

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Minutes of the School Board Study Session
Monday, October 14, 2019 – 7:00 p.m.
St. Louis Park High School Room C350

The study session of the School Board of Independent School District No. 283 of St. Louis Park, Hennepin County, Minnesota, convened at 7:06 p.m., Monday, October 14, 2019 in High School Room C350. Present were Board Members Nancy Gores, Jim Beneke, Joe Tatalovich, Karen Waters, Anne Casey, Ken Morrison, Mary Tomback, and Superintendent Astein Osei. Superintendent's Cabinet members present included: Patricia Magnuson, Director of Business Services, Tami Reynolds, Director of Student Services, Patrick Duffy, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Silvy Un Lafayette, Director of Assessment, Evaluation and Research, Sara Thompson, Director of Communications and Community Relations, Richard Kreyer, Director of Human Resources, and Flower Krutina, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Secretary to the Board. Also present were Peter Hobart Principal Kari Schwietering, School Social Worker Michele Edwins, and Facilities Manager Tom Bravo.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Nancy Gores called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was recommended that the School Board approve the Agenda for October 14, 2019 as presented. A motion was made by Waters, seconded by Tatalovich to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion passed 7-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Osei gave an introduction and overview of the Out of School Time Task Force. As a result of change in 2020-21 school year start times, the task force will create a more robust menu of out-of-school time options to meet the overall health, academic and social/developmental needs of all K-5 students and families. He noted that two meetings have been held and thanked students, staff, parents/guardians, St. Louis Park Parks and Recreation and community members for their participation. Superintendent Osei then introduced the High School Schedule Task Force. St. Louis Park High School's schedule is currently a seven (7) period day. The purpose of the High School Schedule Task Force is to determine the optimal schedule to meet the academic and social/developmental needs of all high school students while also allowing staff collaboration. This work will include recommendations for staff collaboration time, student intervention and enrichment time, lunches, advisory times, blocks, diploma programs (IB), classes with college credits (AP), etc. The High School Schedule Task Force has met once. If a recommendation is made for changes in the schedule, we would then look at when the implementation date would be. It was noted that there are still other factors to consider. The final note was a reminder that the 2019 Parade of Schools will be held on October 26 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Aquila, Park Spanish Immersion and the High School offices. A thank you was extended to the public for all of the support and approval of the 2017 bond referendum.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

School Foundation Presentation

D.J. Hamm, St. Louis Park School Foundation President, and Fritz Vandover, Susan Lindgren parent and St. Louis Park resident, shared information about the Foundation grants awarded in the 2018-19 school year and the impact these had on the students and schools. Hamm shared the history of the Foundation, reviewed grants disbursed by academic years from 2003 to present and reviewed application cycle dates.

Strategy #1 - Restorative Practices

Michele Edwins, School Social Worker, and Kari Schwietering, Peter Hobart Principal, shared information about the districtwide implementation of restorative practices with example from Peter Hobart Elementary School. The Three Circles approach was described as well as the alignment with the School District's mission. It was also noted that St. Louis Park Public School partnered with PrairieCare Child and Family Fund which provided \$32,000 for the work. A video featuring students describing restorative practices was shown.

Facilities Update

Tom Bravo, Facilities Manager, provided an update on district facilities. Bravo highlighted accomplishments that will be seen at the Parade of Schools and what to expect next summer and in the future around facilities referencing the updated construction timeline. By the end of the calendar year we will be halfway done with all planned projects. Finally, he requested to the community that with the Park Spanish Immersion upgrade, that they all respect the patrols for buses to leave bus loop.

Superintendent Evaluation Summary

School Board Vice-Chair, Mary Tomback presented a summary of the annual evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools, Astein Osei. The School Board held a closed meeting pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05, Subd. 3(a) on September 27, 2019 in order to conduct the evaluation. One of the Board's functions is to review the superintendent annually. Items that the Board looked at for the evaluation included but were not limited to the 2015-2020 strategic plan and if goals are being met, the superintendent's relationship with board, fiscal management, effective leadership of staff and management of central office. Tomback reported that Board Superintendent Osei is making great progress towards strategic plan goals. The Board commended him on his work with the Start/End Time Task Force, the relationship and communication he regularly maintains with Board through regularly scheduled meeting, weekly updates, calls and text messages. The Board also expressed that they are pleased with his hires and that they are proud of the school renovations and how we spend money given to the schools by the community. Tomback noted that there is still progress to be made around achievement and discipline. The Board and Superintendent entered into contract negotiations which will be discussed during the meeting's action agenda.

Policy Development - First Reading Policies 524 Internet Acceptable Use and Safety, 616 School District System Accountability, 806 Crisis Management

The School Board reviewed policies 524 Internet Acceptable Use and Safety, 616 School District System Accountability, 806 Crisis Management. After discussion, it was agreed that policy 524 would be revised to address student internet and technology use and a new policy 424 would be created specifically for staff use. For policy 616 it was suggested that the Board Chair, Vice-Chair, and Superintendent review the policy further to specifically look at the statute that mandates the advisory committee. No changes were recommended for policy 806.

Policy Development - Second Reading Policies 514 Bullying Prohibition; 515 Protection and Privacy of Pupil Record; and 522 Sex Nondiscrimination

The School Board reviewed policies 514 Bullying Prohibition; 515 Protection and Privacy of Pupil Record; and 522 Sex Nondiscrimination as a second reading. No changes were recommended and the School Board was asked to approve during the action agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Business and Personnel

A motion was made by Casey, seconded by Waters to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

1. Minutes

Upon vote being taken on the foregoing, motion passed 7-0.

ACTION AGENDA

Employment Agreement – Superintendent

A motion was made by Tomback, seconded by Waters to approve the employment agreement between Independent School District #283 and Astein Osei in the role of Superintendent of Schools for the 2020-23 school years, as presented. Motion passed 7-0.

Labor Agreement – Nutrition Services

A motion was made by Beneke, seconded by Tomback to approve the employment agreement between Independent School District #283 and the School Service Employees SEIU Local 284, CTW for School Nutrition Personnel for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years, as presented. Motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Second Reading of Policies 514 Bullying Prohibition, 515 Protection and Privacy of Pupil Record, and 522 Sex Nondiscrimination

A motion was made by Waters, seconded by Morrison to approve the second readings of policies 514 Bullying Prohibition, 515 Protection and Privacy of Pupil Record, and 522 Sex Nondiscrimination as presented. Motion passed 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSMITTALS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Waters, seconded by Casey to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:


Jim Beneke, Clerk

Approved:


Nancy Gores, Chair

Minutes prepared by Flower M Krutina

