

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, May 23, 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 7:12 pm on Monday, May 23, 2005, in St. Louis Park Senior High Room 350C. Present were Board Members Keith Broady, Nancy Gores, Rolf Peterson, 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.

POINT OF LIGHT

The Board recognized and congratulated Peter Hobart teacher Diane Achter, who is a recent recipient of the University of Minnesota Alumni William E. Gardner Outstanding Educator award. Principal Frank Johnson introduced Achter and talked about Diane's successes of working with students and other teachers. Achter's award is named in honor of William Gardner, former professor of education at the University of Minnesota. During six of the 30 years Gardner lived in St. Louis Park, he served on the school board as a director and chairperson.

SPOTLIGHT

The Board recognized and congratulated the following students for participation in state. Senior High teacher Kara Mueller spoke briefly about the programs and students in attendance described their competition projects.

B.P.A. (Business Professionals of America) – Emir Beganovic, Ari David, Tsering Dechen, Kelly Kripps, and Kate Shaughnessy. Advising teacher – David Miller.

DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) – Meghan Beatty, Meredith Bell, Lauren Clements, Michelle Gross, Emily Hatcher, Elana Kelber, Zoe Kosmas, Elizabeth Moll, Cassandra Moore, Addison Nordin, Samantha Olofson, Derick Ramtahal, Arsenio Richardson, Carrie Selden, Benjamin Shoff, Fabiola Tapia, and Rebecca Worthington. Advising teachers – Sophia Ross and Kara Mueller. Bell and Selden also participated in and advanced to finals at DECA National Conference.

MAAP Stars (MN Association of Alternative Programs) – Jenna Reynolds, Elsie Benson, Nicholas Schuckert, Peter Bjerke, and Lindsay Kuhbander. Advising Teacher – Jodi Crim.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Timian, seconded by Gores to approve the agenda. Motion carried 5-0 (Sweitzer absent for vote).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Timian to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2005 Board meeting. Motion carried 5-0 (Sweitzer absent for vote).

A motion was made by Timian, seconded by Yarosh to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2005 Board meeting. Motion carried 5-0 (Sweitzer absent for vote).

OPEN FORUM - None

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Bowers acknowledged a \$40,000 grant that has been awarded to St. Louis Park Schools jointly by the General Mills and Park Nicollet Foundations to support an after school enrichment program for grades 4-6 at our intermediate schools to focus on better nutrition and increased student activity. She also reported that the Book Mark in the Park program is underway. This program is for adults and children in St. Louis Park to read the same book and then get together to share their reading experiences. The first book to be read in the program is The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo. PSI music teacher Nyssa Brown shared her experiences of receiving the Milken Family Foundation Excellent Teacher award. Brown received her award at an education conference in Washington, DC. Nyssa shared the Milken Foundations' work celebrating and supporting innovations in education. The web site to the Milken Foundation is www.mff.org. The Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) is a systemic reform that restructures schools in an effort to attract, retain and motivate talented people to the teaching profession. The TAP website is www.mff.org/tap.

STUDY SESSION TOPICS

Policy Manual Review

Consultant Mitchell Trockman reported on his review of the St. Louis Park District Policy Manual and recommended revisions while working with a sub-committee consisting of Board members Gores and Peterson, Superintendent Bowers and Board Secretary. Initial recommendations include a change in the policy identification system from the NSBA system to the MSBA system. The MSBA numbering system is used by a majority of districts throughout the state and provides for easy access to be in compliance with Minnesota state statute. Also recommended at this time is a policy titled Development, Adoption, and Implementation of Policies (208), which provides for the revision, addition or elimination of current policies. It is the goal to have the District Policy Manual revised and available for public use via the district website by the end of October 2005.

2004 Student Survey Report

District chemical health specialists Jeremy Riehle (SH) and Karen Gleason (JH) reviewed the results of the 2004 Minnesota Student Survey.

This is the 6th time the state has administered this survey, which is completed voluntarily and anonymously by 6th, 9th, and 12th graders. The surveys are administered on a rotation that tracks the students at different ages. The strategies of the survey are to raise protective factors and lower risk factors. Information made comparisons between the 2001 St. Louis Park responses and 2004 St. Louis Park and State responses. Trends indicate areas of concern for school and parents as advocates of students making good choices with regard to use of chemicals (tobacco, drug substance and alcohol) as well as sexual activity. Other areas addressed in the survey include, but are not limited to, feelings about school, truancy, academic performance, perceptions of school environment and safety, victimization at school, and activity participation.

2005-06 Budget Discussion

Director of Business Affairs Jeff Priess updated the Board on preliminary budgets for all District Funds for the 2005-06 fiscal year. He also presented a review of the assumptions utilized to establish these budgets. The Board will approve the 2005-06 budget prior to July 1, 2005 and it will be based upon assumptions in the event legislative action has not been completed. The legislature must adjourn prior to midnight tonight and at this point the education-funding bill has not yet been passed.

AMSD Funding Discussion

Board chair Broady outlined a recommendation by the AMSD executive committee to place a 10% surcharge on the dues of member districts. The purpose would be to obtain approximately \$50,000 to pay an outside consultant to complete a study for determining the amount of money it takes to educate a student. Member district boards are being advised of this recommendation before a final decision is made. The cost to St. Louis Park would be about \$900 based upon the annual dues of slightly less than \$10,000.

Public Health Facilities Agreement

Director of Community Education Saveraid presented the request for an agreement between St. Louis Park Schools and Hennepin County, which would provide for the County using space at the senior high in the event of a public health emergency. Potential uses of the facilities would include: mass vaccination or medication dispensing clinics, public health workforce readiness activities, disease investigation and case contact activities, and/or other emergency public health activities deemed necessary by the county public health department. The county is considering approximately 16 sites and St. Louis Park would be about the 10th site utilized. The Board requested clarification with regard to potential District costs and liabilities. Saveraid is unaware of any cost to be born by the District. Approval of this agreement will be confirmed by the Superintendent and the Board is recommending that the Superintendent confirm the agreement between the School District and Hennepin County provided there are appropriate protective provisions in the contract. Chair Broady asked for a report back regarding the outcome of this agreement.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Timian, seconded by Peterson to approve the consent agenda for Personnel and Business as presented. Chair Broady recognized District retirees Jim Gulstrand, Jo Henriksen and Shiela Robertsonas listed on the consent agenda. Motion passed 6-0.

ACTION AGENDA

Resolution – Recertification of School District 283 Census

A motion was made by Yarosh, seconded by Gores to certify the current population census for the St. Louis Park Area School District, which has been identified by the Minnesota Department of Education as 45,511. Motion passed 6-0.

Appointment of CEAC Committee Member

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Sweitzer to confirm the appointment of David Arago to the Community Education Advisory Council as a council member at large. Motion passed 6-0.

Pavement Improvement

A motion was made by Sweitzer, seconded by Gores to award the bid for pavement improvements at Cedar Manor, Aquila, Central Community Center, and Susan Lindgren to Anderson-Johnson Associates, Landscape Architects in the amount of 449,663.00. Motion passed 6-0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSMITTALS

Gores reported on the Cedar Manor International event held on May 19th which celebrated the diversity of students in St. Louis Park. Sweitzer thanked the St. Louis Park Schools Foundation for the Music and Arts fundraising event held on May 20th. Broady reported on the Retirement and Years of Service recognition dinner held last Wednesday, May 18th.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by made by Yarosh, seconded by Gores to adjourn. Motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Nancy Gores, Clerk

Keith Broady, Chair