

Special (Board Vacancy Interviews)

Tuesday, March 10, 2026 6:00 PM

Administration Building, 360 Colborne Street, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **ROLL CALL**

3. **APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF THE MAIN AGENDA**

4. **NEW BUSINESS**

4.A. Interviews of Candidates to Fill Vacant Board
Position

4.A.1. Robin Feickert (6:00 p.m.)

4.A.2. Lesley Lavery (6:30 p.m.)

4.A.3. Brandon Lowe (7:00 p.m.)

4.A.4. Beth Mork (7:30 p.m.)

4.A.5. Carson Starkey (8:00 p.m.)

4.B. Recess for Individual Considerations (at
Board's discretion)

4.C. Nomination and Selection of Candidate to Serve
Interim Term

4.D. Resolution Filling School Board Vacancy by
Appointment

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Lesley Lavery



Parent, Public School Advocate, Professor

About Me

Proud Public School Graduate and Parent (Daughters in 6th & 10th grade)

Former public school teacher (2nd Grade, San Jose, CA)

PhD in Political Science (U.S. Department of Education Institute for Education Sciences (IES) Interdisciplinary Training Program)

Professor at Macalester College

Expertise in political behavior, social policy, K-12 education

- School choice (charters, open enrollment)
- Education labor markets (hiring, collective bargaining)
- Policy implementation (NCLB, RTT, Common Core)
- Demographic decline and financial challenges



Interest in Serving as Interim Director

- Ideal timing (sabbatical, summer, and reduced course load in fall)
- Interest in future service, but not 2027 (older daughter is a sophomore)
- Expertise in current challenges (enrollment, community engagement)
- Demonstrated commitment to community (volunteer work in SPPS schools and on SPPS boards and committees)

Director's Roles and Responsibilities

Represent and respond to the people of St. Paul

Oversee the Superintendent and her team

Approve the annual budget

Take accountability for progress toward B.I.G.G.

- Increase proficiency for reading and math, career inventory completion, civic and financial literacy, per pupil funding for art and music, 4-year graduation rate, and residential capture rate
- Accelerate adoption of Whole School Restorative Practices
- Maintain positive working relationship with Superintendent and her team

Relevant Perspective & Skills

- Public school graduate, teacher, parent, and advocate (Yes for SPPS Board)
- Well-versed in SPPS data (REA partnership to explore enrollment trends, split-grade classrooms, and school start times)
- Committed to strengthening SPPS communities and programs (academics, arts, athletics, fundraising, safety)
- Expertise in education policy, labor, school choice, enrollment
- Practiced in dialogue and discourse (UW-Madison's The Discussion Project; Duke University's Civil Discourse Project)
- Collaborative in leadership

Collaborative Leadership Experience

Work together toward shared goals, listen more than you speak

Lean into different roles, perspectives, and expertise

- Chair of Political Science Department at Macalester College
- Chair of Randolph Heights Parent Teacher Association
- Chair of Macalester Urban Studies Concentration
- Principal Investigator “Teachers Unions and COVID”
- Faculty Mentor, Chuck Green Civic Engagement Fellowship

Equity Lens & Perspective

Departmental response to juniors' colleagues concerns with culture around student accommodation

Key Context:

- Organization as a unit (department)
- Autonomy over course design and assessment
- Increased student requests/demands for flexibility with deadlines & attendance
- Low retention of/morale amongst junior faculty of color

Key Action:

- Departmental policy/boundary

Thank you!



Brandon Lowe

Interim Board Candidate

About Me

Personal Commitment

SPPS Parent & Macalester-
Groveland Neighbor

Chose SPPS due to diversity and
inclusive excellence for BIPOC
and LGBTQ+ families

Professional Expertise

Assessment, Data, & Research
Coordinator

Former School Administrator &
Teacher

An inside-out understanding of
PreK-12 systems

Candidacy Intent

No Intention

Will not run

Merely a Bridge

Maintain momentum on
strategic goals

Motivation

Dual Responsibility

SPPS parent
PreK-12 educator

Protecting Vitality

Ensure
specialized
programs thrive

Fiscal Discipline

Navigate funding
needs

Operational Stewardship

Every dollar
translates to a
better student
experience

Board Member Role

Policy Governance

Board establishes
“What” and “Why”

Superintendent
manages “How”

Data Fluency

Translating data into
actionable oversight

Operational Alignment

Policies translate into
student experience

Student Success

Opportunity Gap

Removing barriers

Ensuring equity

Individualizing support

Holistic Support

Goal of rigorous academics

Foundation of basic needs

Engine of community partnerships

One Voice

The “One Voice” Doctrine

Moving from diverse perspectives to unified action

Rigorous Collaboration

Bringing data to robust, honest deliberation

Organizational Stability

Providing a trusted, steady environment for staff and families

Equity Lens

Equity in Action: Grading Reform

DATA: Identified statistical bias in traditional grading scales

MASTERY: Focused on what students know, not their circumstances

RESULTS: Realized a +0.59 GPA increase through systemic change

Thank You

Ready to Serve

Resource for the Board

Steward for our taxpayers

Advocate for every student

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
RESOLUTION



Board File No. _____

Date _____

RESOLUTION FILLING SCHOOL BOARD VACANCY BY APPOINTMENT

WHEREAS, on January 6, 2026, the School Board of Independent School District No. 625 (the “Saint Paul School Board”) passed a resolution establishing the process for filling the Board vacancy created upon the resignation of then Director Jim Vue; and

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul School Board has completed the vacancy process set forth by the January 6, 2026 resolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 625, State of Minnesota, as follows:

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.09, subd. 5b (2019), _____ is hereby appointed to fill the vacancy and to serve until a successor is elected and qualified. The appointment shall be effective April 10 2026, thirty (30) days after the adoption of this resolution, unless a valid petition to reject the appointee is filed with the school district clerk pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.09, Subd. 5b(b) (2025) within that thirty (30) day time period.

Adopted _____

CHAIR Board of Education

CLERK Board of Education