

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, February 28, 2005 7:30 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 7:30 pm on Monday, February 28, 2005, in St. Louis Park Senior High Room 350C. Present were Board Members Keith Broady, Nancy Gores, Rolf Peterson, Bruce Richardson, Julie Sweitzer, Jerry Timian and Jim Yarosh, Superintendent Debra Bowers, Director of Business Services Jeff Priess, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Barbara DeMaster, Director of Special Education Tami Reynolds, Director of Community Education Linda Saveraid, and Acting Secretary to the Board Judi Gruber.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Timian seconded by Yarosh to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2005 regular Board meeting. Motion passed 6-0-1. A motion was made by Sweitzer, seconded by Timian to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2005 special Board meeting. Motion passed 7-0.

OPEN FORUM

Susan Lindgren Teacher Mike Farrell spoke about the upcoming art fair at the St. Louis Park Public Library. He also requested that school board members not to cut the current arts programs in St. Louis Park Schools in the budget cutting process. Ferrell is concerned about art education across the District, not just at Susan Lindgren. He pointed out that Susan Lindgren staff has voted to increase funding for art's programs. Wendy Skinner, Susan Lindgren parent and substitute teacher in St. Louis Park, said that she has observed an art class at Susan Lindgren Elementary School. Skinner praised the content and delivery of the class. She stated that an art specialist is necessary for such delivery.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Superintendent Bowers reported that three buses were used to take people to the education rally at the State Capital. She highlighted the fact that Portia Byrd spoke at the rally.
- The Community Band concert at Orchestra Hall on February 27th was very well done.
- The St. Louis Park summer school program is being expanded for 2005.
- February 28 through March 4 is School Board Recognition Week. Dr. Bowers commended our School Board members for the time and effort they put in for our District. She presented each board member with a certificate of appreciation.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Twin West Chamber Update

Barbara Oberstar presented some background information about the Twin West Chamber. Lee Engler gave an update of some of the chamber activities for this year:

- \$60 – 70,000.00 will be given out in scholarships this year. Scholarship applications are due by March 4th. The average amount given out is about \$1,000.00 per student.
- Business Day at the Capital – Chamber members will be meeting with legislators advocating education and lobbying for education.
- Twin West – staunch supporter of K-12 education. and the second largest Chamber, second to St. Paul.

Staffing Timeline – Non-Renewal and Unrequested Leave

Dan Walker reviewed the calendar for staffing non-renewal and unrequested leave.

2005-06 and 2006-07 Calendar Update

Dan Walker reviewed the school calendar development process. He offered versions of the 2005-06 and 2006-07 calendars for consideration. There is a possibility that the Legislature may vote to start school after Labor Day, so that is an additional option to be kept in mind. The school calendars will be presented to the board for approval at the March 14 meeting.

Policy Development – Open and Closed Meetings

The Board received a written third reading of policy Open and Closed Board Meetings. Two policies have been consolidated and the revised document will be submitted to the board for approval.

Policy Development – PowerSchool Parent/Guardian Web Access

This is the second reading of this revised policy. Several areas have been cleaned up and/or clarified. The third and final reading will occur at the March 14th board meeting with request for approval.

Resolution for the Sale of Refunding Bonds (2000)

Jeff Priess presented the resolution for the sale of refunding bonds and asked for approval from the School Board. Richardson stated that he thought this seems to be a good time to move on this. It will be a savings to the taxpayer, not money to help the district with debt reduction.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Yarosh to approve the Consent Agenda for Personnel and Business as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

ACTION AGENDA

Policy Approval – Open and Closed Meetings

A motion was made by Timian, seconded by Sweitzer to approve the Policy – Open and Closed Meetings. Motion carried 7-0.

Resolution for the Sale of Refunding Bonds (2000)

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

Special School Board Meetings

A motion was made by Yarosh, seconded by Gores to approve the schedule of special meetings for March. Motion carried 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSMITTALS

- Timian reminded everyone that the Empty Bowls community Celebration will be held on March 3rd. You can choose a bowl for your soup and then take it home with you.
- Richardson wanted to thank Common Ground Initiative for their work. He said that we all need to invest in our children and sent out a request that everyone contact our Legislators.
- Gores – Our children are more than test scores and our teachers are more than FTE's. To families – thank you for your support to teachers. For teachers – thank you for all you do every day.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by made by Yarosh, seconded by Peterson to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.