

**SAINT PAUL FEDERATION OF EDUCATORS  
PROPOSAL # 8  
September 12, 2019**

**Collaboratively Seeking Full Funding for Racially Equitable Schools**

**Statement of Intent**

Whereas: State funding for public education in Saint Paul has, compared to inflation, declined by over **\$1,600** per pupil since 2003 while the needs of our students have increased; and

Whereas: Businesses choose Minnesota, and Saint Paul specifically, because our community offers a high quality of life, and a highly-educated workforce that exists because of our long history of strong support for public education; and

Whereas: There exists mutually desirable programs and services that both sides agree can advance the educational experience for students at SPPS that cannot be fully funded with dollars in the current district budget; and

Whereas: Our shared goals include working toward eliminating the school-to-prison and school-to-deportation pipelines, as well as the racial predictability of educational outcomes. Public education is at the heart of our democracy and there has never been a more critical time to invest in preparing our children for their roles as citizens in our society and for the lives and challenges in their futures that we do not yet know; therefore

Be it Resolved that: The Saint Paul Board of Education and the Saint Paul Federation of Educators will collaborate to secure additional support for Saint Paul Public Schools by:

- 1. Jointly meeting with major local corporations for the purpose of securing significant additional contributions to the St. Paul Public Schools and support for changes in state tax policy to make these contributions sustainable over time; and**
- 2. Seeking and securing a minimum of one agreement for payment in lieu of taxes to the St. Paul Public Schools with a major local healthcare and/or a higher education not-for-profit corporation. Leadership of SPPS and SPFE will form a working committee by May 1, 2020 to lead discussions with potential partners and start the process of drafting an agreement; and**
- 3. Jointly lobbying for state and federal funding that meets the needs of Saint Paul children and current legal obligations during the 2020 and 2021 legislative sessions, including fully funding special education and English learner services. The parties agree to schedule one day during each legislative session to encourage district wide participation in lobbying efforts at the State Capital; and**

- 4. Jointly calling for a moratorium on new charter schools in St. Paul until the completion and review of a community impact study on charter schools in our community; and**
- 5. Developing a long-term strategic plan for recruiting families into SPPS that includes gathering data from families that have left the district to be used to inform future recruiting efforts.**

Additional supports and funding secured through this agreement will be used for progress towards the following goals:

- Expanded special education supports from Educational Assistants and licensed staff.
- Expanded EL student services and bilingual family support from Educational Assistants and licensed staff.
- Providing additional student mental health supports from licensed staff, School and Community Service Professionals, and Educational Assistants.
- ~~• Other priorities as determined by the strategic plan.~~