



South St. Paul School Board - Work Session

Monday, August 10, 2026 5:00 PM

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

I. FINANCE

I.A. LTFM Presentation (R. Chhoth/M. Fenton)

I.B. Post Bond Election Survey (L. Brandecker/K. Humann)

I.C. Minnesota Permanent School Fund (K. Humann)

II. SCHOOL BOARD

II.A. 2- Year Board Agenda (Board)

II.B. Public Relations and Community Engagement (Board)

II.C. Committee Updates (Board)

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

II.D. Other Items Deemed Necessary by the School Board



School Board Agenda Item

Date: August 10, 2026

Place on Agenda: Work Session

Action Requested: None. Information Only

Attachment: None

Topic: Long Term Facilities Maintenance Project Planning
Presenter(s): Ra Chhoth, Executive Director of Finance and Operations/Mark Fenton Director of Buildings and Grounds
Background: Last month, the School Board reviewed the Long-Term Facilities Maintenance (LTFM) Program, which provides dedicated state funding to help school districts preserve, maintain, and improve their facilities. Following the Board's approval, district administration submitted the district's 10-Year LTFM Plan to the Minnesota Department of Education by the July 31 deadline. During this presentation, the administration will review the LTFM planning process and outline options for completing additional maintenance projects through a potential pay-as-you-go levy. Administration will also present a recommended timeline for addressing the district's long-term facilities needs. Proposed next steps include: • Conducting an updated facilities study; • Reviewing how district facilities are currently used; • Identifying and prioritizing long-term maintenance and facility needs; and • Engaging the School Board in discussions regarding potential funding options. This presentation is intended to provide the Board with information and establish a framework for future facilities planning and decision-making.
Recommendation: N/A
Alternatives: N/A

Date: August 10, 2026

Place on Agenda: Work Session

Action Requested: None. Discussion Only

Attachment: None

Topic: Post Bond Election Survey
Presenter(s): Lisa Brandecker, Manager of Administrative Services and Communication and Board Chair Humann
Background: Prior to the May 12, 2026, special election, the District engaged Peter Leatherman to conduct a scientifically designed community survey to better understand residents' priorities and perspectives related to future facility improvements. The survey consisted of a random sample of approximately 400 households and was structured to reflect a cross-section of the community across a variety of demographic groups. The survey results helped inform the School Board's decisions regarding the building bond and capital projects levy questions presented to voters. While the pre-election survey helped inform the Board's decisions, the results of the May 12, 2026, special election differed from the survey findings. In response, the District conducted a post-election survey to gain additional insight into community perspectives surrounding the election outcome. Unlike the pre-election survey, the post-election survey was distributed districtwide and was open to any community member who wished to participate. The survey was designed to better understand factors that influenced respondents' votes, perceptions of the District's communication and engagement efforts, and opportunities to inform future planning. District administration will present a high-level overview of the survey participation and statistical results. Following the presentation, Chair Humann will facilitate a discussion regarding the process for reviewing the open-ended survey comments and determining an approach for using that feedback to inform future planning and community engagement.
Recommendation: N/A
Alternatives: N/A

Date: August 10, 2026

Place on Agenda: Work Session

Action Requested: None. Discussion Only

Attachment: None

Topic: Minnesota Permanent School Fund
Presenter(s): Board Chair Humann
Background: Minnesota voters will consider a proposed constitutional amendment related to the Permanent School Fund, a longstanding endowment established to support public education in Minnesota. The fund is supported through revenue generated from state school trust lands and investment earnings, with distributions made annually to school districts across the state. If approved by voters, the amendment would modify how annual distributions from the Permanent School Fund are determined, allowing for increased funding to Minnesota school districts without increasing individual income or property taxes. The proposed changes are intended to preserve the long-term sustainability of the fund while providing additional support for current and future students. If approved, the amendment would take effect July 1, 2027, with increased funding available beginning in Fiscal Year 2028. Because this constitutional amendment will appear on every Minnesota voter's ballot this fall, it is important that the School Board has a clear understanding of the proposal and its potential impact on public education funding. The Board will review an overview of the proposed amendment, discuss how it may affect South St. Paul Public Schools, and review the District's communication plan to provide factual, nonpartisan information to the community in advance of the November election. Communication Plan Beginning in late September and continuing through early October, the District will share factual, nonpartisan information with the community about the Permanent School Fund constitutional amendment. Communications will explain what the Permanent School Fund is, why the amendment appears on the ballot, and how it relates to public education funding in Minnesota. The goal is to ensure community members have access to clear, accurate information so they can make informed decisions when voting.
Recommendation: N/A
Alternatives: N/A

Date: August 10, 2026

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Action Requested: None. Discussion Only

Attachment: None

Topic: 2-Year Board Agenda
Presenter(s): Board Chair Humann
Background: The School Board will engage in a discussion around the development of a two-year Board agenda that will serve as a strategic roadmap for the Board's governance work. The agenda will identify key priorities, initiatives, and topics for discussion over the next two years, helping to align the Board's work with the district's Strategic Plan and the ongoing work of district leadership. The two-year agenda is intended to provide a proactive framework for planning Board discussions, monitoring progress on strategic priorities, and ensuring adequate time is dedicated to important governance and policy matters. While the agenda will establish a clear direction, it is intended to be a living document that can be reviewed and adjusted as priorities, opportunities, and district needs evolve. During the work session, Board members will discuss the purpose, structure, and priorities of the two-year agenda and begin identifying key topics and timelines to guide the Board's work in partnership with the administration through 2028.
Recommendation: N/A
Alternatives: N/A

Place on Agenda: Work Session

Action Requested: None. Discussion Only

Attachment: None

Topic: Public Relations and Community Engagement
Presenter(s): School Board
Background: As part of its ongoing commitment to community engagement, the Board will review and discuss the 2026-27 Public Relations and Community Engagement Calendar throughout the year. The calendar serves as a resource for planning engagement opportunities, promoting transparency, and supporting meaningful connections with district stakeholders.
Recommendation: N/A
Alternatives: N/A



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: • 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

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