

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, April 25, 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 7:03 pm on Monday, April 25, 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.

SPOTLIGHT

Board Chair Broady paid tribute to former Superintendent Harold Enestvedt who recently passed away at the age of 98. Mr. Enestvedt was superintendent of St. Louis Park Schools for a period of 24 years from 1948-1972. Former school guidance counselors Roland Larson and Lyle Williams spoke about the qualities that made Harold Enestvedt such a valued district leader. Larson described Mr. Enestvedt as gentle, kind, quiet, having high morals and high standards; he took time to listen to staff and understand their needs. Williams addressed some of the achievements accomplished by Enestvedt during his tenure. He oversaw the construction of 9 new school buildings, 8 school additions and created District 287, a special needs district. He also created Community Education in St. Louis Park. He was described as the "Father of St. Louis Park Schools." Harold Enestvedt's son, Jim, spoke on behalf of his sister Ann and brother Chuck, who were also in attendance.

The Board recognized the Senior High Math Team. Coach Kristen Johnson introduced team members who qualified for participation at the state meet. Those students are Aaron Peterson (1st place, top scorer), Sam Burke, Justin Carlson, Brian Ford, Ben Segal, Sean Vig, Jacob Konikoff, Bryson Uhrig-Fox, Scott Broady, and Alex Kern. Cari Taylor also coaches with Johnson.

The Board also recognized the Senior High Nordic Ski Team state participants. Assistant coaches Kevin Johnson and Kris Petrie introduced girls' team individual qualifiers Meghan Cornwall and Audrey Weber. The boys' team consisted of Kevin Bell, Jeff Bush, Mike Mommsen, Tyler Hendrickson, Tim Cheesebro, Andrew Tilman, Jesse Lang and Evan Hendrickson. Head coach is Doug Peterson.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Richardson to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2005 Board meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2005 joint City Council/School Board meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Yarosh, seconded by Peterson to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2005 Board meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

STUDY SESSION TOPICS

PSI Kindergarten Update

Lynda Stanley, Student Data Systems Specialist, reported on the enrollment process and results for the Park Spanish Immersion kindergarten enrollment for 2005-06. Ninety-one students have been accepted for enrollment for 2005-06. The configuration of that enrollment is as follows: 1 open enrollment sibling; 36 PSI student siblings (total 42 siblings); 27 SLP resident lottery; 20 designated census area (includes 5 siblings); 3 Choice is Yours; and 4 students of staff residing in St. Louis Park. Jeff Longenecker, PSI kindergarten teacher and site council member described outreach activities that he and other site council members used to inform parents of potential kindergarten students about PSI. They attended ECFE Information Night and Family Learning Program as well as conducted PSI Information Night and Open House tours. In addition, site council members have made telephone calls to parents of kindergarten age students to respond to questions.

ECFE Report

Mary O'Brien, Youth and Family Services Programs Manager, outlined the Early Childhood Family Education programs in St. Louis Park. Programs include Creative Play, Early Child Family Education (PALS and PALS+ nursery school), Family Literacy, Kids' Place, Infants, Toddlers and Preschool Child Care, Primary Project, and School Readiness. She also presented information regarding state school readiness initiatives and national research documenting the economic benefits of early childhood programs. The ECFE programs address the district objective that every child will enter kindergarten with the readiness skills necessary to be successful in school. Family Learning teacher Cindy Hanson spoke about the Family Literacy program and parent participant Celia Gillegrana described how this program has helped her increase her English language skills so that she is now able to help her school age child with homework. Director of Community Education Linda Saveraid invited community members to visit and tour any of the Early Childhood programs.

Web Site Report

Saveraid and Linda Asche, Adult Enrichment Coordinator, described the process of re-designing the district web site. Goals of implementing a new web site for the district include developing one that is easy to navigate, intuitive and includes complete information about the district. The updated web site is currently available and Asche demonstrated new features that make it more user friendly as well as informative. The electronic address of the district web site is www.spschools.org.

Superintendent's Budget Recommendations

Superintendent Debra Bowers presented her recommendations for the 2005-06 school year budget. Recommendations were based upon revenue assumptions that include legislative approval of a proposed 2% increase in General education allowance, lease revenue (Eliot) and an increase in Community Education subsidy. In addition, expenditure assumptions include revisions in special education budget expenditures and transportation expenditure reductions. Director of Business Affairs Jeff Priess presented dollar figures to support the superintendent's recommendations. Revised revenue is \$670,392 and revised expenditures are \$-562,000. Even with the proposed increase in General education allowance, programs will experience budget cuts and individual building/program reductions will be made based upon Program Based Budget packages that were developed by program managers. In the event the legislature does not approve the proposed 2% increase in the General education allowance, the administration will consider ways to reduce program budgets. Considerations include a 20% reduction in supply budgets, and a 1.0 increase in class size district-wide.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Timian, seconded by Yarosh to approve the consent agenda for Personnel and Business as presented. Chair Broady acknowledged the June retirement of Judi Gruber. Gruber currently works in the District Office and has worked throughout the district for 32 years. Motion passed 7-0.

ACTION AGENDA

Unrequested Leave Placements and Probationary Non-renewals

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Timian to approve the following teachers for unrequested leave for 2005-06: Debra Bauers (.3 ULA), Laura Esterberg (1.0 ULA) and Diane Zielke (.84 ULA). Motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote.

Probationary Teacher Non-Renewals

A motion was made by Sweitzer, seconded by Timian to approve non-renewal of employment contract for the following probationary teachers for 2005-06: Lindy Lyons, Amy Martinson, Shari Fox, Diana McCarty, Kate Mueller, Sandra Olson, Amalia Pfaumer, Allison Vlack, Lois Butwin, Susan Cochran, Virginia Cooper, Kelly Ferris, Kathleen Goeddeke, Allison Hilgendorf, Kristy Nordeen, Lisa Vaughn, and Ron Zuchora-Walske. Motion passed 7-0 by roll call vote.

Establish Date for Budget Public Hearing

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Gores to conduct a public hearing to discuss the 2005-06 school year budget on Monday, May 9, 2005, beginning at 6:00 pm in the senior high room 350C with a second public hearing, if necessary, on May 23rd at the same time and location. Motion passed 7-0.

Remodeling of Senior High School Theater Catwalks

A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Peterson to award the contract for the remodeling project of the senior high theater catwalks to Meisinger Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$93,400.00. This repair project is required by the Fire Marshall and will be funded through Health and Safety. Motion passed 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSMITTALS

- Richardson reported that St. Louis Park Foundation Fundraising Gala will be held on Friday, May 20th. A concert will begin at 7:30 with a reception following. Richardson challenged the Board to each raise \$1,000 and encouraged community members to become active in this fundraising effort.
- Sweitzer commented on the Caring Youth Awards ceremony held last week to acknowledge youth in the community who were recognized for their commitment to volunteering and helping other people.
- Gores complimented students on the all-district choir concert held recently. Sweitzer added that all-district band and orchestra concerts were held the same week. All concerts were outstanding performances of district-wide student musical achievements.
- Timian commented that the Mayor's Youth Summit held on April 12th was once again a successful event. Student participation far exceeded expectations.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by made by Sweitzer, seconded by Peterson to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Nancy Gores, Clerk

Keith Broady, Chair