



South St. Paul School Board - Work Session

Monday, October 13, 2025 5:00 PM

District Office, 104 - 5th Avenue South, South St Paul, Minnesota 55075

I. FACILITIES

I.A. Jim Carter Stadium Request (Chair Humann)

II. DISTRICT

II.A. Bond Conversation (B. Zambreno/R. Chhoth)

II.B. Scorecard Review (B. Zambreno)

III. EDUCATION SERVICES

III.A. Comprehensive Achievement & Civic Readiness (A. Winter)

IV. SCHOOL BOARD

IV.A. Public Relations and Community Engagement (Board)

IV.B. Committee Updates (Board)

- District 917
- AMSD
- Community Education
- Educational Foundation
- Finance, Facilities and Long-Range Planning
- Local Issues
- Policy
- SSP Open Foundation
- Superintendent Executive

IV.C. Other Items Deemed Necessary by the School Board



School Board Agenda Item

Date: October 13, 2025

Place on Agenda: Work Session

Action Requested: None. Discussion Only

Attachment: Request 1 Executive Summary
Request 2 Submission
Supporting Documentation

Topic: Jim Carter Stadium Naming Request
Presenter(s): Board Chair Kim Humann
Background: <p>In April 2024, a request was submitted to rename <i>Ettinger Field</i> to <i>Ettinger Field at Jim Carter Stadium</i>. In accordance with District Policy 801.1, the District formed a Facilities Naming Committee to review and study the proposal.</p> <p>The committee engaged in discussion, weighing Jim Carter's character, contributions, and achievements alongside concerns regarding past conduct. The committee was unable to reach consensus and instead presented an executive summary of their conversations to the School Board. Without a clear recommendation, the Board was also unable to reach consensus and thus tabled the request indefinitely.</p> <p>In August 2025, the individuals who submitted the original proposal resubmitted their request to rename <i>Ettinger Field at Jim Carter Stadium</i>. Because a Facilities Naming Committee had already been convened and completed the process in 2024, a new committee was not formed.</p> <p>Instead, the Board's Finance, Facilities, and Long-Range Planning Committee has been reviewing and discussing the request. The proposal now comes before the full Board for review and discussion at the October 13, 2025, Work Session.</p>
Recommendation: <p>N/A</p>
Alternatives: <p>N/A</p>



Jim Carter Stadium Request #1 - Executive Summary

Facilities Naming Request - Carter Report

Request	Ettinger Field at Jim Carter Stadium	
Requester(s)	Gaylen Bicking, Paul Kenady, Paul Miller, and Greg Veldman	
Committee Meeting Date and Members	April 16, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lisa Brandecker, Manager of Administrative Services and Communication (facilitator) • Danette Childs, Communications Specialist (note taker) • Mark Fenton, Director of Building and Grounds • Brady Krueger, Activities Director and High School Assistant Principal • Manuel Spreigl, Teacher and Coach • Teresa Tonda, Teacher and Coach • Linda Diaz, Community Member • Galen Bicking, Requester • Paul Miller, Requester • Theresa Starkman, Elementary Principal • Kim Humann, Board Member and Community Member

Essential Agreements

- **Adherence to Criteria:** Committee members will base their decisions on the criteria established in district policy, [Naming of District Facilities #801.1](#).
 - **Safe Space:** All committee members will be afforded a safe space to share their thoughts without fear of judgment or reprisal, fostering an environment of inclusivity and mutual respect.
 - **Equitable Participation:** Each member will have an equal opportunity to contribute to the discussions and decision-making process.
 - **Active Listening:** Each member will make a commitment to actively listen to one another without interrupting, allowing everyone the opportunity to express their thoughts and ideas fully.
 - **Feedback:** Committee member responses should be provided in a respectful manner, focusing on ideas rather than individuals
 - **Open-Minded:** Members agree to remain open-minded, flexible and supportive of diverse perspectives and be willing to adapt their perspectives and options based on new information or insights that may arise during discussions.
 - **Conflict Resolution:** In the event of disagreements or conflicts, members will work collaboratively to find mutually acceptable resolutions, prioritizing the overall goals of the committee.
 - **Professionalism:** Committee members will conduct themselves professionally at all times, refraining from engaging in behavior that may undermine the integrity or reputation of the committee or the process
-

Guiding Principles

Per [District Policy 801.1](#), the following guiding principles will be applied when considering the naming of any school property after a person; the individual must embody one or more of the following categories:

- **Good Character**
 - Be a positive role model for students and staff
 - Exhibit behavior worthy of student emulation and imitation
 - Demonstrates character, which exemplifies and is consistent with the Mission of the District.
- **Contribution**
 - Have made significant contributions, above and beyond, which supports the education of students through the District's mission, and impacts numerous youth, the school district, the greater South St. Paul community, the state of Minnesota, and/or nation.
- **Achievements**
 - Have made significant achievements, above and beyond, which support the education of students through the District's Mission, and impacts numerous youth, the school district, the greater South St. Paul community, the state of Minnesota, and/or nation.

Other Considerations

- District Mission - *Ignite a passion in every learner to inquire, continuously improve, and engage in positively changing our world*
 - District Core Values - *Compassion, Equity, Excellence, Integrity, Resilience, Respect*
 - Impact on current students, staff, SSP community
 - Financial implications for signage and branding
-

Small Group Conversation Notes - Guiding Principles

GOOD CHARACTER

Be a positive role model for students and staff

Strengths

what are examples that would strengthen the support for this request

Group 1

- Humble
 - Did not ask for recognition for achievements or contributions
 - Didn't want to be called out for being the best
- Generous- donated time and money to SSP
- Was a leader on and off the field throughout his life (student council president)
- Was a mentor in many different aspects: AA, business, athletics
- He's a good success story for overcoming obstacles
- Spoke to groups of students about alcohol, AA, and that the Green Bay Packers incident was not a great time in his life.

Group 2

- Humble
- Vulnerable
- Honest
- Reflective
- Generous
- Embodies our profile: Lifelong Learner, Passionate
- Packer Pride
- Leader
- Didn't shy away from his challenges (i.e. alcohol) and took ownership for his mistakes

Challenges

what are examples that would challenge the support for this request

Group 1

- Sexual harassment accusations
- Alcoholism and drug use
- Incident with the Green Bay Packers
 - Can't find evidence that he made amends or acknowledged apology
 - It was a long time ago - 1976
 - Woman lost her job

Group 2

- Alcohol challenges
- Incident with female
- Marijuana

Small Group Conversation Notes - Guiding Principles

GOOD CHARACTER	
Exhibit behavior worthy of student emulation and imitation	
<p>Strengths <i>what are examples that would strengthen the support for this request</i></p>	<p>Group 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spoke to students about struggles and recovery and acted as a mentor to anyone who needed help • Can we use this as an opportunity for students to open up about their addiction struggles? How can we use it to our advantage? • Loyalty and pride in SSP • Humility • Giving back <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Contributions to programs (sports only) • Longtime commitment to sobriety
<p>Challenges <i>what are examples that would challenge the support for this request</i></p>	<p>Group 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we explain to the public and female athletes why we chose to name a field after someone accused of the things he was? • Incident with Green Bay Packers

GOOD CHARACTER	
Demonstrate character, which exemplifies and is consistent with the Mission of the District	
<p>Strengths <i>what are examples that would strengthen the support for this request</i></p>	<p>Group 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifelong learner • Looking out for others • Compassion • Support for sports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ SSP Open ◦ Football ◦ AA - active around MN and was a mentor
<p>Challenges <i>what are examples that would challenge the support for this request</i></p>	<p>Group 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Where does this fall? ◦ Amends? • How do we rectify? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Generosity was anonymous ◦ Would he want to be in the spotlight now?

Small Group Conversation Notes - Guiding Principles

CONTRIBUTION	
<p>Have made significant <u>contributions</u>, above and beyond, which supports the education of students through the District's mission, impacts numerous youth, the school district, the greater South St. Paul community, the state of Minnesota, and/or our nation.</p>	
<p>Strengths <i>what are examples that would strengthen the support for this request</i></p>	<p>Group 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Football <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Donated money and time to the football program ○ Impact greater SSP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Those who remember him ■ State level ● Hockey ● Professionally <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mentor, business, sports ○ Civic organizations <p>Group 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Privately supported generations through time, financially, and through his mentoring and mindset. ● The Board accepted a \$100,000 donation from Jim Carter to SSP Football in August of 2014. ● Food for team ● Time for team, players, alumni ● Used sports to help educate football
<p>Challenges <i>what are examples that would challenge the support for this request</i></p>	<p>Group 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <p>Group 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Limited funding to football ● Speaking only to sports

Small Group Conversation Notes - Guiding Principles

ACHIEVEMENTS

Have made significant **achievements**, above and beyond, which supports the education of students through the [District's mission](#), impacts numerous youth, the school district, the greater South St. Paul community, the state of Minnesota, and/or our nation.

Strengths

what are examples that would strengthen the support for this request

Group 1

- Successful businessman
 - Allowed him to make financial contributions
- College football
- Voted "senior citizen" of his graduation class
- Leader of student body

Group 2

- Success story

Challenges

what are examples that would challenge the support for this request

Group 1

- Finalist for U of M Regent position
 - Clouded by Green Bay Packers incident
- Green Bay Packer

Group 2

-

Summary - Large Group Conversation

Request to changing the name of Ettinger Field to Ettinger Field at Jim Carter Stadium

On Tuesday, April 16, 2024, the Facility Naming Committee spent two hours discussing the proposal to change the name of Ettinger Field to Ettinger Field at Jim Carter Stadium. The discussions were aligned with the District's Guiding Principles of Good Character, Contribution, and Achievements as outlined in [District Policy 801.1](#). The committee also reflected on the values, standards and mission of South St. Paul Public Schools.

The committee spent significant time recognizing Jim Carter's notable character, contributions and significant achievements during his lifetime. Carter's achievements, both on and off the field, have left a lasting impact on numerous individuals around our community and throughout our state as noted in the many letters of support that are included in this report.

Despite his significant achievements on the field and his willingness to talk openly and educate others about his past struggles with alcohol and drug addiction and his journey to sobriety, the committee carefully considered the implications of honoring an individual who also engaged in sexual harassment against a staff member during his time with the Green Bay Packers.

Several committee members shared their belief that the decision to name a facility must reflect the values and principles that define our educational institution. They argued that the controversies surrounding Carter's behavior undermine the principles of good character and integrity that our district upholds. They believe we have a commitment to providing and maintaining a safe and supportive environment for all students, staff and community members. Committee members shared that naming a facility after an individual whose actions have caused harm and discord within our community would not align with our values or serve the best interests of our students.

Some committee members then argued that SSPPS is a lifelong learning organization and that Mr. Carter embodied that through his journey to sobriety. Actively involved in Alcohol Anonymous (A.A.) and a supporter of SSP Packer football both financially and through life's lessons speeches to some football and hockey teams, Carter continued to give back, humbly and often anonymously. Committee members interjected and wondered if an Educational Foundation Scholarship in his name would be more appropriate for honoring his legacy and commitment to lifelong learning.

A requester participating on the committee acknowledged that there would be funding to support improvements to the stadium if the Board approves the naming request. Another requester acknowledged that there would be implications to the District for good or for bad either way.

The committee continued to engage in conversation recognizing the complexities inherent in honoring an individual with multifaceted legacies. While Jim Carter's contributions and achievements are undeniable, many committee member's grappled with the challenge posed by the allegations of sexual harassment. Despite Jim Carter's acknowledgment of his struggles with drugs and alcohol, his failure to take full responsibility for the sexual assault incident raised significant concerns among committee members. Committee members candidly expressed their significant struggles to look our female students in the eye and tell them our district will not tolerate that type of behavior in and around our schools, but then contradict that statement by honoring an individual who engaged in that behavior.

The committee also discussed that there is a whole community of people in SSP that have no idea who Jim Carter is. People that have lived here their whole life. If the district chooses to name the field after him, they will google his name. Our students will google his name. The story about his sexual assault is certainly a story to surface on a google search. While recognizing Jim Carter's athletic achievements, financial contributions, and life lesson engagements to some of our teams are important factors and deserve recognition, they emphasized the paramount importance of upholding standards of integrity and accountability and emulation while carrying out the values, standards and mission of South St. Paul Public Schools. These aspects should also be considered when choosing the prestige honor of naming a district facility that will be used by each and every student crossing the stage at graduation, female athletes who play on the field, as well as staff and community members attending sporting and other events held on the field.

Supporting Documentation

SUMMARY

Supporting Documentation

[Committee Invite](#)

[Committee Thank you](#)

[Facilitation Slides](#)

[Jim Carter Obituary](#)

[January 12, 2017 Pioneer Press Article](#)

[April 16, 2020 Article by David Shama](#)

- Openly talked about alcohol
- Afterwards Carter talked about moving onto drugs and sex

Information Shared by Requesters Gaylen Bicking and Paul Miller

- [Letters](#)
- [Letters - from women](#)
- [Correspondence with Son](#)
- [Supporting Information](#)
- [WCCO Story](#) (starts at approximately the 5:14 mark)
- [YouTube Video](#)
- [April 16, 2024 Pioneer Press Article](#)

Currently Named Facilities

- [Craig Felton Press Box](#)
- [David R. Metzen Scholarship Hall](#)
- [Ettinger Field](#)
- [Fredeen Field](#)
- [James G. Lindell Fitness Room](#)
- [Kaposia Education Center](#)
- [Kern's Courts](#)
- [Lincoln Center](#)
- [PAC - Burt Sandbertg and Bob Paradise](#)
- [PAC - Construction](#)
- [Roosevelt Field](#)
- [Tennis Complex - Leslie Kroschel](#)

Fist to Five Voting



No way! I strongly object



I see major concerns, we need to discuss further



I still have reservations and would like to discuss some minor issues



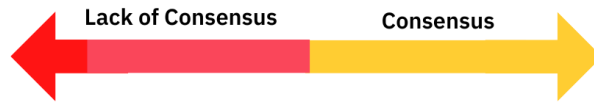
I'm not in full agreement but I feel comfortable moving forward



Good idea/plan, I'm happy to move forward with it



It's a great idea, I fully support it and will champion it!



Confidential Fist to 5 Vote via paper ballot at the end of the meeting

Fist 0 received 2 votes

Fist 1 received 1 vote

Fist 2 received 1 vote

Fist 3 received 1 vote

Fist 4 received 0 votes

Fist 5 received 3 votes

**It is noted that two requester votes were honored in this vote and the Board member, facilitator and note taker were not included in the voting*



Jim Carter Stadium Request #2 - Submission

FACILITY NAMING REQUEST FORM

South St. Paul
Public Schools



South St. Paul Public Schools is committed to a thoughtful and inclusive process when considering the naming or renaming of district facilities. This form is intended to gather information about proposed names and the reasons for the request. All submissions will be reviewed in accordance with District Policy 801.1.

Request: Please provide details about the request being brought to the School Board

See attached Statement

Name of Requester: _____ See Attached List Requester Phone: _____ See Attached List
Requester Email: _____ See Attached List Date of Request: _____ 8/25/25

BACKGROUND

Adherence to Criteria: All naming decisions will follow the criteria outlined in District Policy #801.1 – Naming of District Facilities. According to this policy, if it is determined that a building, site, or athletic/activity facility should be named or renamed, the Superintendent will establish a committee to oversee the process. To assist the School Board and Superintendent in determining whether a name change and corresponding committee are warranted, individuals proposing a naming request must complete this form as thoroughly as possible and submit it to the Manager of Administrative Services and Communications. Each section below should be completed to the best of the requester's ability.

Reason for Request: Please provide details about why you feel there is a need for this naming request. If your request is to name a site or facility after an individual, please complete the sections below.

The purpose of this request is to recognize Jim Carter for his significant achievements and contributions to South St. Paul High School and Community while not diminishing the contributions of Sam Ettinger to our community. Additionally, the requesters have a goal of making long overdue upgrades to the stadium beginning with the west entrance. We envision enhancing the attractiveness and functionality of the entry way into our historic stadium. Thereby, presenting a new positive image for the public who enter and those who drive by the stadium on a daily basis. We are hoping to update this iconic stadium into one that current students, alumni, and community residents can be proud of for years to come.

Guiding Principles: Per District Policy 801.1, the following guiding principles will be applied when considering the naming of any school property after a person; the individual must embody one or more of the following categories.

- **Good Character**
 - Be a positive role model for students and staff
 - Exhibit behavior worthy of student emulation and imitation
 - Demonstrates character, which exemplifies and is consistent with the Mission of the District.
- **Contribution**
 - Have made significant contributions, above and beyond, which supports the education of students through the District's mission, and impacts numerous youth, the school district, the greater South St. Paul community, the state of Minnesota, and/or nation.
- **Achievements**
 - Have made significant achievements, above and beyond, which support the education of students through the District's Mission, and impacts numerous youth, the school district, the greater South St. Paul community, the state of Minnesota, and/or nation.

Purpose of this Request

We are requesting the South St. Paul High School Stadium name to be changed to "Ettinger Field at Jim Carter Stadium".

The dual naming of a facility has become relatively commonplace with schools around the country. Three examples:

Duke University -- Brooks Field at Wallace Wade Stadium

Tulane University – Benson Field at Yulman Stadium

Becker (MN) High School – Dwight Lundeen Stadium at Eppard Field

ACHIEVEMENTS		
	Strengths what are examples that would strengthen the support for this request	Challenges what are examples that could challenge the support for this request
Have made significant achievements, above and beyond, which support the education of students through the District's Mission, and impact numerous youth, the school district, the greater South St. Paul community, the state of Minnesota, and/or our nation.	<p>The Supporting Documentation provide information that speaks to both the Strengths of Jim Carter and as every individual the Challenges that he dealt with during his lifetime.</p> <p>(A summary list precedes the Supporting Documentation.)</p>	
Supporting Documentation		

Potential Costs of a Name Change: Because name changes often incur costs to the District, please provide background information regarding the potential costs of such changes (adding new signage, removal of existing signage, print materials, etc.).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF A NAME CHANGE	
<p>For the past several years our district has faced declining enrollment and increases in operating costs that outpace increases in funding. Knowing that it is our top priority to keep our funding closest to our classrooms/students, please list any potential costs to the district if the name change request is granted as well as any recommendations for the source(s) of funding to offset the cost of such a change.</p>	
<p>Potential Costs of Name Change <i>2 DONORS</i> (Include estimated costs related to signage, plaques, rebranding, <u>print/digital materials</u>, etc.)</p>	<p>Signage and Physical Recognition</p> <p>Signage would be developed in an appropriate manner that fits into stadium upgrades. The supporters of this project are hopeful to develop and provide a facility in which SSP students and their supporters would have great pride. That pride would make Jim Carter happy! No individual cared more or gave more than Jim Carter to our community. We are NOT seeking any taxpayer funds to cover the costs that maybe incurred with the project.</p>
<p>Potential Sources of Revenue to Offset Cost (Include whether funding is expected to come from donations, grants, or other identified sources)</p>	
<p>Requested Signage or Physical Recognition (if approved) Please describe what physical signage, plaques, or other markers you envision as part of the naming or renaming. Include preferred location, materials (if known), and any associated design considerations.</p>	

Once completed please return this form to Lisa Brandecker, Manager of Administrative Services and Communications at: lbrandecker@sspps.org or mail to SSPPS District Office, C/O Lisa Brandecker, 104 5th Ave S, South St. Paul, MN 55075

GOOD CHARACTER

	Strengths what are examples that would strengthen the support for this request	Challenges what are examples that could challenge the support for this request
Be a positive role model for students and staff	The Supporting Documentation provides information that speaks Volumes about the Good Character of Jim Carter.	
Exhibit behavior worthy of student emulation and imitation?		
Demonstrate character, which exemplifies and is consistent with the Mission of the District		
Supporting Documentation	(A summary list precedes the Supporting Documentation.)	

CONTRIBUTION

	Strengths what are examples that would strengthen the support for this request	Challenges what are examples that could challenge the support for this request
Have made significant contributions, above and beyond, which supports the education of students through the District's mission, impacts numerous youth, the school district, the greater South St. Paul community, the state of Minnesota, and/or our nation.	The Supporting Documentation provides information that speaks to the Contributions of Jim Carter to South St. Paul High School and the community as a whole.	
Supporting Documentation	(A summary list precedes the Supporting Documentation.)	



Jim Carter Stadium Supporting Documentation

Summary of Documents Related to Stadium Naming Request

1	South St. Paul Open Honoree 2003
2	Student Council Picture (President of Student Council)
3	Jim Carter SSP HOF Plaque listing accomplishments
4	Chad Sexauer Letter of Support
5	Cindy Silianoff Letter of Support on behalf of her father, Steve Silianoff (SSP Head Football Coach)
6	Gregg Veldman Letters of Support on behalf of his father, Pete Veldman (SSP Athletic Director)
7	Denny Tetu Letter of Support
8	Former Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson Letter of Support
9	Mathew Rauh Letter of Support (MN Football HOF and U of MN teammate)
10	Wayne Price Letter of Support (SSP Athletic HOF)
11	Jim Carter is a Miracle. Letter of Support from Richard A. Andolshek
12	Bob Stein Letter of Support to Paul Cumings
13	Keith Kocourek Letter of Support
14	Laura McGucken Letter of Support
15	Michael Hsu (MN Board of Regents) Letter of Support
16	Bob Brothen Letter of Support (U of M teammate)
17	Bob Morgan Letter of Support (U of M teammate)
18	U of MN Head Coach Jerry Kill statement concerning Jim Carter
19	Mary Maroney Letter of Support
20	2015 SSP Packer Season - 50 th Anniversary
21	Link to Mike Max feature on Jim Carter on WCCO TV
22	Pioneer Press Note in Charley Walters Column
23	www.twincities.com "Group hoping to get name attached to South St. Paul Stadium"
24	South St. Paul Reporter October 20, 1965
25	Jim Brunzell, Jr. Letter of Support
26	Marcie Wicklund Letter of Support
27	Jim Carter Final Letter to Young Boy
28	Schultz Family and Stride for Packer Pride 5K Event Letter of Support
29	John McLean Letter of Support
30	Dennis Tetu (former SSP Teacher and Coach) Letter of Support
31	Letter of Support from South St. Paul Football Boosters
32	Photo of East End Entrance to Stadium
33	Photo of Ettinger Field sign
34	Cottonwood, MN example
35	SOUTH ST. PAUL OPEN FOUNDATION endorses the Name Changing Request before Board of Education

As of 9/18

Gaylen Bicking	320-291-9802	instyharvest2@gmail.com
Paul Miller	651-707-3068	millpj5er@gmail.com
Gregg Veldman	612-616-6337	
Tom Pugh	651-253-7488	
Peter and Meghan Schultz	651-206-1241	
Manuel Spreigl	612-232-5450	mspreigl@sspps.org
Wayne and Debbie Price	612-749-1397	wsprice17@gmail.com
Dave and Mary Maroney	507-581-6550	dave.maroney8@gmail.com
Matt Rauh	303-579-1503	mkrauh@msn.com
Tim and Ann Guhl	763-767-9793	almguhl@gmail.com
Paul Moen	651-246-3514	moensie2@outlook.com
Scott Sundly	651-324-4560	scottsundley@yahoo.com
Tim Kennealy	651-815-1426	tjkennealy@live.com
Lucas Laska	651-460-0525	Laska030@alumni.umn.edu
Terry Abram	612-360-8912	
Mark and Lisa Duffy	612-986-2246	MDuffy@kw.com
Mayor Jim Francis and Family	651-249-3774	
Paul Kenady	612-281-4196	
Bob Milbert	612-670-4616	
Harry Rund	651-260-8998	hfrund@live.com
Jim Quirk	651-485-5621	
Bob Stein	612-961-7356	rastein66@aol.com
Michael Hsu	612-701-6576	mdhhsu@gmail.com
Arne Carlson	612-414-3126	
Dennis Tetu	651-451-7285	
Doug Lick	651-492-7149	

Mike Danielson	651-324-5078
Greg Belde	612-251-3279
Larry Lick	651-450-6097
Fred and Fran Kennedy	952-358-1305
Lincoln Ducanson	651-329-9535
Perry Coonce	651-451-3140
Mike Running	612-965-3549
Steve Doody	651-353-4201
Greg Peterson	651-592-5054
Andy Gross	651-248-3842
Patrick Gellerman	651-417-1275
Dan Pietruszewski	651-280-8685
Jack Pietruszewski	651-280-8685
Jeff and Lisa Boelter	651-500-4827
Mick McClellan	612-750-7349
Joe Paula	651-335-8836
Charlie Johnson	612-961-1530
Mark Ramsey	651-491-6128
Pat Benike	651-483-5106
Bruce Neuman	763-574-1962
Brad Verbout	651-464-9701
Lee Kochendorfer	651-415-1936
Angela Becker	612-590-1134
Roger Klegan	651-324-0222
Dan and Patrice Horst	651-451-2261
Deb Grater	651-269-5879

Lindsey Johnson	320-282-4536
Jim and Katie Thrun	651-261-3445
Jane Cornell	651-263-5300
Tina Monsrud	651-497-8647

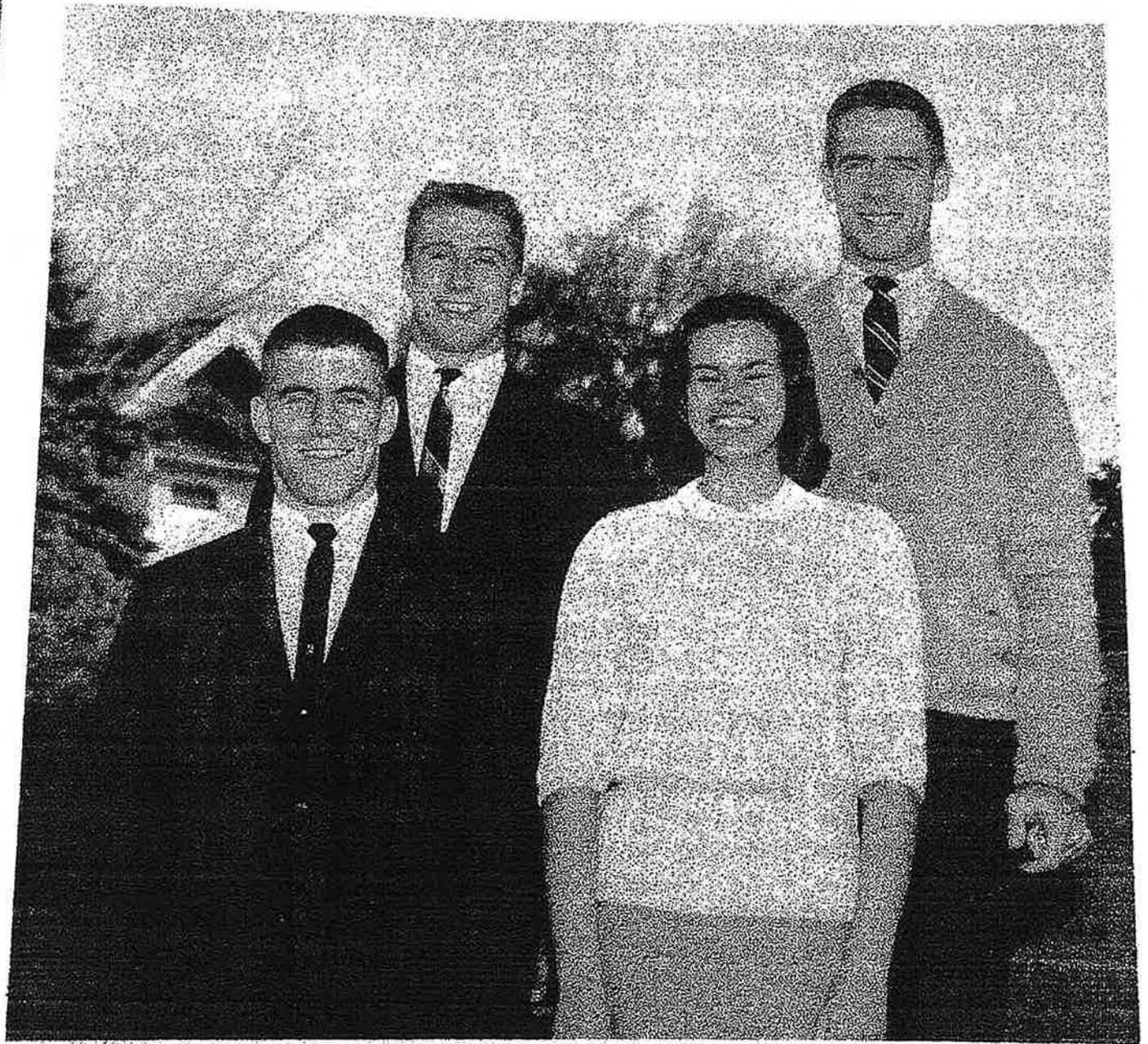
HONOREES

Distinguished Recipients

The South St Paul Open Foundation Board recognizes individuals and groups that have made a significant contribution to South St. Paul and the co-curricular programs for the public schools. Either through time or financial support, these individuals and groups have committed significant personal resources to help the young people of our community over the years. They recognized the importance of the opportunities provided the young people of South St. Paul by these programs.

The South St. Paul Open places great importance on the impact an individual or a group can have on a community and that community's youth. It is with great care and respect that we select an Honoree each year.

2003 Jim Carter



STUDENT COUNCIL OFFICERS: LEFT TO RIGHT: Steve Petersen (Treas.), Jim Olson (V. Pres.), Cindy Silianoff (Sec.), and Jim Carter (Pres.).

South St. Paul Athletic Hall Of Fame

Class of 2007



JIM CARTER



1966 SSP Graduate - earning 10 varsity letters during his high school career

1964 All-Conference Football

1965 All-Conference, All-State, All-American Football

1966 All-Conference, All-State, All-American Hockey

1969 University of MN - Football Captain

Played fullback

1970-1978 Green Bay Packers Linebacker

Played 106 games

1973 Named to the Pro Bowl team

***Ignite a passion in every learner to inquire,
continuously improve and engage in positively
changing our world***

Dear South Saint Paul Schools Naming Committee,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the naming of South Saint Paul Stadium to Jim Carter Stadium at Ettinger Field.

As a former South Saint Paul educator, coach and community resident. I can personally attest to the character and pride of Jim Carter. I met Jim when I started teaching and coaching at South Saint Paul Schools in 1997. Mr. Carter had extreme pride in the fact that he grew up in South Saint Paul. Jim was proud of his blue collar roots and the South Saint Paul community as a whole. He was always seeking out opportunities to support our school community. Mr. Carter was willing to give of his time by sharing stories on leadership and reflection to South Saint Paul teams. Jim did this more than once for our football program. Mr. Carter was probably most generous with his financial contributions. During my nineteen years as head football coach at South Saint Paul, Jim Carter contributed over \$225,000 to our football and athletic programs. He demanded no recognition. This was part of his gifting philosophy. However, I believe it's time to recognize his generosity and love for his school by naming the stadium after him.

Thank you for your consideration.

Once a Packer, Always a Packer,

Chad Sexauer

April 10, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Jim Carter Stadium

I have been asked to make a few comments about the proposal to name South St. Paul's football facility as Ettinger Field at Jim Carter Stadium. As my dad, Steve Silianoff, coached Jim during his high school years, I know he would totally support this effort. Jim and my dad had a pretty special relationship, built on mutual respect and trust, and I know that Jim's hard work and intelligence had a lot to do with that. He was a smart and athletic competitor with excellent leadership skills, and the efforts of him and his teammates made the SSP football team successful, sometimes feared, and definitely remembered for years to come. Over 50 years later, I still run across people that remember playing against Jim and the Single Wing and remark on his toughness. And although Jim went on to success at the University of Minnesota and the Green Bay Packers, he never seemed to forget about his time in SSP and fully supported the town and athletic programs through his generosity and words and participation.

Jim and I were classmates in high school and I also can speak to his leadership, work ethic and respect he had from fellow classmates and teammates. He is probably one of the most successful (if not the most successful) football player to come from South St. Paul and make a national name for himself. It would be most appropriate to name the stadium after him. I wish my dad was here to talk about what it was like coaching Jim, and how he grew as a man and continued to inspire others and support SSP for his entire life. Naming of the stadium after Jim would be a wonderful and well deserved honor.

Cindy Silianoff

From: Veldman, Gregg gregg.veldman@evonik.com
Subject: Jim Carter
Date: April 1, 2024 at 4:31 PM
To: millpj5er@gmail.com



Dear Fellow South St. Paul Friends,

My name is Gregg Veldman. I am one of Pete Veldman's four sons. As I write this letter, I am speaking on behalf of my three brothers, Steve, Mark, and Bruce. For those of you did not have the pleasure of meeting our father in person, dad was the Athletic Director in South St. Paul from about 1965 to 1993. He was a Hollandale farm kid, an Albert Lea, Minnesota Heavyweight State Champion in wrestling, and a member of two Big Ten Championship teams at the University of Minnesota. Dad went on to become very active in Gopher athletics, eventually becoming the "M" Cub President. Dad became a prolific person on the national wrestling scene. He refereed multiple Big Ten Championship matches, and National Championship matches. He really loved South St. Paul. We have the big shoes of being his voice today.

If dad could talk today, here is what we think he would say.

Hello everybody. My name is Pete Veldman. I am the former Athletic Director at South St. Paul High School.

I love South St. Paul people, but I really love the kids of South St Paul, and I really, really loved Jim Carter.

I love Jim because Jim was a great kid, and the best high school athlete that I have ever seen. Serious, the best ever! On top of that, he was a humble kid who never acted like he was anything special. Jim was a once in a lifetime individual who came along to South St. Paul and totally dominated the field of play that he was on. I loved watching him play. He was a man amongst boys. But the crazy thing is...he never acted like he was a big thing. He maintained his humility throughout his career. I remember taking my sons, Gregg and Steve, to the locker room after a Gopher game that Jim had played in. I was so impressed with how special he made them feel. He went out of his way to be humble and kind to them. By the way, Jim was a player on the last Gopher team that won a Big 10 Championship in 1967.

Jim went on to become a 9-year player at middle linebacker for the Green Bay Packers.

When Jim retired, he got into the automotive industry. He purchased 5 dealerships and became a very successful businessman. From what I can tell, Jim was anything but selfish when he became successful in the business world. From what I remember it was somewhere in the early 1990's when Jim called and asked me if I needed some financial help with the football program. Well, this is where it gets a little foggy. You see, Jim always wanted to stay anonymous when he gave money to the football team. I would tell my boys, but dollar amounts and specifics were never shared with me to any of them. Jim Carter did not want accolades and pats on the back for donating money to South St. Paul, he just wanted to give back to a program that gave him so much. He wanted to share his money with the kids of South St. Paul.

Jim had another part of his life where the theme was giving back. Jim was in AA and when he became sober he was a regular at meetings, and sponsored many fellow addicts.

When dad passed away in 2020, my brother Mark called Jim at his home in California. We wanted Jim to speak at dad's funeral. There was never a question, it was a situation where Jim Carter could once again...give back to someone that had given something to him. Jim was at the funeral and spoke eloquently about dad. It was no surprise he was doing what he did best...he was giving back.

God bless you, Jim Carter

Gregg Veldman
Senior Business Manager, North America | Animal Nutrition
C +1-320-241-6370 | gregg.veldman@evonik.com

Evonik Corporation | Nutrition & Care
1701 Barrett Lakes Blvd., Suite 340 | Kennesaw, GA 30144 | USA
www.evonik.com | animal-nutrition.evonik.com

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Hello, my name is Gregg Veldman.

I knew Jim Carter, but just a little bit...but I am filling in for my father, Pete Veldman, who is not with us anymore. My dad and Jim were close friends. So, here I am, acting as my dad's voice because he is not here to explain why he feels that the Stadium should have Jim Carter's name on it.

My father, Pete Veldman grew up in Hollandale, MN...was a heavyweight state wrestling champion at Albert Lea High School, went the University of Minnesota. He wrestled at the U of M. He was on two big Ten Champion teams while he was there. He started teaching at South St. Paul in 1959. He became Athletic Director in either 1965 or 66. He loved his job at South St. Paul High School! He also loved South St. Paul. Again... I am channeling my dad and trying my very best to be HIS voice.

Jim was not a choir boy for part of his life. Jim was an alcoholic, and was accused of other issues, but once he decided to get himself right, he went 100% and fixed the problems that he had. Jim joined the Alcoholics Anonymous program and stayed with the AA program for the rest of his life because he knew that it was a lifetime decision to stay sober. The success that Jim had with AA gave him the opportunity to become a mentor to countless others who were fighting to get sober. This is because he knew that it was now his turn to help others with alcohol addiction and the problems it causes.

Jim dedicated most of his adult life to being an outstanding man. Jim did not let his problems define him, but he did learn from them. Jim became a highly successful businessman and ended up owning six auto dealerships in Wisconsin. Jim was named the Wisconsin Dealer of the Year in 1988, along with many other awards. The accolades and awards he received in the business world are too many to mention. He retired and sold his business in 2005. The largest chapters in the life of Jim Carter were a total success.

I was in the process of naming all the deceased people who I believe would cherish the opportunity to have their name put down to back up dad's opinions of Jim. I wanted to list all of them in this paper, but as much as I would love to put these names down on paper, it would not be proper to put down a name without asking them for their permission first.

You see, this is the problem... most of the teachers, coaches and mentors that were at South St. Paul and had an opportunity to teach or coach Jim when he was there and learned what a great young man and athlete Jim Carter was, are now deceased. Many of these people are true legends in South St. Paul. This is where the frustration starts with this process. I wrote these people's names down on paper, and I came up with fourteen names on my own, without consulting anybody, or without even taking much time to think. The people I listed are all people that I think could have made very impactful statements that

would help today's decision-makers to easily understand why Jim is worthy of the accolades we would like to bestow upon him. But they are not with us anymore. I am asking the decision makers in this process to please understand our frustrations... we are hamstrung by time.

The other reason, one that gets lost in the mire of everything, is the fact that our town of South St. Paul, one of the best Minnesota high school athletes of all time, walked the halls of our school. A one in a million athlete was here before our time...the LAPSE of time is really an anchor that is tied to our want to have Jim Carter honored.

I know that some people might dwell on the part of Jim's past that is not stellar...but how many of us can say that we did not do something wrong because nobody found out about it? We all have made mistakes, and we have all sinned. Forgiveness is Biblical. I am sure Jim asked the Lord for forgiveness many times. Please, let's not take a bad part out of a person's life and make it into their defining moment. Let us all celebrate the greatness of Jim Carter.

Thank you.

March 9, 2024

To Whom It May Concern: Jim Carter's senior year in Football

My name is Denny Tetu and I taught and coached at South St Paul for 36 years from 1957 to 1992. I was an assistant football coach the year Jim Carter led his football team to an undefeated season in 1965. Below are his stats for that year. Jim was 6 ft 4 and 236 pounds.

He scored 30 of the team's 37 touchdowns. Many of them of 50-70 yards. He scored 192 points. He had 260 carries without a bobble. He passed 45 times for 283 yards. He gained 2,345 yards on the ground. Averaging 9 yards per carry and 261 yards per game.

He played safety on defense and saved the undefeated season by tackling an opponent on the one yard line with 6 seconds to play in the last game to save a touchdown.

As a result of his play, Jim was named All conference, All State and All American. He had many offers for college scholarships but stayed loyal to MN and going to the U of M and playing fullback for 4 years. He was drafted by the Green Bay Packers in 1970. Started his second year and was made captain for many years. He also played in a pro bowl. He retired from football in 1978.

Sincerely,
Denny Tetu

Dear Mr Raasch,

It is my understanding that you will be considering adopting a name for the South St Paul High School football stadium. I am honored to submit the name of Jim Carter for your consideration.

Martin Luther King urged us to judge others based on the "content of their character". How entirely appropriate this becomes when considering the bestowing of special honors. But, it also presents a challenge. The task would be so simple if the criteria were limited to celebrating a large donor, a revered historical figure, or someone who excelled on the field of play.

Character, however, implies serving as a role model and that brings integrity, kindness, hard work, courage, respect for others, modesty and achievement into consideration. In essence, you are searching for a name and a life that young students would like to emulate and, preferably, one with a close attachment to South St Paul High School.

Jim Carter is the name that springs to my mind. Yes, I loved watching him rip off yardage at Memorial Stadium and bring home a Big Ten title. Whether it was football, hockey, or baseball, he excelled and even achieved All American honors in two of those endeavors. Certainly, he is one of the greatest athletes ever to come out of Minnesota.

However, it was during the last ten years that I got to know Jim and, without hesitation, I would list him as one of the finest people I have ever known. He never bragged or promoted himself. Rather, he was about serving others and building a better community.

We all know that he went through an ordeal with alcoholism. Some of the self righteous condemn that. But, as a kid raised in poverty in the Bronx, I see Jim Carter as an inspiration. He took despair and rebuilt his life into a phenomenal business and personal success. That has an impact on young people because it gives them an understanding of how to turn things around. The message is clear: It is through hard work, sacrifice, teamwork, and dedication that you overcome barriers. You do not give up on yourself and, when you have arrived, you extend your hand to help others.

That is character. And that is Jim Carter.

After Jim's passing, I heard stories of his dedication to South St Paul High School. Apparently, he would ask coaches and other personnel at the school what they needed. He would then donate with the stipulation that his name not be attached to the gift.

How refreshing that is in this day of over inflated egos.

Perhaps, the central question is, "Would you want your child to be like Jim Carter?" Without hesitation, my response is a firm "Yes". I can think of no better role model.

Respectfully,

Arne H. Carlson

Governor of Minnesota, retired

From: MATHEW KATHLEEN RAUH mkrauh@msn.com
Subject: Endorsement for South St. Paul Alumni, Jim Carter
Date: August 19, 2025 at 7:05 PM
To: pcumings@sspp

Respectfully submitted to South Saint Paul Board of Education Member, Paul Cumings:

I'm writing this email in support of one of your most outstanding alumni, Jim Carter, encouraging you to name the football stadium in his name as a commemoration to his wonderful legacy.

Jim was well known as a nationally prominent athlete at South St. Paul in three sports, as a tremendous two sport athlete at the University of Minnesota, and as an all-pro athlete and defensive captain of the Green Bay Packers. As a teammate of Jim's at the University, I can tell you that he was a tremendous player, captain, and an inspirational leader to both the Football and Hockey Programs.

His accomplishment as an athlete, launched from the community of South St. Paul, is legendary. However, what I'm most impressed with about Jim is the person he became after his playing days were over. Jim had so many characteristics that made him special. Intellect, raw personal talent, life experience, passion, empathy, candor, perspective, leadership – are all traits that defined him. He is a man that learned lessons throughout his life and lived his life well! Jim took the lessons he learned in school and on the athletic field and transferred those lessons to an outstanding business career.

What I appreciated most about Jim, even more so than his many accomplishments, was his genuine interest in other people. Jim understood that being "interested" was much more important than attempting to be "interesting". He was sincerely curious about other people and was always finding ways to lift people up and to make them better. ***Jim spent the last 45 years of his life "making a difference" by sharing the tremendous wisdom and assets he accumulated over his lifetime with others.***

Jim Carter never forgot where he came from, nor the people that he met on his life journey! I know that he made many financial contributions to the South St. Paul athletic program ***with one stipulation – he wanted complete anonymity.*** Jim just wanted to support the "Packer Community" - and give back to a school and program that meant so much to him.

I have a background in education as a teacher, a hall of fame football coach (Apple Valley), a secondary school principal, and in the business sector as a software developer/owner, and as the managing partner for the Rocky Mountain Region of Thrivent Financial. I've had the opportunity to observe great talent and great people in both the public and private sectors. There is no one that I admire more than Jim Carter! ***He was a special man, the kind of man that you would want to emulate to future generations of "Packers".***

I encourage you to join me and so many others in endorsing the decision to name the athletic field after this most outstanding "South St. Paul Alumni"!

Sincerely, Matt Rauh

I appreciate the opportunity to express my opinion on the proposal to have the South St. Paul High School Football Field named for Jim Carter. The bottom line for me is that he was the best football player ever to play on our field, and that includes great players from opposing teams.

Jim embraced the heart and soul of South St. Paul--work hard, play hard, love your family and friends, and be loyal to those who love and support you. If he was imperfect, we can all join the club. He was a great ambassador and contributor to South St. Paul and the University of Minnesota.

So in my opinion this would be a great tribute!

My sympathy to Jim's close friends and family. I wish I had been able to shake his hand one more time.

Wayne Price
Former Packer Football Player Class of '68

To SSP Stadium Committee:

Jim Carter is a miracle. He recovered from the terminal disease of Alcoholism as defined by the American Medical Association and all other Global Health organizations.

*The modern **disease theory of alcoholism** states that problem drinking is sometimes caused by a disease of the brain, characterized by altered brain structure and function. Today, alcohol use disorder (AUD) is used as a more scientific and suitable approach to alcohol dependence and alcohol-related problems.^[1]*

*The largest association of physicians – the American Medical Association (AMA) – declared that alcoholism was an illness in 1956.^{[2][3]} In 1991, the AMA further endorsed the dual classification of alcoholism by the International Classification of Diseases under both psychiatric and medical sections.**

***Source is Wikipedia.**

Given the fact that Jim Carter not only beat the terminal disease of Alcoholism, no different than a Cancer survivor, for no less than 40 years after the "Actions causing Alcoholic actions, as exhibited by the unfavorable press article," Mr. Carter helped countless of others, suffering from the disease of alcoholism recover also. Many of these unfortunate victims of the disease normally would have continued downhill and die, ruin their lives and lives of others, or spend the rest of their lives incarcerated because of their disease.

Jim Carter was an unheralded leader in the recovery community, never looking for any credit or expecting any. His work helped save many people and their families from this insidious disease. In these challenging times, Jim Carter should be memorialized not because of his athletic abilities, but for the humanitarian dignity that he showed in his commitment to go any place, anytime and at any length to help other suffering from the terminal disease of alcoholism.

Jim Carter exhibited how a person could overcome this disease. He was a shining example of recovery for over 40 years. The life and recovery of Jim Carter is a wonderful story, a true miracle and an example that has been used to save more lives and families than we will ever know.

In the world of recovery, Jim Carter was a Champion who will ever remain anonymous in his actions. His athletic success was a tool he utilized to help show others how far this disease can take you down and how recovery can bring you back from a terminal disease and restore a human being to a normal life. Jim Carter gave hope.

No person is perfect, but Jim Carter is a perfect example of how to take something as destructive as Alcoholism and turn it into a recovery story!

Please let your conscious be your guide as we all know Jim Carter will always be remembered by those he has helped.

Thanks,

Dick

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Richard A. Andolshek,

has over 40 yrs of executive and practical experience in start-ups, business management, development, financial analysis, non-profits, and investment banking and foundation service. He has held leadership roles in both private and public companies as well as serving on numerous private and public company boards. Dick has been elected for multiple terms as a school board member and has also served as Chairman of the School Board. He has served as a Advisory Council member to the United States Small Business Administration and was the personal small business advisor to Steve Forbes in his 2000 Presidential campaign. Dick spent 8 years on the National Investment Bankers Association board of directors and was the president of both the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association and the National Licensed Beverage Association which consists of over 65,000 paid members. He was honored with the Minnesota's Retail of the Year award and National Retailer of the Year award. Dick is engaged in public service volunteer work and is active in community service as a long-term member of the Community Advisory Board of the Hennepin County Advisory Board for the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office in Minnesota.

Mr. Paul Cumings

South St. Paul School Board

Dear Mr. Cumings,

Congratulations on your selection to the SSP School Board. I am reaching out to you with a related request of both historic and future significance. I write asking your support for naming the South St. Paul High School football facility "Jim Carter Stadium."

Jim and I were teammates on the 1967 U of M Big Ten Championship football team and friends throughout his life. While we were roommates, he referred to the South St. Paul school, community and sports teams the way others referred to their mothers. Jim felt loyalty and pride for them and considered all three a large part of his success. Jim never forgot his home.

I was fortunate to experience a long career in sports, including college All-America and Academic All-America selection, induction into the College Football Hall of Fame, playing on the 1970 KC Chiefs Super Bowl Championship team and serving as the first president/CEO of the Minnesota Timberwolves and Target Center. In that career, I rarely met anyone who combined athleticism, intellect and character like Jim Carter. There are good reasons for him to be considered a worthy namesake for the SSP Packers' football stadium.

Jim was an unusually accomplished athlete. Football All-America at SSP, All-State Packers hockey player, and an outstanding baseball player. At the U of M, the leading scorer on our '67 Big Ten Champion football team, Gopher football Captain, hockey and baseball letter winner and inductee into the Gopher Sports Hall of Fame. Then a nine year NFL career as Green Bay Packer linebacker, including Pro Bowl honors. This facet of his life alone would be strong recommendation, but his success did not end with sports.

Jim Carter became an exceptional business person after his athletic career ended. Recognitions included selection as the Wisconsin Auto Dealer of the Year in 1988. In addition, he was a successful restaurant and resort real estate owner. These endeavors created financial success, but they did not define Jim.

What defined Jim was the primary focus of his last three decades. During his early adulthood, he battled alcoholism. He made some embarrassingly bad decisions during

this time, and deeply regretted them later. I know this from our personal talks. What distinguished Jim, and made him a uniquely worthy model for South St. Paul students, is how he handled his challenges. His number one commitment was to his recovery, and more so to supporting and helping re-direct others with addictions. Jim fully lived his sobriety and spent more time than anyone I ever knew helping others with the same disease. He was a wonderful example of dealing with personal challenges and turning them into positives for himself and society. A worthy model for all South St. Paul students.

Finally, Jim lived his commitment and gratitude to South St. Paul athletics directly, through personal contact with its football coaches and players. He is no doubt the most generous benefactor in the football program's history, simply asking coaches "what do you need?" and then providing it. Staff salaries, equipment and budget were all generously supported. But we will never know the exact details, since Jim made every gift with one caveat - he insisted on no publicity or recognition for his donations. That modesty and humility is a great lesson to current students. It is also excellent reason to highlight his character and personal redemption through placing "Jim Carter Stadium" on the presently unnamed facility which Jim so loved and where he performed so well.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Bob Stein

612-961-7356

I am writing to express my support for naming the football facility at South St. Paul High School as "Jim Carter Stadium." I was fortunate to have known Jim in a variety of capacities throughout our journey together. Jim was my business partner and most importantly, my friend and mentor for over 35 years.

Despite his struggles and afflictions in his early years, Jim overcame them and dedicated his life to helping others with alcohol and drug addiction. We all have chapters in our lives that we would rather not have written. Being a public figure, Jim didn't have that option; his entire life was an open book. Courageously, instead of hiding from his past, he admitted to his mistakes, learned from them, and worked hard to become a better man and the role model he was to many. Jim worked with several of my personal friends and many local athletes, helping them find sobriety and happiness.

Jim was a quiet helper who financially supported many local programs and organizations and never sought public recognition. Throughout his adult years, he helped many young boys and girls become better citizens and leaders. Those who knew or worked with Jim were left inspired to make a difference and achieve great success.

Naming the South St. Paul stadium in Jim's honor would be a fitting tribute to this remarkable man. It would inspire current and future student-athletes to follow Jim's example of perseverance, hard work, revival, and dedication to helping others. I urge you to please consider naming the South St. Paul stadium as "Jim Carter Stadium."

Thank you.

Keith Kocourek

From: Laura McGucken <lmcgucken@yahoo.com>
Date: April 10, 2024 at 10:04:28 AM CDT
To: kk@kocourekchevrolet.com
Subject: Jim Carter Stadium Naming Project

Dear South Saint Paul Public School Board Members,

It is with great respect that I address this board and applaud its consideration of Jim Carter's name for the South St. Paul High School Stadium. I write to you in support of this endeavor.

Jim Carter's name is recognizable and attached with much greatness in the world of athletics. Those of us who knew him outside of his football glory days witnessed that he did not rest on these laurels. Jim remained a life-long learner, building upon the foundation that he received as a student at South St. Paul High School, known for its high-quality academics and strong athletic program.

As a life-long learner, Jim continually challenged himself to strive for a better version of himself. He understood imperfection, identified with it, and used it as a tool to learn from the lessons along his life's path. Addiction loomed as Jim's darkest opponent. And as Jim lived every day to triumph over this adversity, he lifted others with him. In recovery for over 40 years, he remained steadfast in his commitment in helping others through the struggles of addiction. Jim learned the importance of teamwork at the high school level, and he valued it for the duration of his life. After years of teaching children in the classroom, I firmly believe that these are some of the most important qualities that we could hope for our children to aspire to.

I truly hope that young students and athletes will have the opportunity to come together in a stadium named for Jim Carter. I know that the embodiment of his triumph through dedication, hard work, and teamwork will inspire them to identify with one of Jim's greatest attributes: the endless pursuit of betterment. So, as they continue to be passionate learners, they may ask themselves: What too can I overcome on my road to triumph?

Respectfully yours,

Laura McGucken

Bob Brothen <bob.brothen@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 4,
9:16 AM

to me

Jim Carter

As a football teammate of Jim in 1967 I was introduced to a guy that was incredibly focused on what he wanted to achieve. The difficulties presented for that were only incidental to him and that his work ethic could overcome anything. Jim was fiercely competitive. As competitive as he was all week in practice and on the field on Saturday he was equally loyal to his teammates and school. Throughout his life he constantly exhibited these attributes as evidenced by the respect of so many of those who knew him.

Honoring Jim in naming your stadium after him is honoring aspirations, hard work, loyalty and the achievement they can produce.

Every year when a new young man steps into that stadium those old values should be remembered.

Jim Carter would be a good example of that.

Bob Morgan here.

Jim Brunzell passed along a note reaching out to me for of a proposal in support of naming of the SSP stadium after our friend and teammate, Jim Carter. I was a sophomore the fall of 1969 but was red-shirted that season after breaking my leg in a motorcycle accident following the spring game in 1969. I played the '70-'72 season and was the Captain and QB in '72 when Cal Stoll arrived replacing Murray Warmath. Jim Carter was one of the best and toughest football players I have ever had the pleasure to watch in person as he led by example as the Gopher Captain. He was drafted by the Green Bay Packers in 1970 and replaced Ray Nitschke, the legendary middle linebacker. He overcame some personal problems after his retirement from Pro football and thankfully emerged as a successful businessman, Gopher supporter, and all around fine human being which I am personally grateful to call my friend. I do believe that he would be a fine choice for this recognition by the South St. Paul schools as he is certainly one of their famous sons and athletes.

It would be a welcomed and fitting tribute to our friend and teammate.

Cordially,
Bob Morgan

Jerry Kill statement about Jim Carter

Daniel O'Brien <obriend@hfchs.org>

Mon, Apr 15, 8:54 AM (3
days ago)

to me

"Jim was one of the first people I was introduced to when I became head coach at Minnesota. We became close friends quickly. I learned Jim is one of the most loyal people I have ever met. He cared about people and he cared about kids. He cared deeply for the kids in our program. Our world and our country needs more people like Jim Carter".

From: DAVE MARY MARONEY <maroneydm@msn.com>

Sent: Sunday, August 17, 2025 4:37 PM

To: pcummings@sspps.org <pcummings@sspps.org>

Subject: Ettinger Field at Jim Carter Stadium

Hello Paul, I am writing to encourage you to vote Yes to rename the current Ettinger Field to Ettinger Field at Jim Carter Stadium.

I am a proud 1973 SSP graduate. My dad built our family home in SSP in 1951 and it was in my family until my mother's death in 2006. My dad worked most of his career at Swifts & Co. until it closed in the 1970's. My mom was a stay at home mom and later a SSP substitute school teacher. Needless to say, I know I was very fortunate to grow up in SSP for many reasons, but mainly that SSP was a special community where everyone knew everyone and going to Friday night football games was a culture that pretty much everyone embraced. I spent many a night at fall football games cheering on the team along side family and friends I still hold dear today!! Of course being a cheerleader for four years helped with the cheering aspect!

I do believe there would be many positive outcomes to the renaming of the field. This would likely mean future donations to enhance and make possible the necessary improvements that the outdated stadium and facilities need to compete in high school athletics today and thus ensuring there will be many more nights of fall football games for athletes, families, visiting teams and spectators.

I understand there has been some sensitive issues that have been brought up about Jim Carter which makes this a political issue to some. But I believe in Forgiveness and Redemption for those that choose to turn their life around and do what it takes to better themselves and live their life giving and doing for others. A true example of Mr. Jim Carter! What a great opportunity to teach the young people of SSP about what Redemption truly means.

I do hope you consider voting Yes and thank you for your time and service to the community of SSP.

Sincerely,

Mary Maroney

50 year Anniversary of Undefeated Season

Ranked #2 in State of Minnesota and Suburban Conference Champions

Greg Petrie	Robert Miller	Tom O'Neill	Steve DeWald	Bill Kneeland	Rich Epeseth
Doug Johnson	Harvey Otto	Jim Mohrland	Jim Peterson	Wayne Eger	Ron Waibel
Warren Chaffee	Roger Dorma	Tom Zehoski	Mike Henry	Bob Spannbauer	Bill Woock
Marks Albu	Bill Larson	Gaylen Bicking	Dick Presley	Tom Engel	Mike O'Tool
Doug Johnson	Mike Giguere	Terry Hogan	Ken Deusterman	Steve Johnson	Steve Peterson
Chuck Mortel	Dave Hirte	Perry Coonce	Kirk Wallace	Dave Mullen	Mike Ryan
Jim Olson	Lee Kochendorfer	Paul Kenady	Jim Carter	Paul Cysiewski	Bob MacCornack

Coaches: Steve Silianoff, Julian Arnquist, Dennis Tetu and Dave Glazier

Athletic Director: Pete Veldman

The 2015 Football Season will be the Anniversary of *SPECIAL* Season of South St. Paul Packer Football when in the fall of 1965 the Packers captured the Suburban Conference Championship and concluded an Undefeated Season as the #2 rated Football Team in the State of Minnesota.

1965 Season Results

SSP	20	Mounds View	0
SSP	34	Stillwater	6
SSP	32	Anoka	21
SSP	26	Coon Rapids	22
SSP	42	Kellogg	12
SSP	21	Ramsey (Homecoming)	7
SSP	38	Columbia Heights	6
SSP	13	North St. Paul	7
SSP	27	Cambridge	21

<https://www.haystack.tv/v/high-school-sports-rally-march-9-2024>

<https://youtu.be/DkzIbcerdK0?si=o6oNdywwqGahrml>

Mike Max feature on Jim and Stadium

The Dickinson Press

Brad Buetow; football, Bart Buetow and Bob Nicosia; boxing, Bob Hill, and special award, Tony Ruiz.

It's a sixth and final Ballpark Tours Hall of Fame trek to Cooperstown, N.Y., for Joe Mauer's Baseball Hall of Fame induction July 17-22.

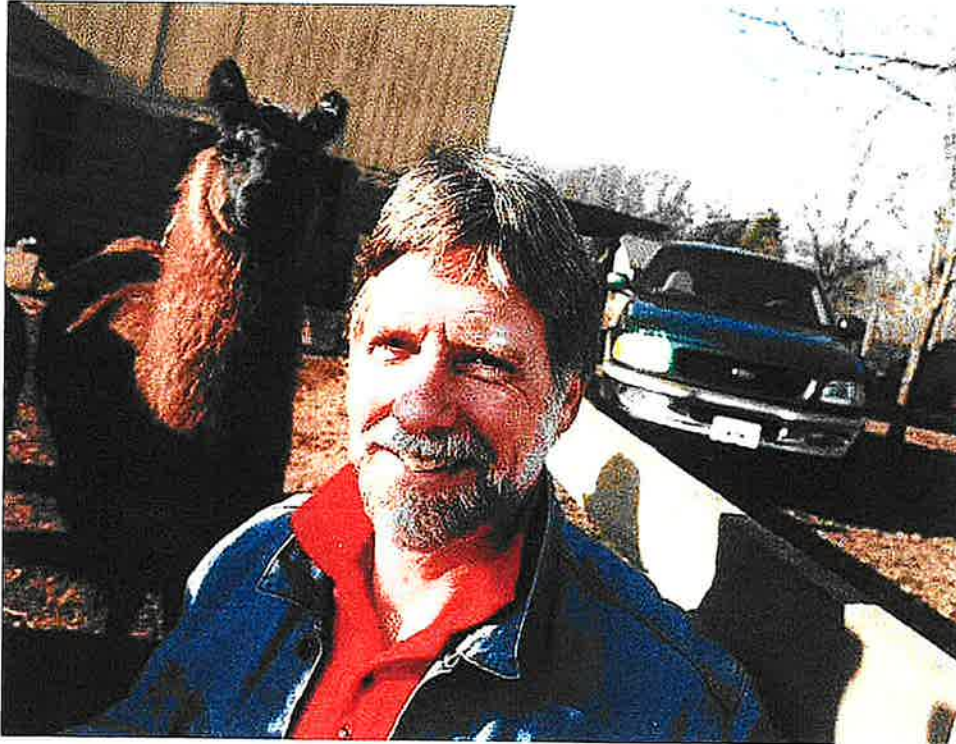
Condolences to the family of Eric Dornfeld, the former Stillwater hockey star and Gophers co-captain who died the other day at age 59 from cancer.

A celebration of life for former Gophers-Packers star Jim Carter, who died from cancer at age 75 in November, will be June 10 at ex-hockey Gopher Ron Peltier's '7 Vines Vineyard' in Dellwood.

Meanwhile, a movement continues to have South St. Paul High School's football stadium named after Carter, a venue where he starred as a prep and privately was a proud and significant benefactor to the school. Lou Nanne, who coached Carter as a Gophers hockey freshman, said Carter probably would have been a NHL player had he chosen that sport.

SPORTS > HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Group hoping to get Jim Carter's name attached to South St. Paul stadium



Former Green Bay Packers middle linebacker Jim Carter, who grew up in South St. Paul and played at the University of Minnesota, tends to some of his 45 llamas on his 120-acre farm not far from one of his car dealerships in Eau Claire, Wis. in Nov. 1997.



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YEAR**

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PUBLISHED: April 16, 2024 at 1:36 p.m. | UPDATED: April 16, 2024 at 2:09 p.m.

After South St. Paul legend Jim Carter passed away in the fall, his friends immediately started thinking of ways to potentially honor the local icon.

Terry Abrams came up with the idea to put Carter's name up on the football field. Of course, South St. Paul's playing surface is Ettinger Field. The plan a group has put together to present to the school board is to name the football field: Ettinger Field at Jim Carter Stadium.

Paul Miller and Gaylen Bicks, who both attended high school with Carter, presented the case to a school board committee on Tuesday evening.

Carter's athletic achievements speak for themselves. He was a standout football and hockey player, earning All-American status at the high school level. As a senior running back, Carter tallied 2,345 yards rushing — 261 per game on nine yards per carry — and 30 touchdowns while guiding the Packers to an undefeated record.

Gregg Veldman's father, Pete, was the long-time athletic director at South St. Paul. Gregg surmised his dad watched "as many football games as anybody in the world."

"And he never saw a football player as good as Jim Carter," Gregg said. "He said he was just absolutely a dominating presence on the field."



A photo of Jim Carter autographed to high school teammate Gaylen Bicks. (Courtesy of Gaylen Bicks)

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Carter is in the University of Minnesota Hall of Fame, the South St. Paul Sports Hall of Fame and the Mancini's Hall of Fame, among others. There are few honors he has not accrued.

"From South St. Paul, we're a little biased, but he was as good as anybody ever from Minnesota," Miller said. "When he ran the football, he was relentless. Stuff you've never seen. ... At the time he was playing, he really represented our town with the manner in which he played."

Yet that was only part of the reason Carter was so beloved. At the tail end of Carter's senior hockey season, he was in the locker room with Bicks, voting on captains for the following season, as well as the current year's team MVP.

Carter wrote down Bicks' name for the latter.

"I said, 'Carts, what did I do? I was just a backup goalie. I didn't play much,'" Bicks recalled.

Carter responded: "You were as much a part of this team as anybody."

"That's how humble he was. He was a team player. He wanted to share," Bicks said. "It was a treasure to play with him."

Carter struggled with alcoholism during his NFL career. But he managed to turn that blemish into a positive for others, as well. Not only was Carter heavily involved in Alcoholics Anonymous over the second half of his life — Bicks said Carter didn't have a drink after 1983 — but he was active in supporting others going through similar issues through sponsorship or any other method of aid.

"People talked about how he helped them with their addiction," Miller said. "If somebody wanted help, he would go to no ends to help anybody that really wanted help."

That helping hand extended to most areas of life, but was especially prevalent in South St. Paul athletics. Pete Veldman would tell those around him that Carter's number was "on speed dial" if there was ever anything the department needed. He is listed as a platinum donor at Doug Woog Ice Arena.

Additional aid from Carter ranged from funding an additional assistant coach to

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23 B

"And Jim just gave (my dad) the money. And this was unbeknownst to really anybody until after he died, because he didn't want anybody to know," Gregg Veldman said. "He was that kind of guy. He was just a really great person in that way in that he was very unselfish and didn't want to be out in the limelight."

Most things Carter did were anonymous. It's quite apparent the only way to grant him with such an honor as this would be posthumously.

In 2003, Carter was named the annual honoree of the South St. Paul Open Foundation Board, which honors "the impact an individual or a group can have on a community and that community's youth."

In his latter years, Carter was a frequent invitee to come speak to current high schoolers, and also made his visits about the kids.

Bicks has received numerous letters voicing support for "Jim Carter Stadium," ranging from Carter's Gophers teammate Bob Stein to former governor Arne Carlson, and well beyond. Should the naming rights eventually be approved by the school board, Bicks said the hope is to also make improvements to the field in Carter's honor, noting there are contributors anxiously waiting to step up.

Gregg Veldman said putting Carter's name on the stadium is "perfect." Because, for so long, Carter's name has been synonymous with South St. Paul athletics, first as an athlete, and then as a benefactor.

"Some of that (memory) is starting to fade a little bit, because we're all getting old," Miller said. "But we think it's a good way of maybe honoring people. It's almost like you're honoring a generation, in that sense."

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SSP REPORTER OCTOBER 20 1955



SIX THOUSAND FANS JAMMED THE HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM FOR THE PACKER-RAM CLASH

(Staff Photo by Dave Petek)

From Left

Carter picked up a first down

SIX THOUSAND FANS JAMMED THE HIGH SCHOOL STADIUM FOR THE PACKER-RAM CLASH

(Staff Photo by Dave Patek)

Fumble

Following the Packer's kickoff in the second half, Ramsey moved to the South St. Paul 27 where they were held and gave over the ball. Lead by Jim Carter, the Packers moved to the 50 and fumbled which was recovered by the Rams.

Two great pass defensive plays by Jim Morhland and Carter forced the Rams to kick. Carter took the punt on his 15 and returned to the 34. Carter and Kenady moved the ball to the Ramsey's 29 as the third quarter ended.

Carried Five

With second and two, Carter bulldozed his way to the 21 and then to the 10 for a first down. With a third and eight situation, Carter, with pure determination dragged five men into the end zone with him for the go-ahead touchdown. Kenady again added the point after.

After moving back to the 50 following the kickoff and with a fourth down and two to go, Kenady downed Olein on a fake punt back on his 44 from where the Packers took over the ball.

Carter picked up a first down on the 33. Kenady did the same on the 21. Carter moved to the 15. South St. Paul was penalized back to the 20 for delay of game. Carter's pass was incomplete. With 51 seconds left on the clock, Carter went around left end for a 20 yard run and a touchdown helped by Kenady's fine block at the 10. Kenady added the point after.

In the closing seconds of play, Ramsey moved the ball all the way to the Packer's one yard line on the passing of Overskei as the game ended.

Sillanoff had nothing but praise for the defensive play of the entire team.

A win in either of their two remaining games would assure the Packers of the conference title.

145 Points

For Jim Carter, who without a doubt is one of the greatest players to come out of South St. Paul, his three touchdowns ran his seasons total to 145 points to assure him of a new conference scoring record.

Not enough can be said about this boy who has gained over 1,000 yards rushing in the six games played. His 233 yards in 38 carries along with Kenady's 63 yards in 19 carries, accounted for all South St. Paul's rushing gains.

Carter is a real leader and is highly respected by every member on the team for his ability and effort. His teammates all realize that his determination has put South St. Paul in the position they are today and worthy of the Packer football team holding a number one rating in Minnesota.

Scoring

South St. Paul 7 0 0 14-21
Ramsey 0 7 0 0-7

SSP - Carter, 4 yard run.

(Kenady run)

AR - Overskei, 1 yard run.

(Czech kick)

SSP - Carter, 8 yard run.

(Kenady run)

SSP - Carter, 20 yard run.

(Kenady run).

LINEUP: South St. Paul-Backs; Morhland, Petersen, Carter, Kenady, Espeseth, Petrie, Chaffee and Mortel. Linemen; Kaiser, Joe Olson, O'Neill, Hogan, Giguere, Dorma, Waibel, Jim Olson, Ryan, DeWald and Kochendorfer.

Statistics

	SSP	AR
First Downs	18	9
Rushing	296	127
Passing	-14	62
Net Yards		
Gained	282	189
Passed	2-6	5-10
Intercepted	0	1
Fumbles Lost	1	0
Punt Avg.	0	1-35
Penalties	4-40	2-10

Standings



RAMSEY HALFBACK Mike Bailey (23) and burly Jim Carter (84) of the Packers exchanged handshakes after a barn-burner of a ball game Friday on South St. Paul sod.

White Bear	4 1 1 174	83	Coon Rapids	3 3 0 97	80
Hastings	4 2 0 113	60	Columbia		
No. St. Paul	3 2 1 110	45	Hts.	2 4 0 81	121
Alex.			Kellogg	2 4 0 58	109
Ramsey	3 2 1 80	54	Stillwater	1 5 0 46	172
Mounds View	2 2 2 60	61	West St. Paul	0 5 1 48	164
Anoka	3 3 0 114	140			

Fumbles The Ruin Of Toms In 14-6 Loss

The cadets of St. Thomas Academy contracted a bad case of fumble-itis Friday night at O'Shaughnessy Stadium and Hill took advantage of the disease with a 14-6 victory.

The Tommies now look forward to meeting Cretin this Saturday night at 7:30 in O'Shaughnessy Stadium once again.

Hill recovered four fumbles,

quarter that climaxed in fullback Rich Ryan's 2-yard plunge into the end zone.

The small swift Pioneers struck back early in the 2nd period when they drove 74 yards and scored on fullback Joe Bell's dive from the two. Bell ran in the extra point and Hill led 7-6.

39-Yard TD Run

The third quarter was a scoreless duel, but late in the fourth Hill's John Goebel intercepted a Tommy aerial to set up team mate Steve Roamanchuck's 39-yard touchdown sweep. Bell's run was good and rounded out the scoring.

Simley Tips Lakers Close With Braves

Simley's Spartans won their second straight Misota conference game Wednesday afternoon by squeezing past Prior Lake 7-0 and evened their record at 2-2.

They finish up the season at Burnsville this Friday at 7:30 till with the Black Dog Braves.

After his team's victory

LAST WEDNESDAY'S GAME
Simley 7, Prior Lake 0

LAST FRIDAY'S GAMES
Rosemount 19, Lakeville 6
Farmington 13, Burnsville 6

WEDNESDAY'S GAME
Farmington at Lakeville

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Simley at Burnsville

Packers Win

South St. Paul will meet Columbia Heights tonight at 7:30 in an effort to wrap up their first conference title since 1958. In this Annual Dad's Day game, the Packers can be assured of an all-out effort on the part of the ninth place team. The Highlanders are the only team to defeat the second place White Bear eleven this year and possess one of the stronger passers in Darrell Hiljus.

Over 6,000 fans crowded in and swarmed the hills surrounding the high school field and saw the Packers power their way to a 21-7 win over the stubborn Alexander Ramsey team Friday night.

The highly publicized defense of the Rams was hammered down by the charges of Jim Carter and Paul Kenady while the entire Packer team was showing their greatest defensive game of the season.



FRACTURED ANKLE and all, Guard Dick Presley of 358 Fourth Ave. S. spurred Packers onward from the sidelines. The high school junior injured his ankle during early-week drills.

Big Victory

This was a big victory for Coach Steve Sillanoff and his staff who had received some criticism from the outside for their outmoded style of play. Sillanoff built this team around the power of his great running back, Jim Carter, who without a doubt is the best high school player in the state today and a definite candidate for All-American High School honors.

South St. Paul marched 85 yards for their first touchdown after winning the toss and taking the kickoff. The Packers held the ball for the first nine minutes of play as they ground out the yardage with Carter and Kenady carrying to the four yard line from where Carter drove over for his first touchdown with Kenady adding the point to make it 7-0.

On-Side Kick

The Packers recovered their on-side kickoff when Terry Helgason picked up the ball on the Rams 48 and carried it to the 35 yard line. On the first play, Steve Beck intercepted Carter's pass intended for Jim Olson on his 11 yard line and was downed in his tracks.

Ramsey came back with a 40 yard run around left end by Mike Bailey, Ram's speedy halfback, to put the ball on South St. Paul's 49 where Kenady made the tackle. Bailey and Helgason moved the ball to the Packers 28 for another first down as the quarter ended.

Defense Stern

South St. Paul held and made it fourth and eight. Kenady made a great defensive play when he caught Larry Overskell back on the 34 attempting to pass and the Packers took over.

The Packers were again on the march before a 15 yard penalty for clipping moved them back. Two incomplete passes made it fourth and 15 on the South St. Paul 41. Bob McPherson blocked Carter's punt, picked up the ball and raced to the two yard line before being tackled from behind by Greg Petrie.

Rams were penalized five yards for illegal procedure moving the ball back to the seven. Joe Coppersmith was stopped by Kenady on the five. Carter stopped Overskell for no gain making it third and five. Overskell then moved to the one and on the fourth down try edged over with Ken Czech's kick good, the score was tied at seven all where it stood at half time.



BOWLING OVER Ram defenders like tenpins, Jim Carter (84) batters his way into the end zone Friday night in the important league action.

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(Staff Photo by Dave Petrie)

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LINEUP: South St. Paul-Backs: Morhland, Peterson, Carter, Kenady, Esposeth, Petrie.



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Hastings	4	2	0	113	60	Columbia				
No. St. Paul	3	2	1	110	45	Hts.	2	4	0	81
Alex.										
Ramsey	3	2	1	80	54	Kellogg	2	4	0	58
Mounds View	2	2	2	60	61	Stillwater	1	5	0	46
Anoka	3	3	0	114	140	West St. Paul	0	5	1	48

quarter that climaxed in full-

Sports

REPORTER
PAGE 18
Wednesday, Oct. 20, 1964

Hanzal Stars In Brady Win Over Foe 20-0

Halfback Mike Hanzal scored all three of Brady's touchdowns and led the Bronco sophomore to a 20-0 whitewashing of La Salle's B-Squad Tuesday afternoon, October 12.

Brady now meets Hill Thursday at 4:00 on the Sibley field. They traveled to Bendle Monday for a make-up game with the Red Knights.

After the victory, Coach R. Mahowald said, "De La Salle had the fastest team we've faced yet, but they weren't too sharp on defense. Our boys played really well. We had good defense, moved the ball well, and had good long kicks."

No TD Runs

Mahowald cited the defensive play of guard-linebacker Jack Schaefer, who recently was shifted from fullback to offensive end. The Brady defensive crew still has yet to allow TD runs.

The Broncos started out slow against the Islanders, fumbled the first three times they hit the ball, but in the second quarter Hanzal galloped 65 yard off tackle to score and quarter back Tom Fischback hit Schaefer with a pass for the extra point.

"H-Boys" Score

Brady's "H-boys", halfbacks Hanzal and Bob Hessler, who have done most of the Bronco's scoring this year, combined for another TD in the third quarter. Hanzal grabbed Hessler's 40-yard aerial and twisted into the end zone.

In the fourth period Hanzal struck again, this time with a 18-yard dash. Fischback nailed fullback Dick Bishop for the extra point and that wrapped it up for Brady.

LINESCORE: 24 C
De La Salle 0 0 0 0--
Brady 20 0 0 0 7--22



Gaylen Bicking <instyharvest2@gmail.com>

Fwd: Jim Carter Stadium @ South St. Paul High School

1 message

* **Jim Brunzell Jr.** <jimbrunzelljr@gmail.com>
To: Gaylen Bicking <instyharvest2@gmail.com>

Sun, Mar 31, 2024 at 10:50 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jim Brunzell Jr.** <jimbrunzelljr@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Mar 31, 2024 at 10:48 AM
Subject: Jim Carter Stadium @ South St. Paul High School
To: <jraasch@sspps.org>

Dear John:

This is Jim Brunzell, long time friend and team-mate of South St. Paul's Jimmy Carter. I, too, was in the Suburban Conference at White Bear Lake, and remember what a great rivalry we enjoyed with the Packers' of South St. Paul. Jim Carter was a legend and was one of the greatest athletes to be produced in Minnesota history! His Football, Hockey, and Baseball play were remarkable and stand today!

I met Jimmy when I was a walk-on freshman on the University of Minnesota Football team. My sophomore year, I pledged Beta Theta Pi fraternity, and became great friends with Jimmy, that lasted 56 years.

Jim was a rugged, hard-nosed punishing fullback that ran over many opponents in the Big Ten for 3 years! He was Captain in 1969, and his leadership was outstanding and unquestioned!

During Jimmy's later college life and his stint with the Green Bay Packers, were checkered with substance abuse and addictions'. Jimmy made some mistakes as we all did, and admitted them and worked on changing his life, and did just that! Jimmy was sober for His last 43 years of life and dedicated his life to work with AA and influenced many on their way to sobriety!

Over the last few years, Jimmy sponsored lunches for former team-mates at the St. Paul Hotel. He was humble, personable and showed honest interest in all of us.

Jimmy was indeed a renaissance man, a man, whose friendship I treasured, and do miss daily. I'd like to close with a saying Jimmy used when leaving our gathering! "See ya down the road, Brunzy"!

May Jimmy Carter rest in peace, until we "huddle" again!

John, I hope you will name the Packer football field, Jim Carter Stadium!

Thank you so much for your time!

Happy Easter

Sincerely Yours

Jumpin' Jimmy Brunzell



Gaylen Bicking <instyharvest2@gmail.com>

FW: Jim Carter Note

1 message

Marcie Wicklund [REDACTED]
To: "instyharvest2@gmail.com" <instyharvest2@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 10, 2024 at 12:16 PM

Hello,

I will be passing along notes regarding Jim for Keith Kocourek and myself.

Thank you,



From: Marcie Wicklund
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 2:37 PM
To: 'jraasch@sspps.org' <jraasch@sspps.org>; 'aclafin@sspps.org' <aclafin@sspps.org>; 'nlaliberte@sspps.org' <nlaliberte@sspps.org>; 'khumann@sspps.org' <khumann@sspps.org>; 'tfelton@sspps.org' <tfelton@sspps.org>; 'wfelton@sspps.org' <wfelton@sspps.org>; 'mweber@sspps.org' <mweber@sspps.org>
Subject: Jim Carter Note

Good Afternoon, South St. Paul School Board Members-

I am reaching out to you in support of naming the South St. Paul High School football facility "Jim Carter Stadium." I have had the privilege of knowing Jim for 12 years; being introduced to him as a young professional starting in the automotive industry. Professionally, I worked closely with Jim as he was a consultant for Kocourek Automotive after he retired from the automotive business. From our first introduction and through the years, Jim always treated me with the utmost respect and valued my efforts. I attest a lot of my success in the automotive business to the guidance he provided my mentors and myself. I wouldn't be where I am today, the Vice President of Corporate Development for Kocourek Automotive, had I not had the honor of knowing Jim.

Jim's success in his sports and business careers only scratches the surface of his life. What defined Jim was his unwavering loyalty, kindness, and friendship. Not just someone who would show up when times were good but someone willing to go in the trenches of life with you if need be. This is evident in his commitment to supporting those who struggled with similar afflictions as

4/10/24, 12:57 PM

Gmail - FW: Jim Carter Note

he did. He didn't give up on people. Jim was a loyal person who would "show up" literally and figuratively. You knew you could conquer what was ahead of you with this "larger-than-life" role model in your corner.

Today's youth need positive role models like Jim now more than ever. Naming the facility after him is not only fitting but also an excellent way to honor his contributions. Jim's legacy is one of selflessness and kindness, and his influence will continue to touch future generations. I urge you to support this proposal and give Jim the recognition he deserves.

Thank you for your time.

Marcie Wicklund-Byers

Kocourek Automotive

 *Marcie Wicklund-Byers*
Vice President of Corporate Development
Kocourek Automotive
Direct: (715) 393-4829 • WWW.KOCOUREKCAREERS.COM
VOTED THE #1 PLACE TO WORK IN MARATHON COUNTY!

26 A

From: Jim Carter hurricane.carter659@gmail.com
Subject: down the road.....
Date: November 23, 2023 at 1:25 PM
To: Tal Reuter Talan.reuter7@gmail.com
Cc: Taryn Reuter taryn.reuter@gmail.com

November 23, 2023

Tal-

I'm closing things down very soon, so my time is short. I wanted to send you a letter, thinking it might be an easier way to express some things rather than in a phone call.

I like who you are. To me, you seem very smart, and you seem to have good instincts. I think you are a good athlete and I hope you stay involved in sports your whole life.

You've got this mopey teenager thing going on right now, but we all went through some of that - I'm hopeful you'll grow out of that BS quickly. When I was a teenager, I, like you, was pretty sure I knew what was best for me, but I didn't. That's why you have your dad-- I hope you will use him to guide you along the way.

I'm also hopeful you might read some (or all) of the letters that were sent to me this week, as people got the chance to tell me what they believed about me, what they respected about my life, and even in a few cases, scold me about my rage and anger issues.

The following are the important things that have been the key elements in my life. I'm not bragging about them - I just want you to know what worked for me and what was essential for my having a somewhat 'successful' life.

I always worked my ass off. Sports, school, business, whatever, nobody outworked me. I was a good athlete, not a great one. I didn't have the gifts to allow me to cruise through and still be successful, but I worked longer, harder, and with more intensity than anybody.

Another thing you'll hear others say about me was that I was tough. That means everything to me because that's how I wanted people to view me. I learned to be tough from early on; toughness to me meant being a good teammate; even if I was scared or didn't feel good—I showed up because others were counting on me. I don't know when the light went on for me, but at some point, I figured out others could be better athletes than I was, but if I was physically and mentally tougher than everybody else, I could belong, I could compete, I could lead.

Finally, I had no 'quit' in me, on the field, on the rink, or in business. When I was scared and going through tough times, I just kept battling and refused to quit. I was basically broke back in the early years of my car business in Eau Claire, but I kept showing up and kept fighting and doing everything I could think of and somehow things got better, little by little, and we made it. Struggle is real, it's part of life and nobody gets a free pass.

Here's the trick—learning how to be tough but kind, being open to your feelings, and being willing to share those feelings honestly with those you trust and love. That has taken me a lifetime to learn; maybe you'll get lucky and learn these lessons faster than I did.

I love you Tal.

Papa

Voted South St. Paul High's 1966 Senior Citizens were Jim Carter and Cindy Silianoff.



JIM CARTER: "Winning is Success"



CINDY SILIANOFF: "The Right Decision"



To the Distinguished Members of the South St. Paul Board of Education;

On behalf of the Schultz family and the Stride for Packer Pride 5K Event which has raised over \$200,000 for the kids of South St. Paul and will continue to do so, we'd like to make clear our unwavering support for altering the name of our storied field to 'Ettinger Field at Jim Carter Stadium'. We do so for several reasons including the following:

First and perhaps foremost, we believe giving back to this community is important and few have given more than Jim Carter to the kids of South St. Paul. Further, we believe he represented much of what we learned as a part of this community in that his actions were grounded in humility. Much of the good work he's done in the past 40 plus years, whether it be financially supporting our kids or dedicating himself to helping others lead lives of sobriety, has been done quietly and with little to no fanfare. One small example of this is that he reluctantly allowed us to add his name to the plaque thanking contributors to the historical hockey mural at Woog Arena that went up in 2020 even though he was far and away the largest contributor to it.

Second, we acknowledge, as he did during his life, that Mr. Carter made regrettable decisions involving women during his playing days in the NFL, specifically in 1976. We also believe all humans make mistakes and how one responds is what defines a person's character. As mentioned before, Mr. Carter quietly pursued sobriety, worked on it every day of his life, and helped many others pursue the same goal.

Last, we believe Jim Carter was one of the greatest high school athletes, not only in South St. Paul history and not only in football, but anywhere and in any sport. He was arguably the greatest high school football player the state of Minnesota has ever produced, but he was also a dominant hockey player and an outstanding catcher on the baseball team. His football talent led to an All-American career at the University of Minnesota and a near decade-long playing career in the NFL with the Green Bay Packers, including being chosen a captain by his peers and achieving the pinnacle of the sport by being named to the Pro Bowl.

In summary, those of us who were fortunate to have a relationship with Mr. Carter knew how much he cared about South St. Paul. It was always his way to keep his contributions out of the public as he cared more about doing right and little about how others perceived him.

We wholeheartedly endorse adding Jim Carter's name to our field and do so without reservation.

Respectfully

Daniel '80

Paul '82

Ann (Counihan) '83, Megan (Mulder) '13, Kelly '14, Annie '18

Jim '83

John '86

David '87, Nikki (Hizon) '12, Maddie (Watzka) '14

Peter '94, Jackson '26, Audrey '29

To: "pcummings@sspps.org" <pcummings@sspps.org>

Date: 08/26/2025 7:45 PM CDT

Subject: Integrity/Honesty/Passion/Transparency: Jim Carter

Hi Paul.

My name is John McLean; a neighbor of yours to the west in Eagan.

I'm writing to you in support of renaming the South St Paul football field after Jim Carter.

A little background about me. I grew up in Duluth in a 150 year old home with 8 kids; very South St Paul like. Education was/is very important in my family. I started with a degree from a Community College, which is where I was at that point....and 5 degrees later obtained an Executive Business Diploma from Harvard University which is where I was then. I am a Deacon in our Church as well as an ordained Chaplain.

As a very young hockey player in Duluth, I watched Jim play for the Gophers; a most determined player. After he finished playing for the Green Bay Packer's, he was in the car business in Wausau. My in-laws, life long Vikings fans, crossed paths with him while shopping for a car. He came onto the floor, inquired if they needed anything, and didn't try and sell them anything. They spent quite a bit of time simply visiting. Their term was 'refreshingly genuine'.....and their experience changed their allegiance to the Packers (that and a few Super Bowls).

I had a South St Paul hockey coach at St Cloud State (Charlie Basch) who hugely influenced me and also increased my respect for what South St Paul is all about. Coach Basch was inducted into the Packer Hall of Fame a few years ago. At the induction, a night of a home football game, U of M Regent Dave Metzen and his brothers, along with Doug Woog, showed up and asked if they could sit at our table. I told them I was impressed with their being there and both Dave and Doug said "that's what we do in South St Paul".

My son played numerous hockey games vs the Packers; Eagan had deeper, more skilled teams, but the Packers were all about hard work. That's what I think of when Jim's name comes up.

My former work partner (Gopher QB in the 1960 Rose Bowl) and Jim were very close. He loved Jim and it was all about his passion. You may be aware that Jim challenged the U of M on a few issues and, to many, he earned more respect doing so than he did on the football field or the showroom. I've spent my career at large companies surrounded by people who simply nodded in agreement. Listen to Jim's nephew, Adam Carter, on WCCO and you will

hear how he loved Jim for saying what was on his mind and fighting for what he believed in. Isn't a big part of education exploration and the challenge of viewpoints?

Two years ago I reached out to Jim and asked him to help me with something. He did and followed up by asking what else he could do for me.

I was at the renaming of the Doug Woog Arena in 2015 and could not then, nor now, fully appreciate what that does for the young kids in that community. Phil Housley missed part of his NHL team's training game to be there. The same applies for the young kids in the football program....."who says I can't play for the Gophers?....who says I can't play in the NFL?"

I was at a Gopher football alumni function at Huntington Bank Stadium a few years ago.....Jim and a man from St Cloud were the speakers....the other man said "I'm from St Cloud Tech, the Gophers, the St Louis Cardinals, and the Seattle Seahawks". Jim got up and said "I'm Jim Carter from South St Paul. Period".

The great Hubert Humphrey once said "Never give in, never give up, never surrender no matter what!".That's what Jim Carter was all about.

Thank you in advance for your support of the initiative and recognizing a man who never forgot where he came from.

John McLean

651-491-0643

March 9, 2024

To Whom It May Concern: Jim Carter's senior year in Football

My name is Denny Tetu and I taught and coached at South St Paul for 36 years from 1957 to 1992. I was an assistant football coach the year Jim Carter led his football team to an undefeated season in 1965. Below are his stats for that year. Jim was 6 ft 4 and 236 pounds.

He scored 30 of the teams 37 touchdowns. Many of them of 50-70 yards. He scored 192 points. He had 260 carries without a bobble. He passed 45 times for 283 yards. He gained 2,345 yards on the ground. Averaging 9 yards per carry and 261 yards per game.

He played safety on defense and saved the undefeated season by tackling an opponent on the one yard line with 6 seconds to play in the last game to save a touchdown.

AS a result of his play, Jim was named All conference, All State and All American. He had many offers for college scholarships but stayed loyal to MN and going to the U of M and playing fullback for 4 years. He was drafted by the Green Bay Packers in 1970. Started his second year and was made captain for many years. He also played in a pro bowl. He retired from football in 1978.

Sincerely,
Denny Tetu

South Saint Paul High School Football Boosters

09 September 2025

To Whom it may concern:

It has been brought to my attention that there is a proposal to renovate and rename the South Saint Paul High School Ettinger Football Field. On behalf of the South Saint Paul High School Football Boosters, we support the Jim Carter Renaming and Renovation Project.

I am an active part of the South Saint Paul Community, citizen of the South Saint Paul community, and current President of the South Saint Paul High School Football Boosters. I have been the President now for four years, and part of the Football Boosters Association for over ten years. All three of my sons have proudly gone through the high school football program in South Saint Paul. Through the years, we have noted that our high school football field has been in dire need of renovation and repair. After having traveled to many high school football facilities through the many years of football, it is clearly evident that now is the time to renovate our field. There is an opportunity before us that we need to take hold of and move forward with renovations. Otherwise, I fear that ten more years will pass, and no renovations will take place. We need to move to improve our football field and facilities, for the safety of our players and community, and to be competitive in our conference with similar schools to ours.

As I reflect on the current facilities and football field, I recall just last year seeing a young child in the stands stack and play with the large chips of cement that had fallen from the bleachers, I overheard visiting parents comment on the poor

state of the field and our facilities, and have noted unsafe conditions for the players and guests who come to watch their children play football. We can change all of this now, with the opportunity that lies ahead of us.

Other schools in our conference such as Mahtomedi, St. Thomas, North St. Paul, and Tartan have all gone through one if not two field renovations over the past few years. All of these cities have turf fields, and we remain far behind in the state of our facilities and field conditions. We are the only community in our conference that has a dirt football field.

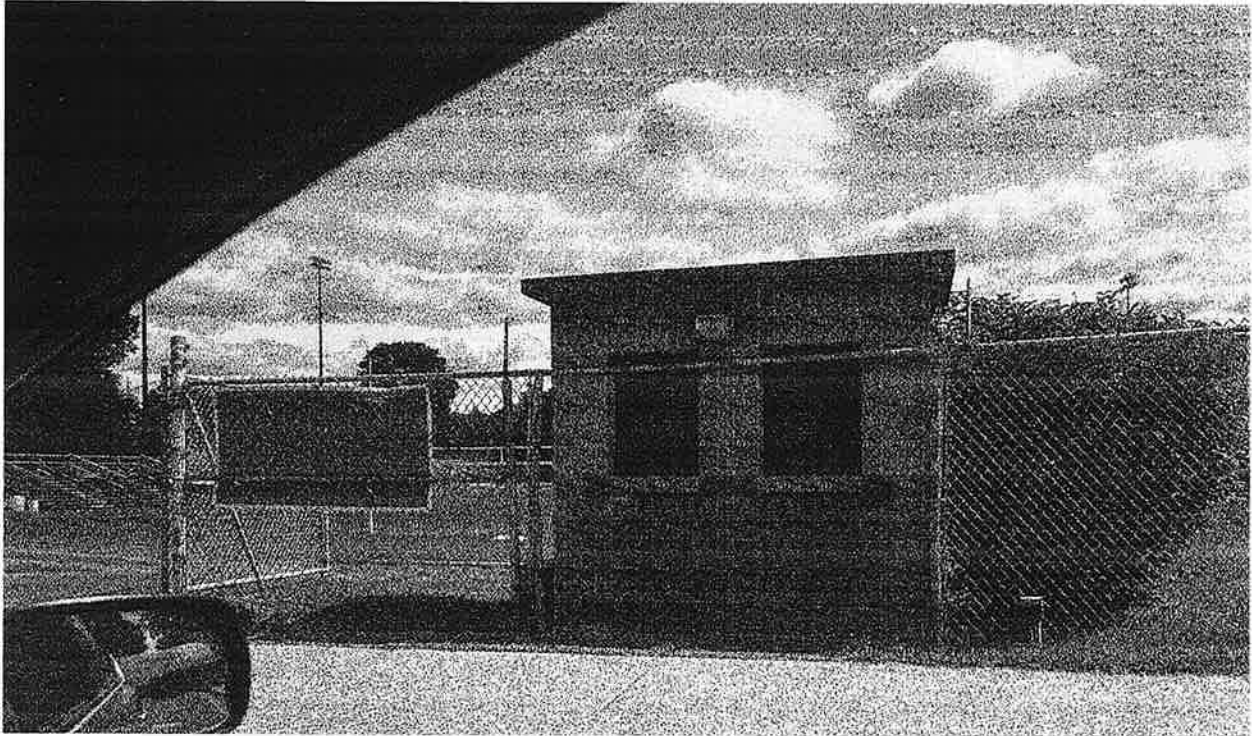
Our players deserve to be proud and play at a top-notch facility. With no current city plans in place to renovate our football stadium, we ask that we move forward with the Jim Carter Renaming and Renovation Project for South Saint Paul High School Football.

We support the Jim Carter Renaming and Renovation Project. Please support this plan for our players, for our families and for our community.

Respectfully,

Angela Becker

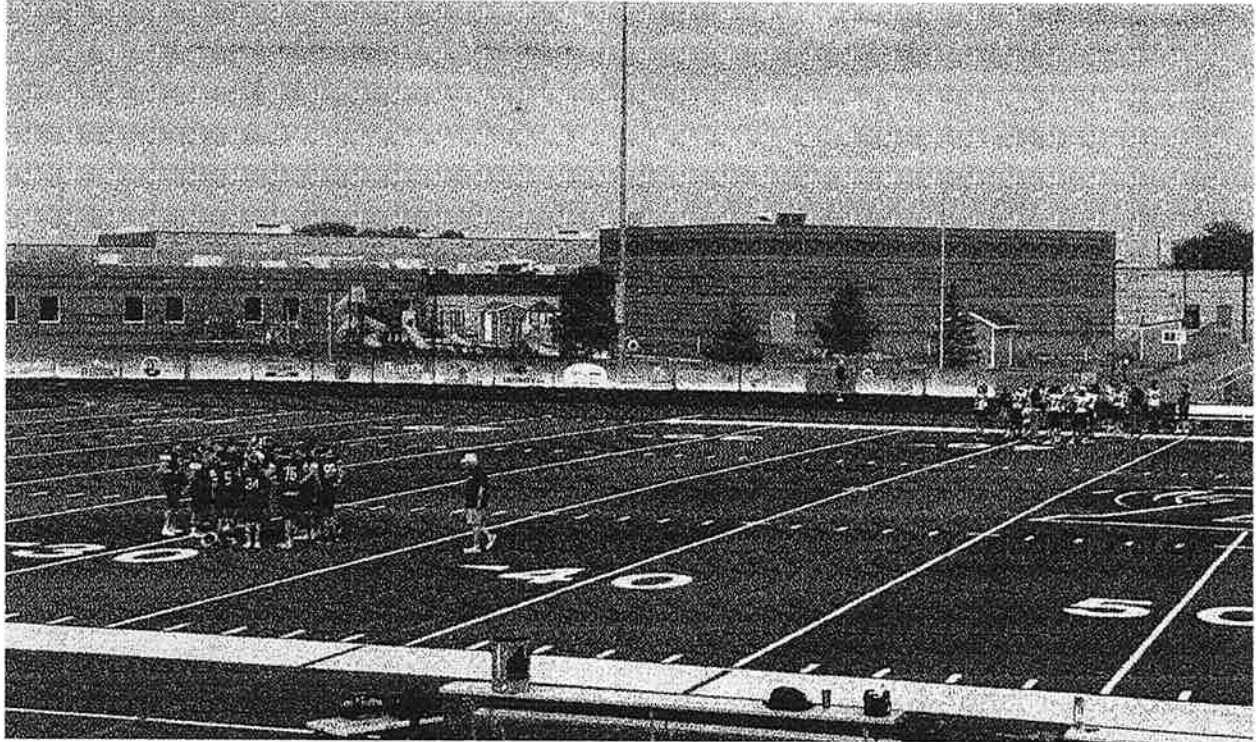
Sout Saint Paul High School Football Booster President



This ticket booth which is an eyesore was last used in the early 1970's and continues to deteriorate along with the fencing minus the barb wire on the top of the fence. There is currently Graffiti on lower half of ticket box.



The Ettinger Field sign on the exterior of the stadium is dated and with paint peeling on the poles. It also in an obscure spot that does not do justice to Sam Ettinger.



Cottonwood, MN – New Stadium (turf to facilitate multiple use)

Population 1,146 (2024)

Note: Community support with advertising banners !!



The South St. Paul Open Foundation

09/19/25

Ms. Lisa Brandecker

Communications Manager
104 5th Ave S
South St. Paul, MN 55075

Dear Lisa:

On behalf of the South St. Paul Open Foundation, I am honored to extend our strong endorsement in support the updating of the South St. Paul Football Stadium to **Ettinger Field at Jim Carter Stadium.**

Mr. Carter was recognized as an Open Foundation Honoree in 2003, and over the years his impact on our community has only deepened. His significant contributions to the South St. Paul Open Foundation, along with his direct support of South St. Paul Activities and Athletics, have played a lasting role in strengthening opportunities for our students and community members. His undying support of South St. Paul reflects a commitment that few can match.

Beyond athletics and community service, Mr. Carter's leadership within the addiction recovery community stands as a shining example of resilience and service. His dedication to mentoring and supporting individuals in recovery demonstrates a powerful message—that struggles can be overcome, and lives can be transformed through perseverance, compassion, and leadership.

The Board of the South St. Paul Open Foundation considers Mr. Carter's lifelong commitment to South St. Paul, his service to our youth, and his broader leadership to be qualities most deserving of this honor. We are proud to add our endorsement to this initiative and hope you will join us in ensuring his legacy is recognized in this meaningful way.

Sincerely,

Mark Duffy
President
The South St. Paul Open Foundation

South St Paul Open Foundation
PO Box 535
South St Paul, MN 55075



South St Paul Lions

820 Southview Blvd

South St. Paul, MN 55075

October 8, 2025

South St Paul School Board Members All,

Last night at our General Membership meeting and our South St Paul Lions Board meeting our members had a robust discussion regarding the request to rename Ettinger Field. Our Club has long been supportive of South St Paul Schools and its student extracurricular activities.

After a thoughtful discussion, our Board passed the following resolution on behalf of our membership:

“The South St Paul Lions Organization endorses the name change request currently in front of the South St Paul Board of Education that would result in changing the name of Ettinger Field to – Ettinger Field at Jim Carter Stadium”

We greatly appreciate what your Board does for our students and citizens of South St Paul. Thank you for accepting this letter of support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Kuntz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "G" and "K".

Greg Kuntz

Secretary of the South St Paul Lions



City Council support of Jim Carter Stadium

To the organizing committee and school board,

On behalf of the City Council of South St. Paul , we write to express our full and enthusiastic support for the naming of our community stadium as **Jim Carter Stadium**.

Jim Carter's legacy as a South St. Paul Packer and then as a NFL professional Green Bay Packer is one that resonates deeply within our community. His contributions on the field, his enduring commitment to excellence , and his embodiment of support for his hometown Packer Pride have left an indelible mark—not only in the world of professional sports but in the hearts of those who call this city home. Naming the stadium in his honor is more than a tribute to athletic achievement; it is a celebration of the values we hold dear: perseverance, teamwork, and pride in our roots.

We have witnessed firsthand how community support can transform a space into something far greater than turf and bleachers. It becomes a symbol of unity, a place where generations gather, and where young athletes dream big. Dedicating this stadium to Jim Carter is a deserving honor that uplifts our hometown families and reinforces the spirit that binds us together.

We commend and appreciate the efforts of the committee and classmates leading this initiative. Their dedication reflects the very spirit of community engagement and pride that Jim Carter himself represents. The City Council stands firmly behind this endeavor and encourages all stakeholders to join us in making Jim Carter Stadium a reality.

With love and pride,

Mayor Jimmy Francis

Councilmember Todd Podgorski

Councilmember Matthew Thompson

Councilmember Lori Hansen

Councilmember Joe Kaliszewski

Councilmember Tom Seaberg

Councilmember Pam Bakken



South St. Paul
Public Schools

School Board Agenda Item

Date: October 13, 2025
Place on Agenda: Work Session
Action Requested: None. Discussion Only
Attachment: None

Topic: Possible Bond Referendum
Presenter(s): Dr. Brian Zambreno, Superintendent and Ra Chhoth, Executive Director of Finance and Operations
<p>Background: In 2022, the school district partnered with Wold Architecture to conduct a comprehensive review of deferred maintenance needs across all district buildings. The study identified critical infrastructure concerns, including HVAC systems, roofing, and other building components that are now well beyond their expected lifecycles. Due to the age of our facilities, the list of needs was extensive, totaling approximately \$150 million at that time. For comparison, the district receives just over \$1 million annually in long-term maintenance funding from the state, far short of the amount required to address these challenges.</p> <p>Recognizing the importance of both maintaining safe, functional schools and aligning with community priorities, a facilities taskforce was established in 2024. This group of staff, families, and community members reviewed the maintenance list, studied enrollment and programming trends, and gathered input from community stakeholders to identify additional needs and aspirations for the future of our facilities.</p> <p>Following the initial bond presentation at the September 27 work session, the purpose of this time on Monday evening is to take a closer look at the details, provide space for Board discussion and questions, and allow the Board to give direction on potential next steps. As part of this review, the Board will consider the facilities study and taskforce recommendations while exploring options to address the district’s aging infrastructure. One of the primary options under consideration is the potential of a bond referendum, which would allow the community to invest in updated and reliable school facilities.</p> <p>The last bond referendum in South St. Paul was in 2013, while most districts seek voter approval for bonding initiatives every 5–10 years to keep their buildings current. Importantly, the district is in a favorable position as previous bonds are nearing repayment, creating the opportunity to generate up to \$30 million in new revenue without increasing property taxes. At the same time, the district remains mindful of the community’s taxpayer capacity, particularly following the 2023 levy that supported academic needs. Balancing these ongoing educational investments with the urgency of addressing facility challenges is central to ensuring the district acts responsibly, both financially and in meeting the needs of students and staff. This unique timing provides the Board and community with an important opportunity to move forward in a way that is both strategic and fiscally responsible.</p>
Recommendation: N/A
Alternatives: N/A



School Board Agenda Item

Date: October 13, 2025

Place on Agenda: Work Session

Action Requested: None. Discussion Only

Attachment: None

Topic: District Scorecard Overview
Presenter(s): Dr. Brian Zambreno, Superintendent
<p>Background:</p> <p>As a follow-up to the new strategic plan adopted by the School Board in the spring of 2025, district leaders have developed scorecards to put the plan into action. These scorecards serve as both our roadmap and our accountability tool, creating the action steps and progress checks that ensure we are meeting the priorities outlined in the plan.</p> <p>As part of the district’s ongoing improvement efforts and in an effort to show transparency in the work, the District Leadership Team (principals, directors, and other leaders) has developed a district scorecard that identifies areas of improvement, sets clear goals in these areas, and establishes metrics to measure success. The main areas of focus are on students’ academic performance and employees’ experiences working in the district. The scorecard provides a clear and measurable way to monitor progress and demonstrate accountability to the community.</p> <p>On Monday evening, Superintendent Zambreno will review the scorecard with the Board in more detail and share how it connects directly to the priorities outlined in the strategic plan.</p>
<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Alternatives:</p> <p>N/A</p>



School Board Agenda Item

Date: 10.13.2025

Place on Agenda: Work Session

Action Requested: None. Discussion Only

Attachment: None

Topic: WBWF transition to CACR
Presenter(s): Amy Winter, Executive Director of Educational Service
Background: <p>The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has replaced the World's Best Workforce (WBWF) framework with a new Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness (CACR) plan. This shift is designed to better align district improvement efforts with state accountability measures and prepare all students for college, career, and civic life.</p> <p>South St. Paul Public Schools (SSPPS) has been identified by MDE as a Priority District based on statewide performance indicators. This designation highlights areas for focused improvement and gives the district access to additional support and resources.</p> <p>The board will review the shift from WBWF to CACR and discuss how this designation shapes our goals, strategies, and planning for improved student outcomes. The formal presentation will be shared at the business meeting scheduled at the end of the month.</p>
Recommendation: <p>N/A</p>
Alternatives: <p>N/A</p>



School Board Agenda Item

Place on Agenda: Work Session

Action Requested: None. Discussion Only

Attachment: None

Topic: Public Relations and Community Engagement
Presenter(s): School Board
Background: The School Board will review the upcoming Calendar of Events and explore opportunities to collaborate with students, staff, families, and the greater South St. Paul community to further the district's mission and vision.
Recommendation: N/A
Alternatives: N/A

**ENGAGE. EDUCATE.
EMPOWER.**



School Board Agenda Item

Place on Agenda: Work Session

Action Requested: None. Discussion Only

Attachment: None

Topic: Committee Updates
Presenter(s): School Board Members
Background: School Board members will provide an update for the following committees that they serve on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● District 917● AMSD● Community Education● Educational Foundation● Finance, Facilities, and Long-Range Planning● Local Issues● Policy● SSP Open Foundation● Superintendent Executive
Recommendation: N/A
Alternatives: N/A

**ENGAGE. EDUCATE.
EMPOWER.**