



## ***Education Committee - Board of Representatives***

Megan Cottrell, Chair

Ramya Shaw, Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Thursday, January 30, 2025  
**Time:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Place:** *This meeting was held remotely.*

The Education Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Cottrell, Vice-Chair Shaw and Committee Member Reps. Pierre-Louis, Strain, Weinberg, and Williams. Also in attendance were Rep. Summerville; Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of SPS; Ryan Fealey, SPS Director of Finance; Lori Rhodes, Associate Superintendent for SPS High School, and Alec Logman, Assistant Director of Technology Integration & Online Assessment. Absent or excused was Rep. Baines.

Chair Cottrell called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. E31.042	REVIEW; status of the high school flexible schedule for next school year. 01/07/25 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell	<b>Report Made</b>

Associate Superintendent Rhodes gave a comprehensive overview of the scheduling options available to students, detailing how these options are tailored to meet students' academic needs.

A report was made.

2. E31.043	REVIEW; overview of the highlights of the FY25-26 Board of Education budget. 01/07/25 – Submitted by Rep. Cottrell	<b>Report Made</b>
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Director Fealey discussed the budget request, highlighting the special education costs associated with the increase, staffing cuts, and the challenges faced with the decline in grant funding.

- The average cost for out of district placement tuition for special education students exceeds \$100,000 per student, with transportation expenses reaching \$50,000 or more.
- Special education students account for around 17% of the total student population.

- 10% of special education students are placed out of district.
- The tuition rates at these schools have been increasing at a rate that surpasses inflation.
- A reduction in office support staff (OSS) at all K-5 schools is scheduled.

A report was made.

3. [E31.044](#) REVIEW; Powerschool systems breach of 12/28/24: its potential impact on the personal information of Stamford students, families and educators, and SPS' review and response to the incident. **Report Made**  
01/08/255 – Submitted by Rep. Williams

Assistant Director Logman outlined SPS's response to the breach, including the security protocols implemented and the preventative measures adopted.

A report was made.

4. E31.041 REVIEW; status of free lunch program **Report Made**  
10/31/24 – Submitted by T. Lucero and R. Fealey  
11/12/24 – Moved to Pending

Director Fealey shared an update on the free lunch program:

- The surplus has been depleted.
- \$1 million is required to sustain the program throughout the next year.
- Parents of students who qualify for the program will need to fill out applications.

A report was made.

Chair Cottrell adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Megan Cottrell, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).