



South St. Paul School Board - Committee-of-the-Whole

Monday, August 22, 2022 5:00 PM

Location: Fleming Field Airport

1725 Henry Avenue

South St. Paul, MN 55075

Agenda

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



SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Agenda Item

Meeting Date: Monday, August 22, 2022

Place on Agenda: Committee-of-the-Whole (discussion)
Regular Agenda (action)

Action Requested: Approval

Attachment: Proposed 2023 Health, Dental & Other Insurance Rates

Topic: Proposed 2023 Health & Dental Insurance Rates

Presenter(s): Joel Milteer, Director of Human Resources and Brady Hoffman, Director of Finance

Background:

In 2017 we moved to a self-insured plan for dental insurance and in 2018 for health insurance, with rates determined annually by the district. A key component of a self-insured plan is to build and maintain an adequate reserve to ensure funds are available to offset fluctuating costs.

Based on analysis of claims history, expected future claims and the need to continue to maintain our reserve account for payment of claims; administration recommends no change in rates and approval of the proposed 2023 health and dental insurance rates presented. Additional information regarding this recommendation is listed below:

- We have reached our reserve fund goal.
- The chart below illustrates health & dental rate changes since moving to self-insured plans.

Year	Health Self-Insured % of Rate Change	Dental Self-Insured % of Rate Change
2017	--	0%
2018	8%	0%
2019	8%	0%
2020	8%	0%
2021	0%	0%
2022	0%	0%
2023 Proposed	0%	0%

- The proposed 2023 health, dental and other ancillary insurance rates are attached.

The recommendation for the 2023 health & dental insurance rates were shared with the district’s insurance committee.

Recommendation:

Administration recommends approval of the proposed 2023 health, dental and ancillary insurance premium rates.

Alternatives:

Do not approve and direct administration with next steps

South St. Paul Schools

Proposed 2023 Health and Dental Insurance Rates

Health Insurance

Coverage Type	\$500-\$35 Deductible Plan Annual Rate	\$1500-\$35 Deductible Plan Annual Rate	\$2800-80% HSA Plan Annual Rate
Single	\$10,383.68	\$9,367.88	\$7,717.94
Single + One	\$21,878.16	\$19,737.95	\$16,261.43
Family	\$29,541.28	\$26,651.46	\$21,957.22

Dental Insurance

Coverage Type	Annual Rate
Single	\$612.00
Family	\$1,587.12

2022-2023 Ancillary Insurance Rates (The Standard)

Basic Life & AD&D Insurance Rates

Plan	Rates/\$1,000
Basic Life	\$0.090
Basic AD&D	\$0.020

Voluntary Life & AD&D Insurance Rates

Age Range	Employee Rate per \$1,000
<25	\$0.05
25-29	\$0.05
30-34	\$0.06
35-39	\$0.08
40-44	\$0.10
45-49	\$0.15
50-54	\$0.23
55-59	\$0.43
60-64	\$0.52
65-69	\$0.96
70+	\$1.97
AD&D Rate	\$0.02

Long-Term Disability Insurance Rate

Long Term Disability	Rate
LTD Rate/\$100 of Covered Payroll	\$.0.320



SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Agenda Item

Meeting Date: August 22, 2022

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

Action Requested: Approval

Attachment: Resolution Relating to the Election of School Board Members and Calling the School District General Election

Topic: School Board Elections
Presenter(s): Dr. Brian Zambreno, Superintendent of Schools
<p>Background:</p> <p>The filing period for the four open school board seats closed on Tuesday, August 16. The <i>Resolution Relating to the Election of School Board Members and Calling the School District General Election</i> will go before the School Board for approval on Monday evening. This resolution officially calls for the School District to hold its general election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, for the purpose of electing four (4) school board members for terms of four (4) years each and directs the School Board Clerk to begin the completing the details legally required for said election.</p>
<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Recommendation to approve the <i>Resolution Establishing Dates for Filing Affidavits of Candidacy</i> and the <i>Resolution Relating to the Election of School Board Members and Calling the School District General Election</i>.</p>
<p>Alternatives:</p> <p>N/A</p>

EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING
OF SCHOOL BOARD
OF SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6
(SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS)
STATE OF MINNESOTA

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the School Board of Special School District No. 6 (South St. Paul Public Schools), State of Minnesota, was held in said School District on August 22, 2022, at 6:00 o'clock p.m.

The following members were present:

Inspectors

and the following were absent:

Member _____ introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD
MEMBERS AND CALLING THE SCHOOL DISTRICT GENERAL
ELECTION**

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Special School District No. 6, State of Minnesota, as follows:

1. It is necessary for the School District to hold its general election for the purpose of electing four (4) school board members for terms of four (4) years each.
2. The general election is hereby called and directed to be held in conjunction with the State General Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.
3. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.11, the precincts and polling places for this general election are those polling places and precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the School District and which have been established by the cities or towns located in whole or in part within the School District. The voting hours at those polling places shall be the same as those for the State General Election.
4. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause written notice of said general election to be provided to the County Auditor of each county in which the School District is located, in whole or in part, at least seventy-four (74) days before the date of said election. The notice shall specify the date of said election and the office or offices to be voted on at said general election. Any notice given prior to the adoption of this resolution is ratified and confirmed in all respects.
5. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said general election to be posted for public inspection at the administrative offices of the School District at least ten (10) days before the date of said election.

6. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a sample ballot to be posted at the administrative offices of the School District at least four (4) days before the date of said election and to cause two sample ballots to be posted in polling places located within the School District on election day. The sample ballot shall not be printed on the same color paper as the official ballot. The sample ballot for a polling place must reflect the offices, candidates and rotation sequence on the ballots used in that polling place.

7. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said election to be published in the official newspaper of the School District, for two (2) consecutive weeks with the last publication being at least one (1) week before the date of the election. The notice of election so posted and published shall state the offices to be filled as set forth in the form of ballot below, and shall include information concerning each established precinct and polling place.

8. The Clerk is authorized and directed to acquire and distribute such election materials and to take such other actions as may be necessary for the proper conduct of this general election and generally to cooperate with state, city, township and county election authorities conducting the state general and other elections on that date. The Clerk and members of the administration are authorized and directed to take such actions as may be necessary to coordinate this election with those other elections, including entering into agreements or understandings with appropriate municipal and county officials regarding preparation and distribution of ballots, election administration and cost sharing.

9. The Clerk is further authorized and directed to cause ballots to be prepared for use at said election in substantially the following form, with such changes in form, color and instructions as may be necessary to accommodate an optical scan voting system:

[Form of Ballot on the Following Page]

General Election Ballot

Special School District No. 6 (South St. Paul Public Schools)

November 8, 2022

Instructions to Voters

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: ●.

School Board Member

Vote for Up to Four

- Bill Arend
- B.E. "Bernie" Beermann
- Colinda Blackbird
- Anne Claflin
- Brian Counihan
- Fred Everson
- Tim Felton
- Wendy Felton
- Deborah Franzen
- Kim Humann
- Gage E. Kemp
- Hugh Kenety

Jean Lubke

Michael Mathews

Jeff McClellan

Erica Petersen

Ted Pieper

Thomas Rongitsch

Nicole Scheiber

Pete Skwira

Ashley Wickenhauser-Greif

John Wilcox

write-in, if any

write-in, if any

write-in, if any

write-in, if any

10. Optical scan ballots must be printed in black ink on white material, except that marks to be read by the automatic tabulating equipment may be printed in another color ink. The name of the precinct and machine-readable identification must be printed on each ballot. Voting instructions must be printed at the top of the ballot on each side that includes ballot information. The instructions must include an illustration of the proper mark to be used to indicate a vote. Lines for initials of at least two election judges must be printed on one side of the ballot so that the judges' initials are visible when the ballots are enclosed in a secrecy sleeve.

11. The name of each candidate for office at each election shall be rotated with the names of the other candidates for the same office in the manner specified in Minnesota law.

12. If the School District will be contracting to print the ballots for this election, the clerk is hereby authorized and directed to prepare instructions to the printer for layout of the ballot. Before a contract in excess of \$1,000 is awarded for printing ballots, the printer shall, if requested by the election official, furnish, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 204D.04, a sufficient bond, letter of credit, or certified check acceptable to the clerk in an amount not less than \$1,000 conditioned on printing the ballots in conformity with the Minnesota election law and the instructions delivered. The Clerk shall set the amount of the bond, letter of credit, or certified check in an amount equal to the value of the purchase.

13. The individuals designated as judges for the State General Election shall act as election judges for this general election at the various polling places and shall conduct said election in the manner described by law. The election judges shall act as clerks of election, count the ballots cast and submit them to the School Board for canvass in the manner provided for other school district elections. The general election must be canvassed between the third and the tenth day following the general election.

14. The School District Clerk shall make all Campaign Financial Reports required to be filed with the School District under Minnesota Statutes, Section 211A.02 available on the School District's website. The Clerk must post the report on the School District's website as soon as possible, but no later than thirty (30) days after the date of the receipt of the report. The School District must make a report available on the School District's website for four years from the date the report was posted to the website. The Clerk must also provide the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board with a link to the section of the website where reports are made available.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by _____ and upon vote being taken thereon the following voted in favor

thereof:

and the following voted against the same:

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.



SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Agenda Item

Meeting Date: August 22, 2022

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

Action Requested: Approval

Attachment: Resolution

Topic: Operating Levy
Presenter(s): Dr. Brian Zambreno, Superintendent
Background: Over the past several months, the South St. Paul Public Schools administration and School Board have been reviewing the district's financial future as well the results from a recent community survey as it relates to the district's current operating levy. The conversation arose as part of discussions related to an ongoing gap in state funding as well as the end of one-time federal COVID funds and their implications on the district's fiscal future.
Recommendation: Approve the Resolution Relating to Revoking the Existing Referendum Revenue Authorization of the School District, Approving New Authorizations, and Calling an Election Thereon.
Alternatives: Do not approve the attached resolution and direct administration with next steps.

EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF MEETING
OF SCHOOL BOARD
OF SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 6
(SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS)
STATE OF MINNESOTA

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, a regular meeting of the School Board of Special School District No. 6 (South St. Paul Public Schools), State of Minnesota, was held in said School District on August 22, 2022, at 6:00 o'clock p.m.

The following members were present:

and the following were absent:

Member _____ introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

RESOLUTION RELATING TO REVOKING THE EXISTING REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT, APPROVING NEW AUTHORIZATIONS, AND CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION THEREON

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Special School District No. 6, State of Minnesota, as follows:

1. The School Board hereby determines and declares that it is necessary and expedient for the School District to revoke the School District's existing referendum revenue authorization of \$792.91 per adjusted pupil unit, and to replace that authorization with a new authorization of \$1,692.91 per adjusted pupil unit. As provided by law, the ballot question must abbreviate the term "per adjusted pupil unit" as "per pupil." The additional revenue will be used to finance school operations and the property tax portion thereof will require an estimated referendum tax rate of approximately 0.21995% of the referendum market value of the School District for taxes payable in 2023, the first year it is to be levied. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten (10) years and increase each year by the rate of inflation commencing with taxes payable in 2024 unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. For this purpose, the rate of inflation shall be the annual inflationary increase calculated under Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.17, subdivision 2(b). The question on the approval of this referendum revenue authorization shall be School District Question 1 on the School District ballot at the special election held to approve said authorization.

2. The School Board further determines and declares that it is also necessary and expedient for the School District to increase its general education revenue by \$250 per adjusted pupil unit. As provided by law, the ballot question must abbreviate the term "per adjusted pupil unit" as "per pupil." The additional revenue will be used to finance school operations and the property tax portion thereof will require an estimated referendum tax rate of approximately 0.03586% of the referendum market value of the School District for taxes payable in 2023, the first year it is to be levied. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten (10) years and increase each year by the rate of inflation commencing with taxes payable in 2024 unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. For this purpose, the rate of inflation shall be the annual inflationary increase calculated under Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.17, subdivision 2(b). The question on the approval of this referendum revenue authorization shall be School District Question 2 on the School District ballot at the special election held to approve said authorization. The passage of said School District Question 2 shall be contingent on the passage of School District Question 1 as described above and herein.

3. The ballot questions specified above shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the School District at a special election, which is hereby called and directed to be held in conjunction with the State General Election on Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

4. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.11, the precincts and polling places for this special election are those polling places and precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the School District and which have been established by the cities or towns located in whole or in part within the School District. The voting hours at those polling places shall be the same as those for the State General Election.

5. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause written notice of said special election to be provided to the County Auditor of each county in which the School District is located, in whole or in part, and the Commissioner of Education at least seventy-four (74) days before the date of said election. The notice shall specify the date of the election and the language for each ballot question to be voted on at the special election. Any notice given prior to the adoption of this resolution is ratified and confirmed in all respects.

6. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said special election to be posted for public inspection at the administrative offices of the School District at least ten (10) days before the date of said election.

7. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a sample ballot to be posted at the administrative offices of the School District at least four (4) days before the date of said special election and to cause two sample ballots to be posted in polling places located within the School District on election day. The sample ballot shall not be printed on the same color paper as the official ballot.

8. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said election to be published in the official newspaper of the School District, for two (2) consecutive weeks with the last publication being at least one (1) week before the date of the election. The notice of election so posted and published shall state each question to be submitted to the voters as set forth in the

form of the ballot below, and shall include information concerning each established precinct and polling place.

9. The Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a notice of the election to be mailed to each taxpayer in the School District at least fifteen (15) but no more than forty-five (45) days prior to the date of the special election. The notice shall contain the required projections and the required statement specified in Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.17, subdivision 9, paragraph (b). The Clerk is also directed to cause a copy of this notice to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education and to the County Auditor of each county in which the School District is located in whole or in part at least fifteen (15) days prior to the day of the election.

10. The Clerk is authorized and directed to acquire and distribute such election materials and to take such other actions as may be necessary for the proper conduct of this special election and generally to cooperate with state, city, township and county election authorities conducting the state general and other elections on that date. The Clerk and members of the administration are authorized and directed to take such actions as may be necessary to coordinate this election with those other elections, including entering into agreements or understandings with appropriate municipal and county officials regarding preparation and distribution of ballots, election administration and cost sharing.

11. The Clerk is further authorized and directed to cause ballots to be prepared for use at said election in substantially the following form, with such changes in form, color and instructions as may be necessary to accommodate an optical scan voting system:


[Form of Ballot on the Following Page]

Special Election Ballot

Special School District No. 6 (South St. Paul Public Schools)

November 8, 2022

Instructions to Voters

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this: .

To vote for a question, fill in the oval next to the word "Yes" on that question.
To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to the word "No" on that question.

School District Question 1 Revoking Existing Referendum Revenue Authorization; Approving New Authorization

The board of Special School District No. 6 (South St. Paul Public Schools) has proposed to revoke the school district's existing referendum revenue authorization of \$792.91 per pupil and to replace that authorization with a new authorization of \$1,692.91 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten years beginning with taxes payable in 2023 and increase each year by the rate of inflation beginning with taxes payable in 2024 unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

Yes

Shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of Special School District No. 6 be approved?

No

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU
ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

School District Question 2
Approval of Additional School District
Referendum Revenue Authorization

The board of Special School District No. 6 (South St. Paul Public Schools) has also proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$250 per pupil. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten years beginning with taxes payable in 2023 and increase each year by the rate of inflation beginning with taxes payable in 2024 unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

Yes

If School District Question 1 is approved, shall the increase in the revenue proposed by the board of Special School District No. 6 be approved?

No

**BY VOTING "YES" ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU
ARE VOTING FOR A PROPERTY TAX INCREASE.**

12. Optical scan ballots must be printed in black ink on white material, except that marks to be read by the automatic tabulating equipment may be printed in another color ink. The name of the precinct and machine-readable identification must be printed on each ballot. Voting instructions must be printed at the top of the ballot on each side that includes ballot information. The instructions must include an illustration of the proper mark to be used to indicate a vote. Lines for initials of at least two election judges must be printed on one side of the ballot so that the judges' initials are visible when the ballots are enclosed in a secrecy sleeve.

13. The individuals designated as judges for the State General Election shall act as election judges for this special election at the various polling places and shall conduct said election in the manner described by law. The election judges shall act as clerks of election, count the ballots cast and submit them to the School Board for canvass in the manner provided for other School District elections. The special election must be canvassed between the third and the tenth day following the special election.

14. The School District Clerk shall make all Campaign Financial Reports required to be filed with the School District under Minnesota Statutes, Section 211A.02 available on the School District's website. The Clerk must post the report on the School District's website as soon as possible, but no later than thirty (30) days after the date of the receipt of the report. The School District must make a report available on the School District's website for four years from the date the report was posted to the website. The Clerk must also provide the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board with a link to the section of the website where reports are made available.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly seconded by _____ and upon vote being taken thereon the following voted in favor thereof:

and the following voted against the same:

whereupon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Meeting Date: August 22, 2022
Place on Agenda: Committee-of-the-Whole
Action Requested: None.
Attachment: Information Sheets

Topic: Yondr Pouches
Presenter(s): Leah Bourg, Middle School Principal
<p>Background:</p> <p>The last couple of school years, we have been seeing increasing problems with cell phones in middle school. Staff have reported that students are sneaking use of cell phones and wireless headphones in class, leaving class for long periods of time to use devices in the restroom, receiving notifications (dings and vibrations) all through class.</p> <p>Teachers, parents, and students have reported a wide range of inappropriate use of cell phone behavior by students with cell phones in the school building. Staff have been spending a significant amount of time addressing the issues that have come from cell phones being used in the school building.</p> <p>In the Spring we started to reach out to Families through the Family Advisory Meetings, with staff presentations about the issues we were seeing and how we were struggling to solve those issues. We had 3 meetings from March through June where staff presented issues and we welcomed family input. Staff came to the conclusion that we needed to have cell phones completely put away, and that we needed help enforcing the rule with consistency. When we researched ways that other schools did that, we found this product: Yondr pouches.</p> <p>The Middle School will be using Yondr pouches as a tool to implement a policy that will help students be more engaged in learning. We will provide for student’s safety and security by giving them access to the landline phones in each room and in the office if they would like privacy.</p> <p>Each day when students come to school, they will place their phone and wearable technology into the pouch, and clasp it shut in their first hour class. They may carry it with them, or they may keep it in their locker. As they leave the building each day, or on their way to after-school activities, they will pass by a magnetic base and open their pouch.</p> <p>The pouches cost \$20 and we are asking families to purchase them because their students keep the pouch. If families don’t pay for the pouch, we will still issue the student a pouch, and pay for it from the capital budget. Additionally, the Dakota County SHIP grant indicated to us that this is something they would fund, but told us we would need to apply in October.</p> <p>At our committee-of-the-whole meeting on Monday evening, Principal Bourg will walk through the concerns around the learning disruption through the use of devices in our buildings and the the work to partner with staff and families on the solving these concerns.</p>
<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Alternatives:</p> <p>N/A</p>

Dear Parents,

We will be making our school a phone-free space to improve teaching and learning using a system called [Yondr](#). Yondr has been implemented in over 1,000 schools across 21 countries to facilitate an engaged learning environment.

We believe that phones have great utility. We have also found that learning and social behavior improve drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers and classmates.

The Yondr Program utilizes a simple, secure pouch that stores a phone and wearable technology including wireless headphones. Every student will secure their phone and wearable technology in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at school. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times.

Yondr recently surveyed over 900 school partners to measure the effects of creating phone-free educational environments. These schools achieved notable progress in multiple areas:

- **65% of schools saw an improvement in academic performance**
- **74% of schools saw an improvement in student behavior**
- **83% of schools saw an improvement in student engagement in the classroom**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school Principall directly at (651) 306-3659, or come to the Packer's Essential Events on August 18th or 22nd any time from 11am - 2pm or from 3 pm - 6 pm.

If there is an emergency and you would like to get in contact with your child, please reach out to the main office, Julian Stanke (Assistant Principal), or Leah Bourg (Principal) at (651) 457-9408.

In an effort to best serve your child, we appreciate your full support in adoption of the Yondr Program at our school.

Thank you,
Leah Bourg
Principal, South St. Paul Middle School
651-503-4846



How Yondr Works



POUCH

As a student enters school, they place their phone in their assigned Yondr pouch.



SECURE

The pouch is closed and secured. Each student keeps their pouch throughout the day.



EXIT

When leaving school, the student taps their pouch to an unlocking base to release their phone.

Frequently Asked Questions

What if I want to reach my child during the school day?

We want our students to be engaged in their learning. If you need to contact your child during the school day, contact the main office at (651) 457-9408.

What if there is a school emergency?

In case of a school emergency, we direct our students to safety first, following our school emergency preparedness protocol.

Will my student's phone be safe?

Students are in possession of their phone - in their Yondr pouch - for the entire school day. We will advise students to store the pouch in their backpacks where it is completely safe.

What if the Yondr pouch gets damaged or a student is caught on their phone?

The Yondr pouch is property of South St. Paul Middle School. If a student damages their Pouch or is caught on their phone, Administration will collect the phone/Pouch and call home:

- **The Phone will remain in the office until the parent picks it up**
- **AND/OR Consequences may include: Community Service and a replacement fee of \$20.00.**

Note: Damage consists of any signs that the physical integrity of the pouch has been compromised, whether intentional or unintentional, as determined by the school or Yondr staff.



What is the policy?

Every student needs to have a Yondr pouch to keep their phone, wireless headphones and smartwatch in during the day. Phones and wearable technology like wireless headphones and smartwatches are not to be used during school. Every student will have a personal Yondr Pouch. Students need to have their pouch in good working order in order to follow the rule. If students damage or lose their pouch, they will need to buy another pouch.

Once the phone, watch, and wireless headphones are in the pouch and the pouch is closed, students will not be able to open it until they leave for the day (2:30, or if they leave early through the office). Unlocking stations will be widely available upon dismissal and students will be able to quickly unlock their pouch and get to their bus, ride, or after school activities.

While in school, students may choose to keep the pouch with them in their backpack or in their locker.

Students will always be able to use the landline phones in their classrooms and in the office if they need to contact their families. They may ask for privacy while using the phone.

Families at home can get a message to their students at school by calling the office or by emailing their student's accounts. Students will be able to access their school email on their school issued Chromebook.

Why do I have to buy a pouch if my kid doesn't have a phone?

Many students who don't have a phone at the start of the year will get a phone or device sometime during the school year. It would be a very difficult job to determine who does or doesn't have a device.

The pouch is a tool to help students follow the policy and to help educators enforce the policy. It is important that every student has the tools to be successful. When every student starts the year with all the tools they need to be successful, there is less stress on students and staff.

Please talk to the Principal or Assistant Principal if the \$20 fee is a burden. We have a few ways to make this affordable and scholarships available. This is a program that we believe all students will benefit from. One student's cell phone has the potential to distract a whole classroom of students. We are asking everyone to participate in removing the distractions by paying this fee. If you can't pay the fee, just let us know.

Leah Bourg, Principal- 651-507-4846

Julian Stanke, Assistant Principal- 651-457-9405

What happens if my student doesn't put their phone in the pouch?

If a staff member sees a student cell phone (or wearable technology), the staff member will send the phone (or other devices) to the office with a label that indicates who they took the device(s) from. The parent will be contacted and will need to pick up the phone. This will occur for each offense. If the parent needs to come multiple times, an administrator will schedule an appointment with the parent to review policy, support, and consequences.

What data is the school collecting to see if this policy is helping students?

We have collected data from last school year on the following points:

- Number of students tardy to class each week
- Number of students who earned 0's, 1's, 2's and so on
- Number of students involved in fights during school hours
- Number of bullying reports
- MCA and Fastbridge scores
- Student climate survey (given at end of first Semester)

At the end of the 2022-23 school year we will look at each data point and compare it to the previous year. We will make public the data and the staff reflections around the growth and challenges presented with the cell phone pouch policy. We will also ask for family feedback in the spring in the form of a family survey and at the April/ May 2023 Family Advisory Meeting.

Why can't we just go to the old fashioned method of, "if the teacher sees your phone, they take it?"

That wasn't working for a variety of reasons. Just like every student learns differently, every family seems to have a different approach to cell phone etiquette and use. Additionally, some students have very real addictions to social media, and inappropriate use of cell phones. The volume of issues was taking too much staff time.

Teachers have presented the challenges they have faced at the past 3 Family Advisory Meetings. The staff would like to try this phone pouch plan because they believe it will allow them to focus on engaging lessons, building positive relationships, and help students succeed academically.

The staff believe that with the implementation of the pouch program, students will be able to focus on their schoolwork, grow emotionally strong and become passionate about learning.



SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Agenda Item

Meeting Date: August 22, 2022

Place on Agenda: Committee-of-the-Whole

Action Requested: None.

Attachment:

Topic: Community Engagement Planning
Presenter(s): Board Community Engagement Committee: Linda Diaz, Wendy Felton and Nikki Laliberte
<p>Background:</p> <p>On Monday evening, the community engagement committee will share the upcoming engagement opportunities to continue increasing School Board member visibility with our stakeholders.</p> <p>Upcoming Events/Activities for Community Engagement Calendar</p> <p>August 29 (12:30 PM) All Staff Opening Days Food Trucks: 12:00 PM Program: 1:00 PM SSP Secondary</p>
<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>None.</p>
<p>Alternatives:</p> <p>N/A</p>



SOUTH ST. PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Board Agenda Item

Meeting Date: August 22, 2022

Place on Agenda: Committee-of-the-Whole

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• District 917• Association for Metropolitan School Districts (AMSD)• Community Education• SSP Educational Foundation• Equity Alliance MN• Finance, Facilities and Long-Range Planning• Local Issues• SSP Open Foundation• District Policy• District Community Engagement and Public Relations• District Superintendent/Executive
Recommendation: N/A
Alternatives: N/A