

St. Louis Park Public Schools  
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
Monday, February 26, 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 7:01 pm on Monday, February 26, 2007, in St. Louis Park Senior High Room 350C. Present were Board Members Nancy Gores, Rolf Peterson, Bruce Richardson, Jerry Timian (7:05), Larry Shapiro, Julie Sweitzer and Jim Yarosh, Superintendent Debra Bowers, Asst Supt Dan Walker, Dir of Business Services Jeff Priess, Dir of Curriculum and Instruction Barbara DeMaster, Director of Student Services Tami Reynolds, and Secretary to the Board Suzanne Hillstrom.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Gores to approve the agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Shapiro to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2007 special meeting, Motion passed 5-0-1 (Richardson abstain).

A motion was made by Sweitzer, seconded by Gores to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2007 regular meeting, Motion passed 6-0-1 (Richardson abstain).

A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Sweitzer to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2007 regular meeting as corrected, Motion passed 7-0.

**OPEN FORUM -none**

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Bowers began her report by thanking and complimenting the planners and participants of last Saturday's GALA event, which highlighted band, orchestra, arts, chorus and theater activities at the senior high. The event was held as a fundraising activity for the St. Louis Park Schools Foundation. Jerry Timian thanked staff members Evan Komar, Jack Deonarine and Stephanie Donohue for their extra help due to the snowstorm. Bowers commented on the school district's partnership with Park Nicollet in the Healthy Youth Collaboration and also displayed the award received by the community for being named one of 100 Best Communities for Young People by the America's Promise organization. This is the second time St. Louis Park has received this award.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

ECSE (Early Childhood Special Education) Report

Coordinator of Special Services Louise Raths, Director of Special Education Tami Reynolds and teacher Kathy Riemensnider presented the annual ECSE report. This report provided an update on staffing, students served, partnerships and student achievement/goals setting. ECSE provides services to children birth through age six who have been identified with special education needs. Other components of ECSE include the age 3-K program, kindergarten program and speech and language program. The presenters responded to Board comments about the collaboration between special education and community education in providing services.

Policy Review/Development

Board member Peterson presented a final reading of the following policies and recommendations:

<u>Policy</u>		<u>Recommendation</u>
JECD	Park Spanish Immersion Admission	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	Revise; renumber 640
IM	Evaluation of Instructional Programs	Eliminate; included in 603 Curriculum Development

Richardson reported that he shared board discussion about Policy 545 Park Spanish Immersion Admissions with the Park Spanish Immersion site council.

Budget Development / Staffing Timeline

Director of Business Affairs Jeff Priess reported on the development of the 2007-08 budget. The budget is developed based on assumptions of projected enrollment and anticipated revenue and expenditures. There is a projected increase in revenue by .5 of 1%. The final budget will be presented for Board approval in June 2007. Projected staffing reductions include: K-6-reduce 1.5 FTE; senior high – reduce 2.0 FTE; specialist – reduce 1.5 FTE. Administration is also beginning a Functional Analysis Project, which will be conducted by Virchow Krause. Considerations for this study include: 1) merge current SHOC program with an Intermediate District 287 program; 2) reallocation of administrative costs, and 3) examine choice program bus routes.

School Year Calendars 2007-08 and 2008-09

Assistant Superintendent Dan Walker presented proposed school year calendars for 2007-08 and 2008-09. Calendars have been prepared allowing for required number of attendance days for students and staff and have been reviewed and approved by various consulted groups, including parents, teachers, staff and administration.

Common Ground

Board member Richardson presented information regarding the Common Ground initiative, which began in 2004. This initiative develops and shares common concerns between metro and greater Minnesota districts in an effort to demonstrate to legislators what districts all have in common in education. Current districts participating include Wayzata, St. Louis Park, Hayfield, and Dassel-Cokato. Recommendations from the initiative to the legislature for the 2007 session include: 1) Restore special education formula growth factors to account for inflation; and, 2) Phase in increases for the state special education entitlement, currently prorated at 82.6%. Because the districts involved in the initiative believe the reform of special education funding can be the first step in reforming the K-12 funding system, they also encourage the Legislature to study the funding framework proposed by PS Minnesota.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Sweitzer, seconded by Shapiro, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion passed 7-0.

**ACTION AGENDA**

Policy Approval

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

<u>Policy</u>		<u>Recommendation</u>
JECD	Park Spanish Immersion Admission	Reaffirm; renumber 545
IGBC	Education of Homeless Children	Reaffirm; renumber 645
IICB	Community Resource Persons	Eliminate; included in 627 School Volunteers
IKAB	Student Progress Reports	Revise; renumber 640
IM	Evaluation of Instructional Programs	Eliminate; included in 603 Curriculum Development

Common Ground Resolution

A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Gores, to approve continued support for the Common Ground initiative. Motion passed 7-0.

School Year Calendars 2007-08 and 2008-09

A motion was made by Shapiro, seconded by Gores, to approve the recommended calendars for school years 2007-09 and 2008-09. Motion passed 7-0.

Bid Approval – Senior High Ventilation Upgrade

A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Sweitzer, to award the contract for the upgrade of the senior high school ventilation system to Environ-Con, Inc. with the low base bid amount of \$207,500.00. Motion passed 7-0.

Contract Approval – Specialists

A motion was made by Timian, seconded by Peterson, to approve the negotiated contract for the Specialists employee group for 2005-08. Motion passed 7-0.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Timian reminded the community of the Empty Bowls event scheduled for March 8, 2007 at the St. Louis Park Recreation Center. Sweitzer congratulated staff and students at Aquila on receiving the MAEF educational improvement award and Cedar Manor for their program honoring diversity and elders. Timian congratulated PSI students on the February 15<sup>th</sup> Inventor’s Fair.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Shapiro to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

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Rolf Peterson, Clerk

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Jim Yarosh, Chair

