

*The following proposals made by the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers, based on input from educators, parents, students, and community members, are subject to modifications and additions throughout the bargaining process. It is mutually understood that all dates will be updated in the contract as part of any agreement.*

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

**[New]**

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

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

Whereas: State funding for public education in St. Paul has, compared to inflation, declined by over \$1,000 per pupil since 2003 while the needs of our students have increased;

Whereas: Despite the story of scarcity we are told by some, the reality is that many in our state have done quite well. This is especially true for the business sector in Minnesota who are making huge profits but are contributing less and less to our community;

Whereas: Minnesota corporations have advocated for and benefit from numerous strategies for tax avoidance. These strategies include pushing for the reduction in state taxes on corporate profits, successfully advocating for and utilizing numerous state tax loopholes, exploiting tax increment financing and other giveaways to corporate developers to avoid property taxes, and rules that exempt large hospitals and higher education institutions from property taxes in spite of significant net revenues and endowment funds. These tax avoidance strategies place tens of millions of dollars per year into the pockets of Minnesota's richest at the expense of St. Paul's most vulnerable children, families, and communities;

Whereas: The proposals made to advance racially equitable schools in St. Paul by improving Education for the Whole Child, Parent and Family Engagement, Smaller Classes, Teaching Not Testing, Racial Equity and Social Justice, High Quality Professional Development, Expanding Access to Pre-K, as well as improving the wages, benefits, and working conditions for St. Paul educators cannot be fully funded with dollars in the current district budget;

Whereas: Businesses choose Minnesota, and St. Paul specifically, not because we offer the lowest taxes or the fewest regulations, but 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: Our shared goals are to eliminate the school to prison and school to deportation pipelines, and to eliminate 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 St. Paul Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, and the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers will collaborate to secure additional funds for the St. Paul Public Schools by:

1. Demanding and entering into direct, joint negotiations 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;
2. Demanding and entering into direct, joint negotiations with major local healthcare and higher education not-for-profit corporations for the purpose of securing significant additional payments in lieu of taxes to the St. Paul Public Schools; and
3. Placing a referendum on the November 2018 ballot for increased funding in support of the priorities established by mutual agreement during negotiations for the 2017-19 Teacher, Educational Assistant, and School and Community Service Professionals contracts.

Agreed to on: [Date]

[Signature]  
Chair, St. Paul Board of Education

[Signature]  
President, Saint Paul Federation of Teachers