

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, August 10, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Online Meeting

The regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 283 of St. Louis Park, Hennepin County, Minnesota, convened at 7:00 p.m., Monday, August 10, 2020 via Zoom online meeting platform. Present were Board Members Mary Tomback, Karen Waters, Anne Casey, Heather Wilsey, Laura McClendon, C. Colin Cox, Ken Morrison and Superintendent Astein Osei. Superintendent Osei's Cabinet members were also present.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Mary Tomback called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was recommended that the School Board approve the Agenda for August 10, 2020. A motion was made by Wilsey, seconded by Casey to approve the agenda, as presented. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Osei provided an update on the first two meetings of the Core Planning Team for the development of the 2020-25 Strategic Plan for Racial Equity Transformation. He then acknowledged the IB Diploma recipients of 2020; Rafe Covin, Patrick Djerf, Amelia Huebsch, Kayla Ignatowicz, William Mathews, Jonathan (Yoni) Potter, Eitan Weinstein, and Zachary Weiser

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2020-2021 Safe Learning Plan

Superintendent Osei and District Implementation Team Leaders provided an update on the 2020-2021 Safe Learning Plan. The purpose of the presentation was to provide the School Board with an update on the work connected to the development of a Safe Learning Plan for the 2020-21 school year, answer School Board members' questions to the best of our current knowledge and ability, and outline the work and decision-making that is necessary to determine our Safe Learning Plan.

Superintendent Osei reviewed safe learning model options, work of the task force, various District implementation teams, various indicators and perspectives for the development of recommendations, and district survey data. District parents were split on their preference between the three educational delivery models with a majority wanting students back in-person (56%), followed by hybrid (33%), and then all distance learning (11%). Superintendent Osei then reviewed state and national data.

Tami Reynolds, Director of Student Services, provided an update on District health and safety practices to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Tom Bravo, Facilities Manager, then outlined the COVID-19 cleaning and disinfection plan, HVAC information, and mask and face shields

information. Early Learning Implementation Team Members then presented the Early Learning daily schedule and Early Learning hybrid and distance learning model schedule information. Elementary (K-5) Implementation Team Leaders reviewed the draft of hybrid and distance learning drafts and a sample student schedule. The Secondary (6-12) Implementation Team Members reviewed proposed distance learning and four options for hybrid schedules. Tami Reynolds, Director of Student Services, then returned to update on supporting students receiving special education services and/or with IEPs. Patricia Magnuson, Director of Business Services, then provided an update on nutrition services, including meal service for distance learning and hybrid, and transporting students safely. Patrice Howard, Director of Community Education, provided an update on Kids Place programming and summer Kids Place programming participation. Superintendent Osei concluded with an overview of next steps and the following recommendation for the 2020-2021 Safe Learning Plan:

- All students will begin the school year in a distance learning format;
- E-2 students will start in a hybrid model on September 28;
- Students in grades 3-12 will start in a hybrid model on October 5;
- All elementary students will attend school using a Classroom/Homeroom Teacher model; and
- Offer full-time distance learning as a choice for families.

Policy Development First Reading 808 COVID-19 Face Covering

The School Board reviewed a new policy 808 COVID-19 Face Covering as a first reading.

CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Cox, seconded by Morrison to approve the Consent Agenda. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

MOTION TO RECESS

A motion was made by Tomback for a five (5) minute recess to consider amending the action agenda to include the approval of Superintendent Osei's recommendation of the 2020-2021 Safe Learning Plan. Motion was seconded by McClendon. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0. The School Board recessed at 10:30 p.m.

MOTION TO RETURN FROM RECESS

A motion was made by Tomback, seconded by Casey to resume the meeting after a recess. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0. The School Board returned from recessed at 10:35 p.m.

MOTION TO AMEND ACTION AGENDA

A motion was made by McClendon, seconded by Casey to amend the Action Agenda to include Approval of the 2020-2021 Safe Learning plan. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

ACTION AGENDA

Approval of the 2020-2021 Safe Learning Plan

A motion was made by Casey, seconded by Waters to approve the Safe Learning Plan recommendation as presented by Superintendent Osei. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

Truth in Taxation Date (December 14, 2020)

A motion was made by Waters, seconded by Cox to approve the date of December 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. for the Truth in Taxation 2020 hearing, as presented. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

Minnesota State High School League Resolution 2020-21

A motion was made by Morrison, seconded by Cox to approve the renewal of the Minnesota State High School League (MSHL) Resolution 2020-2021, as presented. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

Transportation Quotes

A motion was made by McClendon, seconded by Casey to approve transportation quotes with Northstar, as presented. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

School Board Clerk Resignation and Nomination

A motion was made by Waters, seconded by Tomback to approve the resignation of Director Waters as School Board Clerk. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0. A nomination and motion were made by Tomback, seconded by Morrison for Director McClendon to serve as School Board Clerk. Chair Tomback asked three times for additional nominations. No additional nominations were made. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

Individual Principal Contract

A motion was made by Casey, seconded by Cox to approve the Individual Principal Contract for Wendy Loberg as Interim High School Principal, as presented. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

Appointment of Title IX Officers Resolution

A motion was made by Cox, seconded by Wilsey to approve the resolution appointing Title IX Officers, as presented. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

School Board Commitment to Equity and Anti-Racism Resolution

A motion was made by Casey, seconded by McClendon to approve the following School Board Commitment to Equity and Anti-Racism Resolution:

School Board Commitment to Equity and Anti-Racism

WHEREAS, as school board members we are committed to actively interrupting systemic racism and eliminating inequities in our education system and therefore are compelled to speak out and take action;

WHEREAS, systemic racism leads to the creation of systems, structures and behaviors that perpetuate harm to students, families, and staff of color and their families, both through explicit racist actions as well as unconscious bias;

WHEREAS, our community and nation's future requires that systemic racism be dismantled, to promote racial equity, and ensure ALL children and families are able to thrive;

WHEREAS, public education is a key lever for creating an anti-racist society and democracy;

WHEREAS, our district is committed to promoting racial equity and developing culturally relevant learning environments within and across our schools, in conversation and partnership with students, families, staff, and community stakeholders;

WHEREAS, in moving from conversations to planning to action, our district is committed to drawing on the perspective and feedback from the collection of racially diverse voices received through the Strategic Plan for Racial Equity Transformation process;

WHEREAS, as a school board and district we value each and every student, family, and staff member and are committed to creating an equitable and anti-racist school system that honors and elevates all;

WHEREAS, we recognize that the experiences and outcomes in our district are not consistent for historically underserved and marginalized groups, including Black, Indigenous, and People of Color; those experiencing poverty, homelessness, or foster/kinship care; students who identify as LGBTQIA+; those with disabilities; students receiving special education instruction; and immigrant and emergent bilingual students.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of St. Louis Park Public Schools that:

1. The St. Louis Park Public Schools Board of Directors commits to its own work as individuals and our collective work overseeing the district in continuing to become equitable and anti-racist in policies, beliefs and actions;
2. The St. Louis Park Public Schools Board of Directors commits to working with our local governmental agencies and community to strengthen the collective work of creating an inclusive school community for our students, families and staff. This specifically includes, but is not limited to, participation in School Board/City Council joint meetings, representation on the St. Louis Park Human Rights Commission, engagement in the St. Louis Park Racial Equity Community Partners convenings, partnership with the St. Louis Park Emergency Program, and collaboration with stakeholders and local law enforcement regarding the use of School Resource Officers.; and
3. The St. Louis Park Public Schools Board of Directors will identify concrete actions that must be taken to advance this work and continue to ensure that the voices of all stakeholders are elevated in decision-making processes.

LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED, that the St. Louis Park Public Schools Board of Directors shall take specific action to revise its policies to reflect this focus on equity and anti-racism:

1. The St. Louis Park Public Schools Board of Directors commits to supporting the superintendent in the development of goals prior to the commencement of the 2020-21 school year, which will govern the superintendent's work and clearly delineate the expectations on actions the superintendent shall not fail to do to advance equity and anti-racism.
2. The St. Louis Park Public Schools Board of Directors commits to reviewing and revising policies over the course of the 2020-21 school year, adopting revisions to each as necessary to ensure a focus on equity and anti-racism.
3. The St. Louis Park Public Schools Board of Directors commits to the development of a racial equity policy.
4. The St. Louis Park Public Schools Board of Directors commits to reviewing and revising board meeting topics and practices over the course of the 2020-21 school year, adopting revisions to each as necessary to ensure a focus on equity and anti-racism.
5. The St. Louis Park Public Schools Board of Directors commits to supporting the Strategic Plan for Racial Equity Transformation that is inclusive of the racially diverse perspective of our stakeholders and that ensures a focus on equity and anti-racism.
6. The St. Louis Park Public Schools Board of Directors commits to holding these resolutions at the center when reviewing and approving the district budget to ensure adequate funding to support this work.


By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSMITTALS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Waters, seconded by Casey to adjourn. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 11:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Laura McClendon, Clerk

Approved:

DocuSigned by:

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Mary Tomback, Chair

Minutes prepared by Flower M. Krutina