

**COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 22, 2005**

PRESENT: **BOARD OF EDUCATION:** Ms. Street Stewart, Chair; Mr. Brodrick, Ms. Carroll,
Mr. Conlon, Mr. Oertwig, Ms. Kong-Thao

Unable to attend: Ms. Carter

STAFF: Dr. Patricia Harvey, Tanya Martin-Pekel, Lois Rockney,
Patrick Quinn, Marilyn Polsfuss

OTHERS: Eliza Tocher, Nancy Harlton

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Ms. Street-Stewart, Committee Chair.

II. AGENDA

Ms. Street-Stewart introduced the item(s) on the agenda for this meeting, which were:

• **BUDGET UPDATE**

1. Budget Update - *action*

Dr. Harvey shared a video that presented the case for additional funding for schools and highlighted the fact that Minnesota schools fell to 27th place from 9th place in the past 10 years. In response to the video people are being urged to contact their legislators asking them to stop the cuts and restore funding for our schools. Dr. Harvey remarked that a statewide rally in support of public education will be held at the Capitol on Monday, February 28, in protest of the funding cuts to education. School districts from across the state plan to participate.

Lois Rockney, Executive Director, Business and Financial Affairs, continued the presentation on the district's projected budget deficit as outlined:

Projected Deficit:

Based on current law and an anticipated enrollment decline of 575 students the district's deficit is projected at \$24.3 million.

Recommended Revenue Recognition

The governor's budget proposal has been made and that usually sets the floor for what the district can expect from the legislative session. Under that assumption, **the administration would recommend that the district project an additional \$5 million in revenue for the 2005-06 school year.**

Use of Fund Balance:

The Board has adopted a policy that states the accumulated fund balance of the district must be at least 5% of the current year's general fund expenditures. It is currently projected that the district will end the year at \$4 million above that 5% limit. **The administration recommends use of the \$4 million in fund balance that will bring the accumulated fund**

balance down to the Board Policy amount. This would bring the remaining district deficit to \$15.3 million.

Proposed 2005-06 Budget Reduction Blueprint

Ms. Rockney discussed the proposed 2005-06 budget reduction blueprint (copies were handed-out to committee members). She remarked that administration will spend the month of April seeking community input on the proposed reductions through a survey of all site councils and a survey of a targeted set of focus groups. The focus groups will be asked to identify and prioritize a specified amount of cuts. From that prioritized list administration will identify the enrollment related reduction, the across the board reductions and the targeted reductions.

Dr. Harvey and Ms. Rockney answered committee member's questions and concerns such as, declining enrollment, funding cuts in specific programs and schools, school closings, equity issues, etc.

The following motion was made:

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Conlon and seconded by Ms. Carroll that the Committee of the Board recommends the Board of Education approve the 2005-06 Budget Reduction Blueprint as proposed by Administration and to proceed with the community plan.

Motion passed.

A Committee of the Board meeting was set for February 28, 2005, at 12:30 p.m. to discuss the possible loss of police liaisons from schools by March 11, 2005.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m. by Ms. Street-Stewart, Committee Chair.

Respectfully submitted by
Diana J. Sanders
Recorder
Saint Paul Board of Education