

**St. Louis Park Public Schools**  
Minutes of the School Board Study Session  
Monday, September 14, 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, September 14, 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**

Technical difficulties did not allow live streaming of the School Board meeting. A link for community members to join was posted on the District website and social media. Once the meeting link was made available, Board Chair Mary Tomback called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Tomback requested that the agenda be amended to move discussion item 4C .Curriculum Review Update - Gifted & Talented / Enrichment Services after item 4A. Youth Data Analyst Interns Presentation. A motion was made by Waters, seconded Cox to amend the agenda. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0. It was recommended that the School Board approve the Agenda for September 14, 2020 as amended. A motion was made by Casey, seconded by Morrison to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion passed 7-0.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Osei began his report by congratulating five St. Louis Park High School seniors who were recently recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Program as National Merit Semifinalists - Thorwald Anderson, Daniel Goldenberg, Gabriel Kaplan, Dahlia Krebs, and Joshua Krueger. They were among 288 students from Minnesota and approximately 16,000 students from across the country to be named semifinalists this year. He also congratulated Samantha Klepfer for receiving her IB Diploma. This is an addition to the names of IB Diploma recipients recognized at the August Board meeting. Superintendent Osei concluded his report by reminding families that while the District is in a distance learning educational delivery model, students and families will be able to pick up free meals (breakfast and lunch) at any of the six schools on Mondays and Wednesdays between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Youth Data Analyst Interns Presentation**

Youth Data Analyst Interns Alma Beaton, Helen Tefera, Ezra Hudson, Daniel Shope, Li Livdahl, and Dr. Silvy Lafayette, Director of Assessment, Research and Evaluation presented the research findings of the Youth Data Analyst internship project. Dr. Silvy Lafayette shared an overview of the SLP Data Retreat/Data Advance, ESSA and World's Best Workforce, and the outline/structure of a balanced assessment system. Youth Data Interns then presented their research question, hypothesis, findings which included quantitative and qualitative data centering student voice, and recommendations. The research questions they developed were; How can we get more students of color into AP, IB and GT courses? Why aren't students of color already in these advanced courses? Recommendations included; Hire more teachers of color, ensure that educators are encouraging, create a system to reach and connect with families, actively recruit students of color into advanced classes, make Gifted and Talented beneficial to all students, build meaningful relationships with students of color, teach culturally relevant and anti-racist curriculum, and recruit students to teach professional development. The Board thanked

the students, Dr. Lafayette and Ms. Thor for their important work and tremendous efforts.

### **Curriculum Review Update - Gifted & Talented / Enrichment Services**

Patrick Duffy, Director of Curriculum and Instruction provided an update on Gifted & Talented / Enrichment Services including the development plan, work and research done, changes to GT/Enrichment, and next steps. Changes will include the following:

- Elementary GT teachers collaborating with 3rd - 5th grade teachers on a rotating schedule every 4-6 weeks.
  - They will be supporting and enhancing content as determined with the teaching teams.
  - The specific content and the way it is delivered may vary from school to school and grade to grade throughout the year.
  - In addition to this support, there will be opportunities on Wednesdays for teachers to work by appointment with small groups of students.
- Additional opportunities in 6th grade, 7th grade, and 8th grade for students to accelerate their math learning.
- New math curriculum at the middle school and elementary schools.

The goal of the design team is to thoughtfully examining the following questions by including student and community voice (particularly voices which have been historically marginalized); How can we develop and pilot creative, equitable enrichment alternatives to G&T that dismantle the practices that lead to internally segregated schools?; What adult practices need to change? How do we build will/skill /capacity/ knowledge for the change needed?; and How can we, as a design team, model CRT and inquiry?

### **School Start and Safe Learning Plan Update**

Astein Osei, Superintendent and District Cabinet Members provided an update on the start of the 2020-21 school year and St. Louis Park Public School's Safe Learning Plan and answered School Board members' questions to the best of the current knowledge and ability. Plan areas reviewed were health and safety, staff coverage, student learning, staff preparedness, technology, and school operational readiness. The current Safe Learning Plan is;

- 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.

### **Superintendent Evaluation Summary**

Anne Casey, School Board Vice-Chair 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 August 17, 2020 in order to conduct the evaluation.

### **Policy Development - First Reading 522 Student Sex Nondiscrimination**

The School Board reviewed policy 522 Student Sex Nondiscrimination as a first reading.

### **Policy Development – Second Reading 536 Gender Inclusion, 808 COVID-19 Face Covering**

The School Board reviewed policies 536 Gender Inclusion and 808 COVID-19 Face Covering. The policies were not on the action agenda and tabled until the next Board meeting agenda.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Business and Personnel**

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

1. Minutes

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

**ACTION AGENDA**

**Minnesota Department of Education IOwA Resolution**

A motion was made by Waters, seconded by Cox to approve the Minnesota Department of Education IOwA Resolution as follows:

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IOWA RESOLUTION

It is recommended that the School Board approve the Resolution to designate Superintendent Astein Osei as the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) and Flower Krutina as the IOwA to add and remove names only for the MDE External User Access Recertification System. The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) requires that school districts annually designate an Identified Official with Authority to comply with the MNIT Enterprise Identity and Access Management Standard which states that all user access rights to Minnesota state systems must be reviewed and recertified at least annually. The Identified Official with Authority will assign job duties and authorize external user's access to MDE secure systems for their local education agency (LEA). The Board recommends to authorize Astein Osei to act as the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) and Flower Krutina to act as the IOwA to add and remove names only for St. Louis Park Public School Dist. 0283-01.

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

**Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Reappointments**

A motion was made by Cox, seconded by Morrison to approve the reappointments of George Foulkes and Peter May to serve on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission for the City of St. Louis Park for a 3-year term ending on May 31, 2023. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

**Employment Agreement**


A motion was made by Casey, seconded by McClendon to approve the updated employment agreement between Independent School District #283 and the Flower Krutina, Executive Leadership Partner for the 2020-2022 school years, as presented.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSMITTALS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Morrison, seconded by Cox to adjourn. By means of roll call vote, the motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Laura McClendon, Clerk

Approved:

DocuSigned by:  
  
1001E07CA19F415...  
Mary Tomback, Chair

*Minutes prepared by Flower M Krutina*