

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

JUNE 10, 2002
4:30 p.m.

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Al Oertwig, Chair.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mr. Brodrick, Ms. Carroll, Ms. Carter (late arrival), Mr. Conlon, Mr. Oertwig, Ms. Street-Stewart, Mr. Thao (late arrival), Dr. Harvey, Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Lalla, General Counsel and Mrs. Higgins, Assistant Clerk.

III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

1. Order of the Consent Agenda

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Brodrick, seconded by Mr. Conlon that the Order of the Consent Agenda be approved.

The motion carried with the roll call vote as follows:

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

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

1. Human Resources

- a. Professional Staff
- b. Teaching Assistants
- c. Educational Assistants
- d. Classified Service Personnel

Mr. Rick Kreyer, Executive Director, Human Resources/Labor Relations was present to answer questions from Board members concerning various aspects of the process in place for recommendation for non-renewal of probationary teacher contracts. Mr. Kreyer stated that 56 teachers are being recommended for non-renewal and explained in depth the rationale and criteria used for this recommendation. He noted that a directive was added to the list under Non-Renewal of Probationary Contracts that states: The Board of Education directs the Executive Director of Human Resources to notify individuals of the non-renewal, on behalf of the Board of Education, pursuant to Minnesota Statute §122A.41.

Board members asked questions and requested clarification regarding various portions of the report - the Voluntary Termination of Employment policy, the Extension of Leave of Absence timeframe, and specific questions concerning the non-renewal of probationary teacher contracts. Mr. Kreyer reviewed the procedures completed with each individual to ensure they understood the process, and noted that non-renewal is not a bar to future employment with the schools. After further discussion, the following motion was made.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Conlon, that items a through d be approved.

The motion carried with the roll call vote as follows:

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

2. Budget Discussion – “Input on What?”

Mr. Oertwig stated that the discussion this evening will be preparing for and framing of the community meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2002.. Dr. Harvey reviewed a handout with two options listed for the public input meeting Agenda: Option A and Option B. Option A would be to create small groups with a facilitator for each group, along with a recorder to record the input discussed in that group. There would be a report back after the small group session where the recorder will summarize the input. An open session would follow for participants to speak for two minutes on issues not already identified. A written report will be compiled by administration staff and given to the Board with the list of suggestions, recommendations and their implications. This report will also be mailed to meeting participants. Option B would allow each participant two minutes to address the Board regarding concerns about the budget. A written report will be made to the Board summarizing those recommendations and their implications. This report will also be mailed to meeting participants.

Board members spoke of the advantages of Option A and offered suggestions as to the format of the meeting, i.e. an informational statement at the beginning of the meeting stating where we are in the budget process, makeup of small groups, translation

services, setting the tone of the meeting (listening and gathering suggestions), closure piece: summarizing the information and informing the public what will happen next.

Tanya Pekel, Executive Assistant, stated that the ideas gathered at the meeting will be provided to the Board in their June 13th update.

Mr. Oertwig handed out a list of discussion points gathered from a Board member survey concerning possible budget options and members discussed each one, giving their thoughts and concerns. Mr. Oertwig stated, after discussion, that if there are no alternatives to the present budget recommendations, looking at reserves would be an option. Staff members and parents also added their thoughts and suggestions to the budget issues discussed.

A five minute recess was called.

Mr. Oertwig resumed the meeting.

Board members were asked for their thoughts on specific areas listed in the draft, i.e., Consultant fees, Athletics, Public Relations (Communications), Area Superintendents, Family and Community Involvement, JROTC, Superintendent's Budget (travel budget/contingency fund), Out for Equity, Social Services, Reserves. Mr. Oertwig reiterated that the district would need to have a plan to replace funds before going into its reserves. He added that the reserve fund is the basis for bond companies to measure a district's credit rating, which in turn determines the interest rate charged the district for borrowing. The current policy is to retain a 5% fund balance.

It was decided that further details in preparation for the 7:00 p.m. public comment meeting would be discussed at the Committee of the Board meeting on June 11th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. prior to the 7:00 p.m. public meeting at Benjamin E. Mays School.

V. ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by unanimous vote that the meeting be adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

The motion carried with the roll call vote as follows:

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

Prepared and submitted by
Gerrie Higgins, Assistant Clerk
Board of Education

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