

**St. Louis Park Public Schools**  
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
Monday, February 24, 2020 – 7:00 p.m.  
St. Louis Park High School Room C350

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, February 24, 2020 in High School Room C350. Present were Board Members Mary Tomback, Karen Waters, Anne Casey, Ken Morrison (7:04 p.m.), Heather Wilsey, Laura McClendon, C. Colin Cox and Superintendent Astein Osei. Superintendent's Cabinet members present included: Patricia Magnuson, Director of Business Services, Silvy Un Lafayette, Director of Assessment, Evaluation and Research, Sara Thompson, Director of Communications and Public Relations, Lisa Greene, Director of Community Education, 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 7:02 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was recommended that the School Board approve the Agenda for February 24, 2020. A motion was made by Wilsey, seconded by Casey to approve the agenda, as presented. Motion passed 6-0. Director Morrison not yet arrived.

**OPEN FORUM**

Members of the St. Louis Park Public Schools community took the opportunity to address to School Board at open forum. Linda Enhright presented on nutrition and wellness in our schools. Ariel Steinman, who works with SLP SEEDS, presented on the culinary classroom at the High School and requested use of the space for a GreenCorps member. Finally, Sharon Lehrman, a Board member of SLP SEEDS, made a case for a revisioning of the High School culinary classroom so that it can be transformed to be a true teaching kitchen and a place to grow fresh produce for Bird Feeder students.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Osei gave an update on the work of the Middle School Out of School Time Task Force. The purpose of this taskforce is 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.). He then provided an update on the High School Schedule Task Force. St. Louis Park High School's schedule is currently a seven (7) period day. The purpose of the High School Schedule Task Force is to determine the optimal schedule to meet the academic and social/developmental needs of all high school students while also allowing staff collaboration. The task force came up with two options for stakeholder feedback; students, teachers/staff, and parents/guardians. The month of February will be used to gather that feedback. He concluded his report by recognizing School Board members during School Board Appreciation Week (February 17-21). The Boars encourages professional development of its members and Superintendent Osei recognized Mary Tomback, Anne Casey and Karen Waters for completing all four levels of the Minnesota School Board Association's School Board Workshop Series.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**Student Research Project Reports**

A group of 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders shared their research projects specifically examining school district policies and practices. Students were asked to look at how they can change the educational system in which they

operate, consider the roles of race, culture, cultural competence, critical consciousness, and look particularly at the role the Board may play in making their projects a reality. Research topics included school stressors and mental health, homework load, mental health and the effects on graduation rates, feminine hygiene products unavailable in restrooms, and discrimination. Students were commended for their work and thanked for sharing their work and perspectives.

### **Financial Advisory Committee Recommendations**

Brian Kelly, Finance Advisory Committee Member, David Larson, Finance Advisory Committee Member and Patricia Magnuson, Director of Business Services shared budget assumptions and fiscal recommendations from the Financial Advisory Committee. Kelly and Larson described the committee, the members, purpose, 2020 approach, and the primary factors discussed and considered. They then reviewed revenue drivers, fund balance and current economic considerations. Recommendations to the Board included;

- Enrollment - Setting APUs for FY2021 at 5,100 driven largely by the fact that the graduating senior class is small (currently 317 students) and the incoming kindergarten class is expected to be larger (approximately 370 students).
- Other Revenue Drivers - Holding Special Education Revenue flat to FY2020 levels once the adjusted amounts are known. Also holding student fees flat.
- Fund Balance Policy – Have the School Board amend Policy 714 to establish that 6% is the minimum Fund Balance the district should maintain, but that the district may target a higher Fund Balance, depending on economic conditions.
- Budget Recommendations to Superintendent - Hold student fees flat, focus on managing expenses, primarily salary & benefits, and amend fund balance policy to prescribe minimum rather than target. Due to the uncertainty of future state funding, the district should continue to balance expenses, class sizes, and programs offered, while seeking operational efficiencies and retaining a sufficient fund balance

### **Policy Development - First Reading Policy 404 Employment Background Check**

The School Board reviewed policy 404 Employment Background Check as a first reading. Vice Chair Casey noted additional edits needed and would work with Flower Krutina, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Secretary to the Board, on revisions to be presented for second reading and action at the next meeting.

### **Policy Development - Second Reading Policy 519 Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies**

The School Board reviewed policy 519 Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies. The policy was presented at the evening's action agenda.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **Business and Personnel**

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

1. Payroll – January 15, 2020 and January 31, 2020
2. Recap of Expenditures
3. Electronic Fund Transfers
4. Accounts Payable Disbursements
5. Donations
6. Approval of Minutes
7. Personnel

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

**ACTION AGENDA**

**Approval of Second Reading of Policy 519 Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies**

A motion was made by McClendon, seconded by Casey to approve the second reading of policy 519 Interviews of Students by Outside Agencies, as presented. Motion passed 7-0. 44.5

**Employment Agreement - Children First Executive Director**


A motion was made by McClendon, seconded by Morrison to approve the employment agreement between Independent School District #283 and the Children First Executive Director Margaret Ganyo, as presented. Motion passed 7-0.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSMITTALS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Cox, seconded by Casey to adjourn. Motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:39 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*