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November 8, 2021

Superintendent Gothard
St. Paul Public Schools, District 625
360 Colborne Street
St. Paul, MN 55102
joe.gothard@spps.org

RE: Saint Paul Federation of Educators Solar Schools Initiative

Dear Superintendent Gothard and Saint Paul Schools Board Members,

Now is a trying time for our community and specifically for the Saint Paul Schools. Over the last year and a half, our students have endured a global pandemic, social isolation, and community unrest. A more discrete, yet pertinent issue facing our children is our changing climate. This challenge will require significant intervention on local, national, and global levels. The time for climate action is now. Energy generation is a leading contributing cause to environmental impacts. In the absence of immediate action, the children of St. Paul and the world will suffer as our climate becomes increasingly volatile.

We at the Macalester-Groveland Community Council (District Council 14) aim to advocate for and lead action in the fight against climate change on a local level. One such effort is the Saint Paul Federation of Educations (SPFE) push for moving schools towards using solar energy as a commitment towards the futures of the students in our community.

As an organization representing St. Paul residents in the Macalester-Groveland District, we encourage SPPS Board of Education and SPPS administration to quickly develop district-wide renewable resources such as solar. Two initiatives we as community members would like to see implemented include:

1. Assessment of Saint Paul Public School structures in Macalester-Groveland to determine the viability of alternative energy installation
2. Development of a strategy for incorporation of alternative energy into Saint Paul Public Schools

The goal of the recommendation is to provide a solution that directly lessens the schools impact on climate change. Additionally, we hope to provide improved air quality from the burning of fossil fuel along with generating the economic, educational, and vocational opportunities for the SPPS students.

If you would like to discuss the matter further or wish to connect to the community council, please feel free to contact me at 651 695-4000 or alexa@macgrove.org.

Sincerely,

Alexa Golemo, Executive Director
Macalester-Groveland Community Council