

## **Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Board Meeting**

**November 12, 2025**

**8 am – 10 am**

**Virtual Only Via Zoom**

---

<b>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	Iyannah Burns, Emmanuel Donaby, Darlene Fry, Tonya Long, Nicolee Mensing, Rebecca Noecker, Jackie Turner (joined late), Daisy Vang, Erica Valliant, Zang Vang-Lee
<b>BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	Camila Mercado Michelli, Rena Moran, Erica Prosser, Mai Chong Xiong
<b>STAFF &amp; GUESTS PRESENT</b>	Nicole MartinRogers (Advance Consulting – Collaborative Coordinator) (Laurie Davis absent) Sonia Gass, CAPRW Dr. Nikole Jones, People of Victory (absent) Hannah Corbett, Ramsey County non-voting staff rep (absent) Andrew Lowe, Ramsey County (fiscal agent) (absent) Dana Abrams, Saint Paul Public Schools (non-voting rep)

---

**Meeting called to order by Mensing at 8:08 am.**

### **Children's Fire**

Valliant lit the Children's Fire with sharing her thoughts about why she's doing this work. As a school board director and parent, she always wants to support children in the community and in her family, including policy work. She shared a poem:

**We are the roots below the ground,  
We are each other's strength when found.  
Little voices, big dreams in flight,  
In our community we light the night.**

**Side by side our stories weave,  
For all our children we believe.**

### **Consent Agenda**

**Motion by Noecker to approve the minutes from the October 8 meeting and accept the information in the October update from Advance Consulting and the October 2025 finance report. Second by Donaby. Motion approved.**

### **SPCC Administration**

At the September meeting, Mensing and Fry were appointed as the nominating subcommittee for 2026 officers and board members. They submitted a draft slate (included in the board packet) for 2026. MartinRogers discussed changes to community member representatives. Mercado Michelli will not be able to continue to serve, and she has suggested a replacement community member representative who MartinRogers will follow-up with to confirm her interest before the December board meeting. MartinRogers asked other board members to suggest other nominees if they have anyone in mind. The board will vote on the new executive committee and board nominees at the December annual meeting.

Per the electronic action opened October 9 by email from Mensing and closed October 17 by email from Mensing, the following motion was submitted for action:

**Motion by Mensing to disqualify the administrative support proposal from the vendor with a direct conflict of interest due to financial involvement with an existing SPCC grantee. Motion approved electronically.**

The Administrative Support Subcommittee interviewed the other two of the top three scoring applicants and recommended to enter into a contract with one of the bidders. The SPCC board voted electronically to approve this recommendation. The draft contract has been approved by SPCC (Mensing and Advance Consulting) and Ramsey County and has been sent to the selected contractor for their review and signature.

**Motion by Mensing to enter into a contract with the selected contractor for admin support for SPCC for 2026. Seconded by Valliant. Motion approved electronically.**

Mensing discussed the need for the SPCC board to help with onboarding the new admin support contractors. Vang wants the new executive committee to be involved in the process of onboarding. Long said that we should schedule a meeting with the new contractors before the next board meeting, if possible. The contractors had requested to meet with each board member individually. Vang requests the meeting to be in-person.

MartinRogers walked through the draft 2026 budget for SPCC which was included in the board packet. Noecker asking about available unrestricted fund and if the \$218K will show up on the available unrestricted fund line since we're not planning to spend it. MartinRogers will follow-up with Lowe to clarify this before the December board meeting. The board will vote on the budget at the December annual meeting.

Turner asks Noecker about the City's decision regarding funding for SPCC in 2026, and Noecker said she recommended \$35K as she did last year, but she feels better about this year's budget.

**Motion by Turner to invoice Saint Paul Public Schools for \$70,000, Ramsey County for \$50,000, CAPRW for \$11,000 and City of Saint Paul for \$35,000 to support operation of the Saint Paul Children's Collaborative in 2026. Second by Long. Motion approved.**

Mensing and MartinRogers updated the board on legal counsel. Davis made contact with attorney Aliana McIntosh, who has nonprofit and JPA experience and is available for future SPCC needs. After the October board meeting, Turner had asked SPPS legal counsel to review the SPCC Conflict of Interest policy to see if we need to make any changes. SPPS Attorney Katie Bergstrom recommended that SPCC add a Disclosure of Related Entities section to our Conflict of Interest form. At the November meeting, Turner requested that Advance Consulting proceed with the recommendation from SPPS legal counsel to update SPCC's Conflict of Interest for to include Disclosure of Related Entities. MartinRogers will pursue this and will update the board in December.

## Board Updates

Turner says thank you to SPCC board for the individual and collective support to help SPPS pass the referendum, which passed overwhelmingly (64%). Saint Paul steps up when there is an ask! Will allow SPPS to continue to move forward, with fewer adjustments to budget than was expected without the referendum. Valliant thanks everyone for the support. She is greatly relieved that it passed! SPPS is looking forward to doing great things with this financial stress alleviated.

Noecker updates that we have a new Mayor in Saint Paul. Mayor-elect Her is actively working on their transition, identifying new staff. Lots of transition at the City, which will take some time. SPCC will probably get a new Mayoral appointee to the board. Noecker is happy to serve as a conduit between SPCC and the City during the transition.

Long updated that SPPS Johnson O'Malley (federal Indian Education funding) writing contest can still be awarded even though there is a government shutdown. They will be giving out Foot Locker gift cards as the incentive for youth to participate.

Dr. Fry updated that there is a new clay camp for families at Black Youth Healing Arts Center and there is space for more people to participate. For families of all ages, on Wednesdays at 3:30pm and Sundays at 2:30pm.

Vang just registered for her final classes as an undergrad. She was a freshman when she joined the SPCC board. Now will be moving into the Vice-Chair role. She's so excited to go into the work force and do good work, feeling happy and nostalgic. She can't wait to see other young people have the same opportunity to be on the SPCC board, it is such a blessing!

Mensing shared CAPRW updates. Head Start is still operating, they can draw down federal funds during the shutdown to keep operating. Energy Assistance is still accepting applications and can distribute awards as soon as the shutdown ends. CAPRW is still here and open if people need assistance! (People have been asking questions since they know CAPRW receives federal funding.)

Mensing noted that the December SPCC board meeting will hopefully be in-person. It will be Advance Consulting's last meeting. See you December 10!

**Meeting adjourned at 8:54 am.**

**Roll call votes for October electronic action and November 12, 2025, Saint Paul Children's Collaborative Board Meeting**

	E-Motion to disqualify conflicted applicant	E-Motion to contract for admin support	Motion 1 – Consent Agenda	Motion 2 – Invoice Partners for 2026 Admin Support
Burns			YES	YES
Donaby	YES	YES	YES	YES
Fry	YES		YES	YES
Long	YES	YES	YES	YES
Mensing	YES	YES	YES	YES
Mercado Michelli (absent)		YES		
Moran (absent)	YES			
Noecker	YES	YES	YES	YES
Prosser (absent)				
Turner (late)	YES			YES
Valliant	YES	YES	YES	YES
Vang	YES	YES	YES	YES
Vang-Lee	YES	YES	YES	YES
Xiong (absent)		YES		