

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, June 13, 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 7:33 pm on Monday, June 13, 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, Assistant Superintendent Dan Walker, Director of Business Services Jeff Priess, Director of Special Services Tami Reynolds, Director of Community Education Linda Saveraid, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and Secretary to the Board Suzanne Hillstrom.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Peterson to approve the agenda as amended by Chair Broady. Broady changed the order of the study session topics and moved action item Lease Agreement – Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC to a discussion item. Motion carried 7-0.

STUDY SESSION TOPICS

Policy Development

The Board reviewed the following policies and procedures that are currently under consideration for development or review:

First Reading:

- Superintendent / School Board Working Relationship *
- Equal Employment Opportunity
- Disability Nondiscrimination policy
- Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substance
- Family and Medical Leave policy
- Chemical Use and Abuse
- Student Disability Nondiscrimination
- Student Sex Nondiscrimination (Title IX) (and reporting form)
- The Pledge of Allegiance
- Crisis Management policy

Second Reading:

- Development, Adoption and Implementation of Policies *

These policies are based on model policies of the Minnesota School Board Association (MSBA) and Minnesota Association of School Administrators (MASA) with edits pertinent to St. Louis Park needs. With the exception of the policies indicated by an *, all policies listed above are mandated by Minnesota State Statute.

Parent Survey Report

Data Specialist Prachee Mukherjee presented results of the Nov 2004 – Jan 2005 Parent Survey, which was conducted to evaluate school climate. A total of 1730 surveys were returned by parents of elementary students, representing a return rate of 77%. Given the high response rate, the survey results can be considered representative of the whole parent population. Ninety-three percent gave their child's teacher an excellent rating. Other survey questions included, but were not limited to, evaluating the school, principal, maintenance of buildings, quality of school lunch program, support staff, school safety, transportation, and curriculum content. Plans are to administer this survey biannually and are a result of the No Child Left Behind mandate. Secondary results were not reported due to a poor return of surveys.

Permanent Easement – City of St. Louis Park

Director of Business Services Jeff Priess explained the request from the City of St. Louis Park for a permanent easement on the eastern most part of the school district property occupied by St. Louis Park Junior High. The city is currently completing a renovation project of Lamplighter Pond and easement through this area allows for a drainage system in the form of a swale and underground piping to be installed connecting properties to the north of the junior high to the Lamplighter Pond. Connection to the pond would alleviate flooding problems in the event of extremely large rainfalls. The Board discussed the definition of a "swale" and how it would affect the property currently used for physical education and athletic activities. Priess explained that this is on the edge of current playing fields and would not interfere with activities.

Kindergarten Plus

Director of Community Education reported on the Kindergarten Plus program in place for the start of the 2005-06 school. Kindergarten Plus provides for one section each of full-day fee based kindergarten to be held at Aquila and Peter Hobart schools. There are currently 24 students enrolled at Peter Hobart (with a waiting list) and 18 students enrolled at Aquila (openings exist). Admission into the program was based on the same process as entrance into Park Spanish Immersion. Six scholarships have been granted at each site. Teachers are currently undergoing training for this extended day program.

Letter of Agreement – PAT Retiree Severance Payments

Director of Human Resources Dan Walker and Director of Business Services Jeff Priess outlined the letter of agreement that is proposed between the District and the Park Association of Teachers with regard to retiree severance payments. The proposed agreement provides for payment equal to the value of the employee's severance to be paid directly into the employee's 403B custodial account or other tax-sheltered provision of the Internal Revenue Code. Under this arrangement, the employee will no longer receive any direct payment from the School District. In the event the severance pay due to the employee exceeds the IRS contribution limits for a given year, any such amount will be paid into an account on behalf of the employee for a health care savings plan. Benefits of this agreement would be in the form of tax savings to both the employee and to the school district. This agreement is being considered for this year's retirees and applies to employees hired prior to July 1, 1999. The agreement may be addressed again during negotiations of future contracts.

Lease Agreement – Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC

Priess presented a proposed lease agreement between St. Louis Park schools and Cingular Wireless. Terms of the agreement include use of approximately 450 sq feet of room/cabinet ground area space and chimney space for an antenna; five year lease with an automatic extension of three additional five year terms; and rental payment of \$1,500/month (\$18,000/yr) during initial lease with a 10% increase at the start of each extended term. District use of revenue would be to fund programs as determined necessary.

ACTION AGENDA

Pavement Improvement – Junior High

A motion was made by Sweitzer, seconded by Richardson, to award the contract for pavement improvement at the Junior High School to Midwest Asphalt in the amount of \$511,800.00. Motion passed 6-0-1 (Yarosh abstain).

Restroom Remodeling – PSI and Senior High

A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Timian, to award the contract for restroom remodeling at Park Spanish Immersion School to Construction Concepts Inc. in the amount of \$166,159.00. Motion passed 7-0.

A motion was made by Yarosh, seconded by Sweitzer, to award the contract for restroom remodeling at the Senior High School to Meisiner Construction Inc. in the amount of \$158,300.00. Motion passed 7-0.

Permanent Easement – City of St. Louis Park

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Richardson, to approve a resolution granting a permanent easement on the eastern-most portion of the Junior High site for the city to construct a drainage swale and install storm water piping. Motion passed 7-0.

Employment Contract – Supervisor/Managers

A motion was made by Sweitzer, seconded by Timian, to approve the contract for Supervisors/Managers for 2004-05. The salary schedule includes 3% (yr 1) AND 2.75% (YR 2) in addition to health insurance contributions to coincide with other district bargaining units. Motion passed 7-0.

Letter of Agreement – PAT Retiree Severance Payments

A motion was made by Yarosh, seconded by Richardson, to approve a letter of agreement between the District and the Park Association of Teachers with regard to retiree severance payments. Motion passed. 7-0.

COMMUNICATION

Board Chair Broady congratulated students of the Class of 2005.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by made by Peterson, seconded by Gores to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Nancy Gores, Clerk

Keith Broady, Chair