

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, December 12, 2005 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 7:08 pm on Monday, December 12, 2005, in St. Louis Park Senior High Room 350C. Present were Board Members Keith Broady, Nancy Gores, Rolf Peterson, Bruce Richardson, Jerry Timian, Jim Yarosh, and Julie Sweitzer, Superintendent Debra Bowers, Director of Business Services Jeff Priess, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Barbara DeMaster, Director of Community Education Linda Saveraid, Director of Special Services Tami Reynolds, Secretary to the Board Suzanne Hillstrom and Board Member-elect Larry Shapiro.

SPOTLIGHT – Girls State Swimming

Girls' swimming coach Jake Schweitering gave a brief overview of the season and introduced the following girls who competed at the State Swimming Meet: Theresa Akers, Stephanie Platt, Naomi Kane, Samantha Worthingham, Mary Raether, Melanie Hicks, Brigitte Vellekoop and Megan Ostrom. Board chair Broady congratulated the athletes and presented each with a Certificate of Achievement from the School Board. Athletic Director Andy Ewald and the Board also congratulated Schweitering, who was named the Section 5A Coach of the Year.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Peterson to approve the agenda. Motion carried 6-0 (Richardson out of meeting).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Timian, seconded by Gores to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2005 regular Board meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Timian, seconded by Sweitzer to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2005 special Board meeting held jointly with the St. Louis Park City Council. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2005 special Board retreat as corrected to add first reading of Policy 214-Out of State Travel by Board Members. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Timian, seconded by Yarosh to approve the minutes of the December 6, 2005 special Board meeting (Truth in Taxation hearing). Motion carried 7-0.

OPEN FORUM - none

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Bowers reminded the community that St. Louis Park has been named one of the 100 best communities for youth in the country. She displayed a certificate of achievement as well as a photo of the group of community members who attended an award ceremony in Washington, DC in November. Bowers complimented community members and students who participated in a joint band festival held at the senior high school on Sunday, November 11th. She also reported that parents with students at intermediate and secondary schools are taking advantage of the parent access available through our PowerSchool student management system. Parent participation at this time is as follows: Senior High-40%; Junior High-48%; PSI-22%; Cedar Manor-13%; and Susan Lindgren-15%. In closing, Bowers reminded the community and staff that the STEP program now at their new location of Hwy 7 and Wooddale is in need of clothing and money at this time.

STUDY SESSION TOPICS

Policy Review

The Board discussed three policies under consideration for inclusion in the District Policy Manual. This is the second reading of Policy 214 – Out of State Travel by Board Members, is mandated for approval prior to January 1, 2006 and will be acted upon tonight. Policy 907- Rewards is also required by state law and must be adopted before the District could authorize rewards for accurate and reliable information leading to the conviction of a person committing or conspiring to commit a crime. Unnumbered policy- Use of E-mail by School Board Members prohibits Board Members from engaging in discussions via electronic mail. Communication via electronic mail is in direct violation of the Open Meeting Law. The community is reminded that they can communicate with any Board member by calling the Board Hotline at 952-928-6040.

Facility Update

Director of Business Services Jeff Priess reported on the operating costs of District owned and operated swimming pools. District swimming pools are located at Central Community Center, St. Louis Park Junior High and St. Louis Park Senior High. Based on pool expenditures and revenues, pool usage, capital costs and recommended changes to mitigate the expenditures within the General Fund, it is the administrative recommendation to maintain all three pools within the District but to create greater efficiencies in running the pools. The Board is requesting additional information and a follow-up report in March, which would include more specific information with regard to pool usage and rental fees.

NWEA Growth Data Report

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Barbara DeMaster and Data Specialist Prachee Mukherjee reported on the NWEA data, which shows student growth in reading and math. The NWEA Growth Data Report is based on an analysis of student scores on NWEA tests in Spring 2003, Spring 2004 and Spring 2005 or over three testing seasons. Only students who were present for all three tests were included in this report. Data reported compares growth from grade to grade within our district.

FY007 Budget Update

Director of Business Services Jeff Priess provided updated information with regard to the development of the FY07 school district General Fund budget. Information included enrollment projections, revenue and expenditure updates and projections of the year-end fund balance.

PYP IB Update

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Barbara DeMaster introduced the update on exploring the process of implementing the Primary Years International Baccalaureate Program within St. Louis Park Schools. Peter Hobart teachers Ila Saxema and Sam Fredrickson outlined how the PYP curriculum is organized. The six themes of organization of the curriculum are: 1) Who we are; 2) Where we are in place and time 3) How we express ourselves; 4) How the world works; 5) How we organizes ourselves, and 6) Sharing the planet. Fredrickson explained the student profile under the PYP concept. Expectations of students would be that they would become inquirers, communicators, caring, thinkers, risk-takers, open-minded, well-balanced, knowledgeable, principled, and reflective as a result of learning under the PYP concept. Principals Frank Johnson and Rob Metz addressed how PYP has been presented to their staff and parents and both expressed their support of implementing the program within the primary grades at Peter Hobart and Aquila schools. In closing, DeMaster outlined the timeline for implementation, including filing an application, writing curriculum and teacher training.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Sweitzer to approve the consent agenda for Personnel and Business as presented. Chair Broady acknowledged the retirement of Micki Danovsky at the end of 2005. She is currently secretary to the Director of Community Education and has worked in the District for 21 years. Motion passed 7-0.

ACTION AGENDA

Payable 2006 Levy Certification

A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Peterson approve the Final Levy Certification for taxes payable 2006. Priess clarified how the legislative changes have impacted the authority for school levies, which is set at the amount of \$18,309,324.30. Motion passed 7-0.

IB Resolution

A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Peterson to approve the resolution in support of the Primary Years International Baccalaureate Program. Motion passed 7-0.

Appointment to CEAC

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Yarosh to approve appointment of senior high student Ben Williams to the Community Education Advisory Council. Motion passed 7-0.

Contract Approval

A motion was made by Timian, seconded by Gores to approve the contract agreement between Independent School District 283 and the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. Motion passed 7-0.

A motion was made by Yarosh, seconded by Richardson to approve the contract agreement between Independent School District 283 and the Superintendent for 2005-06 and 2006-07. Motion passed 7-0.

A motion was made by Timian, seconded by Gores to approve the contract agreement between Independent School District 283 and the District Office Administrators for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07. Motion passed 7-0.

Policy Approval

A motion was made by Nancy, seconded by Peterson to approve Policy 214 – Out of State Travel by Board Members. Motion passed 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSMITTALS

Board member Yarosh congratulated and thanked Keith Broady on his service to the St. Louis Park School Board on the occasion of his last meeting as a member of the St. Louis Park School Board. A reception for Broady will be held at the January 9, 2006 Board Meeting beginning at 6:30 pm. Richardson reminded the public that at the end of the year, they are encouraged to donate to the St. Louis Park Schools Foundation.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by made by Peterson, seconded by Yarosh to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Nancy Gores, Clerk

Jim Yarosh, Vice Chair

