintendent reviewed the Chief Business Officer's memo regarding CBFAC noting the proposed action mentioned by the Board at the last COB meeting of January 23. The charge for CBFAC for this year is a thorough review of the ERS findings.

The Acting Director of Operations has contacted the 15 former members of CEAC to ask them to reapply. CEAC will be prepared to make recommendations by March 20.

The Board Chair stated the following motion was confirming the action taken earlier in the meeting; noting the deletion of Pam Ellison from the action due to her resignation. JoAnn Clark, a new applicant, will take Ms. Ellison's place.

Motion: Ms. Street-Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Oertwig, that the Board of Education approve the five (5) re-appointments to CBFAC as listed: Keith Hardy, Matt Flory, Metric Giles, Alvaro Patino and Pam Ellison and JoAnn Clark.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

The Board Chair stated the following motion was again confirming the action taken earlier in the meeting, noting that paperwork on all applicants had been received.

Motion: Mr. Goldstein moved, seconded by Mr. Brodrick, that the Board of Education approve the additional five (5) appointments (Joe Reid, Kathy Kelly, Amy Nelson, Tonicia Abdi-Salaam, and a student yet to be identified and appointed) to CBFAC. ~~pending receipt of their paperwork by the end of the month (February).~~

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

- **Discussion on Structure of Public Comment at Board Meetings**

Discussion on public comment centered on how public comment is handled and its timing within the agenda.

- **Public Comment**

Discussion in this area centered around: start time, the introductory statement, the sign-up process, the timer and the timing card.

Extensive discussion occurred on the various aspects of public comment.

MOTION: Mr. Goldstein moved that the Board of Education move the time certain start time for public comment forward to 6:30 p.m. from its current time of 7:00 p.m. effective as of the March, 2007 Board of Education meeting. This time can be changed, at the Board's discretion, for certain Board meetings in order to accommodate special agenda items. Mr. Brodrick seconded the motion.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	No
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

Mr. Brodrick noted he had voted no simply because his personal preference would be for 7:00 p.m.

o **Public Engagement**

This was a discussion on how to provide an opportunity for Board members to meet with and engage the community. Following lengthy discussion the consensus was that the Executive Team look at structuring the public engagement piece and bring a recommendation back to the next COB meeting for discussion.

• **Further Discussion of Board Representation on Outside Committees**

The Board Chair reviewed the proposed assignments. Following discussion the consensus of the Board was that the Board Chair would bring the completed assignments to the February 20 Board meeting for approval.

The Board Chair listed her Board representative appointments to outside committees/boards for 2007 as follows, as well as noting those committees on which the Superintendent would also serve as the District representative:

- o Association of Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD) Rep: Ms. Kong-Thao
Superintendent Carstarphen
- o Children's Collaborative Rep: Ms. Street-Stewart
Superintendent Carstarphen
- o Council of Great City Schools Rep: Ms. Carroll
Alternate: Ms. Kong-Thao
Superintendent Carstarphen
- o Council of Urban Boards of Education (CUBE) Rep: Ms. Street-Stewart
- o Inter-District Joint Powers Board (EMID) Rep: Mr. Oertwig
- o Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee (JPTAC) Representatives:
Mr. Brodrick, Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Oertwig
Alt: Ms. Kong-Thao
Superintendent Carstarphen
- o Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee
(3 County Project) Reps: Mr. Brodrick & Mr. Oertwig
- o Metro Educational Cooperative Service Unit Rep: Mr. Conlon
- o Metropolitan Learning Alliance Rep: Mr. Oertwig
Alt: Mr. Goldstein
- o Minnesota Minority Education Partnership (MMEP) Rep: Ms. Street-Stewart
Alt: Ms. Kong-Thao
- o Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA)
(Shared with Minneapolis Public Schools) Rep: Mr. Oertwig
- o Ramsey County League of Local Governments Rep: Mr. Brodrick
Alt: Ms. Carroll

- o State High School League Rep: Mr. Conlon
- o St. Paul Teachers Retirement Assn. Board of Trustees Rep: Mr. Oertwig
- o West St. Paul Community Health Services Superintendent's Designee
- o National School Boards Association (NSBA)
Designated Responsibility thru American Indian Alaskan
Native School Board Caucus: Ms. Street-Stewart

MOTION: Mr. Oertwig moved that the Council of Great City Schools appointment be held out for separate consideration. Mr. Brodrick seconded the motion.

The motion to split the approvals passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	No
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

MOTION: Mr. Oertwig moved adoption of the recommended appointments except that for the Council of Great City Schools. Mr. Brodrick seconded the motion.

The motion to split the approvals passed with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

Mr. Oertwig moved the nomination of Kazoua Kong-Thao to the Council of Great City Schools. No second was received, the motion failed.

MOTION: Mr. Goldstein moved the appointment of the recommended representative, Ms. Carroll, to the Council of Great City Schools. Seconded by Ms. Kong-Thao.

A Board member offered explanation of the reasons representation on the Council is so important, a review of the history of the position and a request that either the Chair or Vice Chair reconsider serving in the position as has been done in the past. A response was made by another Board member that such concerns could be aired in a more appropriate manner, at a more appropriate time and the Board was urged to respect the Chair's decision.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote.

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	No
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved approval of the Consent Agenda items as published; motion seconded by Ms. Kong-Thao.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote.

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes

Ms. Street-Stewart Yes
Mr. Conlon Yes

The following Consent Agenda Items were approved:

BF 27097 Gift Acceptance from Sharon Lund

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Saint Paul Public Schools to accept a monetary gift of \$15,000.00 from Sharon Lund to be used as designated and deposited into the Charles Lund Memorial Scholarship Fund, budget code 29-005-160-000-xxxx-5300.

BF 27098 Gift Acceptance from Wells Fargo Bank

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Crossroads Elementary School to accept a gift of \$5000.00 from Wells Fargo Bank.

BF 27099 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to Citigroup Foundation for Academics of Finance at Arlington, Como Park and Johnson High Schools

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to Citigroup Foundation for the continued implementation of Academy of Finance at Arlington, Como Park and Johnson High Schools in the district; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27100 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the General Mills Champions for Kids Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to General Mills for a diabetes prevention project in the district;; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the projects as specified in the award documents.

BF 27101 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to Lowe's Toolbox for Education Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation for projects that increase community involvement as school; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the projects as specified in the award documents.

BF 27102 Request for Permission to Accept and Advanced Placement Award from the Minnesota Department of Education

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to receive an Advanced Placement Grant Application from the Minnesota Department of Education to expand pre-AP and AP math courses at Humboldt Junior High and Humboldt Senior High; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27103 Request for Permission to Partner in Accepting an Improving Teacher Quality Grant Award from the Minnesota Department of Higher Education Services Office (MNHESO)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to participate in accepting an Improving Teacher Quality grant from the Minnesota Department of Higher Education Services Office for professional development in mathematics for district teachers at Arlington Senior High School; Cleveland Junior High School; Humboldt Senior High School and Washington Junior High School; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27104 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the National Endowment for the Humanities

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit grant applications to The National Endowment for the Humanities is for projects that incorporate a set of library volumes focusing on the theme, "Pursuit of Happiness;" to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the projects as specified in the award documents.

BF 27105 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Pay It Forward Foundation for Project Achieve

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Pay It Forward Foundation for a service learning project in the district; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27106 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Pohlad Family Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Pohlad Family Foundation for funds to send Chinese Language students to the Concordia Language Village summer camp; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27107 Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the Target Foundation for Highland Park Elementary

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the Target Foundation for a field trip at Highland Park Elementary; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27108 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Toshiba America Foundation for Central High School

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Toshiba America Foundation for a biotechnology science project; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the projects as specified in the award documents.

BF 27109 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Toyota Tapestry Grants for Science Teachers Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to Toyota Tapestry for funds that focus on improving student achievement in science through technology; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement to grant as specified in the award documents.

BF 27110 Request for Permission to Submit 21st Century Community Learning Center Applications to the Minnesota Department of Education

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit 21st Century Community Learning Center Applications to Minnesota Department of Education to establish or expand community learning centers that provide students with enrichment opportunities during those times when school is not in session; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the projects as specified in the award documents.

BF 27111 Agreement for Travel Arrangement Services with Premier Alaska Tours, Inc.

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to enter into an agreement with Premier Alaska Tours Inc. for \$160,000.00 for travel arrangement services for the June, 2007 Community Education Alaskan tour.

BF 27112 Revised Purchase Order for Services with Northwest Youth & Family Services and Independent School District #621

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to revise the current purchase order to reflect the increased number of students, from two to three, referred to School District #621 and Northwest Youth & Family Services for educational and mental health therapeutic services for the period July 1, 2006 through June 30, 2007. The revised purchase order is recommended to be increased by \$77,758.00 from \$77,758.00 not to exceed \$155,516.00

BF 27113 Request to Amend the Contract with Resources for Child Caring and Increase It from \$103,895.00 to \$123,895.00

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to amend it current contract with Resources for Child Caring to provide the above mentioned services for the period of April 3, 2006 – June 30, 2007, for the cost of \$123,895.00.

BF 27114 Authorization for Rooftop Lease with Option with T-Mobile Central LLC at Humboldt Junior High School

That the Board of Education authorize the Chair and Clerk to execute a rooftop lease with option and any necessary related documents with T-Mobile Central LLC, for installation and maintenance of antenna facilities at Humboldt Junior High School and in accordance with terms and conditions of said agreement.

BF 27115 Appointment to the Relicensure Committee

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve the appointment of R. Douglas Kane to the Relicensure Committee.

BF 27116 Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and wire transfers for the period January 1 - January 31, 2007.

(a) General Account	#400853-402720	\$38,673,840.60
	#3010244-3010344	

The Superintendent acknowledged the placement to the Board Mission, Vision and Long-Range Goals on the wall behind the Board's seats as requested by the Board.

- **Superintendent's Academic Awards for Continuous School Improvement for 2005-06.**

This recognizes schools by looking more than one state indicator; other areas looked at to bridge the gaps between where the state and Federal governments are and where SPPS is to let the community know which schools are doing well, making the kind of progress expected and which still need support. AYP was looked at on the NCLB accountability system which is the minimum level of improvement that states and school districts must make each year. The District then did apples to apples comparison of student achievement compared to schools with similar demographics state-wide. A challenge index was done taking things like poverty and special education into account when comparing MCAII data among schools within the school district (looking at SPPS schools compared to each other). Then the District looked at individual student growth on SAT 10's which compares students to national norms on a summative assessment in order to see if individual students were able to make expected gains or growth from one year to the next based on past performance.

Elementary school awardees for 2005-06 are: Adams Spanish Immersion, Ames Elementary, Battle Creek Elementary, Benjamin E. Mays, Capitol Hill, Chelsea Heights, Como Park Elementary (received award for 8 consecutive years), Dayton's Bluff, Expo, Farnsworth, Four Seasons (received award for 8 consecutive years), Franklin, Frost Lake, Galtier, Groveland Park, Highwood Hills, Horace Mann, L'Etoile du Nord, Lynwood A+, Maxfield, Nakomis, Prosperity Heights, Randolph Heights, Riverview, Roosevelt, St. Anthony Park, Sheridan (received award for 8 consecutive years) and World Cultures.

Middle/Junior High Schools receiving the award include: Cleveland Junior, Murray Junior, Highland Park Junior, Ramsey Junior and Washington Technology Middle School.

Senior Highs receiving the award are: Central, Como, Harding, Highland Park and Johnson.

There are many great schools in SPPS that beat the odds, close the gaps and are making huge progress and despite what might be read or seen in other venues, the truth is this administration is doing something that has never been done before; the District is going beyond the surface into the guts and tough work around accountability, creating a framework that will both provide incentives for schools to do a better job and provide extra support for schools needing help.

- **The Draft Strategic Plan for Continued Excellence in Schools**

This is tied to not only the work around the data but also tying the financial landscape to the Strategic Plan. Input on the Strategic Plan was gathered in four ways: five regional community Strategic Planning meetings across St. Paul with an average attendance of about 125 people; work sessions with administrators, teachers and community groups which focused on educational priorities identified by each group but also helped inform the work on the Strategic Plan; through surveys provided in multiple languages and finally, through individual conversations the Superintendent and Chief of Staff have made a focus of their schedules on a day-to-day basis to be sure when questions or concerns arise, these are addressed one-on-one.

The draft plan will be presented in March. Main themes from the feedback so far include:

- Include arts, physical education, social studies, gifted and talented services and career technical education as part of the comprehensive school design
- Make a safe, welcoming and respectful environments a top priority
- Support transitions for students not only into school and between elementary and middle school but between middle grades and high school on into higher education as well as for special education.

- Reform the delivery of special education services
- Invest in early childhood education
- Provide more and deeper professional development related to the Project for Academic Excellence and for all staff cultural competency training
- Develop a model for shared accountability in SPPS including clear expectations and communications for students, staff, parents and community members
- Create professional learning communities at all levels and all departments
- Design a school calendar that supports academics and professional development for all

The Superintendent stressed there is a difference between input received and the final staff recommendations that will be made to the Board. It will necessarily take work capacity, resources and prioritization into account. The District can not do it all, so it is important that when the tough decisions arise, the conversation on what the District values and what are priorities has been agreed upon and confirmed in order to make a difference to kids in St. Paul. This was done for the referendum and the same spirit and focus should be at the forefront as the next phase is worked through.

- **Career and Technical Education Programs in SPPS**

There is a desire to see robust career and technical education program in the District. This will happen more quickly by engaging in a meaningful partnership opportunity. This will be put at the forefront of the High School Reform Model. SPPS is pursuing resources to fund a High School Reform Plan through the State and any other resources which can be identified. As part of this Model the District is initiating two opportunities.

One the possibility of a high tech high school in SPPS. And two, a career and technical education partnership with St. Paul College (SPC). SPPS and SPC have been discussing issues related to career and technical education exploration, preparation for entry into the labor force and post high school education and how the two institutions can work together more effectively to support students in these areas. A formal partnership is beginning to be outlined to support the cooperative work. Elements will likely include: cooperation and a demonstration site for career and technical education best practices; articulation agreements that enable SPPS student to earn both high school and college credit through post secondary education options or concurrent enrollment either in their high school setting at the St. Paul College campus or at another site. Vertical articulation agreements that coordinate the curricular content of high school career and technical education courses with corresponding college courses; cooperation in professional development opportunities to enable high school teachers to grant college credit and shared use of St. Paul College and SPPS facilities.

The value of apprenticeships (internships) is not limited only to economic gain. It makes students better workers but there are also critical academic outcomes: students increase attendance in school, ACT scores are equal to or better than students who did not experience internships and the fact that student interns are more likely to take advanced academic courses in high schools.

Interest in career and technical education has been accelerated in SPPS through Project Lead the Way in which Harding, Humboldt and Johnson are engaging. The partnership with St. Paul College will help extend the current work with MNDot, 3M and Xcel Energy to help the school to college articulation of career opportunities. It will link closely with the District needs to improve work in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and will propel the District and its students into an unknowable future.

- **Next Phase of Administrative Reorganization**

The Superintendent asked that the Board approved the position of Assistant Director of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the following placements be approved.

- Nancy E. Meyer, Appointment as Interim Director of Special Education effective February 2, 2007

- Peter K. Christensen as Executive Director, High School Education effective February 27, 2007
- Catherine A. Rich as Elementary Principal at Phalen Lake Elementary effective February 21, 2007
- James D. Litwin as Elementary Principal at Horace Mann effective February 21, 2007
- Scott Tryggeseth as Elementary Principal at Roosevelt Elementary effective February 27, 2007
- Coleman McDonough as Elementary Principal at Hazel Park Elementary effective February 22, 2007
- Christine Vang as Assistant Principal at Phalen Lake effective February 22, 2007
- Maria Castro as Acting Principal at North End Elementary effective February 21, 2007

Due to the new placements and the continued search for candidates the following vacancies exist: Chief Accountability Officer, Executive Director of Elementary Schools, Special Education Director, ELL Director, Assistant Director of AYP, two principal (Webster & Battle Creek Middle) and one assistant principal (Hazel Park).

MOTION: **Mr. Conlon moved, seconded by Mr. Oertwig, that the Board of Education adopt the proposed administrative reorganization and in connection with it establish the position of Assistant Director of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) within the Association of Administrative and Supervisory Personnel collective bargaining units. This motion recognizes the following appointments made in the administrative reorganization: Nancy E. Meyer, Interim Director of Special Education effective February 2, 2007; Peter K. Christensen, Executive Director, High School Education effective February 27, 2007; Catherine A. Rich, Elementary Principal at Phalen Lake Elementary effective February 21, 2007; James D. Litwin, Elementary Principal at Horace Mann effective February 21, 2007; Scott Tryggeseth, Elementary Principal at Roosevelt Elementary effective February 27, 2007; Coleman McDonough, Elementary Principal at Hazel Park Elementary effective February 22, 2007; Christine Vang, Assistant Principal at Phalen Lake effective February 22, 2007; Maria Castro, Acting Principal at North End Elementary effective February 21**

The motion passed with the following roll call vote.

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

A Board member encouraged administration to continue to consider diversity with the applicants being considered in order to be reflective of the community the District serves. The Superintendent responded the most important approach to making a systemic change is the quality and diversity of the pool of applicants. The entire approach from Human Resources (HR) starts with the pool, it is very important that people stay engaged in the process forward names, resumes, share information. The pool determines how things move forward from that point on in the District so any help the District can get from staff and the community would be appreciated. She indicated in the next budget a recruiting budget was under consideration to enable HR to expand its ability to draw the best candidates.

The new principals were called forward and introduced; the Board offered their congratulations.

2. Beating the Odds School – Highwood Hills

The Superintendent reviewed the criteria for selection of Beating the Odds Schools. The goal is to recognize and learn from the schools to find promising practices used within schools and to move those practices out across the system for the benefit of all students.

Highwood Hills Elementary School is a K-6 school which has a significant percentage of students with socio-economic and other academic challenges that come in large part due to ELL needs and the need for access to special education. The majority of the students at the school are from homes where English is not the first language and a significant percentage of the students are Somali and Hmong representing over 50% of the school population. Highwood Hills' student body comprises 12 different languages. In contrast to the Beating the Odds schools presented previously, Highwood Hills student population is a majority African American which includes African immigrants (former schools had large populations of Asian or Hmong students by comparison).

The school is adjacent to a St. Paul City Parks and Recreation site which is used in partnership with the school for a variety of activities including after school programs and family events. Through a reciprocal agreement with the City, the school is also used by the Parks Department after normal school hours for community activities.

Highwood Hills is an example of a school which has been evolving and working toward improvement. It came into NCLB as a school not making AYP in 2003. The following year the school progressed into the supplemental services category and in 2005-06 it has consistently met AYP. It is one of the District schools making steady progress to overcome some of the initial challenges. In 2006, all students in the school exceed State math and reading targets. African American students, their largest ethnic group, did not exceed State targets but did score particularly well in reading (more than 13 points above the index target).

Other things which make the school great are participation, creativity and the recognition of good work by students and staff set the school apart. Other highlights to know: the school – received and REA reading grant in 2001 for \$1 million over three years. It has just begun to work with a Federal Reading First Grant which give the school more than \$300,000 a year for three years. These funds are designated to improve reading abilities in grades K-3 with the goal of having all primary students reading at grade level by the time they the third grade. Teachers receive staff development in the latest research based teaching methods in addition to money for buying books and other resources for their classrooms. Highwood Hills has an attendance rate of 96% which is well above the requirements of NCLB and AYP. Highwood has a Uniform Policy to help students stay focused on work rather than fashion trends.

A video on the school was shown. The Superintendent offered her thanks for the efforts of Jerry Skelly and Rich Currier in the production of the videos highlighting the schools.

Principal Patricia Rosenbaum and Sara Benedict, a teacher offered their thanks for the support the school has received and for offering learning opportunities for teachers to expand their expertise to take to the children. Success is due to having a common goal that every child will succeed.

3. Human Resource (HR) Transactions

The superintendent stated the transactions reflected changes occurring between December 19, 2006 and January 21, 2007 and if some dates fall outside this date range it may be due to delay in receiving the paperwork for change or to future-dated transactions.

MOTION: Mr. Oertwig moved approval of the Human Resource Transactions as published. The motion was seconded by Mr. Brodrick,

The motion passed with the following roll call vote.

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

XIV. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS

1. St. Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association Report (SPTRFA)

Board Member Oertwig introduced the SPTRFA board of trustee members who were in attendance. It was stated the fund is not at risk in the near future. Recognition has been made of the recommendations of legislative auditor and it is felt their legislative recommendations will address many of the things the auditor has raised. The status of the fund was discussed as well as investment history and performance.

The Chair of the Board, John Kunz, was called upon to talk about the condition of the fund and its current status, returns, funding ratios and earning ratios.

Phil Kapler, Director, SPTRFA, discussed the funded ratio and the current discussion revolving around the unfunded portion, stating it is an issue which needs to be resolved as expeditiously as possible. He indicated SPTRFA's proposed legislative package is to move to an open amortization cycle of 30 years which results in more equitable, fair and even distribution of the costs of resolving the unfunded liability from past years. The basic components of this strategy are to reverse the effects of long-term insufficient contributions, to restructure of the financing of the unfunded liabilities and replacement of the current formula with a true cost of living adjustment. The end goals are to get more money coming into the fund, do it at no cost to the District (if at all possible), constrain the cost of COLA and restructure the financing on the unfunded liability.

The question was raised if the SPPS Board has an oversight role with SPTRFA. The response was the fund is completely independent of the District; Director Oertwig sits on the Board and has responsibility in that respect but has no connection back to SPPS in this position. The District has no fiduciary responsibility except to make contributions on behalf of employees and the employer. The District has no oversight over the fund.

The Director indicated the Fund would keep in contact with the District's lobbyist and the Superintendent on how their legislative proposal is progressing and seek advisement.

2. MSBA Legislative Junket

Director Oertwig reported on the trip MSBA representatives made to Washington, D.C. to discuss the NCLB with the State's congressional delegation in regard to MSBA's recommendation on needed changes to the NCLB and the list of waivers Minnesota had requested on NCLB. He stated it was obvious that if changes are to come on the NCLB they will have to come from Congress, as they will not come from the Administration, who's goal seems to be to continue to implement it as it stands. From conversations with the Minnesota Delegation, it appears there is a desire to see the growth model added, some adjustment in the way groups are looked at, calculation of AYP, etc.

2. National Indian Education Association Legislative Summit

3. Chair Street-Steward reported she had attended the National Indian Education Association Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C. recently. She stated the SPPS participation last year was extremely effective in making sure that there has now been a national discussion including President Clinton's Executive Order through President Bush's 07-08 appropriations to address the issue of culturally specific education services for American Indian, Alaskan Native and native Hawaiian students. The experience obtained from SPPS led to the ability to dedicate that as a focus to the work presented this year. Another action is a new law entitled "The Esther Martinez Law" which centers around the issue of preservation and development of native languages for American Indian, Alaskan native and native Hawaiian students. The District is unique in that it is urban, has a number of tribes represented in the student body and when SPPS goes to these events they are frequently working in conjunction with sovereign tribes. SPPS is looked to as a model.

XV. COMMUNICATIONS -- None

XVI. FUTURE MEETINGS SCHEDULE

Board of Education Meetings – 5:45 p.m. unless otherwise noted

- March 20, 2007
- April 10, 2007
- May 15, 2007
- June 5, 2007 Special Board Meeting on Non-Renewals (4:30 p.m.)
- June 19, 2007
- July 17, 2007
- August 21, 2007

Committee of the Board Meetings (4:30 p.m.)

- February 27, 2007
- March 27, 2007
- April 24, 2007
- May 8, 2007
- May 29, 2007
- June 12, 2007

- June 26, 2007
- July 10, 2007
- July 31, 2007
- August 28, 2007

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Conlon moved the meeting adjourn, seconded by Ms. Kong-Thao.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote.

Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

For clarity and to facilitate research, these minutes reflect the order of the Agenda and not necessarily the time during the meeting the items were discussed.

Prepared and submitted by
Marilyn Polsfuss
Assistant Clerk, Board of Education