



SAINT PAUL FEDERATION
OF EDUCATORS LOCAL 28

January 17, 2023

Chair Vue, Vice Chair Kopp, Directors Allen, Ellis, Foster, Henderson and Ward,

SPFE leadership and SPFE members congratulate Director Ellis as the well-deserved recipient of the Minnesota School Board Association's Marny Xiong Legacy Award. Chair Xiong was a powerful voice for our students, and for SPPS families, and we know that you shared her vision, and will carry on her work.

Governor Walz is scheduled to release his spending plan, including [spending for public education](#) today, January 17, 2023. Combined with the [long list of pro-public education bills](#) already moving at the legislature, our public schools are seeing the support they deserve. The work that SPFE and SPPS have done to bring legislators to SPPS buildings has played a role in defining a pro-public education budget. So far, no SPPS Board of Education Directors have been present for these tours. What is the plan for Directors to join us in seeking full funding?

While it is important the legislature finally fully fund public education, it is imperative that SPPS craft a plan to address our decade-long problem of declining enrollment and retention of students and educators. What recommendations has the Board made to SPPS administration to welcome BIPOC and immigrant families into SPPS? Has the Board directed SPPS to create a long-term recruitment plan? What funding has the Board directed SPPS to spend on enrollment? How will the Board ensure that future enrollment committees are reflective of our public school community?

SPFE is a member-driven education union. We strive to be transparent with our members, and the families we serve. We are often asked how and what we communicate to the district, and, specifically, to the SPPS Board of Education. As part of our commitment to transparency, our Board Report will be made available, as will any response from the SPPS Board of Directors.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leah VanDassor', written in a cursive style.

Leah VanDassor
President, Saint Paul Federation of Educators

cc: Dr. Joe Gothard, Superintendent
Jackie Turner, Chief Operations Officer
Andrew Collins, Chief of Schools

From: Halla Henderson (redacted)
Subject: Re: Board Report
Date: January 17, 2023 at 7:40:58 PM CST
To: Leah VanDassor <president@spfe28.org>

Hi Leah,

Thank you for the update. I'd love to participate in the tours and I was disappointed that I was unable to attend all the meetings and tours that Mary Gilbert had set up before she left. If there are separate actions that SPFE is hosting, I would very much like to participate. If I've missed something, I apologize, and I'm always willing and interested in supporting where I can.

As a side note, are you able to include my halla.henderson@spps.org email rather than the current one for future reports? It's my personal inbox and I'd love to keep board correspondence there. Thank you for all that you do and I look forward to exploring the questions above with my fellow board members.

- Halla Henderson