

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Street-Stewart called the meeting to order at 5:48 p.m.

**II. ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Mr. Goldstein, Mr. Brodrick, Ms. Street-Stewart, Mr. Conlon,  
Superintendent Carstarphen, Mr. Lalla, General Counsel and  
Ms. Polsfuss, Assistant Clerk  
Mr. Oertwig joined the meeting at 5:55 p.m.

ABSENT: Ms. Carroll and Ms. Kong-Thao

**III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA**

1. Order of the Consent Agenda

The Chair noted a request had been made to pull two items for separate consideration: Item 6, Gift Acceptance from T. Denny Sanford Foundation and Item 21, Agreement with City of St. Paul Police Department for Shared Costs of School Resource Officers. No other items were pulled.

**MOTION: Mr. Goldstein moved the Consent Agenda be approved as revised (removal of Item 6, Gift Acceptance from T. Denny Sanford Foundation and Item 21, Agreement with City of St. Paul Police Department for Shared Costs of School Resource Officers for separate consideration). Seconded by Mr. Brodrick.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Absent
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

2. Order of the Main Agenda

The Chair indicated replacement pages for Human Resource Transaction pages 66-68 were at places.

**MOTION: Mr. Brodrick moved approval of the Main Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Conlon.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Absent
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 February 20, 2007

**MOTION: Mr. Brodrick moved approval of the minutes of the February 20, 2007 Board of Education meeting as printed. Seconded by Mr. Conlon.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

Mr. Goldstein	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Absent
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

## V. RECOGNITIONS

1. Recognition of Schools, Teams, Individuals and Coaches in Our Saint Paul Public Schools that have won Athletic Awards and Championships

It was noted the Johnson Senior High Boys' Basketball Team would not be in attendance at the meeting as they were attending a recognition banquet.

**MOTION:** Mr. Conlon moved the Board of Education recognize and congratulate the coaches, teams and individuals from the following schools for their accomplishments. Mr. Brodrick seconded the motion.

- Battle Creek Junior High School – Wrestling Team, City Champion
- Humboldt Junior High School – Girls' Basketball Team, City Champion
- Highland Park Senior High School – Wrestling Team, City Champion
- Highland Park Senior High School -- Girls' Gymnastics Team, City Champion
- Johnson Senior High School – Boys' Basketball Team, City Champions, Section Champions
- Central Senior High School – Boys' Swimming Team, City Champion
- Central Senior High School – Girls' Basketball Team, City Champion & State Champion

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

Additional information was provided that both the boys' and girls' Highland Park Senior High School Nordic Ski Teams were academic section champions having higher grade point averages than any of the other 13 schools in their section.

The announcement was made that the coach for the Central Senior High Boys' Swimming Team, Todd Marder, has been recognized as the Conference Swimming Coach of the Year.

Megan Howard, from the Central Senior High School Girls' Basketball Team, was also recognized as one of 39 students statewide who was an EXCEL winner (selected for their outstanding scholarship and high athletic abilities). Additionally, the Central Senior High School Math Team also won the State Math Championship.

The Superintendent stated there are many things that make the St. Paul students and schools outstanding and athletics are a large part of the academic experience. Students who are involved in the schools, who take on the extra work and are very engaged in the larger school process do better in school. She encouraged as many students as possible to reach out to get involved in athletics, academic programs and other opportunities offered by the schools.

## VI. PROGRAM UPDATES -- None

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

**MOTION:** Director Brodrick moved a request from Director Carroll that a discussion on a resolution in support of state legislation on domestic partners benefits be referred to an

**upcoming Committee of the Board meeting at the earliest possible date. Mr. Goldstein seconded the referral.**

The referral was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

## **VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Meeting of February 27, 2007

Mr. Goldstein made the report in the absence of Ms. Kong-Thao.

The only subject on the agenda was revisions to Public Comment. "Public engagement" will be brought to the Board at a later time.

The current process was reviewed and the proposed new process and forms were presented and explained. Following discussion the following motion was made and is now presented to the Board:

**MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved that the following changes be made to public comment: there be a revised verbal statement which will be read at the beginning of public comment, there will be a Sign-In Form, a Sign-In Log and a Guidelines Sheet which will be distributed to every person doing public comment. Each PERSON will be given 3 minutes to make their statement. Motion was seconded by Mr. Brodrick.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

Further clarification was provided to administration so that they could proceed with the changes and have them ready for the March 20 Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

## **IX. CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION: Mr. Brodrick moved approval of the Consent Agenda items as revised with the removal of Item 6, Gift Acceptance from T. Denny Sanford Foundation and Item 21, Agreement with City of St. Paul Police Department for Shared Costs of School Resource Officers for separate consideration. Motion seconded by Mr. Oertwig.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

**BF 27121**      Acceptance of Gift from Caroline Jaffray for the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program at Como Elementary

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the \$8,000 from Caroline Jaffray to help fund the Deaf/Hard of Hearing Program at Como Elementary.

**BF 27122**      Acceptance of Scholarship from The Kopp Family Foundation in Partnership with KOPP Investment Advisors

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Arlington Senior High School to accept a gift of \$6,000 from the Kopp Family Foundation in partnership with Kopp Investment Advisors. The \$6,000 will be deposited in Intra-School Fund 19-240-291-000-5096-0000.

**BF 27123**      Gift Acceptance from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a \$5,000 donation from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe. The total amount of \$5,000 will be deposited into the World Cultures Magnet School and American Indian Magnet School Joint Playgound Fund #19-530-000-000-5096-8904.

**BF 27124**      Gift Acceptance from the Saint Paul Public Schools Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Saint Paul Public Schools to accept a monetary gift of \$5,000 from the Saint Paul Public Schools Foundation to be used by Adams Spanish Immersion Elementary School to purchase gym mats.

**BF 27125**      Gift Acceptance from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept the \$10,000 donation from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community. The total of the gift of \$10,000 will be deposited into the budget # 19-530-000-000-5096-8904.

**BF 27126**      Gift Acceptance from Webster Magnet Elementary School PTO

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Webster Magnet Elementary school to accept a monetary gift of \$5,531.29 from the Webster Magnet Elementary School Parent Teacher Organization. The total amount will be deposited in Intraschool Fund #19-578-000-000-5096-0000.

**BF 27127**      Gift Acceptance from the West St. Paul Commercial Club Bar

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Humboldt Senior High School to accept the monetary gift of \$5,000 from the West St. Paul Commercial Club Bar. The money will be deposited into the Humboldt Senior High intra-account # 19-225-000-000-5096-0000 and will be used for scholarships for the graduating class of 2007.

**BF 27128**      Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Anderson Corporation Charitable Giving Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to The Anderson Corporation Charitable Giving Program for funds to provide students in the district with greater access to the Valley Branch Environmental Learning Center; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the programs as specified in the award documents.

**BF 27129**      Request for Permission to Submit a *Connected Counseling* Grant Application to The Bush Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a *Connected Counseling* grant application to the Bush Foundation to continue the *Connected Counseling* project at district high schools; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 27130**      Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the City of Saint Paul VISTA Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the City of Saint Paul VISTA Program for the creation or enhancement of programs that work to close the achievement gap in the District; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the programs as specified in the award documents.

**BF 27131**      Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement, for funds to provide English language instruction and employment support to refugee adult learners in the district; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the programs as specified in the award documents.

**BF 27132**      Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Dollar General Foundation Family Literacy Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Dollar General Foundation for funds to provide parents and early childhood education in the district; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the program as specified in the award documents.

**BF 27133**      Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Intel Corporation for a Schools of Distinction Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Intel Corporation for funds to improve educational outcomes for students in the district; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the programs as specified in the award documents.

**BF 27134**      Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the Minnesota Department of Education for a Special Education Parent Involvement Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Department of Education for funds to increase positive social, behavioral and academic outcomes for students in the district through the employment of positive behavioral interventions and supports in the district; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the program as specified in the award documents.

**BF 27135**      Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application for a Minnesota Early Learning Foundation Grant

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation for funds to support Project Early Kindergarten by linking and partnering with child care centers and licensed home child care to improve academic content; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the program as specified in the award documents.

**BF 27136**      Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to the National Association of School Nurses Research Grant Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the National Association of School Nurses for funds to model chronic disease management in elementary students in the district; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the program as specified in the award documents.

**BF 27137**      Request for Permission to Partner with Hamline University and the University of Minnesota on Grant Applications to the National Professional Development Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into partnerships with Hamline University and the University of Minnesota to submit grant applications to the U.S. Department of Education for professional development that improve classroom instruction for limited English proficient students; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the programs as specified in the award documents.

**BF 27138**      Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Donation from Saint Paul College for Career and Technical Education

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant donation of \$20,000 from Saint Paul College to develop Career Pathways for high school students.

**BF 27139**      Accept a Grant Award from the University of Minnesota for Early Childhood Family Education's Community-Engaged Parent Education for 2007

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept this grant from the University of Minnesota for Community Engaged Parent Education for 2007 and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

**BF 27140**      Approval of an Employment Agreement with Twin Cities Glaziers, Architectural Metals and Glass Workers Local 1324, to Establish Terms and Conditions of Employment for 2006-2009

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 employees in this school district for whom Twin Cities Glaziers, Architectural Metals and Class Workers Local 1324, is the exclusive representative; duration of said Agreement is for the period of June 1, 2006 through May 31, 2009, and that the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 adopt a resolution that this contract maintains the District's fiscal structural balance.

**BF 27141**      Continuation of Contract with Lifetrack Resources, Inc.

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into a contract with Lifetrack Resources, Inc. to provide functional work English classes for the period beginning January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 at a cost of \$60,000.00. Reimbursement funds will be deposited in the ABE/GED Preparation budget # 04-005-520-000-XXXX-8520.

**BF 27142**      Professional Services from Afton Architects & Planners

That the Board of Education authorize the administration to procure consultant architectural-engineering services from Afton Architects & Planners, as needed, based on a schedule of rates not to exceed \$120.00 per hour for the period March 1, 2007 through February 29, 2008 or for additional extended periods at the same terms and conditions.

**BF 27143**      Recommendation 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 28, 2007, should they not comply with Minnesota State Health Standards for Immunizations on or before this date.

**BF 27144**      Authorization of Lease Extension for UniDale Mall

That the Board of Education authorize the Chair and Clerk to execute a lease extension for UniDale Mall for the Area Learning Center for the term May 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 and in accordance with terms and conditions of said agreement.

**BF 27145**      Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and wire transfers for the period February 1-February 28, 2007.

(a) General Account	#402721-404842	\$52,153,271.66
	#3010345-3010454	
(b) Debt Service	-0-	-0-
(c) Construction -0-	<u>3,266,812.17</u>	
	\$55,420,084.17	

Included in the above disbursements are payrolls in the amount of \$17,742,338.81 and overtime of \$105,688.05.

(d) Collateral Changes None

That the Board of Education further authorize payment of properly certified cash disbursements including payrolls, overtime schedules, compensation claims and claims under the Workers' Compensation Law falling within the period ending June 19, 2007.

**BF 27146**      Bid No. 9132-C Technology Upgrade at Highland Park Elementary School

That the Board of Education authorize award of Bid No. A9132-C for the technology upgrade at Highland Park Elementary School to the lowest responsible bidder, Peoples Electric Company, Inc. for \$412,433.00, the lump sum base bid plus alternates no. 1,2 and 3.

**CONSENT AGENDA – SEPARATE CONSIDERATION**

**BF 27147**      Gift Acceptance from T. Denny Sanford Foundation

The Superintendent indicated this was a regular gift acceptance and the process was the same as in all gifts. The process for receiving gift monies has them being deposited into the District bank account as a matter of prudent fiscal policy and practice. This deposit in no way denotes agreement to complete a project or do anything the donor is asking to be done. Minnesota statute, Board policy and other factors must be taken into consideration when gifts are accepted. This gift carried special considerations from the donor; these requests will be considered like any other capital bond requests. If the special considerations can not be met, the matter will be taken back to the donor for a decision as to whether they wish to change the conditions of the donation, if they do not, the donation will be returned. The Board is simply being asked to accept the gift and the other matters will be addressed in the normal course of action on capital requests.

The question was raised if this matter was being advanced because of the gift or if it was already under consideration within the capital bond process. The Superintendent responded the gift does not impact the consideration of the capital bond process in any manner. Capital projects are brought forth by the schools and each is considered in relation to other capital projects in the District. This project has not yet been brought forward as the capital process is just beginning.

**MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to allow Central High School to accept a monetary gift from the T. Denny Sanford Foundation to be used as designated. The total gift of \$100,000.00 will be deposited into the Central High School intra-school account 12-210-000-000-5096-0000. Second provided by Mr. Goldstein.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

**BF 27148**      Agreement with City of Saint Paul Police Department for Shared Costs of School Resource Officers

The Superintendent stated administration is recommending the continuation of the SRO contract and approval of it. She noted the contract had expired on December 31, 2006. She indicated the Chief Operations Officer is actively working with the Chief of Police to explore all possibilities for changes in future negotiations as well as identify opportunities for mutual collaboration in future. An assessment of school-wide safety and security needs is being undertaken, in partnership with the Police Department, to get at the heart of how to make this contract work for us and serve the schools and students better. The study should be completed by summer 2007 in preparation for informing the contract as it develops over the next months until the end of the school year after which the District will actually realign resources based on the recommendations of the study.

The Chief Operations Officer was called upon to further speak to the contract. He indicated the SPPS portion of the contract would increase by \$100,000 while the City of St. Paul's would reduce its cash contribution by \$69,000 to around \$100,000 which has historically been the City's contribution since 2004. The total City contribution can be valued at around \$300,000 (or 29% of the full contract). This takes into consideration the cost of a full-time supervisor, vehicles, equipment, training, etc. The upcoming assessment will probably utilize tools from the National Association of School Resource Officers to survey and see what needs to be done to realign resources to make the schools safer.

Acting Chief, Nancy DiPerna was introduced to present the City's perspective on the contract. She indicated that last year the Police Department's cash contribution was \$169,000 but that this year, due to budget constraints; it had been reduced back to \$100,000 level. She stated it was her understanding that the 50/50 contribution ended with the 1989 levy.

A historical perspective was provided by a Board member. It was requested that there be a meeting between the Board of Education and the Mayor and City Council to discuss this issue.

Clarification was provided by the Chief Operations Officer on the actual costs associated with the contract. The contract calls for 12 SRO officers; the total value of the contract is \$1,040,574. From this the SPPS portion is about \$940,000 and the Police Department portion is \$100,000 plus the other services the Department provides (vehicles, equipment, full time supervisor, etc.)

The question was raised if this contract being presented was the original proposal or had there been an earlier rendition. The Deputy Chief responded that this contract is the bottom line dollar-wise though the Police Chief indicated willingness to look at other options to keep the children safe. It was indicated that the number of officers and hours would not change with this contract including representation during summer school.

The question was asked if this was Chief Harrington's bottom line or is it the Mayor's bottom line on the amount of money he will give to the Police Department to use. It was noted important ideas were being raised on how the Board engages with the City, the issue of the City's responsibility to security and safety issues to school children who are part of the City as opposed to the school district's responsibility as a separate authority. The hope was raised that as part of the proposed study a look will be taken at how to utilize police resources in a different manner (the image is that the schools can only be safe with police officers in them) with the ultimate goal of not having police officers in the schools.

MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved the proposed motion with the addition that administration continue the dialogue with city to restore funds for the future. Motion failed for lack of a second.

MOTION: Mr. Oertwig moved the issue be referred to a joint meeting of Mayor, City Counsel and School Board in order to have a deliberate discussion. Mr. Conlon seconded for the purpose of discussion.

The issue is "who is going to pay for it and why the school district should pay for costs that the City had been very willing to pay for previously". This is not a decision the Police Department can make as they do not control the budget. The discussion is not about the quality of the service provided by the Police Department who has done a wonderful job of keeping the schools safe, it is a political discussion about who will fund it.

It was noted that the motion still does not address the issue of the continuation of service from the Police Department and with the proposed study it should be recognized the Board would like to have the findings of that report brought to it.

A director spoke against the motion because of the potential of getting into a tug-of-war with the Police Department. Several Board members serve on committees with the Mayor and can certainly make him aware of the Board's concerns. The District should not be operating without a contract and facing the potential of having the SRO's pulled out of the schools. The Board does need to accept the police are doing their job and they need to be paid.

Mr. Oertwig amended his motion to address the immediate concern.

AMENDED MOTION: Mr. Oertwig moved the Board approve a six month contract from January 1-June 30, 2007 at one-half the negotiated annual cost. The contract for the remainder of the year is to be established after a meeting of the Mayor, City Council and School Board. Motion seconded by Mr. Brodrick.

This, hopefully, will highlight the fact that this is a serious issue for the Board. The question was raised as to whether a six month contract is feasible. Clarification was sought as to whether the contract was with the City of St. Paul or the Police Department.

The Deputy Chief stated the contract was with the City of St. Paul. The General Counsel stated the contract is with the City of St. Paul and what is being suggested is a counter offer from the Board for a six month contract to be approved by the City Council. It can not be finalized at this

meeting; the counter offer can be made at this meeting but must be approved by the second party.

The request was made that at a future COB meeting further discussion on the contract details occur so the Board is fully grounded in all aspects of the contract and specifically what each party brings to it.

#### **RESTATEMENT OF AMENDED MOTION:**

**Mr. Oertwig moved the Board authorize the Chair and Clerk to execute an agreement with the City of Saint Paul to provide School Resource Officers for services to the Saint Paul Public Schools for the term January 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007 at one-half the negotiated annual cost. The contract for the remainder of the year is to be established after a meeting of the Mayor, City Council and School Board. Motion seconded by Mr. Brodrick.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

#### **X. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Mai See Yang – Read the petition being presented by the group “Increased Diversity for Excellence and Achievement in Schools” (IDEAS).
2. Bea Vue – Stated the Hmong and students of color population is growing; 73.5% are students of color with 29.8% of this group being Asian American. Less than 7% of the staff are Asian American. The District has not done all it can to meet Hmong academic and social needs. Hmong students live in two very different cultures. The non-Hmong teachers are not able to assist without understanding the Hmong culture. It takes one who has lived the culture to understand the struggle; to provide a role model.
3. Michael Yang – Spoke on behalf of the Hmong Advocacy Coalition. He stated he was asking for District leadership to immediately implement the Hmong recommendations developed earlier in the year and provided for the Strategic Plan especially the recommendation to include a Hmong representative within the senior leadership team to better and more effectively educate children. Hmong leadership within the District is limited to positions with limited or no decision making authority. The Hmong community needs real staff with real decision making ability. Diversity is important in all staff positions adding strength and depth to the community.
4. Marny Xiong – 29% of District students are Asian American and of this, Hmong students make up 25%. Requested a Hmong person be put in a leadership position on the senior staff so the Hmong voice can be heard.
5. Ng M Lee – Spoke because of concern about the education of her children and the rest of the Hmong students and children and the lack of a Hmong person in top leadership who understands the culture and the family dynamics of the Hmong community. She spoke of a problem she had had with a child in school but couldn’t communicate or share the problem with staff because no one understood the Hmong culture. She stated she believes with a Hmong staff professional within the leadership team should a similar situation arise it will be resolved.
6. Teng Moua – Requested consideration be given to accepting a Hmong staff person onto the leadership team. A majority of the Hmong families don’t speak, write or read English; in addition to that, having Hmong staff at every school to resolve parent and student issues is a positive move toward better education. Requested Board support for the Hmong request.

7. Mai Yia Moua – A Hmong parent asking for Board support to identify and recruit Hmong staff into leadership team to help in understanding parents who have language barriers. The majority of Hmong parents don't speak the language and are having a lot of difficulty. The community knows there are Hmong person with the qualifications to meet the needs of the position they are asking for and asked for consideration of a Hmong staff person within the District leadership team.
8. Yer Xiong – Shared the problems she has been having; in trying to enroll in preschool her children were automatically put into ESL programs regardless of their ability. She asked to have the children moved out of the program because she believed the program is designated for individuals who have special needs. She feels this was done intentionally to isolate the children and to keep them from being a part of larger education system. Regardless of their ability they continue to be kept in ESL and when they are done with ESL into secondary education they will probably have the same problem with no support mechanism.
9. Chue Yang -- Shared concern about children of the Hmong community and asked the District to recruit and retain Hmong staff within the leadership team. She feels the Hmong have no representation in leadership, no mechanism to solve problems and asked Board's support for placing a Hmong person within the leadership team within six months. If this does not happen Hmong students will be moved into a Hmong school.
10. Ying Lee – Ask for Hmong to be part of District leadership team. This will help with understanding the Hmong culture so Hmong students can be on a level playing field with the rest of District students and families and there will be a better understanding of Hmong students. It is the role of the Board to recommend the recruitment of Hmong staff so their rights can be met as well. He requested this be addressed within six months.
11. Fue Khang -- Asked for the increase of staff diversity, the Hmong community is asking the Board to make the top level of the District reflect the community it serves. He indicated everyone deserves a voice, an advocate when decisions affecting them are made; there is no voice within the Superintendent's office for the Hmong community. The community feels their concerns are not heard, decisions made will not benefit them. He asked the Board to make a commitment to make real changes, to take immediate steps to make the top administrative staff of the District reflect the student population within six months. Further that within one year a comprehensive plan to increase the diversity of teachers, principals and administrators throughout the District, to work with the community in all these processes. In order to achieve these goals they ask that the District reform its hiring practices, break down barriers to hiring educators of color, create PTOs for parents of color at schools with high numbers of students of color, engage these PTOs in site councils, increase efforts to recruit teachers of color, train teachers of color for leadership positions, increase mentorship opportunities for potential teachers of color. IDEAS is eager to work with the District to achieve these goals to make SPPS the best for everyone.
12. Mary Reis – Spoke to customer service stating parents and children are District customers; by choosing the system money is brought to the system, they are partners with the District working toward the same goals and results. She indicated she does not always feel she is being viewed as a customer or partner when issues arise. She offered various suggestions for better customer service within the school. Additionally she offered her support to the Hmong issue of diversity in the District and asked that African-Americans and other Asian American groups also be included in the effort.

## **XI. OLD BUSINESS**

1. 2007 Appointments to the Capital Expenditures Advisory Committee (CEAC)  
The question was raised whether additional members could still be brought forward. The response was yes and the list of upcoming CEAC meeting dates was given so that newly proposed members could attend them pending completion of their paperwork. The dates were: April 9 (7:00 – 9:00 p.m. orientation), April 23, April 30 and May 9. Mr. Brodrick

indicated he had two individuals to add to the list of members to be approved and any additional members applying may be brought forward at the next meeting..

**MOTION:**           **Mr. Brodrick moved, seconded by Mr. Oertwig, that the following individuals be placed on Capital Expenditure Advisory Committee (CEAC) committee Steven P. Dresler, Kris Emerson, Roger Hallman, Cricket James, Bernard Koelndorfer, John Krenik, David Nystrom, John Thoemke, Mark Vandersteen, Stanley Gardner and Joe Coleman.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

## 2. Approval of New Board Agenda Format

**MOTION:**           **Mr. Conlon moved, seconded by Mr. Goldstein, that the new format for the Board of Education meeting agenda be approved as published.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

## **XII. NEW BUSINESS**

**MOTION:**           **Mr. Brodrick moved waiver of the advance information rule and approval of the use of a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) on the structural repair to Griffin Stadium. Motion seconded by Mr. Oertwig.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

Administration stated they were making the recommendation that a PLA not be used on the Griffin Stadium project because the project duration and scope of work would not be adversely affected if work stoppage occurred, the facility would be usable for events and the school process would not be impacted.

Extensive discussion was held about what PLAs are, how they function, their value. Clarification was provided by administration and legal counsel on the project and on the use of PLAs. The General Counsel indicated per law, the Board must vote at a public meeting if it wants to have a PLA included as part of a contract's specifications prior to its award. Further, the law requires that the Board consider each individual project in which it wants to have a PLA separately and that there is a legitimate reason for doing so; there is no "blanket approval" of PLAs. He noted, for this project, the advance information policy must also be waived and this action must be approved by four votes. For further clarification, if there are not four affirmative votes, the motion and second are made at this meeting, debate can be held but the actual voting on requiring the PLA must be delayed to the next Board meeting.

A question was raised about the advance information policy, the General Counsel stated, "*to provide information in advance of regular board meetings concerning any proposals which may require board action; such proposals and reports shall be in writing and submitted to the Board.*"

A request was made that at some point the building trades come before the Board and explain the pro's and con's of PLAs and their consideration of them and how they word their responses to the Board's request for a recommendation.

Following extensive further discussion, the question was called.

### **XIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS**

#### **1. Superintendent's Goals and Outcomes and Updates**

The Superintendent indicated she would be outlining the revision to the Draft Strategic Plan with input from the community; providing a overview of the accountability work; offer additional administrative placements and present the next Beat the Odds Schools – Prosperity Heights Elementary.

- **Beating the Odds School – Prosperity Heights Elementary**

The Superintendent described the criteria which defines the “Beating the Odds” schools and listed the schools.

Prosperity Heights is a neighborhood school with 372 students, 83% utilizing the free or reduced lunch program. It is 43% ELL, 13% Special Education and all students walk to school. The majority of the students are from homes where English is not the first language with the majority being Asian American students.

The school has consistently made annual yearly progress, is meeting State proficiency targets for NCLB and reading and math. The students, on average, scored higher than comparable students statewide on 2006 MCA II reading and math portions of the assessment. There is virtually no achievement gaps among subgroups on recent MCA II tests.

Prosperity Heights has received the National Title I Beating the Odds Award in 2006, they have received a grant from Actuarial Foundation to begin a chess club and a Nickelodeon TV grant to purchase bikes to promote health & wellness.

Strengths that have gotten the school ahead include:

- Project Early K – moves kids further ahead because the foundation was established early.
- Collaboration – time is allowed for teachers to meet to establish teams
- Parent Involvement – parents involved with students at home daily, providing follow through with parent sign-off
- Family Support Team – intervention for a particular student struggling academically or behaviorally
- Healthy Students – working toward health & wellness

The principal offered thanks for the recognition as a “Beating the Odds School” and stated they had virtually closed the achievement gap and will continue to accelerate the path to excellence through families, teachers and staff along with the support of administration.

Lessons which have been learned in the school include the value of the collaborative ELL model and along with that common planning time for teaching staff, family and community involvement and the fact the students come ready to learn.

- **Strategic Plan for Excellence in Schools**

The Superintendent reported the development is nearly complete with a scheduled completion date of mid-April for the final product. Extra care has been taken in revising and organizing the plan and a draft of the revised content is provided at this meeting. The following items will be produced on the Strategic Plan: a one-page Framework; a Strategic Plan Brochure outlining each of the strategies (key initiatives) which will be published in four languages; and an Implementation Guide which is a supplement to the

Strategic Plan which will include all of the strategies, action items and the full data guide with all of the targets and benchmarks along with a glossary of terms. While the Implementation Guide will be a public document, the primary users will be staff and internal stakeholders in development of school improvement plans, departmental work plans, etc.

Some of the major changes to be seen in the final version include:

- Expansion of the Strategic Plan from 3 years to 5 years (2006-2011) – community feedback stressed how time is used, commitment of resources and building staff capacity in order to do the job set forth in the plan
- The number of strategies have been condensed from 11 to 10 and incorporate the action items from the deleted strategy into other strategies.
- The action items have been significantly changed to reflect the needs and suggestions of staff and community and is becoming very tight and focused.
- Priorities are being aligned to account for the factors just described, State and Federal mandates, the financial landscape of the District and organizational capacity. The right work needs to be kept to the forefront, to get more strategic every step of the way and focus efforts so only those things which get the desired outcomes are done.

A concern was raised that no strategy exists within the Strategic Plan for increasing the student population. What can be done by the District to demonstrate why people should want to have their children educated in St. Paul Public Schools. The Superintendent responded that this was an issue administration talks of regularly. The facts around St. Paul are that St. Paul has an aging population as a community, it also has very high property taxes and the cost of homes are difficult for starting home buyers to achieve. The issue is not flight, the District needs to think strategically in partnership with the City, the State and the community about how a campaign to increase enrollment can be addressed. The issue of an enrollment campaign for SPPS has been raised and it will be addressed during the upcoming administrator meeting. This is a challenge but it is an item the District is aware of and has under consideration.

The issue of Choice and Neighborhood Schools was then raised and the request made that this be revisited along with the issue of Site Council decision making on what a school will be. The Superintendent responded that this is already an action item as part of the Implementation Guide.

The Superintendent reminded the Board the \$7 million deficit is not just about declining enrollment, there are other factors impacting this shared in this week's weekly update. Another part of it is the fact that the population is becoming better educated and achieving better jobs, therefore there are fewer students in poverty and so funding is impacted by the decline in the poverty level. The District needs to rethink how to get funding from the State so weights are achieved in other ways; i.e., showing growth, the movement from poverty within a community, etc. and be ready to hold those conversations.

The Superintendent stated the issues of declining enrollment, staff diversity, accountability in schools, and all these huge, systemic issues did not happen overnight and cannot be resolved quickly. The greatest gift central administration can give to schools and the community is, when there is a systemic challenge like enrollment, staff diversity, etc., to provide a systemic solution that helps solve the problem forever; that questions are raised in a healthy way so people have an opportunity to respond and provide their thinking and help provide resolution.

- **Accountability Work**

Accountability work is in the early stage of planning. An accountability framework will be presented. There is a solid foundation through work with schools and administrators to include everyone internally and externally. The discussion on accountability is being brought to administrators and will begin with what research shows is successful, but moving beyond assessment to include growth and status assessments. Principles of

accountability are being developed which will guide on-going accountability efforts. Student progress will also be measured based on state standards and realistic growth expectations. The District will follow a shared accountability model which outlines a specific role for students, staff, parents and community members in supporting student success. Finally, responsibilities for schools and District administration will be clearly identified in a school accountability framework. The framework will be specific regarding NCLB requirements and incentives and supports to schools that need extra help.

In order to stay on track with the accountability work, three teams have been developed to support development and implementation. They are a shared accountability advisory team comprised of staff and community members; a technical advisory group composed of internal and external experts in research, evaluation, assessment and cost-benefit analysis and a data monitoring group of internal cross-departmental staff. District and school specific indicators and targets have been identified. A draft of the accountability framework will be completed this spring which will be shared with stakeholders and then revised and finalized. It will be implemented this fall.

- **Other**

The Superintendent announced that administration will be offering its recommendation on military recruitment for discussion and action at the March 27 COB meeting. The proposed 2007-08 school year calendar will also be brought forward for discussion and action.

2. Human Resource Transactions

The Superintendent reviewed her recommendations for four administrative placements: Nancy Stachel to become Executive Director of Elementary Education effective April 1, 2007; Sharon L. Freeman to become Assistant Director AYP effective April 23, 2007; Alan Levin to become Elementary Assistant Principal at Open School effective April 9, 2007 and Daniel P. Vaagenes to become Secondary Assistant Principal at Ramsey Junior High School effective March 21, 2007. She reviewed the various positions still open and being interviewed for.

The superintendent stated the published Human Resource Transactions reflected changes occurring between January 22, 2007 and February 20, 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 waiver of the Board's policy on advance information with respect to the Human Resource Transactions and the following:**

- 1) **The Board's support for the administrative direction of the Framework, Strategic Plan and Implementation Guide;**
- 2) **Approval of the following administrative placements: Nancy Stachel to Executive Director of Elementary Education effective April 1, 2007; Sharon L. Freeman to Assistant Director AYP effective April 23, 2007; Alan Levin to Elementary Assistant Principal at Open School effective April 9, 2007 and Daniel P. Vaagenes to Secondary Assistant Principal at Ramsey Junior High School effective March 21, 2007; and**
- 3) **Approval of the revised list of Human Resource Transactions as brought to the Board on March 20, 2007.**

**The motion was seconded by Mr. Brodrick.**

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

**XIV. BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORTS -- None**

**XV. COMMUNICATIONS -- None**

**XVI. FUTURE MEETINGS SCHEDULE**

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

- 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.)

- 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**

MOTION: Mr. Goldstein moved the meeting adjourn, seconded by Mr. Brodrick.

The motion was approved with the following roll call vote:

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 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