

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, April 13, 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., Monday, April 13, 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's Cabinet members present included: Patrick Duffy, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Silvy Un Lafayette, Director of Assessment, Evaluation and Research, Richard Kreyer, Director of Human Resources, Tom Marble, Director of Technology Services, Sara Thompson, Director of Communications and Public Relations, Lisa Greene, Director of Community Education, Patricia Magnuson, Director of Business Services, Tami Reynolds, Director of Student Services 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 7:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was recommended that the School Board approve the Agenda for April 13, 2020. A motion was made by Cox, seconded by McClendon to approve the agenda, as presented. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Osei highlighted the three items connected to the strategic direction of the school district. He highlighted to work of emergency childcare workers as they support the implementation of distance learning. There is an average of 36 students per day between the three sites receiving emergency childcare. He then thanked nutrition staff and transportation providers for distributing meals to students during this temporary school closure. The distribution process has been modified to deliver breakfast and lunch on Monday and Tuesday and Wednesday for the next three days. Superintendent Osei concluded his report by highlighting the Week of the Young Child from April 11-17 as an opportunity for us as a community to acknowledge the work of early childhood professionals, young children, and their families.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Distance Learning Update

Superintendent Osei and Patrick Duffy, Director of Curriculum and Instruction provided an update on the planning and implementation of distance learning in response to the executive order to temporarily close school. The update began with a review and update on each of the considerations for distance learning including; ensure all students have equal access to the learning and required materials; ensure online system can effectively support the district's unique learning and teaching needs; provide training to staff, students, and parents/guardians on distance learning model and the district's expectations; program options for school nurses, school

counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, paraprofessionals, other school specialists and cultural liaisons; track attendance of both students and staff; and ensure distance learning model in use is secure and will not allow for the release of protected student or staff information.

Next, the Distance Learning Expectations for Students information sheet was reviewed. It was noted that this information is available in English, Spanish and Somali. The approved communication channels during the time of distance learning include email, Schoology, Google Classroom, Seesaw and Remind which our students, teachers and most of community are familiar with. Mental health support is being done via phone or video chat. Support and engagement of multilingual learners continues to improve as we learn more. For students receiving special education services, during distance learning, the classroom teacher will be the main resource on assignments and lessons. An overview of the impact on State Testing was provided including an update on the status of MCAs / MTAs, AP testing and IB testing. A table of recorded absences during the first week of distance learning was presented and reviewed. It was noted that attendance can be changed in system if a student in fact was connected and work is currently being done to follow up with students and families that are marked absent.

The update concluded with a review of future action and considerations which included the following; work to continue to streamline communications to students and families; work to differentiate the instruction and amount of work being provided to students; provide our staff with relevant and timely professional development in a number of our areas of priority; ensure we are keeping students and families data safe; maintain focus on strategy #1 (Teaching and Learning) and engage students in rigorous standards based distance learning experiences; and mission-driven work.

Start Times - Elementary, Middle School, High School Options

Superintendent Osei provided an overview of the options generated by various task forces to prepare for the start time changes in the 2020-21 school year. He reviewed recommendations developed by the Elementary Out of School Time Task Force and an update on the implementation of said recommendations, the recommendation for the Middle School to define the structures and systems of academic support and enrichment for all Middle School Students and the teacher work day in alignment with the new Middle School day (9:10 a.m.-3:52 p.m.), and the work of the High School Schedule Task Force to determine the optimal schedule to meet the academic and social/developmental needs of all high school students while also allowing staff collaboration.

FY 2020 Mid-Year Budget Update and 2020-21 Budget Assumptions

Patricia Magnuson, Director of Business Services provided an update of the FY 2020 Mid-Year Budget and 2020-21 Budget Assumptions. Budget impacts and updates due to COVID-19 will be gathered and presented at a future meeting. Updates to the budget timeline were reviewed. Budget update line items that were reviewed had been presented in a previous meeting and the recommendation was that the changes still be adopted as presented and that the budget to actual variances occur first and then we can discuss them in future meetings as what they are; COVID-19 changes. School Board action that was recommended was to adopt a new revenue budget in the General Fund of 68,655,169. No recommendations were made for adjustments in any other

fund budgets. Beginning thinking of potential budget savings and losses across all funds due to COVID-19 were presented.

For the FY 2021 General Fund Budget Assumption the recommendations from the Finance Advisory Committee were reviewed. Additional recommendations, FY 2020 Unreserved Fund Balance, and FY 2021 Capital Budget, were also reviewed.

The School Board was asked to approve the FY 2020 Mid-Year Budget at the evening's Action Agenda.

Policy Development – First Reading Policy 524 Internet Use and Safety

The School Board reviewed as a first reading policy 524 Internet Use and Safety. Policy 524 will be reviewed as a second reading at the next board meeting.

Policy Development – Second Reading Policy 812 Use and Conservation of Energy

A motion was made by Waters, seconded by Tomback to amend discussion point E. Second Reading Policy 812 Use and Conservation of Energy to read First Reading Policy 812 Use and Conservation of Energy and remove item 5. A., the second reading from the action agenda. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0. It was requested that the ASHRAE acronym be spelled out in the policy purpose.

ACTION AGENDA

Approval of FY 2020 Mid-Year Budget Update

A motion was made by Waters, seconded by Wilsey to approve the FY 2020 Mid-Year Budget Update, as presented. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

Approval of Self-Funded Health Insurance Rates

A motion was made by Cox, seconded by Casey to approve the self-funded health insurance rates for the 2020-21 school year, as presented. It was noted that none of this balance is in the General Fund; this is one of the Internal Service Funds. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

Approval of the Community Education Director Employment Contract

A motion was made by Casey, seconded by Morrison to approve the employment contract between Independent School District #283 and Patrice Howard as the Community Education Director for 2020-2022, as presented. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSMITTALS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by McClendon, 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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Approved:

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Karen Waters, Clerk

Mary Tomback, Chair

Minutes prepared by Flower M. Krutina