

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Minutes of the Special School Board Meeting
Monday, August 3, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Online Meeting - Zoom

The special meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 283 of St. Louis Park, Hennepin County, Minnesota, convened at 7:00 p.m., August 3, 2020 via online meeting platform Zoom. Present were Board Members Mary Tomback, Anne Casey, Karen Waters, Heather Wilsey (via phone), Laura McClendon, C. Colin Cox, Ken Morrison, and Superintendent Astein Osei. Also present were members of the Superintendent's Cabinet.

Technical difficulties were encountered. Issues were resolved at 7:04 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Mary Tomback called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Tomback, seconded by Casey to amend the agenda to move discussion item 3.C. 2020 School Start Update to be the first discussion item on the Special Meeting agenda. By means of roll call vote, the motion passed 6-0. Wilsey call dropped during time of roll call vote and returned minutes after.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2020 School Start Update

Superintendent Osei and Cabinet members provided an update on the plans for the start of the 2020-21 school year. Highlights included:

- Overview of the three safe learning models as established by the Minnesota Department of Education under Emergency Executive Order 20-82.
- Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota Department of Health learning model selection parameters determined by the number of cases per 10,000 over 14 days by county of residence.
- The learning model determination may not be the same for all grades. The research has shown much more limited transmission of COVID-19 in younger children. This combined with understanding that distance learning is more difficult with younger learners and creates a more significant burden on families, should lead districts and schools to always consider ways to keep elementary students in-person where it is safe and possible.
- Required health and safety practices. Also noting that districts and charters may have already decided to be more restrictive in their learning model prior to the consultative process and may choose to engage with a consultant to confirm or modify their plan.
- Recommendation for elementary safe learning model:
 - Start the school year in a **distance learning** model for students in grades K-5.
 - Shift to a **hybrid model** for students in grades K-5 in October 2020 (depending on the COVID-19 cases per county data).

- The hybrid model will include students having in-person classes two days a week and distance learning three days a week (number of days per week for in-person learning is contingent upon the number of families who opt into distance learning)
- One-on-one meetings with all families in early September in-person or via Google Meet
- Recommendation for secondary safe learning model:
 - Start the school year in a **distance learning** model for students in grades 6-12
 - Shift to a **hybrid model** for students in grades 6-12 in October 2020 (depending on the COVID-19 cases per county data)
 - The hybrid model will include students having in-person classes two days a week, distance learning two days a week, and a day for academic support, small group work, tutoring, etc.
 - Orientation for all new, 6th and 9th grade students
- Next steps:
 - Continue to consult the MDH learning model selection parameters
 - Meet with MDH consultant to discuss hybrid model plans for October
 - Finalize for Early Learning plans following MDE/MDH guidance
 - Finalize school age childcare plans following MDE/MDH guidance
 - Align transportation to meet the needs of the hybrid model
 - Communicate district standards for indoor air quality and daily cleaning routines
 - Support staff whose health is at risk or who have members of their household whose health is at risk
 - Publish the Back to School guide the week of August 10
 - School Board take action on 2020-21 Safe Learning Plan at the August 10 School Board Meeting

Policy Committee Update

School Board Vice Chair Casey provided an update on the work of the Policy Committee including work on policies 506 Student Discipline and 536 Gender Inclusion. This was an update on Policy Committee work and not a formal reading of the policies.

Draft School Board Resolution: Commitment to Equity and Anti-Racism

School Board Chair Tomback will present a draft School Board Resolution: Commitment to Equity and Anti-Racism.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Casey seconded by Cox to adjourn. By means of roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Karen Waters, Clerk

Approved:

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Mary Tomback, Chair

Minutes prepared by Flower M. Krutina