

South St. Paul
Public Schools



South St. Paul School Board - Committee-of-the-Whole
Monday, February 8, 2021 5:00 PM
Location: CITY HALL
125 THIRD AVENUE NORTH
South St Paul, Minnesota 55075

Agenda

- | | | |
|------|---|---|
| I. | 5:00 - 5:10 PM EQUITY (C. Garling-Squire) | |
| | A. Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR) Semi-Annual Report (C. Garling-Squire) | 2 |
| II. | 5:10 - 5:20 PM PRESCHOOL (C. Garling-Squire) | |
| | A. Program Update and 2021-22 Preschool Tuition | 4 |
| III. | 5:20 - 5:30 PM BUILDING AND GROUNDS (M. Fenton) | |
| | A. Department and Radon Testing Updates | 6 |
| IV. | 5:30 - 5:45 PM BUDGET (D. Webb and A. Bushberger) | |
| | A. 2021-22 Budget Guiding Change Document | 7 |



SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Agenda Item

Meeting Date: February 8, 2021

Place on Agenda: Committee-of-the-Whole

Action Requested: None. Information/Update Only

Attachment: MDHR Semi-Annual Review

Topic: Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR) Semi-Annual Review, February 1, 2021

Presenter(s): Dave Webb, Superintendent & Connie Garling-Squire, Director of Early Learning/Equity

- Link to [MDHR Video Update](#) (YouTube)
- Link to [MDHR Semi Annual Report, Feb 1, 2021](#)
- Link to [MDHR PPNT](#) used in video

Background:

As part of our Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR) Plan, the South St. Paul Public Schools submits a Semi-Annual Review in February and September throughout the three-year plan. Each Review is to describe our progress/accomplishments for the six months prior, and immediate plans for the fall, in various target areas.

Presented here is a review of the context of the plan itself, and the highlights for the February 1, 2021 MDHR Semi-Annual Review:

1. Community Involvement

- a. Equity lens for planning, family surveys, person connections
- b. Parent workshops
- c. School Linked Mental Health
- d. Equity Leadership

2. Curriculum/Teaching and Learning: Removing barriers for school success

- a. All Learning Models Planned, Communicated, Supported & Implemented
- b. Technology support for distance learning, access to internet
- c. Nutrition support, meals served during Distance Learning
- d. Emergency Child Care

3. Professional Development

- a. Calendar of professional learning
- b. Innocent Classrooms
- c. Many Equity/Anti-Racism offerings

4. Procedures

- a. Distance Learning response to attendance and engagement information
- b. Systems – Attendance/Engagement
- c. BARR Information

5. Policy

- a. Title IX information
- b. Handbook Updates
- c. Anti-Bullying and Harassment

Recommendation:

- No School Board action needed. Information Only

Alternatives:

N/A



SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Agenda Item

Meeting Date: Monday, February 8, 2021

Place on Agenda: Committee of the Whole & Regular Meeting

Action Requested: Approval

Attachment: None

Topic: 2021-22 Preschool Tuition Proposal

Presenter(s): Aaron Bushberger, Finance Director and Connie Garling-Squire Director of Early Learning/Equity

Background:

In school year 2016-17, Governor Dayton and the Minnesota Department of Education announced the creation of the FREE Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program with the purpose of preparing more Minnesota children for success as they enter kindergarten the following year.

SSP Community Preschool at Kaposia was awarded VPK funding that first year allowing all 4-year-olds to attend preschool at Kaposia for free. We offered a new all-day preschool class and lengthened the half-day sections. Because of the structure of VPK funding, at the same time, we were able to reduce all preschool tuition rates by 25% at Lincoln Center and for all 3-year-olds. The VPK funding for Kaposia is ongoing.

In 2017-18, Lincoln Center was also awarded VPK funding for free 4-year-old preschool, but this funding source has to be renewed by the legislature every two years. So, every two years, we begin enrollment for Preschool at the Lincoln Center location with tuition, then, if approved by the state, parents receive a letter in late May/June explaining the change to VPK funding and from tuition based to free preschool. School year 2021-2022 is one of those "tuition" years. We are hopeful that VPK will once again be funded for Lincoln Center.

SSP Community Preschool tuition rates have not changed since we reduced our rates in 2016-17. Over the past five years we have expanded our preschool class offerings in addition to the full and half-day VPK classes, to include Lil' Packers for 2.5 year olds, and now both two and three half-day per week classes for 3-year-olds. *Our philosophy: more children, more time before kindergarten!*

Pathways II is a scholarship fund that eligible families can apply for to cover fully, or by half, preschool costs. Many of our families with 2 and 3-year-olds qualify for and are awarded Pathways II scholarships for free or reduced tuition. We also receive some School Readiness funding from the state that underpins our programs.

This is a proposal for tuition increase for the 2021-22 school year for SSP Community Preschool. Additional funding is needed to manage increased programming costs. These proposed preschool tuition rates still remain well below (15%-40% lower than) our neighboring district rates for similar early learning classes.

Preschool Class	2016-17 Tuition	2021-22 Proposed Tuition
KEC Only 4s VPK All Day	FREE	FREE
KEC Only 4s VPK Half Day	FREE	FREE
LC 4s Half Day (M-F)	\$220	\$235 (Possible FREE VPK)
3s Half Day (MWF)	N/A	\$155
3s Half Day (T/Th)	\$95	\$105
Lil' Packers 2.5s T/Th (2hrs)	\$70 (new in 2019-20)	\$75

Recommendation: Approval

Alternatives: Do not approve the Preschool Tuition increase and direct administration with next steps.



SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Agenda Item

Meeting Date: February 8, 2021

Place on Agenda: Committee-of-the-Whole

Action Requested: None

Attachment: None

Topic: Building and Grounds Update and Radon Testing Results

Presenter(s): Buildings and Grounds Director Mark Fenton

Background:

New statute 123B.571 mandates districts to conduct district-wide radon testing every five years and report findings to the school board and Minnesota Department of Health (MDH). SSP schools has been a leader in radon testing since the early 1990's, long before the state made it mandatory.

Radon is a naturally- occurring radioactive gas. It comes from the natural breakdown of uranium, which is found in the soil and rock all over the United States. Radon travels through soil and enters buildings through cracks or other holes in the foundation. Radon is a colorless, odorless, tasteless and is a known human carcinogen.

We follow the MDH radon testing guidelines for schools. The testing process used is called a short-term radon test. Radon testing devices are placed in each commonly occupied classroom or spaces that has direct contact with soil. The device is in the space for 48 – 72 hours before being sent to a lab for results. The district placed 180 radon testing devices district-wide.

When radon testing results are received from the lab, the district looks for readings above 4.0 pCi/L (picocurie). If there are any levels above 4.0 pCi/L, corrective action would be taken. The district is pleased to report that all readings were below 4.0 pCi/L and no correction action is needed. SSPPS will conduct their next radon testing in 2025.

Location	Number of Radon Tests	Radon levels above 4.0pCi/L
Central Square	6	0
District Office	16	0
SSP Secondary	57	0
Kaposia Education Center	51	0
Lincoln Center	39	0
SSP Education Center	8	0
Quality Assurance Test	3	0

Recommendation:

None

Alternatives:

N/A



SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Agenda Item

Meeting Date: Monday, February 8, 2021

Place on Agenda: Committee-of-the-Whole

Action Requested: None. Approval at February 22, 2021 meeting

Attachment: Guiding Change Document – 2021-22 Budget

Topic: Guiding Change Document – 2021-22 Budget
Presenter(s): Dave Webb, Superintendent and Aaron Bushberger, Finance Director
<p>Background:</p> <p>A Guiding Change Document is a tool used by boards to identify parameters for administration to use while they are preparing a recommendation to go before the School Board.</p> <p>The Guiding Change Framework defines three critical components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results (<i>What is our goal?</i>) - define the desired outcomes in terms of vision for the future and benefit to the district • Current Reality (<i>What are our current conditions?</i>) - define the current conditions of the district and its environment in terms of the strategic plan, external/internal influences and trends, and data, facts and perceptions • Unacceptable Means (<i>What will we not do?</i>) - define the few, high-level approaches, behaviors or intentions that the district will not engage in to achieve the desired results <p>This framework takes an “end-in-view” approach in which a single result is not predetermined therefore promoting the development of a variety of options.</p> <p>Attached is a draft version of the Guiding Change Document for the 2021-22 Budget. This draft version has been structured from the 2020-21 Budget Guiding Change Document. We will plan to discuss and make changes as we review this at the COW meeting.</p> <p>Please review the Guiding Change Document prior to the meeting and come with any suggestions and ideas on possible additions/deletions/changes that could be made to the document. We will then look to approve the Guiding Change Document at the February 22 regular meeting.</p>
Recommendation: N/A
Alternatives: N/A



GUIDING CHANGE: 2021-22 Budget

Context & Reality <i>"The Why"</i>	Unacceptable Means <i>"The Not-How"</i>	Results <i>"The What"</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District Mission and Vision. 2. State funding has not kept pace with inflation, and is not projected to keep pace. 3. Additional Operating Levy was approved in Nov. 2017 for ten years. The levy generates about \$1.3 million annually. 4. Despite the District's net gain in open enrollment, overall enrollment has decreased each of the past four years. 5. Expenditures are projected to exceed revenues resulting in deficit spending. 6. 80% of costs are salaries and benefits. 7. State and federal special education funding is not keeping pace with program costs. 8. School Board is required to establish budget by July 1, 2021. 9. District has completed a school start time study indicating a need for a later secondary start time. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Violate law, financial regulations, contracts or agreements. 2. Recommend budget changes that do not address financial sustainability and expected outcomes. 3. The District will not substantially reduce the following programs: 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Align budget to District Mission, Vision, Strategic Directions, and District Goals. 2. Establish a budget that considers fund balance policy established by the Board. 3. Maintains quality programming and services. 4. Considers additions, reductions and redesign. 5. Recruit and retain students. 6. Efficient and effective use of resources through ongoing evaluation of current services and programs. 7. Implementation of priority actions of District Strategic Roadmap and Operational Plans. 8. Equity in all that we do. 9. Consider for school year 2021-2022 taking action regarding implementation of late start for secondary