

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
Saint Paul, Minnesota
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Administration Building
360 Colborne Street

December 15, 2004

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Ms. Carter, Chair.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Ms. Carter, Mr. Conlon, Ms. Kong-Thao, Mr. Oertwig, Mr. Brodrick, Ms. Street-Stewart

ABSENT: Ms. Carroll (Jury Duty)
Miss Carroll joined the meeting via conference call at 3:55 p.m. for the vote on the Superintendent's contract and a revised vote on the Tax Levy.

III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Carter reviewed the agenda.

MOTION: Mr. Oertwig moved approval of the order of the agenda, seconded by Mr. Brodrick.

The motion carried with the roll call vote as follows:

Ms. Carroll	Absent
Ms. Carter	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. Tax Levy Action

Ms. Carter indicated the Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education must certify its final payable 2005 tax levy to Ramsey County and the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) by December 20, 2004. The payable 2005 levy, as calculated by the MDE, is \$72,927,730 compared with a levy of \$73,808,114 certified for payable in 2004. This represents a 1.2% decrease in the tax levy when compared to 2004.

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Conlon, the resolution of approval of the 2004 payable 2005 levy of \$72,927,730, which results in a 1.2% decrease from the prior year.
B.F. No. 26255

The motion carried with the roll call vote as follows:

Ms. Carroll	Absent
Ms. Carter	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes

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

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Report on Superintendent's Evaluation**
2. **Consideration of Renewal of Superintendent Contract**

Ms. Carter indicated these two subjects would be taken concurrently.

The Board of Education received the Superintendent's written and oral response on her performance for the school year 2003-04 at a Special Closed Meeting of the Board of Education on Monday, December 13, 2004.

After receiving the Superintendent's response, the board reflected on the accomplishments, experience and impact of her leadership in the following areas:

- The impact of institutionalizing best practices
- Progress on district-wide achievement as framed in the action plan
- Priorities in communication in sharing knowledge with board and staff
- Local, state, national and international engagement
- Remaining work and challenges ahead.

The board has determined and now reports its assessment of the Superintendent's performance as exceptional. The following summarize their conclusion:

- The board noted that the Superintendent's work moved the Saint Paul Public Schools forward significantly in all areas of the action plan:
 - Offering students and families a world of educational opportunities
 - Implementing best practices in standards-based education
 - Holding ourselves accountable for continuous improvement
 - Partnering with families and the community
 - Supporting leadership and professional growth
 - Empowering school and program sites
 - Embracing diversity as one of our greatest strengths.
- Her leadership is especially noteworthy given the accrued impact of diminishing resources as a result of five years of tremendous budget deficits and the challenges presented by the unrealistic goals of the Federal accountability system of No Child Left Behind.
- The direction set by the Superintendent, the commitment, dedication and hard work of District staff, and the support of the community form the 3-legged stool upon which the success of the schools and the progress of the students is built.

The Board concluded the results over this period provide evidence that educational reform efforts are working, and that the investment in shared decision-making throughout all parts of the community will continue to help the District improve.

At the conclusion of the evaluation, Board members gave guidance and authority to the Board Chair to offer a new contract to Superintendent Harvey, to begin upon expiration of the current contract on April 15, 2005, and continue through June 30, 2007. This contract period will result in a realignment of the Superintendent's contract with Saint Paul Public School District's school and fiscal year.

Ms. Carter indicated Dr. Harvey's willingness to accept another contract with the District on the terms set forth in the "Superintendent's Employment Agreement" dated December 15, 2004.

At this point in the proceedings, Ms. Carroll joined the meeting via telephone.

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved, seconded by Ms. Kong-Thao, that based on the performance of the Superintendent, the Board of Education desires to enter into another contract with her, to begin upon expiration of the current contract on April 15, 2005, and continue through

June 30, 2007, the terms of which are set forth in the "Superintendent's Employment Agreement" dated December 15, 2004.

The motion carried with the roll call vote as follows:

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

Dr. Harvey thanked the Board for their vote of confidence and expressed her determination to continue the good work accomplished to date.

Ms. Carroll requested a reconsideration of the vote on the payable 2005 tax levy so that her vote might be recorded. Consensus of the Board was approval of this reconsideration.

MOTION: Ms. Street-Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Conlon, the resolution of approval of the 2004 payable 2005 levy of \$72,927,730, which results in a 1.2% decrease from the prior year.
B.F. No. 26255

The motion carried with the roll call vote as follows:

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

Ms. Carroll left the meeting.

V. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOTION: Mr. Conlon moved adjournment, seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart.

The motion carried with the roll call vote as follows:

Ms. Carroll	Absent
Ms. Carter	Yes
Mr. Conlon	Yes
Ms. Kong-Thao	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	Yes
Mr. Brodrick	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

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