

School Board Candidate Questionnaire

School Board candidates were asked to answer the following Yes/No Questions

The Saint Paul Federation of Teachers believes that parents, educators, and community members and students should be at the center of decision making around educational policy. However, there has been an increase in money from out of state millionaires with a vested interest in pursuing a corporate education reform agenda, removing local voices from discussions about our children’s education.

Will you and your campaign reject contributions and independent expenditures from wealthy donors who live outside our community and from market-based education reform organizations?

Candidate	Yes	No	Undecided	Declined to Answer	Questionnaire Not Returned
Eduardo Barrera	X				
Tony Fragnito	X				
Marny Xiong	X				
Director Jeannie Foster	X				
Director Chue Vue					X

Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) is currently facing a budget shortfall. This is a major obstacle for expanding initiatives like restorative practices that help us address the racial equity gap. In addition to identifying new funding mechanisms, SPFT believes we must ask for support from residents for our public schools in the form of a funding referendum increase in 2018.

Will you as a board member endorse, support, and campaign for this referendum increase?

Candidate	Yes	No	Undecided	Declined to Answer	Questionnaire Not Returned
Eduardo Barrera	X				
Tony Fragnito	X				
Marny Xiong	X				
Director Jeannie Foster	X				
Director Chue Vue					X

The Twin Cities has been named one of the best places to live, yet many of our residents - particularly in communities of color - struggle to make ends meet, often working two or more jobs and struggling with little or no benefits. Many labor and community organizations have championed a \$15 minimum wage and earned safe and sick time, issues that affect SPFT staff, parents, and community members.

Will you and your campaign support and endorse a \$15 minimum wage, rejecting carve-outs and tip penalties, and earned safe and sick time for all workers?

Candidate	Yes	No	Undecided	Declined to Answer	Questionnaire Not Returned
Eduardo Barrera	X				
Tony Fragnito	X				
Marny Xiong	X				
Director Jeannie Foster	X				
Director Chue Vue					X

Do you support collective bargaining for public sector unions?

Candidate	Yes	No	Undecided	Declined to Answer	Questionnaire Not Returned
Eduardo Barrera	X				
Tony Fragnito	X				
Marny Xiong	X				
Director Jeannie Foster	X				
Director Chue Vue					X

Will you abide by your political party endorsement?

Candidate	Yes	No	Undecided	Declined to Answer	Questionnaire Not Returned
Eduardo Barrera	X				
Tony Fragnito	X				
Marny Xiong	X				

Director Jeannie Foster	X				
Director Chue Vue					X

School Board Candidates were also asked to respond to the following essay-style questions.

1. What is the value of public education for you and for the city of Saint Paul?

Eduardo Barrera: The value is immeasurable. A public education system serving and reaching all segments of the population is invaluable. It was created with the purpose of engaging parents, educators and the general public to educate our children as well as to share the cost of having an educated population to serve the needs of the community in general. Having an educated population benefits not only those who receive the education but those who need an educated society to serve their fellow citizens. As a father of children in St. Paul Public Schools, I appreciate the work that parents, teachers, community members, administrators and policy makers do to maintain and defend the education system to serve all children in Saint Paul. For the city of Saint Paul, having an educated population creates opportunities for intellectual as well as economic vibrancy. If our children succeed the city succeeds, meaning that everyone living in Saint Paul succeeds

Tony Fragnito: As a whole, our public schools are educating and developing our future teachers, doctors, lawyers, business people, and community leaders, I want a strong future we need to educate and train our youth. Public schools are the foundation for our community's youth to reach their full potential. A quality public education system creates an educated quality workforce, which in turn creates jobs because major employers want a quality work force. The best way to help kids get out of poverty is through education. It is our responsibility to provide a quality public education for ALL students.

Marny Xiong: As a child of immigrant parents who spoke little English, my Saint Paul education was the only place of hope and opportunity beyond my parent's encouragement to go to school. I believe that public education is the core of our democracy and it is a basic human right since education is the foundation that shapes a person's learning, thought process, values, and hope. I know this first handed because my public education in Saint Paul, at Longfellow Humanities Magnet, was where I learned the histories of civil right leaders in the US, histories of the forgotten Hmong people during Secret War in Laos, and the histories of empires, kings, and queens that shaped my hopes and dreams to want to create a better world to live in. When people receives a high value public education, we can begin to expect a prospering city with high living standards for everyone.

Director Jeannie Foster: Public schools are one of this country's greatest assets. We must protect it, preserve it and grow it. Our public schools provide universal access to all our children and are meant to guarantee access to education for all children in our communities. We owe our future leaders, teachers, business partners, teachers, nurses, etc., the opportunity to free quality public education.

Director Vue's response has not yet been received.

2. SPPS has a diverse student population, with over 75% of students identifying as People of Color. Parents and educators agree that in order for students to be successful, we must have culturally competent curricula and educators that reflect the diversity of our city. People of Color graduating college often choose professions other than teaching – in part due to the prohibitive costs of higher education. The scarcity of educators of color means that many are often quickly recruited into administrative positions, leaving our classrooms lacking the diversity our students need.

- a. Will you support the language in our Educational Assistant’s contract, which provides support for EAs to become licensed teachers? How would you strengthen this grow-your-own program?**
- b. Data shows that our city and our schools are becoming more segregated. Segregation and poverty are harmful to all of us, especially our students and their families. How will you use the district’s funds to address segregation to reverse this trend? How will you hold the Superintendent accountable to combatting segregation?**

Eduardo Barrera:

- (a)** I would not only support the language in the grow-your-own-program but I would work together with administrators and union leaders to strengthen the language to motivate, encourage and expand the support for EAs of color to become licensed teachers.
- (b)** Segregation and poverty are products of decades of disenfranchisement, disinvestment and lack of economic opportunities for so many. I would work with parents, teachers, and the superintendent to open up and partner with other organizations in the community to address and implement anti-poverty initiatives to help our children’s families.

Regarding the budget, I will analyze the current financial priorities of the district to determine how those priorities match the needs of the student population. If adjustments need to be made, I will work hard with my fellow board members, administrators, teachers and union leaders to re-adjust the budget to reflect those needs. Additionally, I will leverage the district budget and work with other organizations (non-profits and philanthropic) to support programming, services and extracurricular activities that are crucial for our children and their families – always within the framework of what is best for our children.

Tony Fragnito:

- (a)** It is important that we offer opportunity to our staff for advancement. If educational assistants are looking to further their education and stay in the St. Paul Public Schools we need to encourage it. Fewer young adults are going into teaching, especially in the inner city schools. It is better to hire from within and utilize the dollars we have already spent training.
- (b)** I will work to make sure every opportunity to better our schools, our community, and our kids ability to reach their full potential is explored.

Marny Xiong:

- (a) Yes, I would support language to support EAs to be a track to become licensed staff. I believe an opportunity to strengthen the grow-your-own program is to build partnerships with local universities and college institutions to allow staff to become students of their education programs. Another opportunity to strengthen this program is to fully fund and retain EAs in our district and market their pathways to become a licensed staff.
- (b) We live in scarier times right now with the Trump administration and public education on the chopping block. What we need is unity, not division. I will work with SPFT, community members, students, and staff to identify and reverse barriers, practices, and policies that perpetuates cycles of segregation in our district. We cannot turn our clocks back 60 years to repeat segregation in our community again. We cannot limit a school institution to only the students living in its proximity, especially in areas where schools are doing better and attracting highly qualified teachers. In addition, I will use the Integration Funds allocated from the state to support the lowest achieving schools to better enhance the education opportunities in their schools. I will ensure that anti-segregation is on the Superintendent's performance review. In addition, I will work in partnership with the Superintendent to educate and hold that person accountable to reverse and prevent harmful policies in our district.

Director Jeannie Foster:

- (a) I believe SPPS has the capacity to work collaboratively to bring this to fruition. Working with the SPFT, Superintendent, Board, staff, teachers, EA's and the many educational institutions we have in St. Paul that can support this moving forward. We have to acknowledge the need, plan, and begin the process of growing our own.
- (b) I would work with SPFT, Administration, Board and the community to establish priorities and set shared goals. Holding the Superintendent accountable by reviewing data trends and having meetings that allow back and forth feedback about strategies that are being implemented across the district are essential. We have to look at access, bussing and find new revenue streams to support our community schools. These are questions as a new Board member I am asking and seeking clarity to move forward. As the new Superintendent comes on board I expect he/she will play a critical role in reversing this trend.

Director Vue's response has not yet been received.

3. SPPS is entering a transitional moment with the hiring of a new Superintendent. Many parents, educators and students have raised concerns regarding the past relationships between the board and superintendents.

- a. **It is the role of the Board of Education to provide direction, supervision and accountability for the Superintendent. How will you embrace these responsibilities?**
- b. **What three issues do you believe should be the top priority of our new Superintendent**

Eduardo Barrera:

(a) I am eager to join the board and bring my experience as a father, immigrant, and professional experience with of almost 20 years working in this community. The board must establish clear directives and policies and support the Superintendent to reach the goals of those directives and policies.

(b) The Budget, Achievement Gap, Enrollment

Tony Fragnito:

(a) I have experience hiring and managing an executive director as well as managing people in my every day job. The superintendent works for the school board, period; the direction comes from the board. As a board member, I will build a relationship with the superintendent and keep communication open in order to move initiatives forward. As one board member, I cannot direct the superintendent, but we as a board will set priorities, and metrics to measure results.

(b) *School enrollment-* we must market our schools better. The St. Paul Pioneer Press will put us on the front page if we have a fight, but when our own OWL is the only intercity school to qualify for the state archery tournament not so much as a mention. I will push to market our district in a positive way to the public. This in turn will make families feel more safe at a St. Paul Public School.

Create a safe and supportive environment to work and learn in- we do this by embracing and innovating the restorative practices model into all of our buildings and properly training ALL staff on it. If we staff our buildings properly with support staff, nurses, and councilors, we will be able to meet the needs of our most needy students.

Balance the budget- balancing the budget is a very difficult process and many hard choices will need to be made. The new superintendent will need to be creative and willing to make tough decisions. The person selected will need to be able to sell the public on a new levy, must be open to creating partnerships with the business community to raise funds, lobby the legislature to change the formula for public schools, and make the hard decisions.

Marny Xiong:

(a) I am someone who cares about the outcome and results because that is the only way to impact and change institutional racist policies. Therefore, I will provide direction, supervision and accountability to ensure the Superintendent meets their goals and expectations.

(b) *Build and restore* safe and healthy learning environments for students and teachers. All students need safe learning environments that encourages them to excel in their education and achieve their academic aspirations. Educators and staff deserve the upmost respect and should work in environments that are safe and fosters their professionalism to inspire those they teach.

Increase enrollment: Recruit and retain families in our district to increase enrollment. We can do this by engaging communities and families authentically and in culturally sensitive manner. In addition, we need to fully fund culturally

relevant programs that fit the needs and expectations that parents seek for their child's education.

Unify our school district to rebuild and restore healthy relationships and work environments across all levels of our public-school system

Director Jeannie Foster:

- (a) As a current board member, I take this obligation very seriously. The BOE will work directly with the Superintendent and provide accountability for this person. We need back and forth dialogue; data, and we need to build trust. We need ongoing checks and balances for this person and his/her staff.
- (b) Enrollment, Equity, Budget/Revenue

Director Vue's response has not yet been received.

4. Across the Twin Cities, more and more students are choosing to “opt-out” of standardized testing. Recent reporting by MPR, MinnPost and the Saint Paul Pioneer Press suggest that testing is costly, time consuming and does not provide useful information for educators.

- a. **What is the appropriate use of data from standardized test and interim assessments? What changes would you recommend? Please comment on the use of standardized tests and interim assessments in high stakes decisions such as school closure and staffing.**
- b. **How will you support parents and educators in the “opt-out” movement?**

Eduardo Barrera:

- (a) Decision-making based only on standardized test data is a disservice to the population. Data should be use in conjunction with other assessment tools in order to have a good understanding of the progress made by students. Standardized test data should not be the sole driver of decisions. Once I have an opportunity to see what instruments the district is using to assess progress and proficiency of the student population, I would discuss changes to improve this process.
- (b) I would support parents and educators by engaging them in discussions on how to improve the standardized testing system as well as to find innovative alternatives and expand the assessment tool-kit we currently use.

Tony Fragnito:

- (a) Standardized tests are skewed and do not give a complete picture of how a child is progressing. I believe in many cases teachers are forced to teach students how to take the test rather than how to problem solve and think on their own. Standardized tests should never be used in assessing anything except how a child did on that test on that day. How a class does on a standardized test is NOT a way to measure a teachers performance or how intelligent a student is.

My recommendation is we do not use the tests. Instead, we should push for legislation allowing school districts as a whole to opt out.

(b) I will work to make it easier for parents to opt out.

Marny Xiong:

(a) Test scores does not tell the entire story about our student's academic achievements. I will consult with SPFT leadership before making high stake decisions that affects closure and staffing.

(b) I will meet with parents and educators and ask them how they want to be supported.

Director Jeannie Foster:

(a) I believe the appropriate use of standardized tests is to gauge achievement so we can target learning and identify areas for growth and development. However, I have an issue with standardized tests because they do not engage the whole child. They are a small measure of a child's growth and development. There are always other hidden influences that affect a child's success on a given day (i.e.: bad days, sleepy, test anxiety, stress at home, etc.). Additionally, tests are not culturally responsive. To use standardized testing as decision makers for school closure and termination of staff is unfair to staff, schools, children and our community as a whole.

(b) I'd like to learn more and explore other formative measures that may be able to better evaluate our students' progress. I also see the value in teachers' efforts to understand what the kids are learning, guide classroom instruction and I believe we must better value what teachers and parents can do to help kids learn and grow.

Director Vue's response has not yet been received.

5. Brain research shows the importance of stimulation starting at birth. Quality day care and pre-school programs staffed by trained educators are critical to helping children to be school ready.

- a. **How will you partner with SPFT to insure that all families have access to quality Pre-K programs in our city?**
- b. **New research shows that many Minnesotans live in child-care deserts without adequate access to childcare options. How will you work with SPFT to provide additional early-learning options for parents?**

Eduardo Barrera:

(a) Access to quality Pre-K services in our city depends on resources being available to serve this population. I would work together with the SPTF, parents and the district leadership to advocate with the state and federal legislators and agencies to allocate resources for these critical developmental services to our early childhood population. Additionally, I will work to find additional support and resources from non-government entities to fund and provide these services.

- (b) There are successful certification programs to train and assist individuals that want to establish child care centers. I will work with fellow board members and the administration to direct the Superintendent for the district to execute an environmental scan of those programs and engage community members who may be interested in being trained to establish quality child care in Saint Paul neighborhoods and partner with those training organizations.

Tony Fragnito:

- (a) Pre-K programs are a must in our city. I fully support every child having a pre-k program available to them.
- (b) I believe anytime you can get families involved early in the child's learning process you have a better chance of success. I am willing to look at all options to get families involved with the schools at an early stage. If we do this, and the experience is positive, we are more likely to keep the family in the school.

Marny Xiong:

- (a) I will ensure that SPFT is inclusive of all families across race, language, income and geographic to know and have access to the Pre-K programs.
- (b) I will work in partnership with SPFT to promote current childcare options to families, and build new partnerships with diverse community organizations to provide additional early-learning options for parents.

Director Jeannie Foster:

- (a) I am passionate about early childhood and pre-k. St. Paul has many children who are currently not being served. I will partner with SPFT and our early childhood community. We have a wonderful opportunity to work with childcare partners, our child care resource, referral agencies and our current Mayor and Governor support the pre-k. We need to tap into their energy around support and gain some commitments.
- (b) This will take working collaboratively and creatively within our community. I would bring the experts to the table. Affordability and access are the two biggest factors as parents typically want to bring their children to a child-care center close to home. I am very interested in how we, as a district, can work to provide early-learning opportunities within our own system that can be feeders for pre-k and kindergarten.

Director Vue's response has not yet been received.

6. Saint Paul is home to diverse communities, including many newcomers to the United States. SPPS plays a large role in helping newcomers feel welcome in their new city, while still valuing and retaining strong cultural ties.

- a. **How will you use your position on the Board of Education to prioritize support for English Learners, especially for newcomers and their families? What steps will you take to increase family engagement? What policy recommendations do you have for English Learners at the district level?**

- b. ***How will you work to protect immigrant students and their families in the face of a hostile federal government?***

Eduardo Barrera:

- (a) I would use my position on the Board to: increase outreach to community members, focusing on specific populations; increase the number of EAs and teachers who can relate to and are familiar with supporting ELL families; and, expand support for students to adapt to the district and be successful in integrating to the school system.

The district must relate to populations the district currently serves, primarily by having staff and leadership who are reflective of the cultural and linguistic characteristics of the populations. It is important to have the district's workforce reflect the district's demographics and reach out to specific communities. (*The district should*) Eliminate assumptions that are still prevalent in the system, such as using last names to pre-determine who is "catalogued" under this population, reassess the intake process currently used to identify ELL-needed population, and, increase responsiveness and include an "on the street" workforce for ELL communities.

- (b) I believe that the district should be more vocal about reassuring families and children attending SPPS that the SPPS will do everything possible to keep our children safe and protect access to information about our families from entities that have demonstrated hostility towards our children and their families. Inform and educate our own school population about our responsibility to protect all children in the SPPS.

Tony Fragnito:

- (a) I will continue to push for proper staffing in our buildings. The only way we can support those most in need is with proper staffing. We need to make sure all of our buildings are staffed to meet the needs of the students. As a board member, I will make sure we are maximizing our dollars to support our most needy. In many cases, we have no idea what this immigrant child has been through, so we need to make sure we are providing the emotional support, as well as education to empower these students.

Family engagement is an important function of our schools. I will continue to support funding different programs to keep families involved, especially families of color. Kids with engaged families have a higher success rate and our goal is to have every child be successful.

- (b) We have a responsibility to be a voice for those who cannot always speak for themselves. I have taught my kids that they must stand up for what they believe in and for those who live in fear of being deported.

I will fight to create safe and supportive schools for all students. The best way to help immigrant families is to educate and empower them to fight for themselves, but we can't stop there we must also stand with them and support them. As a second generation born in America, I understand and will continue to preach, "We are all immigrants."

Marny Xiong:

- (a) I believe that the success story for our ELL department is when our ELL students graduate, or are promoted out of ELL into general education. I will work to ensure all students across the district have access to ELL programs and work with the ELL department to promote the program in diverse communities. I will work with teachers and staff at the district to develop policies to enhance our ELL work across the district.
- (b) As the child of immigrant refugee parents, I know the experience of feeling isolated when a government does not listen to you and this is why I have been working my whole life to protect immigrants, people of color, and underrepresented communities. My track record shows that I have always been a champion for the communities listed.

Director Jeannie Foster:

- (a) I will help set and reinforce clear expectations that a level at which a student enters the district does not matter. All students, including ELL and refugee students, are entitled to the same services, support system and education. As a district, we must send a clear message that we value all of our families. We need to get an understanding of how families are best engaged. We must try a variety of activities including, home visits and meetings and events in the neighborhood and at a variety of times. After talking with the Parent Engagement team, I have suggested a survey in all languages that ask how parents want and/or can be involved in school and school activities, and what challenges/barriers do families makes it hard.

ELL students come with their own unique needs. I would use research and evidence based practices to guide and make decisions. We need different opportunities for students to demonstrate their knowledge, interest and abilities. I strongly recommend that ELL and refugee students be tested in their home language as testing as a concept is not always familiar to many other cultures. I also recommend whenever possible that that a child be placed in a classroom with children who reflect their culture and whenever possible that the primary teacher reflects the majority of the home language spoken in a classroom.

- (b) We must openly acknowledge our belief as a district to protect our children from fear and harm by setting clear policies on our stance, and by working with teachers, staff, children and families. It's one thing to set a policy--but another to reassure and serve our children who have a heightened anxiety and/or are living in fear daily. We must explain what it means to be a Sanctuary School and talk about how it looks, and show that he adults are committed.

Director Vue's response has not yet been received.

7. SPPS and the City of Saint Paul presently do business with institutions that engage in practices that destabilize our community through predatory lending practices, investing in private prisons, and corporate tax avoidance. Additionally, TIF Districts (Tax Increment Financing) have been created in a way that disproportionately enriches corporations and big banks. Currently 30% of properties, including many of the most valuable pieces of land in the city, pay no taxes to the city of Saint Paul, placing a heavy burden on our families. These practices lead to economic injustice and racial discrimination.

- a. **How will you use your role on the Board of Education to make sure that the largest corporations in Saint Paul pay their fair share?**
- b. **Predatory lending practices increase foreclosure rates, placing our families and students at risk. Will you join with SPFT and SPPS in calling on banks to mitigate the impacts of foreclosures during the school year? What steps will you take to distance SPPS from institutions that participate in predatory lending?**
- c. **Will you work with SPFT to ask Saint Paul's wealthiest non-profits to pay their fair share and institute a Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) Program that benefits our public schools?**
- d. **As a Director, will you commit to working with SPFT to seek the revenue we need to have racially equitable schools?**

Eduardo Barrera:

- (a) My role as a board member will be, first and foremost, making sure that existing resources are allocated fairly and equitably among our schools. I will work with city and business leaders to support our school district via investments in our neighborhoods. I will encourage a vibrant economic vitality in our city that would allow the tax system to receive its appropriate share to support the education of our future generations.
- (b) I believe that predatory practices must be eradicated. I will advocate with financial institutions to use mitigation practices to avoid our children's families being foreclosed on at all times—not just during the school year. When someone is foreclosed on, it is not just the family and the financial institution who lose, but the entire community—including the school system because families are forced to drop out their children from the system, impacting children's education and certainly impacting the district's finances. Furthermore I will propose implementing a SPPS advocacy center in each school to protect and serve our children's families.
- (c) Absolutely. Whether we like it or not, times have changed and the economics of our system have changed. We need to continue raising financial support for our children's education and be creative and fair in re-evaluating the way we collect financial resources.
- (d) Absolutely.

Tony Fragnito:

- (a) We need a long-term plan to maintain our funding. I will work with city officials, legislators, and businesses to find a solution. I will work to show the benefits of a great public school system. Above and beyond this, I will work with these corporations on grants to enhance our schools. When our schools do well, we all do well.
- (b) SPPS is a big account for every financial institution they do business with. As a school board member, I would push my colleagues to make statements to the financial institutions we do business with, and if they continue negative practices,

we should move our accounts. I would also encourage the district to us locally owned banks and credit unions.

- (c) This is a viable option to continue working on, but it does not solve our immediate funding needs. I will certainly work with these non-profits to institute this initiative.
- (d) Racial Equities is an important initiative, and is very beneficial if staff is trained properly, and it is used as positive reinforcement. The only way for these programs to work is with proper funding and support. We should not be spending millions on out of state companies to run racial equity programs, we should be trying to partner with local non-profits to make sure these programs are meeting our students and staffs needs. Like any initiative there has to be benefits to all parties involved, and it can't be used as a litmus test for staff.

Marny Xiong:

- (a) I will advocate alongside SPFT at city hall to educate stakeholders and hold corporations accountable as our good neighbors to pay their fair share.
- (b) Yes. I will support policies that encourages SPPS to disinvest in corporations who are harmful to our community and encourages SPPS to invests only in corporations who are good neighbors.
- (c) Yes.
- (d) Yes.

Director Jeannie Foster:

- (a) It's time for others to do their part! As the new Superintendent comes on board, finding new revenue streams is imperative.
- (b) **YES.** We need to look at who and how we are doing business. If our families and district are being affected, we need to work for resolution or a work with different lenders.
- (c) **YES**
- (d) **YES**

Director Vue's response has not yet been received.

8. Teachers want to do their best and have many great ideas and solutions for ensuring all students can be successful but their voices are often not listened to.

What are your ideas to help teachers, in partnership with parents and community, have a voice in education policy so that their professional expertise and deep knowledge of each learner can best benefit our students?

Eduardo Barrera: I believe that for so long the district system has operated in a bubble. One item in my platform is to "open-up" the district to be more engaging, visible and accessible to all in Saint Paul. I will work with my fellow board members to support and

implement a board meeting policy in which committee meetings and board meetings circulate across the city to visit every school in our system. I will work with administration, and SPPS and other districts' teachers' leaders to have frequent, engaging discussions to learn from each other and to cultivate an amicable and respectful relationship focused on best practices to better serve our children.

Tony Fragnito: As a board member, I will continue to listen to teachers and other staff about the needs of our buildings. It is imperative that the people closest to our students be heard. Who knows more what is needed in a building than the staff that is there every day? As a board member, I will fight to have more autonomy in the buildings while maintaining high. Each building has different needs to help students succeed.

Marny Xiong: I am a community organizer and I bring people together all the time. I will listen to people and connect their interests across geographic areas to shape the education policies.

Director Jeannie Foster:

- Task forces have been beneficial when they have someone highly motivated to move them along. They can allow for integration of shared knowledge.
- St. Paul already has several parent groups/PAC's operating outside of the schools. Let's harness them and their energy!
- I suggest we work intentionally to bring a diverse and vested group of educators, parents and community members together and be open to their input.
- Many people do not know the policies that affect our schools. We need to do a better job communicating with the media and partners so more people are informed and can support the good work our teachers do.
- We need to offer more training opportunities for teachers and parents, especially around policy and advocating for our schools and our educational system. I believe teachers and families need to be the faces in the room when legislation that affects our schools is at the table.

Director Vue's response has not yet been received.