

**St. Louis Park Public Schools**  
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
Monday, April 27, 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 27, 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 (7:06 p.m.) and Superintendent Astein Osei. Superintendent's Cabinet members present included: Patrick Duffy, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, 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, 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 7:01 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

It was recommended that the School Board approve the Agenda for April 27, 2020. A motion was made by Cox, seconded by Casey to approve the agenda, as presented. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 6-0. Director Morrison not yet present.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT & COVID-19 RESPONSE**

Superintendent Osei acknowledges two students; Marta Hill, for being named Minnesota Journalist of the Year and is one of six runner-ups for the Journalism Education Association (JEA) National Journalist of the Year award, and Ruby Stillman for being named a 2020 Rose Rees Peace Award winner which is honors exceptional high school seniors from local schools who have demonstrated a special interest in and commitment to international relations and world peace. Superintendent Osei then provided an update on the district's response on the following areas due to the COVID-19 pandemic;

- Distance Learning Duration – Due to Emergency Executive Order 20-41, distance learning will continue through the end of the 2019-20 school year. May 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> will not hold student instruction to allow teachers to prepare for the remainder of the year.
- Meals and Emergency Childcare – Since March 18<sup>th</sup> over 55,000 meals (breakfast and lunch) have been served. Tier 2 emergency childcare was added and beginning May 4<sup>th</sup> emergency childcare will only be provided at Central and Aquila Elementary.
- Construction – The schedule for construction was updated. Staff were notified of dates that they can access buildings to pick up and pack items and also dates that students can pick up personal belongings. With students and staff out of buildings during distance learning, these dates are earlier than is normally done to allow for construction projects to begin earlier.
- Budget and Staffing – There is currently a projected \$1.4 million deficit at the end of the school year if we do not take action to reduce expenditures and increase revenue. Actions being taken are voluntary layoffs with 82 staff that have voluntarily been laid off, a hiring

freeze, reinstating fee based preschool programming, and adjusting voucher pay practices. The district is also saving by not needing substitute teachers.

- Attendance – A table with the number of total absences with a breakdown by race was reviewed. It was noted that absences significantly decreased since week one of distance learning.
- Commencement –The district is seeking input and engagement from stakeholders regarding the plans for commencement as several options are currently being explored.
- Athletics – The Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) has cancelled the remainder of the spring high school athletic season, and in conjunction with this, the St. Louis Park School District has cancelled the Middle School spring athletic season. All participants will be provided full refunds.
- Distance Learning Feedback – Feedback on distance learning experiences is being gathered via teachers, a districtwide survey, and meetings with students.
- Student Technology Access - 779 Chromebooks have been distributed to students and there are still approximately 45 students who are not able to connect. Hotspots and MyFi devices have been ordered and will be distributed to students who still need access. Chair Tomback and Superintendent Osei met with Mayor Spano and City Manager Harmening to partner and explore strategies to resolve connectivity issues as this is more than just an individual student and school issue; this impacts families in the St. Louis Park community.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **IB & Immersion Programs Update**

Patrick Duffy, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Anne LaLonde Laux, Peter Hobart IB PYP, Ila Saxena, Susan Lindgren IB PYP, Kara Scheid, PSI Immersion Coordinator, Olivia Tolzin, Aquila Assistant Principal and IB PYP, Mia Waldera, Middle School IB MYP, and Jenny Magdal, High School IB DP provided an update on International Baccalaureate and Immersion Programs. The group reviewed their purpose before and during distance learning and the three pieces that have always been a part of the group's purpose and are currently being amplified. Those three pieces are; cohesion, creativity and collaboration. The group discussed how those pieces are currently being applied and amplified with distance learning.

### **Athletic Activities Update**

Andy Ewald, District Athletic Director provided an update on athletic facility improvements, spring sports and weekly engagement for athletes, Athena Award recipient Anna Keith, and showed two videos featuring high school student athletes.

### **Strategic Plan Timeline & Recruitment**

Sara Thompson, Director of Communications and Community Relations provided an overview of the timeline for development of the 2020-2025 strategic plan and recruitment of the planning team. She highlighted that there will be an environmental scan done, similar to a SWOT analysis, that the upcoming plan will be more of an umbrella plan to include cabinet and principals across district for increased alignment, and that there will be a Youth Conference led by the Teaching & Learning team and Pacific Educational Group. Invitations will be sent to students on Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **FY21 Capital Budget**

Patricia Magnuson, Director of Business Services share information about the Operating Capital, Lease Levy, and Capital Projects Levy budgets for FY 2021. Final presentation and approval will come with final budget approval in the month of June.

### **Policy Development – Second Reading Policies 524 Internet Use and Safety & 812 Use and Conservation of Energy**

The School Board was asked to review policies 524 Internet Use and Safety and 812 Use and Conservation of Energy as a second reading. It was proposed that policy 812 be table for further development and a third reading. Action was taken during the Action Agenda.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. Payroll for March 12, 2020 in the amount of \$ 1,541,683.91 and March 31, 2020 in the amount of \$ 1,600,639.52
2. Recap of Expenditures
3. Electronic Fund Transfers
4. Accounts Payable Disbursements
5. Donations
6. Minutes
7. Personnel

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

### **ACTION AGENDA**

#### **Approval of FY 2021 Capital Budget Items**

A motion was made by Wilsey, seconded by Morrison to approve the DRAFT Operating Capital, Lease Levy, and Capital Projects Levy budgets for FY21, as presented. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

#### **Approval of Second Reading of Policies 524 Internet Use and Safety & 812 Use and Conservation of Energy**

A motion was made by Waters, seconded by Wilsey to approve policy 524 Internet Use and Safety and change the name to Internet and Technology Responsible Use - Students. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0. A motion was made by Casey, seconded by McClendon to move policy 812 Use and Conservation of Energy off of the action agenda postpone the approval until a third reading at a future meeting. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

#### **Approval of Labor Agreements**

A motion was made McClendon, seconded by Waters to approve the labor agreements for the 2020-2022 school years between Independent School District #283 and the following:

- Professional Employee Group
- Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
- Supervisor/Manager Group
- Operations Supervisors
- Director Group.

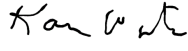
By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSMITTALS

### ADJOURNMENT


A motion was made by Morrison, seconded by Cox to adjourn. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Karen Waters, Clerk

Approved:

DocuSigned by:  
  
1601E67CA19E415

Mary Tomback, Chair

*Minutes prepared by Flower M. Krutina*