



South St. Paul School Board - Work Session

Monday, September 22, 2025 5:00 PM

CITY HALL, 125 THIRD AVENUE NORTH, South St Paul, Minnesota 55075

I. WELCOME

I.A. 25-26 Student School Board Representatives (K. Humann)

II. FINANCE

II.A. Facilities Update (R. Chhoth and M. Fenton)

II.B. 2025 Payable 2026 Proposed Levy (R. Chhoth)

II.C. Insurance Update (C. Cook)

III. SCHOOL BOARD

III.A. Public Relations and Community Engagement (Board)

III.B. Committee Updates (Board)

- District 917
- AMSD
- Community Education
- Educational Foundation
- Finance, Facilities and Long-Range Planning
- Local Issues
- Policy
- SSP Open Foundation
- Superintendent Executive

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



School Board Agenda Item

Date: September 22, 2025
Place on Agenda: Work Session
Action Requested: None. Discussion Only
Attachment: None

Topic: Student School Board Representative Welcome
Presenter(s): Kim Humann, Board Chair
Background: <p>At the September 22 School Board meeting, we are pleased to welcome our three new student representatives for the 2025–26 term: Fenet Iresso, Chloe O’Neill, and Monty Whitaker. While the Board had the opportunity to meet them at the end of last school year, this will be their first official meeting as representatives. Chair Humann and Lisa Brandecker met with the students earlier to review the agenda and walk through the logistics of each item, and we encourage Board members to look for ways to incorporate student voice throughout the discussions.</p>
Recommendation: N/A
Alternatives: N/A



School Board Agenda Item

Date: September 22, 2025

Place on Agenda: Work Session

Action Requested: None. Discussion Only

Attachment: None

Topic: Facilities Update
Presenter(s): Ra Chhoth, Executive Director of Finance and Operations and Mark Fenton, Director of Building and Grounds
Background: <p>South St. Paul Public Schools continues to review and plan for long-term facility and capital needs. The District remains mindful of the funding capacity of our community while ensuring a safe and effective learning environment for students and staff.</p> <p>This topic was reviewed by the Finance, Facilities, and Long-Range Planning Committee at its September 8 meeting. The District is now bringing the discussion forward to the full Board for further engagement and direction.</p>
Recommendation: N/A
Alternatives: N/A



School Board Agenda Item

Date: September 22, 2025

Place on Agenda: Work Session and Business Meeting

Action Requested: Approval

Attachment: 2025 Payable 2026 Proposed Levy Summary *(this attachment will be uploaded once we receive from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE))*

Topic: 2025 Payable 2026 Proposed Levy
Presenter(s): Ra Chhoth, Executive Director of Finance and Operations
<p>Background:</p> <p>At the Finance and Facilities meeting, we review information regarding our 2025 Payable 2026 Proposed Levy Certification. This proposed certification is for taxes payable in calendar year 2026 and is revenue for the 2026-2027 school year. We are recommending we approve the proposed levy at “Maximum”. Proposed levies for school districts carry the option of levying the “Maximum” versus a specific amount due to continuing updates by the Department of Education. This “Maximum” option protects school districts whose levies may increase. Levying a specific dollar amount prevents further increases.</p> <p>We are required to certify our Proposed Levy to the County Auditor by September 30, 2025. The information submitted to the County Auditor is the information used for the proposed property taxes mailed to each taxpayer in November.</p> <p>Truth in Taxation statutes require a hearing be conducted during regular school board meetings. The statute also requires that the date and time of the regular school board meeting when hearings are scheduled be announced at the time the proposed levy is certified.</p> <p>The Truth in Taxation hearing will be held during the regular board meeting on December 8, 2025, at 6:00 PM.</p>
<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Administration recommends approving the 2025 Payable 2026 Proposed Levy</p>
<p>Alternatives:</p> <p>N/A</p>



South St. Paul
Public Schools

School Board Agenda Item

Date: Monday, September 22, 2025

Place on Agenda: Business Meeting

Action Requested: Approval

Attachment: None

Topic: 2026 & 2027 Self-insured Health Insurance Contract

Presenter(s): Charlie Cook, Executive Director of Human Resources and Ra Chhoth, Executive Director of Finance

Background:

As required by the Health Insurance Transparency Act (HITA), the District solicited bids for a self-insured health insurance plan effective January 1, 2026. Six carriers submitted proposals with the lowest and most competitive bid coming from our current health insurance provider, HealthPartners.

Administration recommends accepting the two-year (2026 & 2027) self-insured health insurance contract with HealthPartners. This recommendation was shared with and supported by the district’s Insurance Committee.

Based on claims history, anticipated future claims, and the need to maintain our reserve account, the following increase to premiums is recommended for 2026:

- 8% Increase in Health Insurance Premiums
- 3% Increase in Dental Insurance Premiums
- No change to Life/LTD

Other misc changes:

- Removal of coverage for GLP-1 medications for purposes of weight loss.
- Increased communication with the district to reduce costs (wellness, prescription mailings, etc.)

Recommendation:

Administration recommends approval of the two-year self-insured contract with HealthPartners for 2026 and 2027.

Alternatives:

Do not approve and direct administration with next steps.



School Board Agenda Item

Place on Agenda: Work Session

Action Requested: None. Discussion Only

Attachment: None

Topic: Public Relations and Community Engagement
Presenter(s): School Board
Background: The School Board will review the upcoming Calendar of Events and explore opportunities to collaborate with students, staff, families, and the greater South St. Paul community to further the district's mission and vision.
Recommendation: N/A
Alternatives: N/A



South St. Paul
Public Schools

School Board Agenda Item

Place on Agenda: Work Session

Action Requested: None. Discussion Only

Attachment: None

Topic: Committee Updates
Presenter(s): School Board Members
<p>Background:</p> <p>School Board members will provide an update for the following committees that they serve on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● District 917 ● AMSD ● Community Education ● Educational Foundation ● Finance, Facilities, and Long-Range Planning ● Local Issues ● Policy ● SSP Open Foundation ● Superintendent Executive
<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Alternatives:</p> <p>N/A</p>