

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625
BOARD OF EDUCATION
SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
RESOLUTION



Board File No. _____

Date _____

Directing administration to prepare a referendum recommendation with proposed accompanying ballot language to provide needed additional revenue in support of Saint Paul Public Schools mission of providing a premier education to all students.

WHEREAS, Strong public schools are directly linked to the well-being of our community and strong property values; and,

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul Public Schools (SPPS) is committed to providing its more than 37,000 students with world class learning opportunities by hiring and retaining high-quality staff and creating safe and welcoming learning environments; and,

WHEREAS, fulfilling this commitment to students is fundamentally reliant upon adequate financial resources and staffing; and,

WHEREAS, budget decisions are designed to support district goals and priorities for student learning; and

WHEREAS, district staff have taken several steps to reduce expenses and balance the budget, including major cuts to district administration with a goal of limiting impacts to schools and classrooms and guided by putting students first; and,

WHEREAS, the School Board had made more than \$50 million dollars of budget cuts in the past three years and anticipates the need for up to \$17 million in additional cuts for the 2018-19 school year in the absence of additional resources; and,

WHEREAS, per student funding provided by the State of Minnesota has been consistently below the rate of inflation and inadequate to fully fund the District's core teaching and learning needs; and,

WHEREAS, SPPS's per-student operating levy funding is among the lowest in the metro area and well below the metro average; and,

WHEREAS, in the absence of additional revenue, there could be a need to make additional budget reductions in future years to maintain a structurally balanced budget, which could result in significant cuts to staffing and programs across the district; and

WHEREAS, the state of Minnesota provides all school districts with the option of asking local voters for additional funding through referendum elections;

BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Independent School District 625, Saint Paul Public Schools, authorizes and directs the administration to prepare a recommendation regarding an operating levy referendum request of district voters on the November 6, 2018 ballot, and to bring said recommendation and proposed accompanying ballot language to the July 17, 2018, Board meeting for Board consideration and action

Adopted _____

CHAIR Board of Education

CLERK Board of Education