

**INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625**  
**Saint Paul, Minnesota**  
**JOINT PROPERTY TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF**  
**EDUCATION**  
**Administration Building**  
**360 Colborne Street**  
**Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102**

**June 26, 2023**  
**8:00 AM**

**A G E N D A**

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
4. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
  - A. Minutes of the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee Meeting of January 23, 2023 2
5. **2023 LEGISLATIVE REVIEWS**
  - A. City of Saint Paul
  - B. Ramsey County 4
  - C. Saint Paul Public Schools 18
6. **DISCUSSION**
  - A. MN Somali Week in July and Opportunities for Intergovernmental Collaboration
7. **MEMBER DISCUSSION OF AGENDA AND FUTURE MEETING DATES**
  - A. Other member discussion of other topics
  - B. Future meeting dates (Ramsey County will chair meetings beginning in Sept. 2023)
    1. September 25, 2023
    2. January 22, 2024
    3. March 25, 2024
    4. June 24, 2024
8. **ADJOURNMENT**

#BoldSubject#

## Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee

Saint Paul School District #625  
651-767-8152

City of Saint Paul  
651-266-8510

County of Ramsey  
651-266-8008

### AGENDA

Monday, January 23, 2023

8:30-10am

360 Colborne Street, St. Paul, MN  
Room 5A

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Chair Jim Vue, Saint Paul Public Schools.

#### 2. Welcome and Introductions

Members present included Jim Vue, Ryan O'Connor, Rebecca Noecker, Trista MatasCastillo, Mitra Jalali, Rena Moran, Halla Henderson (arrived at 8:39 a.m.), Chauntyll Allen (arrived at 9:10 a.m.), John McCarthy (in place of Deputy Mayor Jamie Tincher)

#### 3. Approval of Agenda

Chair Vue moved to approve the order of the main agenda. It was seconded by Commissioner MatasCastillo. It passed by acclaim.

#### 4. Approval of Minutes from the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting

Chair Vue moved to approve the minutes from the September 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. Councilmember Jalali seconded the motion. It passed by acclaim.

#### 5. Review of legislative agendas by jurisdiction

- City
- County

Commissioner MatasCastillo noted the work in the banning of guns in recreation centers, with the recent events.

Councilmember Noecker requested information on the progress on the property tax automatic credit, and requested to be updated on the progress.

- School District

Mr. Grathwol to provide further information on the cross-subsidy amounts.

County Manager O'Connor thanked the team for the presentations, and alignment of the three jurisdictions, especially for youth and families.

#### 6. Joint Debt Book Presentation

It was noted that for the next Joint Debt Book, it will be helpful to have information on the metrics and inflationary adjustments, as well as other metrics that were not included, and maybe should be. It has been on "autopilot" for the past years, and it would be wise to revisit and refresh.

The budget of the school district in relation to the city or county was noted, and that our schools have limited capacity to generate revenue. It would be helpful to see SPPS data in the Joint Debt Book in comparison to other districts. Executive Chief of Financial Services, Tom Sager, provided additional details on the value of comparison of SPPS to other districts to ensure we are not spending too much or too little. With the revenue for debt service at \$1422 per student, and the state average at \$1480, we know we are in the ballpark range. Councilmember Noecker noted that SPPS is unique in this conversation because it is mainly school buildings and the capital intensity. SPPS Builds was also noted as being included in these figures.

The flatlining for the City and County was surprising to see – it was noted that this is based on known debt, and figures will be revised and updated as there is additional information.

It was noted that it will be helpful to see figures in comparison to other similar jurisdictions, both in the metro area and across the state.

More information was requested on the ratio of the debt burden on the overall debt.

Overall, the committee requested information on updating benchmarks broadly (ones we currently have, and new), contextual information, more information on capital plans and facility plans that have debt issuance, and a broader look at how to compare property taxes with other jurisdictions, both across the city, county and school district, and across others in the state, and also drivers in the levy.

#### 7. Discussion and review of upcoming meeting dates

- a. March 27, 2023

Councilmember Noecker noted a motion of intent to meet for the March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting with the importance of the legislative session.

- b. June 26, 2023
- c. September 25, 2023 (tentative)

#### 8. Adjourn

Chair Vue motioned to adjourn. It was seconded by Director Allen. It passed by acclaim.

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

# 2023 Legislative Session Wrap Up

4

---

June 21, 2023

# 2023 Ramsey County Platform Priorities

## Family and Community Stabilization:

- Investing in housing stability—affordability and transitions out of homelessness.
- Addressing racial disparities in out-of-home displacements.
- Preventing and responding to youth violence through innovative community programming and investments.
- Funding an increase in County Program Aid.

## Systems Transformation:

- Improving mental and behavioral health systems and support.
- Reforming criminal justice approach, centering community.

## Economic Competitiveness and Inclusion:

- Funding transportation, including new revenues for transit, roads and bridges.
- Investing in workforce supports for all residents.
- Responding to climate change by prioritizing adaptation and resiliency.
- Funding for Ramsey County bonding requests.

# Key Wins for Ramsey County

## Additional County Program Aid

- Ramsey County will receive \$6 million on top of the annual \$20 million

## Heading Home Ramsey homelessness funding

- \$11.4 million will go directly to the partners and service providers we work with on the continuum of care

## Intensively Therapeutic Youth Treatment Homes

6

- \$5 million to open intensively therapeutic treatment homes for justice involved youth
- \$5 million for community supports, including reentry support, employment opportunities, parent peer-to-peer support, and de-escalation help for youth and their families.

## Bonding projects

- A down-payment of \$6.22 million for the Park at RiversEdge
- \$5 million for extension of the Bruce Vento Trail
- \$1 million for a Rice Street Revitalization project.

# A Lot Happened

- Biennial budget was agreed to and passed without the need for a special session. (1<sup>st</sup> time in 10 years)
- DFL Trifecta enacted almost all of their major policy agenda:
  - Protect Reproductive Options (PRO) Act
  - Paid Family and Medical Leave
  - Election Reform
  - Drivers Licenses for All
  - Universal School Meals
  - 100% Clean Energy by 2040
  - Rental Assistance
  - Child Care Supports
  - Background Checks for Firearms Purchases
  - Red Flaw Laws
  - Lead Pipe Removal Grants
  - Restore the Vote

## Key Budget Items – Taxes

**Additional LGA and CPA:** Ramsey County – Additional \$6 million, total \$26 million

**Public Safety Aid – one time:** Ramsey County \$6 million,

**Homelessness Prevention Aid:** Ramsey County new total of about \$4 million

**Housing Aid:** \$900,000

8

**Property Tax Policy changes:** Renters Credit, Senior Property Tax Deferral, Tax forfeiture for Ramsey County change in targeted neighborhoods

**Local Option Sales Taxes:** Saint Paul 1-cent for streets and parks, Mounds View Up to 1.5-cent for sports/rec center

**SCORE changes:** 3% increase of the solid waste management tax to SCORE related activities, about \$7 million in FY24-25 and \$7.3 million FY26-27.



## Key Budget Items – Transportation

**Metro Area Sales Tax:** Imposes a 3/4-cent sales tax in the 7-county metro area for transit-transportation purposes:

- 83% to Met Council
- 17 % to the 7-county metro counties collecting the tax
  - 50% need/ 50% population

**Delivery Fee:** Implements 50 cents delivery fee on orders over \$100, distributed to the Transportation Advancement Account<sup>9</sup>

**Auto Parts Sales Tax Dedication:** 43% HUTD fund and the rest gradually shifts to Transportation Advancement Account.

**Tab Fees:** Increases the rate to 1.54% for older vehicles and 1.575% for those after 11/16/2020.

**Gas Tax:** Indexes it to the CCI (Construction Costs Index) capped at 3%, FY 27 would equal a 5-cent tax increase.

**Maintenance:** Shift all operating and maintenance to Met Council. (Buses, Light rail)

**MVLST:** No MVLST fix for Ramsey and Hennepin counties.

## Key Budget Items - Housing

**\$1 billion for housing, HF 2335:** First dedicated funding source, ¼ cent sales tax in 7-county metro area. \$300 million over 2 years, for affordable housing development & homelessness initiatives.

**“Bring it Home”:** Rental assistance, statewide 5000 low-income households similar to Section 8 vouchers.

### **Homelessness prevention and housing stability:**

10

- \$65 million over two years funding 24 months of rental assistance
- \$23.3 million over two years MN Housing Trust Fund, rental assistance
- \$10.7 million over two years for people with mental illness
- \$5.5 million over two years “Homework Starts at Home”

### **\$350 million for new affordable housing statewide:**

- Mostly to new rental, but some for manufactured housing and single-family. May go beyond biennium since labor shortage delay development.
- Subsidize preservation of existing affordable housing
- \$200 million down payment assistance first time buyers/people of color.
- Help for manufactured home parks

## Key Budget Items – Health & Human Services

**Cost Sharing:** Removes the county cost share payments for mentally ill and dangerous individuals who await transfer from one state-operated facility to another. (2 years only)

**Priority Admissions:** Creates a Task Force on Priority Admissions to evaluate the impact of the requirements for priority admissions (aka the 48-hour rule)

**Rate Increases:** Rate increases for a variety of direct service providers, including PCAs, home care services, adult day services, and others. 11

**Technology:** Critical technology upgrade funding for DHS.

**Child Care Funding:** \$576 million for Great Start Compensation Support payments for early childhood providers.

**Benefits Eligibility:** Allows for 6-months of eligibility for MFIP and General Assistance. Allows for undocumented individuals to enroll in MinnesotaCare.

**New State Agencies:** Creates a new Department of Children, Youth, and Families and a new Department of Direct Care and Treatment.

**Public Health Funding:** \$11 million/year for system transformation. Over \$8 million/year statewide for local public health department emergency preparedness.

## Key Budget Items – Public Safety

**Probation System Increase:** \$43 million boost for community supervision services along with changes to the funding formula and updates to charging fees.

**Gun Control:** Universal background checks and red-flag law.

**Violence Prevention:** \$70 million onetime for community crime and violence prevention.

**Restorative Practices:** Creates an Office of Restorative Practices.

12

**Police Oversight:** Allows local units of government to create a civilian review board to provide civilian oversight of a law enforcement agency and officers.

**No-Knock Warrants:** Prohibits no-knock warrants except under specific criteria.

**Earned Release:** Allows people in prison to earn early release and supervision abatement by successfully completing goals identified in their Individualized Rehabilitation Plan.

**Restore the Vote:** Voting rights restored to felons once they leave prison.

**Duty Disability:** Requires applicants with a psychological condition, such as PTSD, to seek mental health treatment before they can apply for duty disability benefits.

## Key Budget Items – Environment

**Round Lake:** \$75,000 for Ramsey County to address water-quality at Round Lake.

**Climate Change:** \$49 million each year for grants to support communities in planning and implementing projects to allow for adaptation for a changing climate.

**Food Waste:** \$1.5 million for reducing and diverting food waste, redirecting edible food for consumption, and removing barriers to collecting and recovering organic waste.

**Waste Prevention:** \$12.9 million each year for a waste prevention and reduction grants and loan program.

13

The Solid Waste Management Project is converted to the Waste Management Capital Assistance Program and expands to include reuse, recycling, composting source-separated compostable materials or yard waste, and resource recovery.

**Parks & Trails:** \$9 million to modernize regional parks and trails.

**Tuj Lub:** \$500,000 to Ramsey County for improvements to Keller Park tuj lub courts.

**Wood Waste:** \$16.5 million for District Energy to continue to take wood waste, particularly from trees removed due to Emerald Ash Borer.

**Lead Lines:** \$240 million in grants and loans to address lead service lines.

## Key Budget Items - Elections

**Local Assistance:** \$2.5 million to assist local governments with election infrastructure and staffing.

**Election Judge Protection:** Penalties established for intimidation and interference related to an election judge performing their official duties.

**Early Voting:** Voters can cast a ballot using a live ballot box during the 18 days prior to an election, including weekends, at locations designated by the county auditor or municipal clerk.

**Absentee Voting:** Deadline for delivery of an absentee ballot is extended to 8 p.m. on Election Day. Allows voters to join a permanent absentee voter list.

**Voter Registration:** Automatic voter registration when getting a driver's license or state ID card. Allows 16- and 17-year-olds to pre-register to vote.

**Inclusivity:** New standards and procedures for multi-lingual election resources, including translation services at a polling place.

## Recreational Cannabis Bill

**Use:** Recreational cannabis will be legal for adults ages 21 and older, beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>. Use is limited to private residences and businesses and events specifically permitted for cannabis consumption.

**Retail Sales:** Licensed businesses will not be up and running for over a year.

**Regulation:** Creates a new Office of Cannabis Management for regulation.

**Taxation:** Includes a 10% tax rate, with 20% of the collected revenue dedicated to local governments (50/50 split between cities and counties).<sup>15</sup>

**Local Control:** Local governments will be able to limit the number of retail stores in their communities, although at least one must be allowed per every 12,500 residents.

**Local Duties:** Local governments must register retail businesses and can charge a small registration fee.

**Public Health:** Dedicates \$10 million each year to local public health departments for prevention and education efforts.

**Previous Convictions:** Expungements for non-felony offenses are effective beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Session 2024

- Begins February 12, 2024
- Policy year, Bonding bill year
  - Bills introduced this year carry over





*Questions?*

## 2023 Legislative Agenda



### Stabilize Education Funding

- Increase formula by 5% and link the basic formula and local option revenue to inflation
- Address differences in local property tax base and local cost differences in phasing in education formulas changes
- Link Extended time revenue to general education formula
- Link all categorical funding to inflationary increases in the general education formula
- Include 4,000 PreK/School Readiness Plus seats into the base for future years
- Phase out English Language Learner Cross Subsidy – exceeds \$25 million in SPPS
- Allow school boards to renew existing referendum

### Special Education

- Phase in formula changes to eliminate the growing cross subsidy (estimated \$748 million cross subsidy FY22); at a minimum fund at least 40% cross subsidy and include in base
- Address the impact of tuition costs for open enrollment and students placed in another district
- Allow districts to recoup un-reimbursed fees charged by intermediate districts and Co-ops
- Provide mental health aid for all level IV programs
- Enhanced Medical Assistance Reimbursement for social work services using existing system for billing other special education services
- Allow district to close early childhood special education and transition programs (age 18-21) under open enrollment

### Fully Fund Existing Mandates

- Allow districts scheduling flexibility to provide more opportunities for internships, apprenticeships, academies, or other training with community partners that lead to certifications, job training and other career and college opportunities that lead to living wage jobs
- Fully fund the early childhood screening mandate
- Oppose new requirements that are unfunded or increase workforce shortage challenges

### **Increase Diversify Educator Work Force**

- Increase funding and formulas to sustain and expand successful Grow Your Own Teacher of Color programs for both: current SUTR programs and secondary students to enter a bachelor program with an intensive student-teaching model
- Program should be funded over multiple years to ensure pipeline for BIPOC, EL, special education and STEM
- Add additional funding dedicated to mentoring students of color and high need licensed areas

### **Provide Resources for Child and Family Support**

- Support additional resources for families who are highly mobile and homeless to reduce shelter and other short-term placements and provide housing
- Increase school linked mental health and full-service grants and other child and family support services for at-risk families
- Increase community education general levy, adult disabled levy, school age childcare funding and other after school programs, including Ignite to provide options for families for life-long learning and high quality out-of-school activities

### **School Safety and Security**

- Significantly increase safe school revenue to expand options to keep school safe, including more mental health, truancy prevention and intervention, and successful student leadership models that improve school climate and safety
- Fund county social services, county attorney offices and engagement specialists in school to bolster truancy intervention efforts through increased, dedicated staff capacity so they can partner better together as teams who work intentionally with students and families to remove barriers to student engagement and learning
- Modify current law regarding lock down drills to allow flexibility for districts the option to perform and train staff without students present
- Support incentives and legislation that reduce the use of guns in our community, by focusing interventions to youth and individuals who are at risk of harm to self or others

## **Other Bills Impacting Education:**

### Paid Family & Medical Leave (HF 2)

### Taxes (HF 1938)

- Pensions adjustment to age 65: ER up .75, EE up .25
- Several districts received construction sales tax exemptions
- A nation-leading “Children’s tax credit” that reduces child poverty by 1/3
- Renter’s Credit reform
- Eliminate income tax on Social Security for 75% of MN seniors

### Health & Human Services (SF 2995)

- Lead in drinking water 15ppb down to 5 ppb
- School Linked mental health grants
- School based clinics
- Child Care stabilization grants and CCAP
- Creation of the Children, Youth & Families Department

### Human Services (SF 2934)

- Opiate Antagonists: A school district or charter school must maintain a supply of opiate antagonists at each school site. Each school building must have at least two doses of a nasal opiate antagonist available on site. The commissioner of health shall identify resources, including at least one training video, to help schools implement an opiate antagonist emergency response and make the resources available for schools. A school board may adopt a model plan for use, storage, and administration of opiate antagonists.

### Higher Education Omnibus Finance (HF2073)

- Free college tuition for qualifying students (Income at or below \$80K)
- Significant increases in the MN State Grant program.

### Transportation (HF 2887)

- Type III vehicle continued use
- Active Transportation Safety Training
- \$50k for education and awareness campaign on motor vehicles passing school busses
- \$2,000,000 for grants to school districts, nonpublic schools, charter schools, and companies that provide school bus services for the purchase and installation of school bus stop-signal arm camera systems.

#### Environment & Climate (HF 2310)

- Solar on Schools
- HVAC Grants (\$50k each)
- Electric School Bus deployment program and funding

#### Early Childhood (HF238)

- \$400 million investment to expand early learning opportunities for children from birth to age 5.

#### Agriculture (HF 1955)

- Farm2School grants

#### Jobs & Labor (SF 3035)

- PELRA provisions
- E-learning days
- Earned Safe & Sick Time

#### State Government (HF1830)

- Hmong special guerrilla units Remembrance Day: Schools are encouraged to offer instruction about Hmong history or read the passage to students in honor of this day on May 14 or, if May 14 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, on the Friday preceding May 14.

#### Housing (HF2335)

- Challenge Grant funding to schools - A school district, a cooperative unit, or a charter school may receive funding under this section in the form of a grant less than \$100,000. A school district, intermediate district, or charter school that uses a grant under this section to construct a home for owner occupancy must require the future occupant to participate in the homeownership education counseling and training program.
- \$50 million in Emergency Rental Assistance; state-based housing vouchers for 5K families; First Generation Downpayment Assistance (HF1440)
- \$60 million for the Homeless Youth Act
- \$90 million in Emergency Support Services
- \$100 million in the "Pathway Home Act" for shelter construction and rehab
- 

#### Judiciary & Public Safety (SF 2909)

- Private data; when disclosure is permitted - a student's name, home address, telephone number, email address, or other personal contact information may be disclosed to a public library for purposes of issuing a library card to the student.

- Driver's Licenses for All, allowing undocumented Minnesotans access to a driver's license.
- Expansion of Back Ground checks for firearms purchases and Extreme Risk Protection Orders ("Red Flag law")
- Directory information - Educational data designated as directory information is public data on individuals to the extent required under federal law. When conducting the directory information designation and notice process required by federal law, an educational agency or institution shall give parents and students notice of the right to refuse to let the agency or institution designate specified data about the student as directory information. This notice may be given by any means reasonably likely to inform the parents and students of the right. An educational agency or institution may not designate a student's home address, telephone number, email address, or other personal contact information as directory information under this subdivision. This paragraph does not apply to a postsecondary institution. When requested, educational agencies or institutions must share personal student contact information and directory information, whether public or private, with the Minnesota Department of Education, as required for federal reporting purposes.