

**COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 10, 2004**

AMENDED MINUTES

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

STAFF: Dr. Patricia Harvey, Tanya Martin-Pekel, Kent Pekel, Lois Rockney, Marie Lamb, Valeria Silva, Micheal Thompson, Arty Dorman, Deb Henton, Mary Beth Cutting, Bill Dunn, Steven Lindberg, Sharon Eichten, Kay Arndt, Mary Mackbee, Janell Bentz

OTHERS: John Welbes, Pioneer Press; Jeff Koon, Gus Avenido, Bonnie Davy, Ruth Petersen, Michael Bowlus, Craig Roen, CBFAC: Kathy Klumb, Colleen Hartmon Bollom, Vivki Reed, Warren Anderson, Janine Kelley, John Lindholm, Keith Hardy, Ken Chin-Purcell, Jill Manski, Brian Joyce, Jack Mills, Vicki Reed

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Ms. Street Stewart, Committee Chair.

II. AGENDA

Ms. Street Stewart introduced the items on the agenda for this meeting, which were:

- **Honors and Distinction Proposal**
- **Citizens' Budget & Finance Advisory Committee Report**
- **Budget Guidelines**

1. Honors and Distinction Proposal

Dr. Harvey provided background information regarding the revised Honors and Distinction Proposal.

Kent Pekel, Executive Director of Strategic Planning & Implementation, and Micheal Thompson, Assistant Director of Secondary Education, used a Power Point presentation to outline the changes made in the Honors and Distinction Proposal that the Committee discussed at its Committee of the Board meeting on December 16, 2003.

The revisions to the Proposal include:

- Two new honors categories – High Honors and Honors that students would be awarded if they meet a GPA requirement and complete two years of world language or demonstrate that level of proficiency
- Create a designation of distinction that would be awarded for achieving excellence in one academic content area
- Adjustments to the district's system of assigning, computing and reporting grade point averages (GPA's), weighted honor points and class rank

If all of these components are adopted, the following information would be included on all Saint Paul Public Schools student transcripts starting with the Class of 2008, which enters high school in the fall of 2004:

- Weighted GPA based upon a 12 point scale with points earned in honors courses multiplied by a factor of 1.25
- Unweighted GPA based upon a 12 point scale with honors and non-honors courses counted equally
- Weighted Class Rank based upon each student's weighted GPA compared to the weighted GPAs of all other members of his/her class
- Unweighted Class Rank based upon each student's unweighted GPA compared to the unweighted GPAs of all other members of his/her class.

Discussion followed: High School Principals and parents in attendance were in consensus that this proposal would be good for the students. (A copy of the revised proposal was previously distributed to committee members.)

The following motion was made:

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Conlon and seconded by Ms. Carroll that the Committee of the Board recommend the Board of Education endorse the Administration's revised Honors and Distinction Proposal and move to the next level of implementation.

After further discussion **the above stated motion passed.**

The Board will establish a schedule for follow-up consideration on matters identified in the Honors and Distinction Proposal such as:

- Criteria for district-wide areas of distinction
- Recognition of top students i.e., best of the best
- Student profile analysis, who seeks the top and who takes regular coursework
- Validated credentialing by practitioners
- Effect of student transfers and mobility
- Criteria of demonstrating proficiency
- Constraints in options (scheduling, equity of programs across district, capacity)
- Implementation of the 6 year plan, ways to interpret and promote
- Incentives vs. mandates
- Student course selection
- Monitoring results, increased diversity
- Parent, community public engagement
- 9th grade orientation
- Senior year college application deadlines
- Website presentation
- 1986 board recommendation to administration

Ms. Carter commented these topics would not be answered at this meeting, and Committee members will work this out at a later time.

2. Citizens' Budget & Finance Advisory Committee Report (CBFAC)

Kenneth Chin-Purcell, Chair; and Colleen Hartmon Bollom, Vice Chair presented the CBFAC's Committee Report titled, "How Saint Paul Public Schools Should Respond to Changes in ELL Funding."

- Part 1: Executive Summary that listed CBFAC's recommendations
- Part 2: Changes in ELL Funding
- Part 3: Findings (CBFAC's review of the ELL program)

Part 4: Recommendations to the Board

Lois Rockney, Executive Director of Business and Financial Affairs, and Valeria Silva, English Language Learner Program, provided an administrative response to CBFAC's Report. Copies of the Administration's Response to the CBFAC Report were distributed to committee members.

In response to the concerns expressed by CBFAC members Administration will continue to analyze the recommendation put forward and in particular, the administration will continue to study, analyze, and make necessary adjustments in the areas of programs, placement and existing criteria, centralized and decentralized funding systems, professional development, ELL certification of general education teachers, and programming and staffing for family involvement and outreach.

The following motion was made:

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Conlon and seconded, that the Committee of the Board receive the 2004 report from the Citizen's Budget and Finance Advisory Committee, "How Saint Paul Public Schools Should Respond to Changes in ELL Funding", and the administrative response to the list of recommendations in the report. The Board will discuss implementation of the recommendations at the May 17, 2004 Committee of the Board (COB) meeting and schedule a joint meeting with CBFAC on June 8, 2004 to address the recommendations.

Motion Passed

3. Budget Guidelines

Ms. Rockney presented the Financial Planning and Budget Guidelines document for 2004-05. She discussed the budget guidelines and changes that were implemented to create the 2004-05 budget book.

Discussion. Committee members provided suggested changes that Ms. Rockney will incorporate into the 2004-05 budget books.

The following motion was made:

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Conlon and seconded by Ms. Carroll that the Committee of the Board recommend the Board of Education approve the Financial Planning and Budget Guidelines for 2004-05, and explore the Needs and Ends for future consideration.

Motion Passed

4. New Business

Mr. Oertwig read a letter that had been drafted in response to inquiries regarding the future of the Planetarium. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that Gerrie Higgins, Board Secretary, will send the final draft out to the recipients before the end of the week.

III. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m. by Ms. Street-Stewart, Committee Chair.

Respectfully submitted by
Diana J. Sanders, Recorder
Recorder

Saint Paul Board of Education