

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, September 12 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 7:06 pm on Monday, September 12, 2005, in St. Louis Park Senior High Room 350C. Present were Board Members Keith Broady, Nancy Gores, Rolf Peterson, Jerry Timian (7:10), Jim Yarosh, and Julie Sweitzer, Superintendent Debra Bowers, Assistant Superintendent Dan Walker, Director of Special Services Tami Reynolds, Director of Community Education Linda Saveraid, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Barbara DeMaster, Secretary to the Board Suzanne Hillstrom, community member Larry Shapiro and State Representative Steve Simon.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Sweitzer to approve the amended agenda, which changed the order of the study session topics. Motion carried 5-0.

STUDY SESSION TOPICS

Fall Activities Report

Senior High Athletic Director Andy Ewald provided information with regard to athletic participation at the junior high and senior high schools. His information included comparisons of participation between 2003, 2004 and 2005. This fall, participation is lower at the junior high and higher at the senior high, with a noticeable increase in participation by 9th graders. The cross-country running program is now a 7-12 program, which allows for girls' tennis to be added as a junior high sport. There are 32 junior high girls participating in tennis this fall. Ewald reported that on September 29th, there will be a banquet held at the Minneapolis Golf Club, at which time 26 former St. Louis Park athletes will be inducted into the St. Louis Park Athletic Hall of Fame. This is the initial induction and plans are to induct 3-4 people annually. On Saturday, September 17th from 9-11 am, senior high athletes and coaches will be holding mini-clinics for K-6 graders. Clinics will be held in tennis, volleyball, cross-country running, football, swimming and soccer for a cost of \$5.00 per student. Proceeds will be donated to the American Red Cross for aid to victims of Hurricane Katrina. Ewald displayed the new athletic website that is accessible via a link on the district website of www.slpschools.org or at www.gopark.org. The new athletic website is a wealth of information for students, parents and community members ranging from registration/eligibility information to athletic event calendars/directions/schedules/locations to district philosophy, policy and MN State High School League information. The website is user friendly and a valuable tool for dispersing information. Ewald also reported that participation in the newly formed North Suburban Conference is off to a good start.

QComp Update

Teachers Scott Meyers and Sarabeth deNeui and Assistant Superintendent Dan Walker reported on the quality compensation for teachers plan that is being researched by a joint committee of teachers and administrators. Committee members representing the teachers union are Meyers, deNeui, Kay Carlson, and Nyssa Brown; members representing the district in addition to Walker are Director of Curriculum and Instruction Barbara Demaster and Principal Frank Johnson. The committee is asking for approval from the Board to file a letter of intent with the MN Department of Education, which would then allow the committee to study and research creating a quality compensation program. If accepted for this funding by the state, the district could receive an additional \$260 per student (\$190 from state aid and \$70 from local levy), based on a first come, first serve basis from the State. The goal is to implement a quality compensation for teachers plan for the 2006-07 school year.

PowerSchool Parent Access Update

Director of Information Services Tom Marble updated the Board on the Parent Access portion of PowerSchool that is being used by families of junior and senior high students this fall. Access will be available to parents of elementary students with training opportunities for teachers at the end of September and for parents at fall conferences. Marble demonstrated the screen displays available and showed what type of information parents are able to receive when using this tool. Information parents may access for their child includes attendance, grades, schedules, and homework. For families that do not have home or work computer access, Marble explained that this can be accessed from any web based computer setup, for example, the public library.

Start of School Year Update

Assistant Superintendent Dan Walker presented information regarding the start of the school. His presentation included enrollment data as of September 8, 2005, as well as average class sizes in each elementary grade and core curriculum classes at the junior high and senior high schools. Current enrollment is 44 more students that projected district-wide. These figures are updated regularly and the administration is watching them closely at this point to determine additional needs. Walker also outlined the SEMS (Substitute Employee Management System) that has been implemented at the start of school year this year. This is an automated system that provides for reserve teachers to be placed in buildings throughout the district. Director of Community Education Linda Saveraid reviewed the implementation of the fee-based kindergarten program at Aquila and Peter Hobart. There is one section at each building with 21 students at Aquila and 23 at Peter Hobart. Saveraid thanked staff members who worked hard over the summer to put this program in place as well as create the fee management system. Board member Gores commented that the first day of school was most "delightful" throughout the district.

Policy Development

Board member Nancy Gores presented the policies listed below for final review before approval. These policies are state mandated and 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.

- 401 Equal Employment Opportunity
- 402 Disability Nondiscrimination policy
- 407 Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substance
- 410 Family and Medical Leave policy
- 417 Chemical Use and Abuse
- 521 Student Disability Nondiscrimination
- 522 Student Sex Nondiscrimination (Title IX) (and reporting form)
- 531 The Pledge of Allegiance
- 806 Crisis Management policy

Policy 302.A – Superintendent/ Board of Education Working Relationship will be on the agenda for approval at the next Board meeting.

Systems Accountability Report

Director of Curriculum and Instruction Barbara DeMaster and Data Specialist Prachee Mukherjee presented the 2004-05 Systems Accountability Report regarding curriculum and instruction. This report will be submitted to the MN Department of Education and will be communicated to the community via the district website as well as in an overview brochure mailing in October. This report communicates district results for a variety of state and district assessments.

Superintendent Evaluation

Board member Jim Yarosh reviewed the evaluation of Superintendent Debra Bowers' performance during her first year as Superintendent at St. Louis Park. Each School Board member completed an evaluation and comments were compiled and shared with Superintendent Bowers. Performance components included: 1) Relationships with the Board; 2) Financial Management; 3) Community and public relations; 4) Effective leadership of staff; and 5) Management/professional skills and abilities. Yarosh reported that Bowers excelled in all areas of review and that Board members are pleased with the Superintendent's performance and also with their selection of Bowers as Superintendent.

ACTION AGENDA

Acceptance of Systems Accountability Report

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Sweitzer to accept the Systems Accountability Report for 2005. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of International Student Travel

A motion was made by Yarosh, seconded by Gores to approve a proposed trip to Argentina for seniors enrolled in IB Twentieth Century History class 2005-06 to take place following the completion of IB exams in May 2006. Motion passed 6-0.

Policy Approval

A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Peterson to approve the adoption of the following policies: Motion passed 6-0.

- Policy 401 – Equal Employment Opportunity.
- Policy 402 – Disability Nondiscrimination
- Policy 407 – Employee Right to Know – Exposure to Hazardous Substances
- Policy 410 - Family and Medical Leave
- Policy 417 – Chemical Use and Abuse
- Policy 521 – Student Disability Nondiscrimination of
- Policy 522 – Student Sex Nondiscrimination (Title IX) and Unlawful Sex Discrimination Towards a Student Report Form
- Policy 531 – The Pledge of Allegiance
- Policy 806 – Crisis Management

QComp Letter of Intent

A motion was made by Peterson, seconded by Sweitzer to approve the letter of intent that St. Louis Park will participate in the QComp (quality compensation) performance assessment for teachers program. Motion passed 6-0.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Yarosh to adjourn. Motion passed 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Nancy Gores, Clerk

Keith Broady, Chair

