



South St. Paul School Board - Committee-of-the-Whole
Monday, February 22, 2021 5:00 PM
Location: CITY HALL
125 THIRD AVENUE NORTH
South St Paul, Minnesota 55075

Agenda

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| I. | 5:00 - 5:20 PM BUDGET (D. Webb and A. Bushberger) | |
| | A. 2021-22 Budget Guiding Change Document | 2 |
| II. | 5:20 - 5:45 PM COVID-19 (D. Webb) | |
| | A. Learning Model Update | 4 |



SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Agenda Item

Meeting Date: February 22, 2021

Place on Agenda: Committee-of-the-Whole and Regular Business Item

Action Requested: Approval

Attachment: Guiding Change Document – 2021-22 Budget

Topic: Guiding Change Document – 2021-22 Budget
Presenter(s): Dave Webb, Superintendent and Aaron Bushberger, Finance Director
<p>Background:</p> <p>A Guiding Change Document is a tool used by boards to identify parameters for administration to use while they are preparing a recommendation to go before the School Board.</p> <p>The Guiding Change Framework defines three critical components, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Results (<i>What is our goal?</i>) - define the desired outcomes in terms of vision for the future and benefit to the district • Current Reality (<i>What are our current conditions?</i>) - define the current conditions of the district and its environment in terms of the strategic plan, external/internal influences and trends, and data, facts and perceptions • Unacceptable Means (<i>What will we not do?</i>) - define the few, high-level approaches, behaviors or intentions that the district will not engage in to achieve the desired results <p>This framework takes an “end-in-view” approach in which a single result is not predetermined therefore promoting the development of a variety of options.</p> <p>As you are aware, last spring we made many difficult decisions to achieve our \$4,000,000 of budget reductions. As we are now in the process of the working through an additional \$2,000,000 of budget reductions this spring, we are again faced with extremely difficult decisions that could impact our programming and personnel district-wide. While we will follow your direction in the guiding change document, we will also seek to further clarify your vision points. Unfortunately, with these additional reductions, on top of last year’s reductions, I believe every area of our district will again be impacted.</p> <p>At our meeting on Monday evening, we will continue to discuss and finalize the document prior to the its approval at the regular business meeting.</p>
Recommendation: Approval
Alternatives: N/A



GUIDING CHANGE: 2021-22 Budget

Context & Reality <i>"The Why"</i>	Unacceptable Means <i>"The Not-How"</i>	Results <i>"The What"</i>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District Mission and Vision. 2. State funding has not kept pace with inflation, and is not projected to keep pace. 3. Additional Operating Levy was approved in Nov. 2017 for ten years. The levy generates about \$1.3 million annually. 4. Despite the District's net gain in open enrollment, overall enrollment has decreased each of the past four years. 5. Expenditures are projected to exceed revenues resulting in deficit spending. 6. 80% of costs are salaries and benefits. 7. State and federal special education funding is not keeping pace with program costs. 8. School Board is required to establish budget by July 1, 2021. 9. District has completed a school start time study indicating a need for a later secondary start time. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Violate law, financial regulations, contracts or agreements. 2. Recommend budget changes that do not address financial sustainability and expected outcomes. 3. The District will not substantially reduce the following programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts programs • College and Career Readiness • Student support 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Align budget to District Mission, Vision, Strategic Directions, and District Goals. 2. Establish a budget that considers fund balance policy established by the Board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board will commit to reviewing the fund balance policy to determine if changes are necessary. 3. Maintains quality programming and services. 4. Considers additions, reductions and redesign. 5. Recruit and retain students. 6. Efficient and effective use of resources through ongoing evaluation of current services and programs. 7. Implementation of priority actions of District Strategic Roadmap and Operational Plans. 8. Equity in all that we do. 9. Consider for school year 2021-2022 taking action regarding implementation of late start for secondary



SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Agenda Item

Meeting Date: February 22, 2021

Place on Agenda: Committee-of-the-Whole

Action Requested: None

Attachment: None

Topic: School Learning Model Update

Presenter(s): Superintendent Dave Webb

Background:

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) and the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) worked in partnership with school districts across the state this fall to set a base learning model to start the school year with. It was determined that school districts would use the MDE’s county case rate chart below as a starting point to decide which learning model to start the school year in.

School Learning Models/County Case Rate Ranges	
In-person learning for all students	0 to less than 10
Elementary in-person, Middle/High School hybrid	10 to less than 20
Both Elementary and Middle/High School hybrid	20 to less than 20
Elementary hybrid, Middle/High School distance learning	30 to less than 50
Elementary and Middle/High School distance learning	50 or more

SSPPS chose to begin the school year in the hybrid learning model with a four-week soft opening. In November, county cases started trending upward. SSPPS leaders met with their Regional Support Team and Dakota County Public Health and made the difficult decision to transition from hybrid district-wide to distance learning district-wide.

With the evolving knowledge and understanding of the COVID-19, Governor Walz announced on December 16 that early learning programs and elementary schools do not need to adhere only to county data to determine learning models. Because young children are less susceptible to serious complications from COVID-19, preschool and elementary schools could begin transitioning to a full in-person learning model as long as they meet presented guidelines.

SSPPS leaders began working through the new guidance from the state and determined they could safely transition preschool and elementary students back to full in-person learning. State guidelines allow the return of no more than three K-5 grade levels at one time in a two-week period.

On February 1, SSPPS transitioned PreK -grade 2 students to full in-person learning while students in grades 3-5 remained in distance learning until their transition to full in-person on February 16.

On February 5, SSPPS shared with families that students in grades 6-12 would transition to hybrid at the beginning of trimester 3 on March 17.

On February 17, Governor Walz announced that middle and high schools could move to full in-person as long as they meet a number of additional safety protocols. At this time, district leaders are continuing to sort through the Governor's new direction and determine what it could mean for SSPPS.

Recommendation: None.

Alternatives: