

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, February 12, 2007 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 7:03 pm on Monday, January 8, 2007, in St. Louis Park Senior High Room 350C. Present were Board Members Nancy Gores, Rolf Peterson, Bruce Richardson, Jerry Timian, Larry Shapiro, Julie Sweitzer and Jim Yarosh, Superintendent Debra Bowers, Assistant Superintendent Dan Walker, Director of Business Affairs Jeff Priess, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Barbara DeMaster, Director of Community Education Linda Saveraid, Director of Student Services Tami Reynolds and Secretary to the Board Suzanne Hillstrom.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

STUDY SESSION TOPICS

School Report – Park Spanish Immersion

Park Spanish Immersion School Principal and music teacher Nissa Brown provided information regarding the mission of PSI and how their objectives and strategies result in student achievement. Now in its 11th year, PSI provides immersion learning for 551 students in grades K-6. The 52 staff members represent 16 countries. MCA_{II} Data for 2006 is above the state average in all areas and is as follows: Grade 3 87% (reading), 90% (math); Grade 4 94% (reading), 95% (math); Grade 5 96% (reading), 89% (math); Grade 6 100% (reading), 84% (math). Student achievement goals for 2005-06 were 1) increase grammatical accuracy in Spanish language production as defined by the Mastery Assessments in the Spanish Grammar Scope and Sequence to 80% of all students in each grade level, and 2) increase student achievement in reading and math by students showing typical growth from fall to spring NWEA tests. The PSI Discipline goal for 2005-06 was to decrease disruptive behavior by 10%; actual results were a 40% decrease in disruptive behavior. Student achievement goal for 2006-07 is to increase student achievement in reading and math by all students showing typical growth from fall to spring NWEA tests by the following percentages: Grade 3 53% (reading) and 47% (math); Grade 4 50% (reading and math); Grade 5 55% (reading) and 50% (math); and Grade 6 55% (reading) and 50% math). Extended day learning opportunities are offered 4 days each week to provide additional help to targeted students. The building discipline goals for 2006-07 are to 1) continue to decrease discipline referrals by 2%; 2) continue to consistently implement Responsive Classroom methodology in all classrooms and school settings, and 3) development and implementation of Responsive Classroom pro-active school-wide discipline plans. Ms. Brown gave an overview of how staff development methods being used at PSI empower teachers to develop skills, which result in increased student achievement.

Policy Review

Superintendent Bowers presented information regarding the current Park Spanish Immersion Admission Policy. Bowers' recommendation is to affirm the current policy JECD and to renumber 535; collect additional data and community input; create a community task force; and align strategic plan. In addition, Superintendent Bowers also recommends creating a district equity policy to promote high academic achievement for all students and align the district strategic plan with equity plans.

The Board reviewed policies under consideration for updating to reflect MSBA's model policies and numbering system. Policies presented for a first reading include:

<u>Policy</u>		<u>Recommendation</u>
JECD	Park Spanish Immersion Admission Policy	Reaffirm; renumber 535
IGBC	Education of Homeless Children	Reaffirm; renumber 645
IICB	Community Resource Persons	Eliminate; included in 627 School Volunteers
IKAB	Student Progress Reports to Parents/Guardians	Revise; renumber 640
IM	Evaluation of Instructional Programs	Eliminate; included in 603 Curriculum Development

Policies presented for a final reading include:

ICB	Extended School Year: Early Childhood	Revise; renumber 910 Early Childhood Family Education
IGE	Adult Education Programs	Revise; renumber 912 Adult Education Programs
IGEA	Adult Basic Education Program (A.B.E.)	Eliminate; included in 912
416	Drug and Alcohol Testing	NEW

Policy 901 Community Education has been presented and will be tabled pending further review by CEAC.

Community Education Report

Director of Community Education Linda Saveraid presented an overview of the Community Education program and Annual Report for 2005-06. The mission of Community Education is to “enhance the quality of life through lifelong learning and the empowerment of people.” Saveraid outlined programs provided for early childhood, youth, adult and senior participants and participation numbers for 2005-06. In addition, there were over 100 different community groups that used space at community education buildings for group activities that are not directly under community education programming. Community Education is advised by a volunteer council consisting of School Board members, city council members, youth and community members. Tuition fees constitute 65.3% of the annual revenue, while other sources of income come from property taxes (7.9%), other districts (8.5%), State of Minnesota (18.3%). Saveraid reported that the St. Louis Park PYP preschool is the first of its kind to be offered in a public school setting in the country. Other programs under the Community Education umbrella include adult enrichment, adult options/ESL, preschool enrichment, ECFE, Kids’ Place (preschool and school age child care), Kindergarten Plus, Pre-school enrichment, project SOAR, senior program, volunteer program, gymnastics, aquatics, youth development, youth enrichment, and youth summer school. The Community Education Program introduced the LifeLong Learning Plan, which increased senior participation. Saveraid also outlined results of the Educational Effectiveness audit conducted in spring 2006.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Shapiro, seconded by Timian to accept the Consent Agenda for personnel as presented. Motion passed 7-0.

ACTION AGENDA

Policy Approval

A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Shapiro to approve the following changes to the District Policy Manual: Motion passed 7-0.

<u>Policy</u>		<u>Recommendation</u>
ICB	Extended School Year: Early Childhood	Revise; renumber 910 Early Childhood Family Education
IGE	Adult Education Programs	Revise; renumber 912 Adult Education Programs
IGEA	Adult Basic Education Program (A.B.E.)	Eliminate; included in 912
416	Drug and Alcohol Testing	NEW

COMMUNICATIONS

On January 24, starting at 6:30, in the senior high school, the St. Louis Park Schools Foundation will hold a fundraising GALA event featuring senior high students from the band, orchestra, chorus, drama and arts programs.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Sweitzer, seconded by Richardson to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Rolf Peterson, Clerk

Jim Yarosh, Chair