

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, September 26, 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 7:15 pm on Monday, September 26, 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 Curriculum and Instruction Barbara DeMaster, Director of Community Education Linda Saveraid, Director of Special Services Tami Reynolds, and Secretary to the Board Suzanne Hillstrom.

POINT OF LIGHT

The Board acknowledged and thanked parent volunteer Cindy Larson O'Neil for her volunteerism in the schools and in particular for her production of the video that was shown at the Back-To-School staff convocation.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Yarosh to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2005 regular Board meeting. Motion carried 6-0-1. (Timian abstain)

A motion was made by Yarosh seconded by Timian to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2005 special Board meeting. Motion carried 6-0-1. (Richardson abstain)

A motion was made by Peterson seconded by Gores to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2005 regular Board meeting. Motion carried 6-0-1. (Richardson abstain)

OPEN FORUM - none

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Bowers reported that at mini-clinics conducted by senior high athletes and coaches on Saturday, September 17th, 114 K-6th graders participated and \$880 was raised and donated to the American Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina relief. In today's edition of Newsweek, St. Louis Park was named one of 100 Best Communities for Young People in the United States. Other communities named in Minnesota are Mankato and Rochester. Due to a conflict with a religious holiday, Yom Kippur, St. Louis Park has requested, and received permission to administer the PSAT test on an alternative date. That date will be November 2nd. Bowers outlined additional 1-year funding that will be allocated for program enhancements. In addition to the \$168,000 already disbursed, another \$149,805 is being allocated to buildings and programs. Board member Julie Sweitzer commented on the Bookmark in the Park project being shared by the community and schools. The kick-off will be on Saturday, October 2nd at 1:00 at Wolfe Park. The Book for this year is "Tale of Despereaux". St. Louis Park Foundation Chair Pete Levy presented a check for \$26,000 to St. Louis Park Schools to be used for a variety of projects including transitions, arts and reading enhancements. Last year the Foundation awarded \$10,000 to the Schools.

STUDY SESSION TOPICS

International Baccalaureate Report

A team consisting of Aquila teachers Pat Rice, Sara Scott, Julie Scroggins and Mary Buhrt and principal Rob Metz presented an overview of their experiences during International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program training this past summer. The team has developed and shared a video that helps their colleagues understand the scope of the IBPYP. In reflecting on their experiences during train, team members made the following comments: Scott- IB helps teachers strengthen the character of primary age children. Buhrt – The time spent teaching IB methods and regular curriculum is balanced and the program would be beneficial to at-risk students. In addition, at-risk students are often "mobile" and portfolios developed for each student would be helpful to teachers in the student's new school. Metz – Plans for future training of staff will "build a base of knowledge within staff" that will strengthen the program.

Aquila music teacher Pat Rice led the Board and meeting attendees through a drum and instrumental rhythm exercise that she experienced at the IB training last summer.

Policy Review

Board member Nancy Gores presented policies under consideration for elimination from the current District Policy Manual. The reasons for elimination of these policies include the following: >policies are required by law and the District is in compliance with law; >policies are included in employee contracts; >policies are now a part of the Human Resources manual; and/or >policies are no longer pertinent to district practices. Policies under consideration for elimination include:

GA – Personnel Goals

GCA – Professional Staff Positions

GCAA – Vocational Certification Requirements

GCAB – Adaptive Physical Education Endorsement

GDB – Classified Staff Contracts and Compensation Plans

GCD – Classified Staff Recruiting

GDD – Classified Staff Hiring

GDEB – Substitute Classified Staff Employment

GCB – Professional Staff Contracts and Compensation
 GCCA – Posting of Professional Staff Vacancies
 GCD – Professional Staff Hiring
 GCEB – Substitute Teacher Staff Employment
 GCJ – Professional Staff Time Schedules
 GCNA – Evaluation of Licensed Staff – Probationary
 GCPC – Retirement of Professional Staff Members
 GDA – Classified Staff Positions

GDPC – Retirement of Classified Staff Members
 HA – Negotiations
 NB – Negotiations Legal Status
 HM – Announcement of Final Negotiated Agreement
 JA – Student Policies Goals
 JF – Students Rights and Responsibilities
 JFA – Student Due Process Rights
 KE – Staff Participation in Community Activities

Of these policies, Gores recommends elimination of all listed with the exception of HA- Negotiations. Gores, in concurrence with the policy subcommittee feels this policy should remain in the District Policy Manual. Mitchell Trockman, consultant, has been working with the subcommittee with recommended upgrades and changes to the Policy Manual expressed that districts are governed by policies, that policies should be dynamic, easily understood and should reflect practice. In addition, by State statute, policies must be periodically reviewed. He concurs that HA should remain in District Policy Manual.

Policy 302.A – Superintendent/School Board Working Relationship that will be presented for approval tonight.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Richardson seconded by Sweitzer to approve the consent agenda for Personnel and Business as presented. Motion passed 7-0.

ACTION AGENDA

Preliminary Levy Approval

A motion was made by Timian, seconded by Richardson to approve the adoption of Proposed Levy for Taxes Payable 2006. Motion passed 7-0.

Policy Approval

A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Peterson to approve **Policy 302.A - Superintendent/School Board Working Relationship**. Motion passed 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSMITTALS

Gores attended the city-wide dedication honoring officer David Day, former St. Louis Park police officer who was killed in Iraq this past spring. She commented that the ceremony was very “moving” and acknowledged the partnership that the schools share with the police department to make our children safe. Broady reminded community members of the Athletic Hall of Fame banquet that will be held on Thursday, September 29th at the Minneapolis Golf Club. Broady also encouraged community members to take part in the Bookmark in the Park project.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion by made by Peterson, seconded by Gores to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

 Nancy Gores, Clerk

 Keith Broady, Chair