

St. Louis Park Public Schools  
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
Monday, February 27, 2006 7:00 pm  
St. Louis Park Senior High Room 350C

The regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 283 of St. Louis Park, Hennepin County, Minnesota, convened at 7:00 pm on Monday, February 27, 2006, in St. Louis Park Senior High Room 350C. Present were Board Nancy Gores, Rolf Peterson, Bruce Richardson, Larry Shapiro, Julie Sweitzer, Jerry Timian, and Jim Yarosh, Superintendent Debra Bowers, Assistant Superintendent Dan Walker, Director of Business Services Jeff Priess, Director of Community Education Linda Saveraid, Director of Special Services Tami Reynolds, and Secretary to the Board Suzanne Hillstrom.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Richardson to approve the agenda. Motion passed 7-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Timian, seconded by Sweitzer to approve the typo corrected minutes of the January 23, 2005 regular Board meeting. Motion passed 7-0

A motion was made by Shapiro, seconded by Gores to approve the corrected minutes of the February 4, 2006 special Board to reflect the accurate starting time. Motion passed 7-0.

A motion was made by Sweitzer, seconded by Richardson to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2006 regular Board meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

**OPEN FORUM**

Parents Darcie Steeves and Laura Silberfarb, representing parents of Early Child Special Education students, addressed the Board to express concerns about proposed decreases in funding services. Parents Jody Murrens and Philip Coen-Pesch also addressed the Board to encourage continued funding for ECSE intervention.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Bowers thanked parents representing the Early Childhood Special Education group for their comments. Director of Special Education Tami Reynolds reviewed ECSE Data Trends for 2003-06 for St. Louis Park's average daily membership and students served and encouraged parents to continue to contact her with concerns. She reported that the district is working to create a collaborative learning environment together with Community Education to provide services to identified pre-school children. Business Services Director Jeff Priess presented information regarding the process for formulating the fiscal dollars generated for providing early childhood special education services. This funding formula is common to all districts throughout the state and is a legislative created formula. Superintendent Bowers reported on the following three staff recognitions: Robert Rand, Cedar Manor 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, has received the Muriel Green Award in recognition of outstanding performance by elementary science teachers; Cedar Manor principal Bernie Amberg received the Division Leadership Achievement Award from the MN Elementary Principals Association, which recognizes elementary principals whose work is an inspiration to colleagues; and Park Spanish Immersion teacher LeeAnn Stephens is a semi-finalist for the Minnesota Teacher of the Year award presented by the Minnesota Department of Education.

**STUDY SESSION TOPICS**

High School Mentorship Program

Shlynn Hayes, Senior High Grade Level coordinator and advisor to Young Women of Divine Achievements (Y.O.D.A.) introduced this support group for minority female students at the senior high. YODA president senior Alissa Jones talked about the opportunities this support group provides to students with regard to goal setting and personal care. Other officers who also reported on the successes of the program were juniors Tromesa May and Rosa Gauthier-Culnane and sophomore Yvette Johnson. Two senior high programs for African-American male students were described by program coordinator Stacy Collins and volunteer group leader Oscar Reed. Students who talked about the programs were senior Tyron Jarrett, juniors Julian Brown and Matt Green, sophomores Nick Anderson and Jayson Morris and freshman DeMario McKenny. The "Boys to Men" program is a support group, which is conducted in a "circle" setting where students can confidentially share concerns and needs. The Senior High/Aquila mentorship program pairs senior high students with 3<sup>rd</sup> grade African-American boys at Aquila Primary Center. The senior high and Aquila students meet on a regular basis and the senior high students serve as positive role models for the younger students. An increase in test scores and decrease in behavioral concerns by student participants have been successes for the Aquila students. Y.O.D.A. students reported that their type of support group would also be well-served to junior high and elementary girls.

Commons Grounds

Board Member Richardson reported on the Common Grounds initiative started by Wayzata Schools in 2004 and supported by St. Louis Park since its onset. The group consists of 6 districts from around the state and the focus of the initiative is to create awareness for legislative consideration of concerns that are shared by metropolitan schools and greater Minnesota school districts. The Common Grounds Initiative includes 12 school districts and St. Louis Park represents first-ring suburbs. Richardson presented a draft of the 2006 platform and encouraged continued support by the District. The 2006 platform includes two issues: 1) to restore special education formula growth factors

to account for inflation, and 2) to fully fund the State special education entitlement, currently prorated at 86%. Richardson urged Board members to continue support of this initiative and to continue reminding the legislative of education needs.

Policy Review

As a continuation of the District Policy Manual review, Consultant Mitchell Trockman presented policies that are under consideration for review, revision and/or addition. Policy 812 Use and Conservation of Energy is presented for a final reading and under consideration for approval. The following policies were presented for a first reading and discussion:

- 601 School District Curriculum and Instruction Goals
- 604 Instructional Curriculum
- 602 Organization of School Calendar School Day
- 603 Curriculum Development
- 605 Alternative Programs
- 606 Textbook and Instructional Materials
- 607 Organization of Grade Levels
- 608 Instructional Services –Special Education
- 611 Home Schooling
- 612.1 Development of Parental Involvement Policies for Title I Programs

Policies 601-608 replace existing policies and 611 and 612.1 are new recommended policies.

Staffing Timeline

Assistant Superintendent Dan Walker presented information regarding the staffing timeline process for 2006-07, which follows contract language and state law.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Timian to approve the consent agenda for Personnel and Business as presented. Approval of the consent agenda included confirmation of the Meadowbrook Outreach Coordinator Contract for 2005-06 and 2006-07, which was approved by the Meadowbrook Collaborative Board on January 12, 2006. Motion passed 7-0.

**ACTION AGENDA**

Policy Action

A motion was made by Timian, seconded by Gores to approve Policy 812 Use and Conservation of Energy. Motion passed 7-0

Common Grounds Resolution

A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Sweitzer to approve continued support of the “Common Ground” initiative and to reappoint Bruce Richardson as the primary Board representative to the initiative. Motion passed 7-0.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSMITTALS**

Board member Timian reminded the community of the Empty Bowls event that will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup>. This event is a fund raiser for STEP and a reminder of the many people who do not have enough to eat. He also reported that the Boys’ Nordic Ski Team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the state meet while individual skier Mike Mommsen placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. Richardson reported on the junior high production of “Little House of Horrors” held last weekend and commended junior high students, music teacher John Myszkowski, and community members Tim Rauk (piano) and Sue Wolfe (play director) for once again presenting an outstanding theatrical production. Peterson attended the “Winter Meltdown” event held on Saturday at Central Community Center. This activity is a family fun day that is sponsored and staffed the Kid’s Place Community Education child care program. Gores commented that the boy’s hockey team meets Blake on Tuesday night in the section tournament. Assistant Superintendent Dan Walker reported that senior winter athletics are currently finalizing their seasons.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion by made by Gores seconded by Peterson to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

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Rolf Peterson, Clerk

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Jim Yarosh, Chair