



# ST. PAUL CITY SCHOOL

Board Meeting Minutes  
September 19, 2023  
5:30-7:00 PM

215 University Ave W, St. Paul, MN 55103  
Media Center

- 1) Establishment of a Quorum – Call to Order at 5:35 pm by Michael Dorner.
  - a) Board Members Present: Michael Dorner, Maria Lopez, Dayan Hernandez & Sky Davey
  - b) Board Members Absent: Sheila Williams Ridge
  - c) Non-Voting Members Present: Dr. Meg Cavalier, Dr. Justin Tiarks, Jaclyn Rehmke, Rashad Watkins and Karl Jentoft (Ten Square Group).
  - d) Guests: Esteban Rodriguez-Hefty
- 2) Public Comments – Sky Davey wanted to make the board think strategically long term about addressing staffing long term as well as the expansion of our spaces both outdoor spaces and teaching spaces
- 3) Declaration of Conflict of Interest – None.
- 4) Appointment of Board Officers, Dr. Dorner as Chair, Dayan as Treasurer and Sky as Secretary - Maria, seconded by Sky.
  - a) Michael Dorner – Aye
  - b) Dayan Hernandez - Aye
  - c) Discussion – None
- 5) Approval of Meeting Agenda, with the additions at 17 for the approval of the LMC Parking Agreement and number 18 for the IQS Annual Report – Sky, seconded by Dayan.

- a) Michael Dorner – Aye
  - b) Maria Lopez - Aye
  - c) Discussion – None
- 6) Approval of June 5, 2023 Minutes – Dayan, seconded by Maria.
- a) Michael Dorner – Aye
  - b) Sky Davey - Aye
  - c) Discussion – None
- 7) Director Report
- a) The Executive Director provided the enrollment picture.
  - b) District Update: SPCS hosted Freedom School over the summer for 140 scholars. Provided a multitude of resources to provide families that participated during Freedom School. SPCS received the Stronger Connections Grant, which provides \$500K over three years to hire a Restorative Practices Coordinator, EL coordinator, and to engage in teacher retention.
  - c) Primary School Updates: PS had 100% retention of classroom teachers. New Monday meeting format for 4th and 5th grade students to build community. Reinforced the partnership with Miss Kendra, having an on-site trauma therapist 4 days a week.
  - d) Middle School Updates: Hired Mr. Watkins as the Middle School Principal over the summer. Focus on success for every student around relationships, accountability, growth mindset, culture, collaboration and equity.
  - e) High School Updates: First year of soccer off the ground for High School and Middle School students. Revamped afternoon classes with new and engaging elective and choice activity class offering for students.
- 8) Approval of June 2023 Financials and Bills; There was a discrepancy in the FY23 year end financials produced by BerganKDV as compared to the May financials prepared by EdFinMN. Karl Jentoft, TenSquare presented a summary of the discrepancy to the board. SPCS didn't meet the debt service requirements on the bank's credit line, will be looking forward to work with the bank on a plan to move forward by moving forward to create a covenant waiver with Sunrise Banks; SPCS will be using ADSIS to pay different staffing groups which will help stabilize finances, though the only caveat is that ADSIS is paid out from the state a year later. – Sky, seconded by Dayan.

- a) Michael Dorner – Aye
  - b) Maria Lopez - Aye
  - c) Discussion – Dr. Dorner said that EdFinMN assured the school that the finances were sound and did not support the school appropriately, walking away from the school as a client and not serving the school appropriately. Sky asked Karl to explain the difference between the FY23 April projection forecasting a surplus and the true FY23 projection forecasting a deficit.
- 9) Approval of July 2023 Financials and Bills; Cash balance \$598,369; \$10,953,400 Receivable owed from State; Accounts Payable from summer salaries and benefits \$(91,490); – Dayan, seconded by Maria.
- a) Michael Dorner – Aye
  - b) Sky Davey - Aye
  - c) Discussion – None
- 10) Approval of Staff Retention Credit Tax Proposal; SPCS is exploring the opportunity to apply for the Employee Retention Credit for a fee; The ERC is disbursed quarterly to schools; SPCS will clarify that Creative Planning will delay the fee and will move forward with the application as long as the moratorium is lifted - Sky, seconded by Maria.
- a) Michael Dorner – Aye
  - b) Dayan Hernandez - Aye
  - c) Discussion – Sky asked for clarification on the process and how the fee for filing the ERC would work if the school did not qualify for it and if the school would take on the fee regardless. Dr. Meg Cavalier said that the school would not incur costs.
- 11) Approval of Reimbursement Agreement; The agreement provides a mechanism for the ABC to refund the school for expenses - Sky, seconded by Dayan.
- a) Michael Dorner – Aye
  - b) Maria Lopez - Aye
  - c) Discussion – None
- 12) Approval of Individual with Official Authorization (MDE IoWA) of Dr. Meg Cavalier - Dayan, seconded by Maria.
- a) Michael Dorner – Aye
  - b) Sky Davey - Aye

- c) Discussion – None
- 13) Approval of Human Resource Authority; Authorize Dr. Meg Cavalier as the Human Resource Authority to approve hire, resignations and terminations, providing a monthly report to the board. - Dayan, seconded by Maria.
- a) Michael Dorner – Aye
  - b) Sky Davey - Aye
  - c) Discussion – None
- 14) Approval of Policy 506 Student Discipline - Maria, seconded by Dayan.
- a) Michael Dorner – Aye
  - b) Sky Davey - Aye
  - c) Discussion – Dr. Dorner asked whether the issue with SRO’s heavily present in the media and the changes in the law.
- 15) Approval of Policy 516.5 Overdose Medication - Sky, seconded by Dayan.
- a) Michael Dorner – Aye
  - b) Maria Lopez - Aye
  - c) Discussion – Dayan wondered about having Narcan on each floor in order to ensure that it can be accessed quickly and easily. Sky talked about adding the Narcan plan to the school’s emergency procedures.
- 16) Approval of Policy 908 Parent and Family Engagement Policy - Dayan, seconded by Sky.
- a) Michael Dorner – Aye
  - b) Maria Lopez - Aye
  - c) Discussion – None
- 17) Discussion of Mission and Vision Statements + Strategic Plan; Dr. Meg Cavalier laid out the work that the board and school has done around crafting the Mission and Vision Statement as well as the phrases that different stakeholders brought forth to the school; The SPCS school board commits to creating a sub-committee that will create a draft of the mission and vision statements to present next month to the board. Sky, Dayan & Maria volunteered from the Board, Justin and Jaclyn will join from the school.
- 18) Approval of Parking License Agreement with LMC; LMC will provide 21 additional flex parking spaces - Dayan, seconded by Maria.
- a) Michael Dorner – Aye
  - b) Sky Davey - Aye

- c) Discussion – Maria asked if there will be a parking passes for staff.
- 19) SPCS Annual FY23 IQS Review; Dr. Meg Cavalier provided the Annual IQS Review results to the board, indicating strengths and areas of improvement. The largest area of improvement was around School Performance.
- 20) Announcements – None
- 21) Motion to Adjourn – Dayan, seconded by Maria.
  - a) Michael Dorner – Aye
  - b) Sky Davey - Aye
  - c) Discussion – None

Meeting Adjourned at 6:58 pm

Submitted respectfully by Esteban Rodriguez-Hefty