

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 15, 2008

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 p.m. by the Chair.

II. ROLL CALL

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

III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

1. Order of the Consent Agenda

Director Hardy requested that Item 10, page 43: Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District #625, Saint Paul Public Schools and the Association of Supervisory and Administrative Personnel, Exclusive Representative for Supervisory Employees; Item 21, page 60: Facility Rentals for 2009 Graduations and Item 27, page 79: Bid No. A9218-W Cafeteria Serving Line Equipment be pulled for separate consideration.

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved, seconded by Mr. Goldstein, the approval of the Consent Agenda as published with the exception that Item 10, page 43: Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District #625, Saint Paul Public Schools and the Association of Supervisory and Administrative Personnel, Exclusive Representative for Supervisory Employees; Item 21, page 60: Facility Rentals for 2009 Graduations and Item 27, page 79: Bid No. A9218-W Cafeteria Serving Line Equipment be pulled for separate consideration.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

2. Order of the Main Agenda

MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved approval of the Main Agenda with the exception that the action regarding Homecroft be delayed until following public comment. Motion seconded by Ms. Carroll.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

1. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education March 18, 2008

MOTION: **Ms. Street-Stewart moved, seconded by Ms. Carroll that the Minutes of the Board of Education meeting of March 18, 2008 be approved as published.**

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Committee of the Board March 25, 2008

The agenda for the evening was large and consisted of seven subjects, the first of which was:

• **Charter School Review**

Administration indicated they were seeking board approval for the renewal of the sponsorship contracts with Twin Cities Academy Middle School and High School and Face to Face Academy Charter Schools. The renewal would commence July 1, 2008 for three additional years.

A description of the audit process was provided.

Specific discussion was held on the audit of **Face to Face Academy** including a brief history of the school. Various questions and concerns expressed by the Board were addressed. Upon closing of discussion the following recommended motion was made:

RECOMMENDED MOTION: **That the Board of the Education approve the renewal of the sponsorship contract with Face to Face Academy.**

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

Discussion then moved to the **Twin Cities Academy School and Twin Cities Academy High School** which again provided administration and the Board a chance to consider various questions and concerns. The discussion led to the following recommended motion:

RECOMMENDED MOTION: **That the Board of the Education approve the sponsorship contract with Twin Cities Academy Charter School and Twin Cities Academy Charter High School.**

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

The Board thanked staff for the very complete and detailed information provided to them.

- **Mass Notification System**

The Chief Business Officer stated administration is seeking Board approval on their recommendation for a new mass notification system which would replace the four systems currently existing and in use by the district. Approval is necessary at this time so that staff can move forward on the contract and have the system can be in place and possibly in testing phase by the end of this school year.

The presentation addressed the following areas: how the new system would meet district needs, system ownership, a price comparison between the two finalists who were considered, the savings to the district by going to one system instead of four separate systems (both in efficiency and cost) and a comparison of the “value-added” aspects of each system. Clarification was made that this was not an in-house system but was a contracted service provided by an outside vendor. The following recommended motion was brought forward:

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contract with Connect Ed for a mass notification system at a cost of \$109,500. This item has been budgeted for and will be paid from the Operations area to the budget code provided.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

The Board requested they be provided with information on how persons with no phone or computer would be notified about items for which this service is utilized.

- **Homecroft**

A brief review was provided of the programming changes being made at various schools with specific and in-depth review of the Homecroft site and the process which has been going on to arrive at a decision on the programming choice for the site.

The specific reasons why a change is necessary for Homecroft were restated:

- declining enrollment
- loss of comprehensive programming
- an erosion of quality for the students
- a surplus of elementary classroom space in Highland Park
- the fact that “shuffling” students does not deal with the declining enrollment and
- the fact that the school was in corrective action.

A resume of the Homecroft Advisory Team meetings was provided along with a summary of the recommendations brought forward from their work and that of staff. The factors used in evaluating and comparing each of these proposals included:

- the potential for new enrollment to SPPS
- potential funding sources
- operational expenses for the building
- staffing expenses for the program
- program specific expenses
- transportation costs
- the impact on other SPPS schools
- the impact on students and families for proposals that affect existing programs and

- the overall district needs for space utilization.
- A summarization of costs to start up each program and the bottom line cost to the district including the programming recommendation being made by administration which, though still a negative figure at start-up, provided the greatest overall cost savings for the district.

Administration then review their proposal for Homecroft explaining the action on the change in grade level reconfiguration at Homecroft is necessary to define the changes as specified by law and to set in motion action on the various leases involved with the programming changes. Following extensive discussion on the recommendation and other factors a motion was recommended, followed by a failed motion to amend. The question was called and the following recommended motion made:

Following completion of public comment the following motion was made:

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved, seconded by That the Board of Education adopts the Superintendent’s proposed programmatic change that requires Board action and in connection therewith: pursuant to Minnesota Statute 123B.02 General Powers of Independent School Districts (Subd. 2) Facilities for school-age children, establish grade-level reconfigurations for the following: Homecroft Elementary School – convert the current grade structure of Homecroft Elementary School from K-6 to PreK-12 (to house three programs detailed in the addendum below).

Addendum: The grade level reconfiguration for Homecroft Elementary School will be executed in the following manner for the 2008-2009 school year:

- Create a shared space design that launches the District’s first “Early Learning Center” by consolidating 4-year programs and providing a best practices model ECFE and ECSE collaboration site (three sections of early childhood classes focused on children and parents learning together) as well as birth through age 5 program staff; and housing a professional development center that includes a professional resource library for birth through age 5 programming.
- House the Rivereast Day Treatment Program (to serve students in grades 4 through 10), and
- House The Lab, where junior and senior high students work on academic goals through poetry, arts, dance, music and wellness.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

An additional motion was brought forward to instruct administration to reassess Homecroft programming on an annual basis to determine the feasibility of future elementary programming at the site. This motion failed.

A Homecroft Advisory Committee representative read a statement from the committee regarding their view of the process. The Board thanked all involved for the thoughtful process given to a decision for the Homecroft site.

- **Citizens Budget and Finance Advisory Committee (CBFAC) Update**
The Chief Business Officer stated CBFAC was coming to the Board at this meeting to propose a subject for the next year’s study topic. They were coming forward at this time because the committee felt it was important to establish the subject for study early so that work on selection of committee members for the following year could commence and work on its subject could start immediately upon formation of the next committee by the Board in

September. The topic being proposed for 2008-2009 is enrollment trends for 2008-2009 and their impact on budget recommendations. This subject ties in with the strategic plan, keeping kids in school and with academic achievement.

Following discussion on the subject and various other suggestions which might be tied to it, the following recommended motion was made:

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Education accept the recommendation that the 2008-2009 CBFAC topic be enrollment trends, their impact on budget and recommendations.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

- **Rule of 90**

The Chief Business Officer stated EdMN had introduced a bill this legislative session which would reestablish the rule of 90 for those teachers hired after January 1, 1989. The Rule of 90 allows for early retirement without penalty if the combined age and years of service for a participant equal 90. It has been estimated that the current cost of this benefit would be 1.6% of payroll or \$3 million annually. Assuming that cost is shared equally between the teachers and the district, expenditures for 2008-09 would have to be increased by \$1.5 million. Following discussion on the issue and a presentation from the Saint Paul Teachers Retirement Fund Association the Board asked to be kept apprised of the situation so that they could take action as needed and brought forward the following motion:

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Committee of the Board recommend that the Board of Education receive the report on the Rule of 90.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

- **Policy**

The Board reviewed the following policies:

NEW POLICY NO.	POLICY TITLE	RECOMMENDED ACTION
211.01	Appointed Committees & Councils Advisory to the Board	Approved as revised
413.00	Drug-Free Workplace	Approved with clarification as noted to Item 3, page 2
413.01	Chemical Use & Abuse	Approved
499.00	Policies Incorporated by Reference	Approved ((pending Legal Review)
504.00	Drug-Free Schools	Approved
601.01	Achievement	Approved

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Committee of the Board recommend that the Board of Education approve the policies reviewed, as noted, pending final adoption.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

- **Work Session - Committees Advisory to the Board**

The Board reviewed Policy 211.01 – Committees/Councils Advisory to the Board. The decision was made to change the title for the policy to Appointed Committees/Councils Advisory to the Board.

Discussion covered which committees were mandated under law and which were established by the Board, staff or through affinity groups and how advocacy groups were established/formed.

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved the acceptance of the Committee of the Board Report for the meeting of March 25, 2008. Motion seconded by Mr. Conlon.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

VI. RECOGNITIONS

BF 27532

Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Outstanding District Employees and Departments

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved, seconded by Ms. Carroll, that the Board of Education recognize the staff and departments acknowledged for their contributions and outstanding work:

- Gordon Parks High School for the Sustainable St. Paul Green Building Award
- The Office of Community Relations for the 2008 MinnSPRA STAR Award for Strategic Communications
- Eight Scholarships were awarded to eight active SPSS teachers by the Saint Paul Retired Teachers. Recipients were: R. Backman, Central High School; C. Fredrick, Humboldt Senior High School; M. Green, Crossroads Elementary; R. Holleschau, Washington Technology Middle School; E. Hucke, Homecroft Elementary; C. Janski, Gordon Parks High School; K. Kipka, Capitol Hill Magnet and S. Odermann-Karr, American Indian Magnet.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Charrie Willis – commended District on creative programming at Phalen Lake and North End. She challenged the District to provide creative choices for parents seeking a high quality education for their children; specifically she proposed the three undesignated classrooms at Homecroft be placed under the auspices of Community Education so they can be used for community education programs. She stated it is time for the District to step up and provide the types of programming that parent in the District want.
2. Bill Klein – expressed disappointment that none of the elementary programs were chosen for the Homecroft site and support for the use of the three vacant classrooms for community education programming.
3. Bill Rosenbloom -- discussed dissatisfaction with the community advisory process and raised questions regarding the anonymous donation which has been made.
4. Georgia Dietz – discussed disappointment in the process used for Homecroft.

VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent indicated her report would include the following items: components of the Accountability Framework to be released in May; programming changes for all schools with specific focus on Homecroft; elimination of enrollment waiting lists, upcoming district events for the community, changes being proposed for the Special Education and Community Education Departments and the monthly Human Resource transactions.

1. Upcoming District Events for the Community
 - **Ordway Honors Concert** on April 22 at the Museum of American Art and Ordway Center
 - **Community Input events** relative to the shared accountability conversation (4/24 at Rondo, 4/29 at Mounds Park All Nations and language specific sessions on 4/18-Somali, 4/21 – Hmong and 5/7 – Spanish) and
 - **2008-09 budget discussion** immediately following the Board meeting on May 20.

2. Elimination of Wait Lists

In March, as part of the overall efforts on enrollment, administration removed all wait lists for the 2007-08 school year. Additionally, for future school years September 15 has been set as the date on which wait lists will be removed annually. Reasons for ending the wait list include: few students on waiting lists actually accept spaces when offered once school has started; it will provide flexibility for enrolling incoming students and increase choice for families who are moving into the district throughout the year. Other benefits include: spreading out the impact of late enrollees among schools, allowing families with more than one student to place all students together, increase access for siblings who are ELL and special education and making better use of available space in schools. Programs with specific entrance requirements will be exempt. These are: Capital Hill (eligibility requirement), programs for 3 and 4 year old students (eligibility requirement) and language immersion programs (language requirement).

Community Relations is working with Academics to create an enrollment and marketing plan to maintain and recruit students in SPPS schools.

3. Strategy J: Develop and Implement Saint Paul Public Schools Accountability Framework

The Chief Accountability Officer outlined the Accountability Framework stating accountability applies to all stakeholders: students, board members, parents, policy makers, teachers, administrators. Principles which govern implementation of the framework include:

- Goal orientation
- SPPS is responsible for implementing NCLB requirements and bearing the consequences of such implementation. NCLB is not enough. SPPS has higher expectations and measurable outcomes to raise the bar for students
- The Strategic Plan outlines the district's work and aligns district goals with the NCLB.

- The District is committed to supporting all its schools and departments on behalf of all its students
- All stakeholders play a role; a shared accountability model will be used with shared expectations of both internal and external stakeholders
- Incentives, supports and interventions will be provided to assist schools and departments in continuous improvement beyond NCLB.

The timeline of the Shared Accountability Framework was reviewed and its three major components discussed.

- **Schools Shared Accountability Matrix** which meets both federal and district requirements and demonstrates the connections between NCLB stages and the district's Strategic Plan academic achievement target. The matrix includes all schools (Title 1 and non-Title 1). It goes beyond NCLB and explains the comprehensive system of incentives, supports, interventions and other NCLB restructuring options. It balances site-based management with district control.
- **School and System Audits.** The overall district goal is high achievement for all students. A system has been put in place which offers strategic, focused examination of schools/systems in need of improvement or a means to learn about effective practices. The audits are a diagnostic tool which can be done for schools and systems (departments, services, programs) and involve staff in the area being audited, internal/external "experts" and best practices. It includes a paper audit and site visit and culminates in a report with mission-critical expectations for change/improvement.
- **Shared Accountability Expectations** reflect input already received from key groups that impact student achievement and will be periodically reviewed to ensure they remain appropriate. This is on-going process to involve community in achieving expectations.

She finished by stating that In the end accountability is not a device for rating students and schools but rather a system for improving the quality of life for every student, and as a result, for all the community.

Board member questions were then addressed. These included such items as:

- Further details regarding the audit process
- How results for schools wrap into broader systems issues and hook to strategic plan implementation
- Alignment with SCIPS and strategic planning efforts
- Moving supplemental services from corrective to incentive
- Need for consistent buy-in and the community ownership of expectations
- Accountability and how agreement will be arrived at on what is fair and achievable
- Recognition of the urgency of the situation relative to NCLB and 2014 deadline
- How the accountability framework ties into Board ends
- How systemic problems will be dealt with
- How consistent buy-in will be achieved and how stakeholders will be held accountable?
- Recognition that these are systemic reforms and that the District must move toward becoming a system rather than collection of individual schools

It was suggested that Board and media accountability be added to the matrix.

4. All School Programmatic Changes Update

The Superintendent offered updates on work progressing at the various schools undergoing programmatic changes including Linwood, North End, Phalen Lake, Farnsworth-Cleveland and Humboldt. She then moved into a discussion on Homecroft.

- **Homecroft**

The Superintendent reviewed the history of the Homecroft site change process; community input and advisory group process and the reasons behind the need for change.

She then asked the Deputy Chief Academic Officer to complete the Homecroft report. She stated it is administration's responsibility to ensure a comprehensive district-wide systemic view of work and decision based on needs of the district as a whole and the needs of the community. The District needs to be flexible in balancing the needs of the system with that of the site. She reviewed the Early Learning Center and Special Services incorporation into the school and the benefits to the programs and district. These benefits included:

- Consolidation of support and administration of 4-year-old programs
- Provision of a best practice ECFE and ECSE collaboration site (up to three sections of early childhood classes with children and parents together)
- Housing staff for birth through age five programs
- Housing a Professional Development Center, Professional Resource Library for birth through age five programs
- Provision of an academic setting for RiverEast Day Treatment Program (to serve students in grades 4 through 10)
- Provision of a location for The Lab, where junior and senior high students with special needs will work on IEP goals through poetry, arts, dance, music and wellness.

Additional benefits of this option are it:

- Addresses district and community needs: for the community early childhood programming for neighborhood families and potential Rec Center use; for the District improved facilities for special education; best practice site for early childhood learning and overall reduction of leased space.
- Programs can be housed in separate sections with separate entrances
- The building will be a shared use facility as it cannot open with only early learning as it is not a revenue generator
- Provides options for Community Education programming use
- This plan provides for the greatest overall cost savings.

She recognized the value of the community input on the process. Lessons learned were the need for a more systemic approach to these issues/changes and the Office of Academics and Community Relations are working to establish a district-wide parent community group who can advise administration on not only program changes but all the systemic changes coming forward. It is important that the big picture be recognized and the systemic view kept in mind as the District moves forward.

Questions were then addressed, which included:

- The value of expanded community use of the facility
- The possibility of a celebration of the school, commemorative book, etc.
- Impact of student school choice from current Homecroft population
- Charter possibilities
- Data on number of students in Highland area actually attending SPPS schools
- Request to receive final numbers on students re: Homecroft placement
- How will income be brought into the system with the proposed Homecroft option

MOTION: See Committee Reports (Page 4 of the Minutes)

The Board commended administration and staff for the work they have put into the programmatic change process.

Mr. Conlon proposed two motions:

MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved, seconded by Ms. Carroll, that for monitoring purposes, the Board direct administration to annually bring to the Board information on both recent and anticipated future major program and facility issues and changes.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:
Mr. Conlon Yes

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

MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved, seconded by Ms. Carroll, that administration begin working with the Board and community this summer to develop an authentic, transparent and sustainable process to engage the community in major decisions around programming, facilities and system issues.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

The Superintendent expressed concern about the involvement of the Board as expressed in these motions relative to site based management and Board involvement in school programming.

5. Academics Restructuring

- **Special Education Department**

Special Education is being restructured effective July 1, 2008. The restructuring will allow the department to more effectively implement the goals of the strategic plan, resulting in improved services for children and youth with disabilities, better support for teachers and school/program administrators. It will also result in about \$151,000 cost savings to the district. The restructuring includes:

- Elimination of two Assistant Director positions
- Reassignment of two principals currently managing Special Education sites
- Elimination of three TOSA positions, and
- Reassignment of one clerk.

With the elimination of these positions the Special Education Department will be able to add six supervisor positions that align with the current District structure. These supervisor positions will be divided into two elementary, one middle school, one high school, one due process and once ECSE supervisor.

- **Community Education**

Community Education is being restructured to realign its work to the strategic plan. The restructure will produce approximately \$120,000 in savings. The new structure will include:

- Elimination of assistant director of family education program (vacant because of retirement)
- Reduction of a 1.0 coordinator for shared community programs
- Elimination of a TOSA position
- Upgrade of two division managers to supervisors.

This change will allow the organization to have five supervisors with equal responsibilities.

Both changes will result in fewer layers, more service directed to programs and schools and will result in better structure for reporting and supervision.

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved, seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart, that the Board of Education adopt the Superintendent's personnel transactions that require Board action in connection therewith:

- Discontinue the following positions: two assistant directors in Special Education and one assistant director of Family Education in Community Education.
- That the foregoing administrative reorganization become effective July 1, 2008.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

6. Human Resource Transactions

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved, seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart, that the Board approve the Human Resource transactions as published.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

The Superintendent reported the Minnesota Board of Teaching has approved the discretionary variance request for the St. Paul Teaching Fellows Program. The District can now move ahead with the program and begin to fill positions. Hamline University is partnering in the project.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved, seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart, approval of the Consent Agenda as published with the exception of the three items pulled for separate consideration.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

1. Grants

BF 27533 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant Application to Best Buy Foundation for a Best Buy Teach Award

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant application to the Best Buy Foundation to provide each of the seven SPPS high schools and five Alternative Learning Programs with up-to-date audio and video media carts for classroom

BF 27541 Request for Permission to Partner with the University of Minnesota on a Grant Application and to Accept a Grant Award from the Minnesota Department of Education (ICAP)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to partner with the University of Minnesota for funds that help students share issues, concerns and successes in an effort to problem-solve, encourage and assist with post-secondary preparation activities; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

2. Agreements

BF 27542 Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District No. 625 and Manual and Maintenance Supervisors Association Representing Facility and Nutrition Services Supervisors

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment for Manual and Maintenance Supervisors' Association in this school district; duration of said Agreement is for the period of January 1, 2008 through December 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 27543 Approval of the Terms and Conditions of Professional Employment for the Superintendentcy

That the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Terms and Conditions of Professional Employment for the Superintendentcy, effective July 1, 2007.

BF 27544 Authorization for Amendment No. 4 to Lease Agreement for Space at Spruce Tree Center for Project LEAD and CLC

That the Board of Education authorize the Chair and Clerk to execute Amendment No. 4 to the lease agreement for space at Spruce Tree Centre, 1600 University Avenue, St. Paul, to house the Project L.E.A.D. (Leadership, Environment, Adventure and Determination) and C.L.C. (Community Learning Circle) programs for a one year term, commencing July 1, 2008 and terminating June 30, 2009 in accordance with all terms and conditions of said agreement.

BF 27545 Approval to Enter into an Agreement with the National Association of School Nurses

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into an agreement with the National Association of School Nurses to provide \$35,775.00 for a diabetes management and prevention project for the District. The funding will be in effect from February 27, 2008 through February 26, 2009.

BF 27546 Request for Permission to Participate in Student Nurse Agreement

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to participate in a Student Nurse Agreement with Minnesota Business College, Inc. This Agreement shall become effective April 1, 2008 and continue through March 31, 2010, unless written notice to terminate this Agreement is given to the other party by June 1 of the preceding year. Advance notice of termination is required to safeguard the students currently enrolled in the nursing program.

BF 27547 Entering Into Food Service Agreements with Various Schools and Programs

That the Saint Paul Public Schools' Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to enter into agreements to provide food service for non-Saint Paul district schools and programs.

3. Contracts

BF 27548 Contract for Professional Coaching Services for Senior Leadership

BF 27557 Bid No. A9216-C Access Ramp Replacement at North End Elementary School
That the Board of Education authorize award of Bid No. A9216-C for the access ramp replacement at North End Elementary School to the lowest responsible bidder, GA Construction, Inc. for the lump sum base bid of \$292,100.00.

BF 27559 Bid No. A9219-C New Entry at Hayden Heights Elementary School
That the Board of Education authorize award of Bid No. A9219-C for the new entry at Hayden Heights Elementary School to the lowest responsible bidder, Schreiber Mullaney Construction Co., Inc. for the lump sum base bid of \$785,890.00 and unit prices no 1 through 11.

BF 27552 Bid No. A9222-C Remodel Main Entry and Office at Parkway School for the L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion
That the Board of Education authorize award of Bid No. A9222-C for remodel of main entry and office at Parkway School for L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion to the lowest responsible bidder, GA Construction, Inc. for the lump sum base bid of \$81,647.00 and unit prices no. 1 through 9.

6. Change Orders

BF 27558 Authorization for Change Order No. 8 to Contract for Remodeling and Renovation at Monroe Community School
That the Board of Education authorize Change Order No. 8 for an add amount of \$51,021.96 to the district's contract with L.S. Black Constructors, Inc. for construction of remodeling and renovation at Monroe Community School.

CONSENT AGENDA – SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

BF 27560 Approval of Employment Agreement Between Independent School District #625, Saint Paul Public Schools and the Association of Supervisory and Administrative Personnel, Exclusive Representative for Supervisory Employees

Director Hardy raised a question regarding the range for "Step 9" which was addressed.

MOTION: **Ms. Carroll moved that the Board of Education of Independent School District No. 625 approve and adopt the Agreement concerning the terms and conditions of employment of those supervisory employees represented by the Association of Supervisory and Administrative Personnel for the duration of this agreement for the period of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 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. The motion was seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart.**

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

BF 27561 Facility Rentals for 2009 Graduations

Director Hardy asked what the cost for the rental of the facilities was. The amount was provided.

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved, seconded by Ms. Carroll, that the Board of Education authorize the administration to rent Aldrich Arena on June 1, 2009; and Roy Wilkins Auditorium at RiverCentre on June 1, 2, 3, 2009 for graduation ceremonies and to enter into appropriate rental agreements for these uses.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

BF 27562 Bid No. A9218-W Cafeteria Serving Line Equipment

Director Hardy indicated his question had been addressed during the break.

MOTION: Mr. Hardy moved that the Board of Education authorize award of Bid No. A9218-W for furnishing and delivery of cafeteria serving line equipment for Nutrition Services to the lowest responsible bidder, Strategic Equipment and Supply Corporation for \$217,495.00. Motion seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

X. OLD BUSINESS -- None

XI. NEW BUSINESS

1. First Reading Saint Paul Public Schools Policy Manual

Ms. Street-Stewart indicated the manual is being brought forward for adoption after a year long revision process which involved a great deal of work on the part of a large number of staff and the board's on-going review of all policy changes as the process evolved.

She noted the basic precepts established for the review process included:

- Any policy stated in law, statute or rule it was omitted unless the law required the district to have such a policy in its manual
- If a policy was addressed by contract the policy was deleted as the contract established the precedence.
- Language was made as clear and concise as possible and all "fluff" was removed.
- Procedures were removed from policy and will be separate from the policies.

The manual has been distributed to all schools and a copy will be available for public review at each school.

It was noted that all proposed changes to the content of the policy should be made in writing and directed to the Secretary to the Board no later than May 2nd. These will be discussed at the upcoming May 6 COB meeting. The second reading is scheduled for May 20 and the third reading for June 17 when all changes will be approved or rejected and final adoption of the manual will occur.

The Board requested the Manual be put up on the Board's website.

MOTION: Ms. Carroll moved, seconded by Mr. Brodrick, the Board receive the Policy Manual for its first reading.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

2. Project Labor Agreements

BF 27563 Roof Replacement at Farnsworth Elementary School

BF 27564 Roof Replacement at Harding High School

BF 27565 Roof Replacement at Jackson Elementary School

BF 27566 Piping Replacement at Harding Senior High School

BF 27567 Boiler Replacement at District Service Facility

Following discussion on the reasons PLAs are used the following motion was made. Administration indicated their recommendation was not to utilize PLAs on any of the projects.

MOTION: Mr. Brodrick moved that Project Labor Agreements be utilized on all five projects: Roof Replacement at Farnsworth Elementary School; Roof Replacement at Harding High School; Roof Replacement at Jackson Elementary School; Piping Replacement at Harding Senior High School and Boiler Replacement at District Service Facility. Motion seconded by Mr. Hardy.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

XII. BOARD OF EDUCATION

1. Information Requests and Responses

Director Hardy requested an update from administration on plans for discussion on the establishment of an African American Parent Advisory Council.

2. Items for Future Agendas

Director Street-Stewart indicated she would bring a report on the National School Board Association Conference at the next Board meeting

3. Board of Education Reports/Communications

• **Council of Great City Schools**

Director Carroll presented a report on the recent Council of Great City School Legislative Conference. She indicated she, along with Ms. Kong-Thao, the Superintendent and the Special Assistant to the Superintendent, had attended the conference. General issues, themes and trends discussed included The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (NCLB) and the fact that funding for NCLB has been problematic. Some difficulties faced by all include insufficient funding for all accountability requirements; cuts or freezes to important funding sources that affect students dramatically; administration's proposed shifts away from some programs that SPPS has shown have direct benefits to students; the idea that new immigrants are prepared to be tested and compared to standard after only one year and the serious inconsistencies in standards and testing structures used by the

various states. There is deep division between the Congress and administration and within Congress itself on how to fix NCLB. Reauthorization of the bill this year will probably not happen being an election year. The main emphasis in the work is to try to reorient existing sanctions into sufficient, consistent and sustained funding and support for implementing proven, successful strategies.

St. Paul is also part of a coalition working for nationally consistent standards and assessments in order to allow fair comparison of student achievement in and between states and to make sure that results and detail are available for everyone so that informed decisions can be made.

IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) was passed originally with a Federal commitment to pay 40% of the costs. At this time only 17% is being funded and the balance cross-subsidized out of general education funds by districts.

District staff serve on various task forces. The Achievement Gap Task Force released a Research Brief on Recruiting and Retaining Effective Teachers in Urban Schools. The Secondary Achievement Study Committee released a Research Brief on Supporting Successful Transitions to High School. Findings reflected what has been seen in St. Paul, a challenging academic curriculum helps keep students engaged and improves achievement and identifying students before they get too far behind and targeting interventions helps in their success. The ELL Task Force was assisted by SPPS in working on looking at inclusion of ELL students as critical to the success of districts. Four districts showing success in their work with ELL communities have been chosen for a study (SPPS is one) these four will be compared with four other anonymous districts not doing as well in their approach to ELL.

Participants had the opportunity to meet with members of Congress and staff members and discuss the key items above as well as other timely issues..

- MSBA Joint Legislative Conference

Joint legislative priorities for 2008 for City, Counties, Schools and Townships with the purpose of looking at collaboration in building and maintaining strong communities which require dependable social services delivery systems, reliable public safety, up to date infrastructure, high quality public schools. These entities invite the legislature to work with them in achieving several goals which include: (1) strengthening the state-local fiscal partnership which provides a stable funding base which is accountable, stable, adequate, flexible and achieve equity. Restore aid and inter-governmental revenues to the level prior to the 2003 reductions; look at establishing and adequately funding local governments and authorize more diverse sources of local raised revenue. (2) support local control and treated as equal partners in the delivery of government services and their ability to make decisions on behalf of their local community should be respected and supported, mandates and preemptions that hinder local authority must be avoided. (3) Encourage vibrant communities – healthy and livable.

A chance to talk with State legislatures was provided during the conference. Key messages were: invest in the students, invest in state's future, support policy that benefits all learners and give schools local control to benefit students.

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved to receive the reports from the Council of Great City Schools and the MSBA Joint Legislative Conference. Seconded by Mr. Conlon.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Goldstein	Yes

Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes
Ms. Carroll	Yes

XIII. FUTURE MEETINGS SCHEDULE

1. Board of Education Meetings (5:45 unless otherwise noted)
 - April 29 - Special CLOSED Board of Education Meeting (Update on Labor Negotiations & Non-Renewals) – 3:30 p.m. American Indian Magnet School
 - May 20
 - June 3, Special Board Meeting on Non-Renewals – 4:30 p.m.
 - June 17
 - July 15
 - August 19
 - September 16
 - October 21
 - November 18
 - December 9 (Tentative: Truth in Taxation Hearing)
 - December 11 (Tentative: Levy Approval)
 - December 16

MOTION: **Ms. Carroll moved, seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart, that the time for the Special Board of Education Meeting on June 3 be changed from 4:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

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

2. Committee of the Board Meetings (4:30 unless otherwise noted)
 - April 29 – 4:30 p.m. American Indian Magnet School
 - May 6
 - May 27 – CANCELLED (Academic Awards Event)
 - June 10
 - June 24
 - July 29
 - August 26
 - September 23
 - October 7
 - October 28
 - November 11
 - November 25
 - December 2

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: **Ms. Street-Stewart moved the meeting adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Brodrick.**

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Mr. Conlon	Yes
Mr. Hardy	Yes

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:49 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