



Board of Education
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January 29, 2021

The following is a statement from Chair Jeanelle Foster on behalf of the Saint Paul Board of Education:

The SPPS Board of Education in a recent majority vote expressed confidence in and support of Superintendent Gothard and his tireless efforts to safely bring back our students, teachers and staff beginning Monday.

We have seen first-hand how Dr. Gothard and his team have prioritized the safety of our students, teachers and staff above all other considerations. By consistently confronting the challenges of the pandemic, he has ensured SPPS is well prepared to gradually reopen our schools and monitor the situation in the event our plans need to be modified.

The President, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Governor, and State Health and Education Officials have given us guidance and a pathway for our kids and teachers to return safely in school. Hundreds of other school districts throughout Minnesota and around the nation have put into practice this guidance and created a pathway to safely return their kids and teachers to schools as well.

SPPS plans include adherence to Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan Guidelines and emphasis on social distancing; availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for all students, teachers and staff; and enhanced building/classroom ventilation and sanitizing.

The SPPS Board of Education believes it's time to provide an opportunity for families to choose an environment that will meet the needs of their children, which includes an in-person option. Our Saint Paul Public Schools community has worked since March to prepare for this moment.

We understand the challenges of this transition and honor the extraordinary efforts of everyone in our learning communities during the first half of the 2020-21 school year. The time has come to put aside the delays. It's time to get kids back into schools.

We are excited to welcome back our youngest learners to their classrooms beginning Monday!