

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

JUNE 10, 2003

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; Mr. Conlon; Mr. Oertwig; Ms. Street-Stewart; Mr. Thao; Dr. Harvey, Superintendent of Schools; Ms. Higgins, Assistant Clerk

III. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

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

The motion carried with the roll call vote as follows:

Ms. Carroll	-	Yes
Ms. Carter	-	Yes
Mr. Conlon	-	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	-	Yes
Ms. Street-Stewart	-	Yes
Mr. Thao		Not available for vote.
Mr. Brodrick	-	Yes

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Naming of a School

Dr. Harvey made introductory remarks. She commented that Paul Wellstone was much loved and how it will be a great pleasure to have one of our district's schools named after him. After the misfortune, schools starting calling administration because they wanted to be renamed the Paul Wellstone Elementary School. Dr. Harvey reviewed the process that was implemented to accomplish this, which included putting together a selection team in which the Wellstone family members would be involved. The process was a two step process: 1) finding out who the interested schools were, and 2) selecting three schools as finalists. The three schools recommended by the selection committee were Homecroft, North End and Saturn Riverfront Academy.

Dr. Harvey introduced Su Yeager, Executive Director of Communications, who staffed the committee. Ms. Yeager listed the members of the selection committee:

Senator Mee Moua, Paul and Sheila's son, Mark Wellstone and Shawn Huckelby, a parent activist. She introduced Mark Wellstone and Shawn Huckelby who will review the process and announce the winning school.

Mr. Huckelby noted that the interested schools were asked to build a case as to why it would be appropriate that their school be renamed after the late Senator Wellstone and his wife. He explained the process and commented on how each school made a definite connection between the philosophies of the Wellstones and the education that is taking place at their site. Site visits to the schools followed, where the students led the discussion, led the tours of their facilities and made the case for their selection. Mr. Huckelby said it was a wonderful experience to see how engaged the students were and the quality of their presentations.

Mr. Huckelby asked Mark Wellstone to announce the selection team's recommendation. Mr. Wellstone thanked the Board and Superintendent for the process, the three schools that were the finalists, and everyone involved, including staff – Su Yeager and Dan Rodriguez. He noted that it is a very special honor for his parents, who had a passion for education, to have a school named after them. He announced the selection committee's recommendation that Saturn Riverfront Academy be renamed the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Elementary School.

Dr. Harvey introduced Raymond Yu, principal of Saturn Riverfront, and asked for his thoughts and comments on the renaming of his school. Mr. Yu stated that this is a great honor and he contributes the selection to the shared traits of passion and perseverance for quality education the school shares with the Wellstones. Mr. Yu announced his school is in a stage of new beginnings: next year it will become a pre kindergarten through 6th grade school which is a change from a K-8 building. Along with the name change, this will motivate and create an energy to sharpen their focus and inspire students and staff to greater heights. He applauded the efforts of the Wellstone application team as the backbone of this application, and accepted the recommendation for the school, which, he stated is a tremendous honor.

MOTION: It was moved by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart, that the Board of Education accept the recommendation and to change the name of the Saturn Riverfront Academy to the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Elementary School. It was further approved to waive Board policy to allow for this motion.

Mr. Conlon commented that in the proposal it was stated that there may be some way of connecting the past with the future, and offered an amendment to the motion for the Board's consideration.

Recommended Amendment

It was moved by Mr. Conlon, seconded by Ms. Carroll that the current Saturn Riverfront Academy be renamed the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Riverfront Academy which would connect and honor both the past and the future.

Dr. Harvey gave an overview of the process used in the past to re-name a school and how it was decided that the old name was not incorporated into the new name. She asked Mr. Yu to add his comments on this option of connecting the past with the future. Mr. Yu noted that the current name no longer represents what is happening in the school as does the new name.

The motion failed with the roll call vote as follows:

Ms. Carroll	-	No
Ms. Carter	-	No
Mr. Conlon	-	Yes
Mr. Oertwig	-	No
Ms. Street-Stewart	-	No
Mr. Thao	-	No.
Mr. Brodrick	-	No

Mr. Thao added his comments that he feels this is the right way to honor Senator Wellstone and his wife. Ms. Carroll thanked the Saturn Riverfront principal and staff and students - saying that it is an excellent choice and a wonderful way to honor the people who cared so much about kids and their futures.

Mr. Oertwig commented that he had known both Paul and Sheila all of their political active lives and considered them role models, friends, people with passion, people who cared. He noted that many people supported the last levy referendum because of the encouragement of Senator Wellstone. He stated that this is a fitting tribute.

Continuation of the Main Motion:

The motion carried with the roll call vote as follows:

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

V. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Brodrick, seconded by Ms. Street-Stewart, that the meeting be adjourned.

The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. with the roll call vote as follows.

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

Prepared and submitted by

Gerrie Higgins, Assistant Clerk
Board of Education