

**St. Louis Park Public Schools**  
Minutes of the Special School Board Meeting  
School Board Retreat  
Saturday, January 4, 2020 – 3:00 p.m.  
District Office Conference Room 1A

The special meeting of the School Board of Independent School District No. 283 of St. Louis Park, Hennepin County, Minnesota, convened at 3:00 p.m., January 4, 2020 – in District Office Conference Room 1A. Present were Board Members Nancy Gores, Anne Casey, Mary Tomback, Karen Waters, Ken Morrison (3:13 p.m. arrival) and Superintendent Astein Osei. Also present were newly elected Board Members, with terms beginning on Monday, January 6, 2020, Heather Wilsey, Laura McClendon and C. Colin Cox. Board Members Joe Tatalovich and Jim Beneke were absent and Karen Waters served as Acting Clerk.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Casey, seconded by Waters to approve the agenda for Special Meeting, School Board Retreat. The Motion passed 4-0. Member Morrison not yet present.

**Role of the School Board**

School Board members discussed the role of the School Board. Incoming members had an opportunity to ask questions. The Board reviewed the School Board Reference Guide which includes a list of policies, Board Meeting planning calendar, reference information for Board communication and contact information, and department overviews. It was requested that the policy list include links to the policies located on the District website. The process for the School Board Message Line was also reviewed. School Board Listening Sessions were also discussed to review their purpose and begin thinking about upcoming sessions.

**MOTION TO AMMEND AGENDA**

A motion was made by Gores, seconded by Waters to amend the remaining agenda for Special Meeting, School Board Retreat, to move the discussion item Racial Equity Leadership to be the next discussion item. The Motion passed 5-0.

**Racial Equity Leadership**

Patrick Duffy, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Freida Bailey, Principal on Special Assignment, and Astein Osei, Superintendent, led a discussion on the role of the Board in leading for racial equity. The outcomes of the discussion were reflections on lived experiences and how we see the world which influences policy development and governance, a reflection on first and most recent experiences with race, and an exploration of what a racially equitable classroom can look like under Board's strategic leadership.

**Policy Review Practice and Timeline**

School Board members reviewed the policy review practice and timeline.

**School Board Planning Calendar**

School Board members reviewed School Board meeting discussion topics for the remainder of

the 2019-20 school year.

**Superintendent Relationship, Supervision and Evaluation Process**

School Board members discussed the relationship between the Superintendent and School Board and the role of supervision and evaluation of the Superintendent.

**Board Professional Development**


School Board members discussed topics and strategies for professional development. Amongst the possible strategies discussed were Beyond Diversity seminars for the Board and the possibility of a racial equity coach liaison. A proposal will be drafted for what Board Professional Development, focusing on racial equity work, could look like. The proposal will then be presented to the Board for feedback.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Waters, seconded by Tomback to adjourn. Motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

  
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Karen Waters, Clerk

  
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Mary Tomback, Chair

*Minutes prepared by Flower M. Krutina*