

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, April 11, 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 7:35 pm on Monday, April 11, 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 Special Services Tami Reynolds, Director of Community Education Linda Saveraid, 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 7-0.

STUDY SESSION TOPICS

WMEP Update

Dr. Dan Jett, Superintendent of WMEP (West Metro Education Program) updated the Board on current programs and activities. WMEP is made up of 11 urban and suburban member districts whose mission is to promote student success and community acceptance of differences by providing opportunities for students, families and staff from diverse backgrounds to learn from and with each other. Member districts include Brooklyn Center, Columbia Heights, Eden Prairie, Edina, Hopkins, Minneapolis, Richfield, Robbinsdale, St. Anthony-New Brighton, St. Louis Park, and Wayzata. Jett described the development of WMEP beginning with conception in 1989. Student programs include the FAIR School (Fine Arts Interdisciplinary Resource School), which is a grade 4-8 school located in Crystal; IDDS (Interdistrict Downtown School) which is a K-12 program in downtown Minneapolis; and the Choice is Yours program, which is for Minneapolis students who qualify for free and reduced lunch to attend a suburban member school. Currently, St. Louis Park participation includes 23 students at FAIR, 17 at IDDS, and 60 Minneapolis students attending St. Louis Park in the Choice is Yours program. Adult staff development programs include Cultural Collaborative workshops and the National Urban Alliance (NUA) Literacy Initiative. In 2004-05, there were 72 staff participations in Cultural Collaborative workshops while both the Junior and Senior High Schools participated in the NUA Literacy Initiative.

Program Based Budget Update

Director of Business Affairs Jeff Priess reviewed Minnesota Department of Education Profile Data – Trends from school years 1998-99 to 2003-04. State revenue is based on ADM (average daily membership) and directly affects revenue used to operate school programs. ADM in 1989-99 was projected at 4,355 with 4,386 actual student enrollment. In 2003-04, projected enrollment was 4,367 with 4,441 actual enrollment. Priess addressed how projected enrollment trends are used to develop operating budgets as well as spending comparisons between St. Louis Park and other Hennepin County districts in the areas of administration, regular instruction, special instruction, maintenance, and regular transportation. In each area, St. Louis Park is slightly higher than other Hennepin County districts. Priess also reviewed the school district budget calendar regarding the development of the 2005-06 budget. The Board will receive the Superintendent's recommendations at the April business meeting and the Board will approve the 2005-06 budget in May. Priess also addressed the projected revenue and expenditures with regard to the FY06 Capital Fund.

Staff Development Report

Curriculum Specialist Linnea Swenson-Tellekson described staff development in St. Louis Park, which is based on the Killion Model for Designing Staff Development. Swenson-Tellekson currently chairs the Minnesota Staff Development Council, while Junior High Staff Development Specialist Mia Waldera also serves on the Minnesota SD Council. The goal of St. Louis Park staff development is that all teachers in all schools will experience high quality professional learning as part of their daily work by 2007. Director of Curriculum and Instruction Barbara DeMaster explained that a team of St. Louis Park staff will attend training this summer in preparation for implementation of an elementary IB program in St. Louis Park.

ACTION AGENDA

Reappointment of Rolf Peterson to Telecommunications Advisory Council

A motion was made by Timian, seconded by Yarosh to reappoint Rolf Peterson to represent the School Board on the St. Louis Park Telecommunications Advisory Commission for a 3-year term. Motion passed 6-0-1. (Peterson abstain)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Timian, seconded by Sweitzer to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.