INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625

Saint Paul, Minnesota

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102, and

Available Streaming Online at www.spps.org/boe and Saint Paul Cable Channel 16

June 23, 2026
5:30 p.m.

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Uriah Ward, Chair.

2. ROLL CALL

Board of Education: U. Ward, B. Lowe, C. Allen, Y. Carrillo, C. Franco, E. Valliant
Superintendent Stanley

H. Henderson arrived at 5:33 p.m.

K. Bergstrom, General Counsel; S. Dahlke, Assistant Clerk

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA

MOTION: Director Ward moved approval of the order of the main agenda. The motion was seconded by Director Carrillo.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Ward	Yes
Director Lowe	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes

4. RECOGNITIONS

BF 34718 Acknowledgement of Good Work Provided by Staff

1. **Regan Kluver**, Assistant Director of the Office of Indian Education, successfully defended her professional portfolio at Minnesota State University Moorhead, earning her Education Leadership Master's degree along with three licensure competencies — K-12 Administration, Community Education Director, and Superintendency — all simultaneously.

What makes this achievement even more remarkable is that she is the first Native woman to graduate with these accolades simultaneously from any Minnesota State school. This is a historic milestone, and the team in the Office of College and Career Readiness (OCCR) could not be more proud. Her dedication, perseverance, and commitment to educational leadership are a true reflection of the excellence we strive for here in SPPS. Please join me in celebrating her extraordinary achievement. We are incredibly fortunate to have her talent, passion, and leadership contributing to the OCCR team and our SPPS community.

2. Highwood Hills Elementary School Principal **Dr. Fatima Lawson** has recently earned a pair of prestigious honors. In addition to being named a **Bush Fellow**, she was recognized by the **African Mental Health Summit** under the theme, *"Borders, Belonging, and Well-Being: Building Thriving African Diaspora Communities Through Mental Health Justice."*

   As a Bush Fellow, Dr. Lawson joins an elite group of leaders chosen for their ability to drive meaningful change. This highly competitive, self-designed leadership program selects up to 30 fellows annually, providing up to $150,000 over two years to help them expand their capacity to lead effectively.

   Alongside this fellowship, her recognition from the African Mental Health Summit celebrates her outstanding leadership, dedicated service, and unwavering commitment to advancing community well-being, equity, and mental health advocacy.

3. **Ntxhee Sua Vang**, an educational assistant at Four Seasons Elementary, received the Education Excellence Award from the Minnesota Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind & Hard of Hearing at their Community Awards Ceremony on May 16, 2026. This statewide award is given to individuals who work in an education setting with deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing students.

   Ntxhee Sua Vang, whose name means "water wave," is a Saint Paul native of Hmong descent. Ntxhee Sua has worked as an educational assistant for three years at elementary school and has been a visual artist since she was young. In working with various students, she enjoys learning their home sign language and ASL. She also teaches them through writing, language, math, and reading, and is proud to see them build critical thinking and communication skills. She was a featured artist for a Walker Art Center sensory Sunday event for kids, teens, and adults with sensory processing differences, autism, or developmental disabilities.

   In addition to working for SPPS over the last three years, she is also a Humboldt High School alumna and was part of the SPPS Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) program throughout her educational career.

BF 34719 Acknowledgment of Good Work Provided by Students

2026 Spring High School Athletics State Qualifiers

Central Senior High School

- **Track and Field**
  - Kendall Fane and Clyde Berg
  - Coach Andy Basitian

Como Park Senior High School

- **Track and Field**
  - Charlie Loth (state champion)
  - Ben Clark and Tate Prinson

- **Badminton**
  - Nico Solheid and Tsuki Solheid

Harding Senior High School

- **Track and Field**
  - Nasir Yeah and Khapriece Venzant
- **Badminton**
  - Gao Zhia Vue

Highland Park Senior High

- **Track and Field**
  - Giovanni Vellucci, Amira Cogshell, Ingrid Haaland, Ruby Peterson, Zoe Moore, Bridget Kane, Daylen Wells, Lily Tickner, Adeline Lendway, London Rademacher, Alvin Bommarito, Daylen Wells, Toby Hennum, Ben Ebinger, Theo Hennum, Noah Waln, Toby Hennum, Violet Solem Valentine, Alice Verbrugge

Humboldt High School

- **Track and Field**
  - Aria Kulseth
- **Adapted Bowling**
  - McKenzie Green, *(Highland Park student)*

Johnson Senior High School

- **Boys Volleyball Team**
- **Badminton**
  - Amanda Her, Gaonou Vang, Angelina Thao

Washington Technology High School

- **Track and Field**
  - Lesean Andrewin

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. **Josiah Carrillo** — Effects of iPad on learning
2. **Jonathan Oppenheimer** — Digital well-being
3. **Lesley Lavery** — iPad usage
4. **Sarah Degner Riveros** — Technology use for students
5. **Jill van Koolwijk** — Budget cuts to ELL
6. **Shawna Nielson** — Budget cuts to ELL
7. **Jenn Vaubel** — 1:1 school technology
8. **Kristi Herman Hill** — Budget cuts to ELL
9. **Sarah Langford** — Tech in schools
10. **Kevin Zhao** — Technology

6. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: Director Ward moved approval of the Order of the Consent Agenda with these items pulled for separate consideration:

- **2-e: Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation Community Solutions Grant Program**

The motion was seconded by Director Valliant.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Ward	Yes
Director Lowe	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes

7. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of May 19, 2026
B. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of June 9, 2026
C. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of June 17, 2026

MOTION: Director Ward moved approval of the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education of May 19, 2026; Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of June 9, 2026; and the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education of June 17, 2026. The motion was seconded by Director Valliant.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Ward	Yes
Director Lowe	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Minutes of the Committee of the Board Meeting of June 9, 2026

Topics at the June 9th, 2026 Committee of the Board meeting included:

- 2026 Legislative Outcomes
- FY27 Budget Update
- FY27 Board of Education Budget Discussion
- Txuj Ci Hmong Language and Culture – Board of Education Motion Progress Update
- SPPS Athletics Update
- SPPS 2033 Strategic Plan
- Language Access Plan
- Policy Update

Full minutes of the Committee of the Board meeting can be found in the BoardBook, on the Board of Education website, or the full audio can be found online.

MOTION: Director Ward moved to accept the report on the June 9, 2026 Committee of the Board meeting and approve the recommended motions and minutes of that meeting as published. The motion was seconded by Director Lowe.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Ward	Yes
Director Lowe	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes

9. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

A. Board of Education Meetings (5:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

- January 6, 2026 (Annual Organizational Meeting at 4:00pm)
- January 20, 2026
- February 17, 2026
- March 17, 2026
- April 21, 2026
- May 19, 2026
- June 9, 2026 (Special re: Non-Renewals at 4:00pm)
- June 23, 2026
- July 14, 2026
- August 18, 2026
- September 22, 2026
- October 20, 2026
- November 17, 2026
- December 1, 2026 (Truth in Taxation Hearing at 6pm)
- December 15, 2026

B. Committee of the Board Meetings (4:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted)

- January 6, 2026
- February 4, 2026 – Wednesday (Precinct Caucus)
- March 3, 2026
- April 14, 2026
- May 5, 2026
- June 9, 2026
- August 5, 2026 – Wednesday (Primary Election)
- September 1, 2026
- October 6, 2026
- November 4, 2026 – Wednesday (Election Day)
- December 1, 2026

10. SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Stanley noted that during the first day of summer learning, which serves over 13,000 K-12 students across the St. Paul Public Schools (SPPS) district, gratitude was extended to Assistant Superintendent Dr. Kunz and Dr. Lawson for their leadership. She also highlighted the College Bound St.

Paul partnership, a joint initiative with the city that deposited $48,980 this year into the post-secondary savings accounts of over 5,000 pre-K and kindergarten students; this program provides eligible students with a $20 standard deposit and up to $50 for event participation, with plans to expand next year to include first-grade field trips to Old National Bank. Finally, she urged community awareness regarding an upcoming November constitutional amendment that would update the distribution formula for Minnesota's $2.3 billion Permanent School Trust Fund. This amendment, which does not raise any taxes, would allow the state's public, charter, and tribal schools to draw more financial support from the fund, potentially yielding an additional $900,000 for SPPS to help address critical funding needs like those raised by MLL teachers.

11. AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

A. Consent Agenda

MOTION: Director Ward moved approval of all items within the consent agenda withholding these items, which were for separate consideration:

- **2-e: Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation Community Solutions Grant Program**

Director Franco seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Ward	Yes
Director Lowe	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes

1. Gifts

BF 34720 Gift Acceptance of $10,000 from Yeng Yang to Como Senior High School Boys Tennis

That the Board of Education approve the funds from Yeng Yang, in the amount of $10,000 to be used by Como Senior High Boys Tennis group and that those funds are placed in code: 19-212-292-000-5096-A800.

2. Grants

BF 34721 Request for Permission to Accept a Grant from the MN Department of Natural Resources Transportation Grant Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to accept a grant from the MN Department of Natural Resources Transportation Grant program and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 34722 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to Allina Health Foundation

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Allina Health Foundation charitable contribution program; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 34723 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Jeffers Foundation Environmental Experience Transportation Grant Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Jeffers Foundation Environmental Experience Transportation Grant program; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 34724 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Running Strong for American Indian Youth Dreamstarter Teacher® Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Running Strong for American Indian Youth Dreamstarter Teacher® Program; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

BF 34725 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the US Department of Transportation Safe Streets for All Grant Program

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation's Community Solutions Grant Program; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents.

3. Contracts

BF 34726 Contract Amendment #10 for BTR Architects for the Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements (Project # 2070-23-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of Amendment #10 for BTR Architects in the amount of $182,868 for the Cherokee Heights Elementary School Building Systems Replacements (Project # 2070-23-01).

BF 34727 Contract Award for FY26 Furniture Replacement Program at Central High School (Project #0160-26-01)

That the Board of Education award the furniture contract of the FY26 Furniture Replacement Program at Central High School (Project # 0160-26-01) to Acre for a lump sum base bid of $669,287.

BF 34728 Construction Manager as Advisor Services for the Farnsworth Aerospace Lower Major Renovation and Addition Project (Project #1090-25-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of construction manager as advisor services and pass through general conditions to H+U Construction for the not-to-exceed fee of $3,066,305.

BF 34729 Design Services for the Farnsworth Aerospace Lower Major Renovation and Addition Project (Project #1090-25-01)

That the Board of Education authorize award of design and construction administration services to U+B Architecture & Design, Inc. for the not-to-exceed fee of $4,991,960.

BF 34730 TMA Contract Renewal

That the Board of Education authorize award of the five-year contract renewal to TMA at a cost of $400,483 in FY27, FY28, FY29, FY30, and FY31.

BF 34731 Annual Renewal of Oracle ERP, Database, and Cloud Services Agreements with DLT, and Vendor Related Products and Services

That the Board of Education authorizes District administration to enter into product and service Renewal agreements, as presented, for a period of 12 months in the amount of $2,289,593.74 for FY27, beginning July 1, 2026.

4. Agreements

BF 34732 Joint Powers Agreement with Minnesota State (Century College) pertaining to Contracted Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to sign the Joint Powers Agreement with Minnesota State (Century College).

BF 34733 Memorandum of Understanding between Saint Paul Public Schools and Great River Greening

That the Board of Education authorize the Memorandum of Understanding between Saint Paul Public Schools and Great River Greening to maintain, irrigate, and use the gravel bed located at 1930 Como Avenue, and, when strategically agreed upon, support SPPS schools in providing environmental education and engagement.

BF 34734 Approval of the Employment Agreement for the Senior Executive Officer of School Leadership and Operation

That the Board of Education approves the employment agreement with the Senior Executive Officer of School Leadership and Operation effective July 1, 2026.

5. Administrative Items

BF 34735 Monthly Operating Authority

That the Board of Education approve and ratify the following checks and electronic transfers for the period April 1, 2026- April 30, 2026.

Human Resources Transactions

BF 34736 Transactions for May 1, 2026 – May 30, 2026

BF 34737 Approval to Create a Cooperative Sponsorship between St. Paul Riveters and Tartan/North St. Paul

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the Cooperative Sponsorship for Girls Hockey with Tartan/North St. Paul.

BF 34738 Designation of an Identified Official with Authority for Education Identity Access Management

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to authorize Anne McInerney, Anne.McInerney@spps.org, to act as the Proxy Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for Saint Paul Public Schools ISD 625.

BF 34739 Language Access Plan

That the Board of Education approve the Language Access Plan as incorporated below, to be included in the 2026-27 Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

BF 34740 Phase Gate Approval of FY23 Roofing Replacement Program at Journeys Secondary (Project # 0175-23-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for FY23 Roofing Replacement Program at Journeys Secondary (Project # 0175-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

BF 34741 Phase Gate Approval of FY25 Flooring Replacement Program at Como Park Elementary, Randolph Heights Elementary, Humboldt High School, Farnsworth Aerospace Upper Campus, and Maxfield Elementary (Project # 0225-25-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for FY25 Flooring Replacement Program at Como Park Elementary, Randolph Heights Elementary, Humboldt High School, Farnsworth Aerospace Upper Campus, and Maxfield Elementary (Project # 0225-25-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

BF 34742 Pre-Qualification of Professional Consultant Construction Managers as Advisor

That the Board of Education authorize the administration to pre-qualify the following professional consultant Construction Manager as Advisor firms for future project-specific solicitations for fiscal years 2027-2031: H+U Construction, Knutson Construction, Kraus-Anderson Construction Company, RJM Construction, Stahl Construction.

BF 34743 Phase Gate Approval of Multi-Site Electrical System Replacement at Harding Senior High School and Central Senior High School (Project # 0651-23-01): Gate #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out

That the Board of Education accept the report provided for Multi-Site Electrical System Replacement at Harding Senior High School and Central Senior High School project (Project #0651-23-01) at Phase Gate Check #5.2 – Project Final Fiscal Close-out.

BF 34744 Property & Casualty Insurance Renewal

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to renew a 12-month policy for property insurance coverage with Marsh McLennan for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027, at a cost of $3,671,734.25.

BF 34745 Rights and Responsibilities Handbook 2026-27

That the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to approve the updated Rights and Responsibilities Handbook for the 2026-27 school year.

BF 34746 Facilities Department FY27 Purchases over $175,000

That the Board of Education authorize the purchases listed for the Facilities Department anticipated to be over $175,000.

6. Bids

BF 34747 Phase Gate Approval of the Bridge View Walls and Doors (Project # 2002-27-01): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award the Bridge View Walls and Doors (Project #2002-27-01) to Flannery Construction for a lump sum base bid of $197,621.

BF 34748 Phase Gate Approval of the Como Park Senior High Fieldhouse Floor Replacement (Project # 0225-27-02): Gate #4 - Contract Award

That the Board of Education approve the award of the Como Park Senior High Fieldhouse Floor Replacement (Project # 0225-27-02) to H2I Group for a lump sum base bid of $304,120.

7. Change Orders

ITEMS PULLED FOR SEPARATE CONSIDERATION

Director Franco noted that he will be abstaining from this item due to the reference to his employer.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- None

BF 34749 Request for Permission to Submit a Grant to the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation Community Solutions Grant Program

MOTION: Director Ward moved that the Board of Education authorize the Superintendent (designee) to submit a grant to the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation's Community Solutions Grant Program; to accept funds, if awarded; and to implement the project as specified in the award documents. Director Carrillo seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Ward	Yes
Director Lowe	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Franco	Abstain
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes

FURTHER AGENDA ITEMS THAT REQUIRE BOARD ACTION

A. Resolution Relating to $40.9 Million General Obligation School Building and Facilities Maintenance Bonds, Series 2026B; Ratifying the Award of Sale, Prescribing the Form and Details and Providing for the Payment Thereof

Executive Chief of Financial Services Tom Sager and Michael Hart from PTMA presented a successful update on the ratification and award of sale for $40.9 million in Series 2026B general obligation school building and facility maintenance bonds. These tax-exempt funds will support capital and long-term facilities maintenance projects outlined in the district's 10-year facilities plan and the SPPS Builds initiative. While the initial parameter resolution approved in July 2025 set a maximum true interest cost (TIC) of 5.5%, a highly competitive bidding process involving 11 national underwriters resulted in a winning bid from Raymond James and Associates at a significantly lower TIC of 3.78%. In addition to lower interest expenses, the sale generated a bond premium that will help reduce the district's borrowing needs in future years. Furthermore, Moody's Investors Service affirmed the school district's strong AA2 bond rating, citing recent community referendum support and a balanced budget for fiscal year 2027. With the bond closing scheduled for July 14th to officially receive the funds.

Full information can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- None

BF 34750 Resolution Relating to $40.9 Million General Obligation School Building and Facilities Maintenance Bonds, Series 2026B; Ratifying the Award of Sale, Prescribing the Form and Details and Providing for the Payment Thereof

MOTION: Director Ward moved to approve the Resolution Relating To $40.9 Million General Obligation School Building And Facilities Maintenance Bonds, Series 2026B; Ratifying The Award Of Sale, Prescribing The Form And Details And Providing For The Payment Thereof. Director Franco seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Ward	Yes
Director Lowe	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes

B. Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Adopted Budget

The Saint Paul Public Schools administration presented its balanced fiscal year 2026–2027 (FY27) proposed budget to the school board for final adoption. While the district faced a $14.35 million shortfall driven by declining enrollment over the last two years, the successful passage of a November 2025 operating referendum allowed them to close the gap, resulting in a practically balanced general fund that projects a nominal $14,121 growth on an overall budget exceeding $800 million. Driven by feedback from over 6,000 community members, the budget protects key educational priorities by allocating 81% of its expenditures directly to school and student support services—a rate that surpasses the state average—while keeping administrative costs low at just 7%.

The final proposal successfully met or exceeded all major board parameters and long-term milestones. Notably, the district achieved and surpassed its long-term arts and music funding goal two years ahead of schedule, reaching $293 per pupil. The budget also maintains both funded and unfunded pre-K

programming, preserves 98.2% of instructional support staff positions (well above the requested 95% threshold), and boosts investments in world language and immersion programs to $7.7 million, which includes a $750,000 allocation to launch a new Afrocentric program. To achieve this balance, the district implemented targeted school and administrative reductions, equating to an estimated cut of 167 full-time equivalent positions. Human resources is currently finalizing staff placements and union coordination to mitigate direct layoffs wherever possible through resignations and internal transfers. Backed by these metrics, the district administration formally recommended that the school board approve the FY27 budget.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Carrillo thanked the administration for their collaborative spirit and deep effort to align with board policy over the last few years. While acknowledging the budget requires painful cuts due to statewide school underfunding, he emphasized that the district's discipline and focus on instruction remain strong. He called for continued "self-scouting" to optimize board support for the administration.
- Director Franco requested clarification on Pre-K figures, confirming there are 472 funded and 631 unfunded Pre-K students, with the unfunded cost estimated at $3.2 million. He expressed relief at passing a balanced budget for the first time in years, but voiced concerns over how granular budget cuts (such as losing 0.5 of a counselor) directly impact students' lives. He also requested updated staffing reports for English Learner (EL) services in August and October to track real-time implementation.
- The Board also expressed frustration that despite the community passing a referendum in the fall, deep cuts were still required because state funding has not kept pace with inflation and charter school funding drains traditional public school resources.
- Chair Ward also noted several major achievements in the budget, including maintaining higher administrative efficiency than peer districts; meeting a strategic goal by increasing per-pupil funding for music and arts by 20% over two years; and maintaining investments in Pre-K, protecting class sizes, and prioritizing the board's top literacy goals.

BF 34751 Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Adopted Budget

MOTION: Director Ward moved the approval and adoption of the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Adopted Budget as presented. Director Valliant seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Ward	Yes
Director Lowe	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes

12. INFORMATIONAL AGENDA ITEMS

A. Board Initiated Goals Governance (B.I.G.G.) Report

Executive Director Craig Anderson provided an update on Saint Paul Public Schools' progress toward two major student outcome targets using finalized data through quarter three of the 2025–2026 school year. The first goal aims to increase the percentage of students passing civics or US government from an 84% baseline in 2024 to 90% by 2029; currently, the district has achieved an 88% passing rate, putting them just two points shy of the five-year target. The second goal focuses on a newly created personal finance course—a future graduation requirement taught by various certified subject teachers that will fully phase in by the 2027–2028 school year. While the initial 2029 passing target was conservatively set at 75% because the course did not yet exist, current data shows an 81% passing rate, prompting suggestions for future goal revisions. Moving forward, the district plans to celebrate these successes while continuing to refine course curricula to reflect evolving financial topics like cryptocurrency, expanding the roster of qualified instructors, and investing in ongoing professional development and equitable grading models over the summer and coming school year.

The full presentation can be found in the BoardBook.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- Director Henderson highlighted strong student interest in civics and civic engagement and emphasized moving beyond standard government classes by integrating real-life applications, such as mandatory civic education, providing voting materials, and utilizing Minnesota's 16- and 17-year-old voter pre-registration.
- Director Valliant noted that she is pleased with high enrollment/interest numbers in both civics and personal finance, noting these subjects feel immediately relevant to students. She suggested surveying students to understand why they like these courses so those strategies can be applied to other subjects. She also shared a personal anecdote from a Juneteenth event confirming that Saint Paul Public Schools' pre-registration efforts for 16- and 17-year-olds are actively working in the community.
- Director Allen noted appreciation for the focus on civics and financial literacy, but stresses that students need a strong sense of cultural identity to understand how they fit into government systems. She also highlighted limitations in high school offerings (e.g., grouping the entire Asian continent into a single class) and advocates extending the culturally relevant curriculum currently used in elementary schools into secondary education.
- Director Carrillo encouraged creative approaches to updating the personal finance curriculum and professional development. He also recommended going beyond basic saving and spending to teach wealth-building, systemic resource allocation, and ethics in financial systems so students are empowered to shape their economic futures.

B. Policy Update

Craig Anderson, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, then presented these second readings.

a. SECOND READING: Policy 602.00 - Curriculum, Instruction, and Accountability

Saint Paul Public Schools is updating its policy on curriculum, instruction, and accountability to establish a more robust and collaborative system built with input from students, families, staff, and the community. The updated draft clarifies key definitions and expands accountability into four main pillars: stakeholder engagement, public reporting, the District Curriculum Advisory Committee, and explicit processes for continuous improvement and program evaluation. Under these guidelines, all instructional materials and practices must be culturally responsive, inclusive, equitable, and non-discriminatory. Additionally, the policy

strengthens the selection and review procedures for educational materials—including formal processes for community reconsideration and parent opt-outs—while emphasizing equitable assessment practices and data usage.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- None

b. SECOND READING: Policy 602.01 - Inclusive and Equitable Education

This policy has been updated and expanded into its own standalone policy to modernize language last reviewed in 2008. The revised policy establishes a clear purpose focused on fostering belonging, mutual respect, human dignity, critical thinking, and academic excellence to prepare students for an interconnected society. Its core components emphasize integrating diverse perspectives into the curriculum, maintaining inclusive environments, and applying culturally and linguistically responsive practices that treat student backgrounds as assets. Furthermore, the policy institutes professional development for staff—focusing on equity and bias awareness—and commits the district to continuous review and alignment with updated educational standards.

QUESTIONS/DISCUSSION:

- None

c. SECOND READING: Policy 607.00 - Selection and Adoption of Instructional Materials

This policy establishes the formal framework for selecting and adopting instructional materials and textbooks, bridging the district's educational philosophy with concrete implementation. Originally established in 2008, the policy affirms that while the school board holds final decision-making authority, primary responsibility for recommendations relies on the expertise of the district's professional staff. The selection process dictates that materials must align with curriculum goals, suit student maturity levels, foster respect for cultural diversity, fit within budget constraints, and primarily use English, with allowances for other languages per relevant statutes. Additionally, the policy requires materials to support grade-level instruction on America's founding documents without censoring or restraining Minnesota or American history due to religious references or primary source documents. Under these guidelines, the superintendent is tasked with establishing an orderly process and timeline for staff review while ensuring opportunities for input from students, parents, and community members. Finally, the board must be informed of selection processes and receive formal recommendations for new purchases, with updated procedures reflecting recent legal statutes and case law regarding requests for material reconsideration.

QUESTION/DISCUSSION:

- Director Valliant expressed concern about ensuring board members receive sufficient information before voting on recommendations so they do not feel they are blindly approving large decisions they are ultimately responsible for. In response, it was explained that for major decisions—such as curriculum adoptions—the board is involved throughout the entire process via regular presentations, updates, and opportunities to review materials alongside teachers, staff, and administrators. Citing the previous math curriculum adoption as an example of this comprehensive approach, it was noted that while recent adoptions have been paused due to financial constraints and ongoing implementation of reading initiatives, the board can expect similar transparent updates and multi-step reviews for upcoming literacy materials in the near future.

- Director Valliant requested information on the current process for selection of textbooks. Response: The selection process for educational materials varies based on the scope of the adoption and statutory requirements. When updates are required by state law, the district evaluates existing resources—either purchasing complete curricula or assembling smaller supplementary materials if an all-in-one option isn't available—while ensuring compliance with state department of education guidelines and community expectations. Major updates, such as district-wide elementary math or literacy programs, undergo a comprehensive review process with extensive oversight before reaching the school board. Smaller adoptions under $175,000 are managed internally through established administrative policies and peer reviews. Across all selections, staff maintain ongoing evaluations to monitor course performance and assess student reception over time.
- Director Allen requested information on supplementation to the curriculum, including slavery and the Constitution. Response: Integrating crucial, historical truths—such as the 13th Amendment's penal labor exception—into school curricula requires a multifaceted approach that extends beyond standard, off-the-shelf textbooks. Because purchased educational materials often omit critical context regarding the realities of the justice system and prison labor, school districts must rely on civic engagement, supplemental resources, and robust professional development to equip teachers with the expertise needed to address these gaps. By utilizing culturally responsive, truth-telling pedagogy and thorough material review, educators can ensure students fully grasp the deep legal and societal implications of constitutional amendments. Recognizing this challenge, community members, licensed teachers, and legal experts have actively developed free, open-access K-12 curricula designed to directly incorporate these essential, previously overlooked civic truths into the classroom.

d. SECOND READING: Rescission of Policy 607.01 – Textbook Selection and Adoption

It was noted this is a proposed rescission because this language was included in the proposed changes to Policy 607.00.

13. BOARD OF EDUCATION

A. <u>Information Requests/Responses and Items for Future Agendas</u>

- Director Carrillo requested information regarding student iPad deployment, including anonymized, disaggregated usage metrics to better understand how devices impact learning, emphasizing gathering overall and grade-level device usage time—including time spent on potential distractions like YouTube—while respecting privacy through randomized identifiers to avoid tracking individual habits. Beyond internal usage patterns, he suggests comparing outcomes with districts using alternative technology like Chromebooks, as well as evaluating the district's significant financial commitment to Apple contracts (previously over $10 million). Ultimately, he advocated for evaluating future technology contracts to balance digital access with physical curriculum materials, ensuring classrooms foster critical thinking rather than passive tech consumption.
- Director Ward noted the upcoming meeting to review the B.I.G.G. goals and a draft goal designed for this information request.
- Director Lowe also raised concerns regarding what he perceives as an oversaturation of technology in students' lives, highlighting both privacy issues and troubling data from the recent Minnesota Student Survey. The survey revealed widespread social and emotional struggles among students, with a shocking number reporting device use throughout the night and a corresponding daily loss of sleep. While acknowledging the need to respect privacy laws, he

advocated for conducting internal studies over the next couple of months to better understand these habits. Specifically, he proposed investigating how much time students spend outside of school on school-issued devices, as well as analyzing how classroom time is divided between direct instructional device use and enrichment activities.

- Director Franco requested information for several specific follow-up reports to be delivered in August regarding the upcoming school year's English Learner (EL) program. The requested information includes data on EL staffing ratios, the specific number of EL teachers assigned to more than two school buildings, and an updated implementation plan for the EL service model. Ultimately, the emphasis was placed on understanding how these structural and staffing models will directly impact and prioritize positive academic outcomes for students.
- Director Valliant noted the urgent need for a healthier balance between digital devices and physical learning materials in the classroom. Reflecting on feedback from her own children and other students, she emphasized that many kids actually prefer paper worksheets and physical books, noting that iPads are frequently distracting or uncharged. Students who actively request printed materials or express that they learn better off-screen are often told it is too difficult or impossible to accommodate them, which directly impacts their academic success. While acknowledging the challenges educators face, such as the declining availability of printed textbooks, she urged the school to find practical ways to integrate tangible resources, underscoring the timeless reliability and focus that physical books provide.

B. Board of Education Reports/Communications

- Director Henderson noted work with the Sustainability Committee, as well as within the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee and the development of mechanisms for a more action-oriented joint space for the three entities to join to discuss and collaborate on the use of property taxes and the collective impact. There is now a framework for engagement with each other, and she thanked Chief Turner for her work in this group.
- Director Carrillo noted the celebration of graduations. He recognized the graduating students, their families, and the staff who supported them. Reflecting on attending diverse ceremonies, he noted the immense joy and accomplishment of the students as they reached the milestone of earning their diplomas. Emphasizing that graduation marks the beginning of their ongoing educational journeys rather than just an end, he extended heartfelt gratitude to the board members, associate superintendents, and school personnel who helped make these celebrations possible.

14. ADJOURNMENT

Director Ward moved to adjourn the meeting; Director Franco seconded the motion.

The motion was approved by roll call vote:

Director Ward	Yes
Director Lowe	Yes
Director Allen	Yes
Director Carrillo	Yes
Director Franco	Yes
Director Valliant	Yes
Director Henderson	Yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

For clarity and to facilitate research, these minutes reflect the order of the original Agenda and not necessarily the time during the meeting the items were discussed.

Prepared and submitted by:
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