



### **1. Action Strategy #6 (Empower School & Program Sites) and School Site Budgets – Funding Equity**

Dr. Harvey presented background information on Action Strategy #6 (Empower School & Program Sites), and School Site Budgets – Funding Equity. She stated the discussion at this meeting would focus on the per pupil budget formula that Lois Rockney, Executive Director of Business and Financial Affairs would present.

Ms. Rockney continued the discussion using a power point presentation to explain the history of revenue distribution to elementary and secondary schools in Saint Paul using a per pupil funding formula that the district is now in its third year of a seven year phase-in.

The presentation highlighted the district's recent concerns regarding enrollment decline and its impact on formula funding, the inability of some neighborhood elementary schools to attract students who qualify for free and reduced lunch, and the per student allocations in both magnet and neighborhood schools being too low to support a viable program, resulting in an overall reduction in revenue. Ms. Rockney provided examples of how individual school allocations are determined that building staff and the site-based committees use as part of the yearly budget process.

Ms. Rockney proposed and explained in detail Administration's short-term solution:

- For the 2004-05 budget cycle only
- Reallocate the 10% holdback of referendum funds from all schools and target these dollars to the 19 identified elementary schools
- Provide \$50,000 to schools that are both below 400 in enrollment and \$5,000 per student revenue
- Provide a special allocation to French Immersion Magnet - L'etoile du Nord Elementary School, which separated from Highland Park Elementary School at the time of the formula implementation and is now adversely impacted.
- Provide \$107 new revenue per student in elementary schools where total revenue per student is less than \$4,500
- Reserve unspent 2000 referendum funds at June 30, 2004 to reestablish holdback funds, if possible, returning them to secondary schools first and then to elementary schools not receiving this adjustment
- Eliminate the January adjustment to school allocations due to enrollment changes.

The long term solution would be to refer this issue to the Pupil Funding Team for review and recommend changes, and implement permanent change for the 2005-06 school year and beyond.

Committee members discussed their concerns regarding the issues involved for both the magnet and neighborhood schools, and in particular, what the legislature decides to do with the desegregation funds allocated to Saint Paul Public Schools, transportation funds/neighborhood schools. Another issue was how to provide incentives for families to attend neighborhood schools.

Parents with children in Groveland Park, Chelsea Heights, and Horace Mann elementary schools attended the meeting and were provided the opportunity to talk about their concerns, etc. Copies of the power point presentation were made available.

The following motions were made:

**MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Conlon and seconded by Mr. Brodrick that the Committee of the Board recommend the Board of Education support the short-term solution proposed by Administration and that Administration seriously look for a long term solution to resolve this issue in an equitable way.**

Mr. Oertwig commented the Board could reconsider this in the final adoption of the budget.

**Continuation of the motion: The above stated motion passed.**

**MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Conlon and seconded by Mr. Oertwig that the Committee of the Board recommend the Board of Education approve Administration explore grant making opportunities for incentives to draw families back to neighborhood schools and to report back to the Committee of the Board in a reasonable time frame.**

Ms. Carroll voted against the motion because this issue was already addressed at a previous Committee of the Board meeting.

After further discussion the above stated motion passed on a 4 to 2 vote.

## **2. Policy Governance Vision**

Mr. Conlon presented a document prepared by the Policy Development Subcommittee, whose members also include Ms. Carroll, and Ms. Kong-Thao. He asked for suggestions or revisions to the document that is background material for developing a Board Vision.

There was committee consensus to draw from seven (7) core areas to develop the Board Vision in a storybook format:

1. Our Practices
2. Our Beliefs
3. Our Dreams
4. Who We Are
5. Feedback/Observation/Reflection
6. Interdependence and Interactions
7. Challenges and Obstacles

There was discussion on how the Board's Vision might be useful to minority communities and the various ways of conveying the story for different groups.

Mr. Conlon will take this information back to his subcommittee and also contact Communications for their review and input before a final draft is written. Ms. Carter will assist in writing the final draft.

## **III. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. by Ms. Street-Stewart, Committee Chair.

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