

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, September 24, 2007 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 7:00 pm on Monday, September 24, 2007, in St. Louis Park Senior High Room 350C. Present were board members Nancy Gores, Rolf Peterson, Bruce Richardson, Larry Shapiro, Julie Sweitzer, Jerry Timian, and Jim Yarosh, Superintendent Debra Bowers, Assistant Superintendent Bob Laney, Director of Business Services Sandy Salin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Barbara DeMaster, Director of Community Education Linda Saveraid, Director of Special Services Tami Reynolds, and Secretary to the Board Cynthia Hidlebaugh.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Peterson seconded by Richardson to approve the agenda as adjusted to move action item 8.B to immediately following the Superintendent's Report. Motion carried 7-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A motion was made by Richardson, seconded by Shapiro to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2007 special Board meeting as corrected with a typing error. Motion passed 7-0.
- A motion was made by Shapiro, seconded by Sweitzer to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2007 regular Board meeting. Motion passed 7-0.
- A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Shapiro to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2007 regular Board meeting. Motion passed 6-0-1 (Timian abstain).

OPEN FORUM - none

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Debra Bowers congratulated St. Louis Park senior, Justin Carlson on his accomplishment of receiving a perfect score of 36 on the ACT examination. Justin is one of nine students in Minnesota to make this achievement. Justin and Bruce McClean, IB Coordinator, were featured on KARE 11 news program.

Dr. Bowers also gave an update on the Equity and Excellence in Education Task Force Committee will be meeting over the next several months. The committee was formed at the direction of the school board and the charge of the committee is to: explore the possible expansion of Immersion programs at PSI or at other schools including budgetary impacts; ensure Equitable Access to Academic Programs for All Students in St. Louis Park Public School District; recommend any further adjustments for consideration regarding programming, facilities and curriculum to ensure equity and excellence for students of all races and economic backgrounds; and consider impact of transitions with regard to stabilizing student enrollment and whether grade configurations of some or all elementary schools should change from budgetary and programmatic perspectives.

Director of Community Education, Linda Saveraid, presented information on the National Community Education Conference, "Blueprints to the Future" to be held in Minneapolis at the Hyatt Regency December 5-8, 2007. Saveraid stated the conference will be represented with many national well known speakers and that the Superintendent's Leadership forum is December 5th.

STUDY SESSION TOPICS

SEE Report

Energy consultant Ann Anderson gave an overview of the progress of the energy saving strategies that were implemented. During the first year of the effort, there was a 10% decrease in energy use; during the second year (3 quarters), a 12% decrease; with a total cost avoidance since the start of SEE of \$218,116 and program to date savings for the district are \$219,975.

Fall Athletic Report

Athletic Director Andy Ewald gave an update of participation in fall athletics at the senior high and junior high schools. There is an increase of participation at the senior high from 2006 to 2007. Total fall senior high athletic participation for 2006-07 was 1341 students enrolled with 383 participants at 28.5 student fall athletic participation; 2007-08 fall senior high participation of 1366 students enrolled with 403 participants at 29.5% student fall athletic participation. Director Ewald stated the link to the district website is being utilized very well with over 255,000 external hits being reported with mapping accessible for persons traveling to St. Louis Park events. Vice chair Richardson complimented Director Ewald for the sense of community that the athletic department staff represents the district with a great sense of community and pride.

FLAP Grant Report

Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Barbara DeMaster and Junior High Assistant Principal Corey Maslowski, gave an update on the status and progression of the Foreign Language Assistance Program Grant. The grant objectives are to develop a Minnesota model of K-12 immersion with a focus on how to successfully expand a rigorous program beyond the elementary years into secondary grades and provide professional development to meet the statewide need for qualified immersion educators.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

ACTION AGENDA

Preliminary Levy Approval

Director of Business Services Sandy Salin outlined the impact of the proposed levy for taxes payable 2008. A motion was made by Shapiro, seconded by Richardson to approve the Preliminary Levy for Taxes Payable 2008. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of International Student Travel

A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Timian to approve the international travel of seven senior high social studies students accompanied by teacher/chaperone Ann Jurewicz, for travel to Berlin, Germany November 13-November 24, 2007 to attend the Model United Nations conference. Motion passed 7-0. (The students were requested to provide the board with a report regarding the trip soon after their return.)

Superintendent Contract Approval

A motion was made by Sweitzer, seconded by Timian to approve the employment contract between the St. Louis Park School District and the Superintendent of Schools for the terms of 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10. Motion passed 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

Yarosh reminded the audience of the Truth and Taxation meeting scheduled for December 4, 2007 at 6:00 p.m.

Richardson requested future updates on the district's report card regarding air quality systems.

Sweitzer requested that the student group traveling to the United Nations conference in Berlin, Germany present an update about their experiences at a future school board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Timian, seconded by Shapiro to adjourn. Motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Rolf Peterson, Clerk

Jim Yarosh, Chair