



Saint Paul
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

A World of Opportunities

Board of Education
360 Colborne Street
Saint Paul, MN 55102-3299

Independent School District 625

Telephone: (651) 767-8149 Fax: (651) 290-8331

June 30, 2017

Mr. Russell Stark, President
Saint Paul City Council
15 Kellogg Blvd. West
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

Dear Councilman Stark,

At the June 20, 2017 Saint Paul Public Schools Board of Education Meeting, the Board received a presentation from the Beautiful Lie, Ugly Truth organization regarding the damaging impact of menthol tobacco on various populations within Saint Paul, especially our LGBTQ youth and communities of color.

As a result of the presentation and at the request of the organization, the Board has approved a resolution regarding the sale and use of menthol tobacco. I am forwarding a copy of the resolution for your information.

We would encourage the City to seriously consider the adoption of this or a similar resolution for the good of St. Paul and the health of our community.

Sincerely,

Jon Schumacher
Board Chair

cc: J. Weigum

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 625

BOARD OF EDUCATION
SAINT PAUL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
RESOLUTION



Board File No. 30997

Date 6/20/2017

WHEREAS, Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of disease and death in St. Paul and across the US and kills more people than murders, suicide, illegal drugs, alcohol, AIDS and car crashes combined; and,

WHEREAS, A disproportionate number of these deaths occur in minority communities; and,

WHEREAS, Long-term tobacco use causes numerous illnesses, including lung, oral and pharyngeal cancer, heart disease, and lung diseases such as emphysema and bronchitis; and,

WHEREAS, Lifetime smoking and other tobacco use almost always begins before children graduate from high school; approximately 90% of adult smokers started by age 18 and almost no one begins smoking after age 21 and the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has declared that smoking is “fundamentally a pediatric disease;” and,

WHEREAS, In 2009 the FDA removed flavored cigarettes from the market but exempted menthol, allowing menthol flavored products to continue being sold; and,

WHEREAS, With menthol flavoring, the harshness of the smoke is masked, which makes it easier for young people to start smoking; and,

WHEREAS, There is no health or social benefit to the user or the health of the community for the use of flavored tobacco; and

WHEREAS, There is sufficient research to confirm that tobacco companies target youth, women and African Americans with menthol marketing; and,

WHEREAS, Use of menthol cigarettes among Minnesota high school students has more than doubled since 2000, with 44 percent of Minnesota high school students

who smoke using menthol; and,

WHEREAS, Of African American adults who smoke, 88 percent use menthol, compared to 25 percent of adult smokers overall; and,

WHEREAS, Among LGBTQ youth smokers, 70 percent smoke menthol; and,

WHEREAS, Communities that are heavily targeted by tobacco companies suffer disproportionately from tobacco-related death and disease; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Saint Paul limit the sale of flavored tobacco products, except menthol, to adult-only tobacco stores; and,

WHEREAS, the initiative led by community groups including African American Leadership Forum, Association for Nonsmokers - Minnesota, Aurora/St. Anthony Neighborhood Development Corporation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota, ClearWay Minnesota, The God Squad, MAD DADS, Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers, New Hope Baptist Church, Progressive Baptist Church, Rainbow Health Initiative, Tobacco-Free Alliance and Twin Cities Medical Society calls for menthol to be added to the list of flavored tobacco that can be sold through adult-only tobacco stores; and,

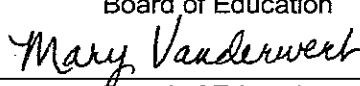
WHEREAS, the FDA has the ability to include menthol to their list of federally prohibited ingredients;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Board of Education for the Saint Paul Public Schools supports efforts by the City of Saint Paul to improve the health of their citizens by restricting the sale of flavored tobacco products including menthol to adult only tobacco shops, and call on the FDA to regulate menthol as it does other flavored tobacco products.

Adopted 6/20/2017



CHAIR Board of Education



CLERK Board of Education