

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 29, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.
Online Meeting – Zoom

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., Tuesday, September 29, 2020 via Zoom online meeting platform. Present were Board Members Mary Tomback, Karen Waters, Anne Casey, Ken Morrison, Heather Wilsey, Laura McClendon, C. Colin Cox and Superintendent Astein Osei. Also present were members of the Superintendent’s Cabinet including: Patrick Duffy, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Sara Thompson, Director of Communications and Public Relations, Patrice Howard, Director of Community Education, Patricia Magnuson, Director of Business Services, Silvy Un Lafayette, Director of Assessment, Research and Evaluation, Tami Reynolds, Director of Student Services, Richard Kreyer, Director of Human Resources, and Flower Krutina, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Secretary to the Board.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Tomback, seconded by Waters to amend the Agenda for September 29, 2020 to add Communications and Transmittals prior to item 7. Adjournment. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 6-0. Morrison was marked as abstained due to technical issues preventing him from unmuting. A motion was made by Wilsey, seconded by Casey to approve the agenda, as amended. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

Superintendent Osei provided an update on the development of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan for Racial Equity Transformation including information about the facilitators and team, recaps of the first three meetings, and next steps.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Safe Learning Plan Update

Astein Osei, Superintendent provided an update of the E-2 transition to the hybrid educational delivery model and a Safe Learning Plan update. The school year was three weeks in and on the second day of hybrid learning for grades E-2. Superintendent Osei thanks all E-2 staff for their efforts during the transition. He then reviewed the considerations for educational delivery models survey data and feedback from the Park Association of Teachers, feedback and poll data from K-5 parents/guardians from a listening session held on September 24, 2020, and invited stakeholders to upcoming listening sessions. Superintendent Osei then presented exploratory information connected to the possible development of a Distance Learning Academy and possible academy models. On the day of the meeting, there were a total of 305 elementary students enrolled in distance learning (Cohort C). A breakdown by race of the number of students enrolled in distance learning district-wide and at the elementary and secondary levels

was presented and discussed. Information regarding what would be needed to transition to full days in-person at the elementary level was presented.

Superintendent Osei presented the School Board with the following revised Safe Learning Plan recommendation:

- Students in grades E-2 will start in a hybrid model on September 28;
- Students in grades 3- 5 will start in a hybrid model on October 5;
- Students in grades 6-12 remain in distance learning;
- Offer full-time distance learning as a choice for families; and
- Develop an elementary distance learning academy and move to a full day schedule K-5.

The Safe Learning Plan update concluded with considerations for health and safety of secondary students, staff coverage, student learning, and new dates of October 1 for incident command consideration review date and October 26 for a potential educational delivery model change.

MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA

A motion was made by Casey, seconded by Waters to move Action Agenda item 6.A. Safe Learning Plan Approval after item 4.A. Safe Learning Plan Update. By means of roll call vote. motion passed 7-0.

ACTION ITEM: Safe Learning Plan Approval

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

Budget Update

Patricia Magnuson, Director of Business Services provided a budget update for fiscal years 2020, 2021, and 2022. Magnuson presented preliminary information for the FY20 financial audit, FY21 budget considerations, FY21 COVID-19 related funding, FY21 preliminary enrollment numbers, an update on the financial impact of COVID-19 on FY21, and FY22 budget considerations. She then presented the preliminary Pay 2021 tax levy for St. Louis Park Public Schools in preparation for School Board action to certify the levy at maximum.

Policy Development - Second Reading Policy 522 Student Sex Nondiscrimination

The School Board reviewed policy 522 Student Sex Nondiscrimination as a second reading. A notable change was the addition of the names and contact information of the District Title IX Coordinators.

Policy Development - Third Reading Policies 536 Gender Inclusion and 808 COVID-19 Face Covering

The School Board reviewed policies 536 Gender Inclusion and 808 COVID-19 Face Covering as a third reading. Notable changes in policy 536 included the recognition of intersectionality between race, gender identity, and gender expression and the support of efforts to mitigate adverse effects on students. Policy 808 is a new policy in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Payroll for August 14, 2020 in the amount of 1,446,064.04 and August 31, 2020 in the amount of 1,405,104.68
2. Recap of Expenditures
3. Electronic Fund Transfers
4. Accounts Payable Disbursements
5. Donations
6. Investment Holdings
7. Personnel

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

ACTION AGENDA

Approval of the 2020 Preliminary Levy Payable in 2021

A motion was made by Cox, seconded by Waters to approve the 2020 preliminary levy payable in 2021 at maximum, as presented. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Second Reading of Policy 522 Student Sex Nondiscrimination

A motion was made by Morrison, seconded by McClendon to approve the second reading of policy 522 Student Sex Nondiscrimination, as presented. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Third Reading of Policies 536 Gender Inclusion and 808 COVID-19 Face Covering

A motion was made by Waters, seconded by Casey to approve the third reading of policies 536 Gender Inclusion and 808 COVID-19 Face Covering, as presented. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

Motion to Reconvene In-Person School Board Meetings

Consistent with the federal and state guidance, the Board Chair has determined that an in-person meeting is feasible so long as CDC recommendations and necessary precautions are taken for the safety of those in attendance. It was recommended that the School Board reconvene in-person meetings effective the beginning of hybrid instruction at the secondary level and that meetings moving forward be in alignment with the secondary delivery model. A motion was made by Waters, seconded by Tomback to amend the motion for in-person School Board meetings to be aligned with the elementary hybrid educational delivery model. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

A motion was made by Tomback, seconded by Waters for the School Board to reconvene in-person meetings effective the beginning of hybrid instruction at any level in the District and that meetings moving forward be in alignment with the hybrid delivery model at any level. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0. Meetings moving forward will be in alignment with the elementary educational delivery model so that if any students are in-person the School Board will meet in-person and if all students are in distance learning the School Board will meet via online meeting platforms.

Amendment to Scheduled School Board Meetings Start Time

A motion was made by Wilsey, seconded by Morrison to amend the start time of the remaining School Board meeting dates approved at the organizational meeting held on January 13, 2020 to a 6:30 p.m. start time. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSMITTALS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Waters, seconded by Morrison to adjourn. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 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