

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 18, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:54 p.m. by the Chair.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Ms. Carroll, Mr. Conlon, Mr. Hardy, Ms. Kong-Thao, Mr. Goldstein, Mr. Brodrick, Ms. Street-Stewart, Superintendent Carstarphen, Mr. Lalla, General Counsel and Ms. Polsfuss, Assistant Clerk.

III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

1. Order of the Consent Agenda

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved the rules be waived, the changes to the Consent Agenda be accepted and that the Consent Agenda be approved as revised. Ms. Carroll seconded the motion.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

2. Order of the Main Agenda

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved, seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart, that the Main Agenda be approved as published.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education February 19, 2008

MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved, seconded by Ms. Carroll, that the February 19, 2008 Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education be approved as published.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

V. RECOGNITION

BF 27504 Recognition of Schools, Teams, Individuals and Coaches in Our Saint Paul Public Schools That Have Won Athletic Awards and Championships

- Murray Junior High School – Girls’ Basketball Team is City Champion
- Washington Junior High School – Wrestling Team is City Champion
- Central Senior High School – Boys’ Basketball Team is City Co-Champion
- Central Senior High School – Girls’ Basketball Team is City Champion
- Central Senior High School – Boys’ Nordic Ski Team is City Champion
- Central Senior High School – Boys’ Swim Team is City Champion
- Harding Senior High School – Wrestling Team is City Champion
- Highland Park Senior High School – Girls’ Gymnastics Team is City Champion
- Highland Park Senior High School – Girls’ Nordic Ski Team is City Champion
- Johnson Senior High School – Boys’ Basketball Team is City Co-Champion

MOTION: **Ms. Street-Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Conlon, that the Board of Education recognize and congratulate the coaches, teams and individuals for their accomplishments.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Ms. Carroll	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Absent
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Committee of the Board February 26, 2008

Items on the agenda were as follows: Preview of 2008-2009 Summer School Plans, Policy Review, Work Session and Announcements/Reminders.

• **Preview of 2008-2009 Summer School Plans**

The Superintendent presented a brief overview of how Operations is approaching planning for summer school 2008-2009 with the major recommendation being a reduction in the number of summer school sites from 58 to 46. This would result in the following benefits:

- Freeing under-utilized resources from summer school will positively impact the budget for the following school year
- Opening fewer buildings will result in a reduction of utility (energy), personnel and administrative costs
- A more efficient utilization of custodial staff from closed sites to help with cleaning and program changes during the summer
- Transportation will be more efficient with fewer sites, this will impact the budget
- There are three weeks of summer school prior to the new fiscal year which will impact the budget
- There will be better access at closed sites for construction (major and minor) and for cleaning

- **Policy Review**

Policy 516.00 Students – Medications/Medical Procedures was reviewed and the following recommended motion made:

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That Policy 516.00 Students – Medications/Medical Procedures be approved, pending adoption.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

Discussion was held on the process for final adoption of the revised *Policy Manual* resulting in the following recommended motion:

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the finalized *Policy Manual* be approved through the use of the three reading process.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

- **Work Session**

- Professional Development Guidelines for Board Members

It was stated a priority area for professional development is the cultural competency training outlined in the Superintendent's report at the last Board of Education meeting. The Board specified it should be incorporated into that training as it moves forward. Other areas mentioned relative to Board development included:

- Board governance
- Parliamentary procedures
- Strategic Planning
- Time management and focus on major issues and identifying them
- Relationship building within the board unit

Further discussion included financing board development and a brief review of some organizations which might be possible sources for training.

- Graduation Scheduling

Board member participation in the 2008 Graduation ceremonies was scheduled.

- Announcements and Reminders

- Correct e-mail for use in contacting Superintendent
- Review of board packet materials
- Assignment to District Councils
- Dates for board meetings for the remainder of 2008

MOTION: Mr. Brodrick moved acceptance of the report of the Committee of the Board meeting for February 26, 2008. Motion was seconded by Ms. Carroll.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Mike Ireland – Requested clarification on the recommendations made regarding Homecroft.
2. Charrie Willis – Stated the program selected for Homecroft is perceived as an important consideration affecting the future development of SW corner of St. Paul and the long-range development of the area.
3. Lisa Morley – Described the business communities' interest in the resolution of the Homecroft issue and their concern about its impact on the long term viability of neighborhood.
4. Bill Rosenbloom – Reviewed the timeframe and unresolved questions and issues relative to Homecroft and asked for more time to review the options presented as well as a chance to meet with the Board and administration.
5. Marta Kifle – Thanked the Board for listening to the Homecroft presentations.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent noted her report encompassed Strategies D (Preparing all students for higher education) and Strategy E (Improving special education services). The subjects being reported on included: college access; school program changes, with a highlight of North End School; MCA-II awareness; summer school update and the Human Resource transactions.

1. College Access

Economic prosperity depends on schools preparing, enrolling and graduating students from higher education. Today it is becoming more necessary for public and private sectors to collaborate in initiatives which provide access to higher education for under represented students. Without this focus, higher education will not be attainable for this group because of the barriers they face and as a result, the economy and quality of life in the community will decline.

SPPS promised in the referendum passed to invest these monies in early education and providing programs leading to a successful transition from high school to college. To this end, students must first be expected to graduate to high standards and then it must be ensured that all those who graduate are prepared (academically and financially) to attend the college or university of their choice.

The District is supporting the increase of Minnesota's mandatory school attendance age from 16 to 18 as a step toward increasing high school completion rates. Those who don't graduate from high school face a lifetime disadvantage economically.

SPPS is working internally and with external partners (including the City of Saint Paul) to develop intentional strategies to improve college access for all students. This work has been framed around four questions:

- **What are the barriers and challenges to SPPS students gaining access to college?**
Three barriers have been identified in a Citizen's League study: academic preparedness, advice and guidance and affordability. A fourth, identified in St. Paul, is lack of high expectations.
- **What is SPPS doing to address the barriers?**
 - Academic preparedness: college and life planning tests offered to all 11th graders free of charge; a University Academy has been created to bolster achievement for

students of color; AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) is offered in grades 7-12 to support students in the academic middle and work is being done on: an SPPS Foundation tutoring partnership, a St. Paul Library/SPPS Junior High partnership, an east side learning center in John A. Johnson Elementary and exposing students to college opportunities and supports earlier.

- Advice and guidance: career centers are staffed full-time in all seven SPPS high schools and the Gordon Parks alternative high school with two others located in the Dayton's Bluff and Sun Ray libraries as part of the city's support for higher education. Connected Counseling provides an in-school career and college planning process for all SPPS students.
- Affordability: SPPS is partnering with various organizations to provide scholarships to help SPPS graduates afford college; programs such as Admission Possible/College Center offer advice on financial aid.
- **What opportunities exist for partnerships between the district, the City, local community organizations, foundations and post secondary institutions?**
 - The District has recommitted itself to developing long-term, thoughtful solutions in cooperation with various partnerships and cooperative ventures.
- **What would it take to ensure that all SPPS graduates go on to college?**
 - 2006 data indicates the District, despite existing efforts, has a way to go to increase college access particularly with students of color.

SPPS is beginning to lay the foundation for raising expectations for college preparation and enrollment through a targeted, city-wide belief campaign which will message: pre-college, college preparation; graduation; enrollment and recruitment; attendance; staff development initiatives and MCA test attendance. This is a shared effort among all segments of the community, both public and private.

Discussion included answering several questions on clarification from board members and a brief discussion of other efforts being made within the community.

2. Programmatic Changes Update

- **University Academy for Boys and Girls (North End)**

The Deputy Chief Academic Officer outlined plans underway at North End noting it was an effort of many partners coming together to provide support and investment in growing the program for the benefit of the kids. She discussed the following areas:

 - The Sahan Initiative
 - The visit to two east coast charter schools
 - The reasons this particular effort was placed at North End
 - On-going program development efforts
 - Expanded opportunities inclusive of: multiple partnerships (including Wilder Foundation efforts), thinking outside the box in evolving the program, a culturally responsive and gender-based curriculum representative of the school population, community/family involvement; the possible inclusion of a school value system (sisterhood and brotherhood) and taking high quality teachers and helping them build additional skill sets in learning to change practices to suit the needs and learning styles of the students..
- **Homecroft**

There was a brief review of the nine possibilities under review.
- **Linwood-Monroe**

Communication efforts being implemented at the schools were discussed.
- **Phalen Lake**

Recruitment efforts at the school were described.
- **Farnsworth-Cleveland**

A steering committee for professional development has been established and initial summer dates communicated to staff. 90% of current 4th and 5th graders will be returning to the program and attend the Cleveland site.
- **Humboldt**

Subcommittees on communication, school and community outreach and partnership outreach have met and will provide west side residents with an opportunity to provide the schools with program input.

3. MCA II Awareness
Efforts underway to raise awareness about the importance of testing were discussed.
4. Summer School Update (COB 2/26/08)
The Superintendent reiterated the areas covered earlier in the Committee report on the meeting of February 26.
5. Human Resource Transactions
The Superintendent recommended approval of the human resource transactions as published which reflect HR actions taken between January 17 and February 20 and are actions taken prior to the hiring freeze.

MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved approval of HR transactions as published; motion seconded by Ms. Carroll.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved approval of all Consent Agenda items with the exception of the newly added Item 27, page 86A which was pulled for separate consideration. Motion seconded by Ms. Carroll.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

1. Grants

BF 27505 Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from an Anonymous Donor Capitol Hill Magnet School

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from an anonymous donor for Capitol Hill Magnet School and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27506 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the AlphaSmart Renaissance Learning 21st Century Writing Grant

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to Renaissance Learning, Inc. for funds to acquire an AlphaSmart Neo2 SmartOption Mobile Lab, including professional development training; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27507 Request for Permission to Participate in a Grant Project with the Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health (MACMH)

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health for funds to provide training and resources for services specifically to American Indian families; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27508 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Minnesota Department of Human Services (Mental Health Services)

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to submit a letter of support to the Minnesota Department of Human Services for funds to provide mental health services to five of the highest need elementary schools in the district; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27509 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Minnesota Humanities Center

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Humanities Center for funds to support the American Indian Studies Program through funding of Ojibwe Family Language Learning Kits; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27510 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Minnesota Office of Higher Education

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Office of Higher Education for funds to develop and implement curriculum and counseling services at Central and Harding High Schools; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the projects as specified in the award documents.

BF 27511 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the U.S. Department of Education for an Improving Literacy Through School Libraries Program

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of Education for funds to build the ideal foundation to immerse students in technology-rich learning environments, improve student reading skills and academic success through equitable access to technology, professional development and training for four program change schools: Farnsworth Aerospace Magnet, Cleveland Junior High School, Linwood A+ and Monroe Achievement Plus; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 27512 Request for Permission to Submit a Smaller Learning Communities Grant Application to the U.S. Department of Education

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to submit a Smaller Learning Communities Grant to the U.S. Department of Education to expand and enhance smaller learning communities reform efforts at the eligible schools – Central, Como, Harding, Highland Park and Johnson; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the projects as specified in the award documents.

2. Agreements

BF 27513 Authorization for Amendment No. 3 to Lease Agreement for 1919 University Avenue for AGAPE and Transition to Independence (TTI) Programs

That the Board of Education authorize the Chair and Clerk to execute Amendment No. 3 to the lease agreement for space at 1919 University Avenue to house the AGAPE and Transition to Independence (TTI) programs for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2008 and terminating June 30, 2011 in accordance with all terms and conditions of said agreement.

BF 27514 Authorization for Amendment No. 2 to Lease Agreement for 1919 University Avenue for the Gateway Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Chair and Clerk to execute Amendment No. 2 to the lease agreement for space at 1919 University Avenue for the Gateway program for a one-year term commencing July 1, 2008 and terminating June 30, 2009 in accordance with all terms and conditions of said agreement.

3. Contracts

BF 27515 Continuation of Contract with Lifetrack Resources, Inc.

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to enter into a contract with Lifetrack Resources, Inc. to provide functional work English classes for the period beginning January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008, at a cost not to exceed \$60,000. Reimbursement funds will be deposited in the ABE/GED Preparation budget #04-005-520-000-XXXX-8520.

BF 27516 Contract for Services with the Minnesota Literacy Council

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to enter into a contract with the Minnesota Literacy Council for an amount not to exceed \$60,000 to develop new functions for the Adult Basic Education database.

BF 27517 Contract Amendment with the Minnesota Literacy Council on Behalf of the Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to amend the contract with the Minnesota Literacy Council on behalf of the Saint Paul Community Literacy Consortium by \$74,600 to cover Learner Web and Outreach Coordinator expenses.

BF 27518 Request to Amend Contract with Resources for Child Caring

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to amend the contract with Resources for Child Caring to provide the above mentioned services for the period of July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008, for the cost of \$164,784.00.

BF 27519 Request for Permission to Enter into a Contract with the University of Minnesota, Office for Equity and Diversity on the Maadaadizi (Start A Journey) Program

That the Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent (designee) to enter into a contract with the University of Minnesota, Office for Equity and Diversity for Collaboration on the Maadaadizi (Start a Journey Program) Grant for 2007-2008.

4. Administrative Items

BF 27520 RATIFICATION: Emergency Water Main Repairs at the District Service Facility

That the Board of Education ratify the administration's action to contract for emergency water main repairs at the District Service Facility, 1930 Como Avenue, with Spriggs Plumbing for \$52,610.60.

BF 27521 Recommendations for Exclusion of Students in Non-Compliance with Minnesota Statute 123.70 Health Standards: Immunizations

That the Board of Education exclude the named students from school effective March 27, 2008, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations n or before this date.

BF 27522 Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and wire transfers for the period February 1 – February 29, 2008.

(a) General Account	#426497-428318	\$69,103,664.36
	#3011654-3011750	

Assistant Clerk of the Board of Education to serve Tenured Teacher with a copy of the charges filed with the Clerk on February 15, 2008, and give notice to Tenured Teacher of the teacher's right to a hearing or arbitration under the Teacher Tenure Act; and (3) Authorize the District's legal counsel to select a hearing officer or an arbitrator, as applicable, if Tenured Teacher requests a hearing. Motion was seconded by Mr. Goldstein.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

X. OLD BUSINESS -- None

XI. NEW BUSINESS

BF 27531 Recommended for Use of Project Labor Agreement

- 1930 Como – New server room
- 1. Recommendation that Project Labor Agreements Not Be Used
 - Hayden Heights Elementary School – New entry & office addition
 - Hazel Park Middle School – Media center & home ec room remodel
 - Horace Mann Elementary – Remodel of main office and entrance
 - Phalen Lake Elementary – Remodel of media center, relocation of circulations desk, new shelving and new teaching area
 - Pavement Remediation at 10 Sites: Harding High, Humboldt Sr. High, Chelsea Heights Elementary, Harriet Bishop Elementary, Randolph Heights Elementary, Rondo Education Center, Bruce Vento Elementary, JJ Hill Magnet, Ramsey Jr. High and Highland Park Sr. High.

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved, seconded by Mr. Brodrick, that the Board of Education accept administration's recommendation that a PLA be utilized with the 1930 Como server room project and the no PLAs be used for the following projects: Hayden Heights Elementary School (new entry & office addition); Hazel Park Middle School (media center & home economics room remodel); Horace Mann Elementary (remodel of main office and entrance); Phalen Lake Elementary (remodel of media center, relocation of circulations desk, new shelving and new teaching area) and pavement remediation at 10 sites

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

XII. BOARD OF EDUCATION

1. Information Requests and Responses - None
2. Items for Future Agendas - None
3. Board of Education Reports/Communications

Ms. Carroll reported she, Ms. Kong-Thao, the Superintendent has attended the Council of Great City Schools Legislative Conference. She noted she would provide a report at the next board meeting.

XIII. FUTURE MEETINGS SCHEDULE

1. Board of Education Meetings

- April 15
- May 20
- June 3 (Special 4:30 p.m.)
- June 17

2. Committee of the Board Meetings

- March 25
- April 29
- May 6
- May 27 – CANCELLED (Academic Awards Event)
- June 10
- June 24

3. Approval of Special CLOSED Board of Education Meeting

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved, seconded by Mr. Goldstein, that a Special CLOSED Board of Education Meeting (Update on Labor Negotiations and Non-Renewals) be scheduled to immediately following the close of COB Meeting on April 29, 2008.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

4. Approval of Board of Education and Committee of the Board Meeting Dates for the Balance of 2008

MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved, seconded by Mr. Brodrick, that the Board of Education approve the following dates for Board of Education Meetings and Committee of the Board meetings:

Board of Education Meetings

July 15
 August 19
 September 16
 October 21
 November 18
 December 11 (Tentative Truth in Taxation)
 December 16

Committee of the Board Meetings

July 29
 August 26
 September 23
 October 7
 October 28
 November 11
 November 25
 December 2
 December 9 (Tentative Truth in Taxation Action)

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved the meeting adjourn; seconded by Ms. Carroll.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 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,
St. Paul Public Schools Board of Education