

**St. Louis Park Public Schools**  
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
Monday, February 22, 2021 – 6:30 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 on Monday, February 22, 2021 via 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. Also present were members of the Superintendent's Cabinet.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Mary Tomback called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

A motion was made by Waters, seconded by Casey to approve the agenda, as presented. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

**OPEN FORUM**

There were no open forum participants.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Superintendent Osei first acknowledged School Board members for Minnesota School Board Recognition Week. A great deal of appreciation was expressed to Board members for their leadership and commitment especially in the last year during the COVID-19 pandemic. He also recognized and celebrated school bus drivers who have worked diligently and have been essential support to students and families in our district. Superintendent Osei concluded his report with a brief Safe Learning Plan update including; welcoming secondary (6-12) students back to school in-person, updates to Minnesota's Safe Learning Plan which no longer requires schools to implement a rolling start and schools in in-person or hybrid models should rely on school-level COVID-19 transmission data and staff capacity for educational delivery model transition decisions, physical distancing updates, and mealtime mitigation strategy updates.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**American Indian Parent Advisory Council Update**

Freida Bailey, Principal on Special Assignment and members of the American Indian Parent Advisory Council (AIPAC) provided an update on the council's work within the District. The council's work included, but was not limited to, submitting an application to the Minnesota Department of Education for an American Indian Grant, inviting 128 American Indian parents/guardians and families to AIPAC meetings, and organizing a celebration event for Indigenous Peoples Day. They then looked ahead to 2021-22 and reviewed committee priorities and student goals.

**Financial Advisory Committee Recommendations**

Patricia Magnuson, Director of Business Services and members of the Financial Advisory Committee including Julia Frederickson (parent/guardian), Elliot Salmon (student), and Ukee

Dozier (Internal Auditor) presented their recommendations to the Board. The purpose of the committee, committee members, and their approach for 2021 was reviewed. The committee's recommendations were as follows:

**Budget recommendations**

- 1% Increase in Per Pupil Formula
- 4,862 Adjusted Pupil Units (APU's)
- Maintain at least a 10% Unreserved Fund Balance
- Increase Student Activity Fees and Meal Prices

**Fiscal recommendations**

- Balance the Budget
- Manage Expense Increases
- Grow Resident Enrollment

An additional recommendation is: 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.

**Strategic Plan Presentation**

Sara Thompson, Director of Communications and Community Relations and members of the Core Planning Team provided a presentation of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan for Racial Equity Transformation. Thompson reviewed the process which was an adaptive approach with the support of Luis Versalles from Courageous Conversations and technical execution led by Director Thompson. The presentation reviewed Core Planning Team members, background and situation analysis, the focus question the new strategic plan aims to answer, and the group's racial equity journey.

The group developed a vision statement, which the District currently does not have, is a vision of the desired future. That statement reads, "St. Louis Park Public Schools – Where students are seen and valued and become their best selves as racially conscious, globally minded contributors to society." The mission statement that was developed, which declares what is being achieved, reads, "St. Louis Park Public Schools sees, inspires, and empowers each learner to live their brilliance in an environment that centers student voice and experience to create racially equitable learning that energizes and enhances the spirit of our community." Areas of focus, also known as strategies, were reviewed. An updated set of core values were also developed by the group and read as follows:

**We believe in:**

- **The brilliance of ourselves and others.** Everyone has the capacity and responsibility to foster the growth and brilliance of others.
- **Authentic community engagement.** Engaging and supporting our employees, families, and communities will enhance the healthy development of each learner.
- **High expectations.** Instilling and upholding high expectations empowers students and staff to higher levels of achievement.
- **Collective responsibility.** Embodying the collective and urgent responsibility of anti-racist practices enriches a work and learning environment and community.
- **Persistent effort.** Through persistent effort we will create anti-racist schools and academically successful learners.
- **Racial consciousness and cultural competence.** Racial consciousness and cultural

competence are essential to each person's ability to be a catalyst for change.

- **Advocacy for equity.** Everyone has equal intrinsic worth and we will advocate for the historically marginalized.

Next steps include the development of an FAQ and final report and School Board approval at the March 8, 2021 meeting.

### **Phase 3 Curriculum and Instruction Review Plan Update**

Patrick Duffy, Director of Curriculum and Instruction provided an update on Phase 3 Curriculum and Instruction Review Plan including Math, Gifted and Talented, and World Languages. The development and review timeline and process were reviewed as well as the Design Team belief statements and connection to the Strategic Plan for Racial Equity Transformation. Updates to curriculum and instruction include:

#### **Grades E-5**

- Implement a new math instructional framework and curriculum, E-5 at all sites, that will serve all students.
- Replace Gifted and Talented programming and Park Fast LANE with a new strengths based anti-racist talent development program for all.
- Embed Spanish language specialists (Eng. at PSI) into classrooms to ensure more content based bilingual instruction and education for all.
- Have a specialist at each site to provide culturally relevant literacy support for K-2 teachers & classrooms.

#### **Grades 6-12**

- Commit to have each World Language and Cultures classroom teaching to a 90% Target Language rate with ACTFL standards through a 6-12 scope and sequence.
- Provide each SLP student (including MLL) with an opportunity to graduate with a bilingual seal.
- Integrate all math courses in grades 6-10 by fall of 2022 by introducing a new instructional framework with CRP.
- Graduate each student with at least one college math course in a pathway of their choice.
- Provide gifted education as extension curriculum choices for every child connected to summative assessments in language arts, science, and social studies in grades 6-10.
- Ensure each student takes at least one IB, AP, or concurrent college course before graduation.

### **AMENDMENT TO AGENDA**

A motion was made by Tomback, seconded by Waters to move discussion item 5.E. Restorative Practices to a future meeting. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. Recap of Expenditures
2. Accounts Payable Disbursements
3. Electronic Fund Transfers
4. Donations
5. Investment Holdings

6. Payroll for January 15, 2021 in the amount of 1,557,755.97 and January 29, 2021 in the amount of 1,584,530.70
7. Personnel

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

## **ACTION AGENDA**

### **American Indian Parent Advisory Council Resolution Approval**

A motion was made by Waters, seconded by McClendon to approve the American Indian Parent Advisory Council Resolution, as presented. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSMITTALS**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Cox, seconded by Waters to adjourn. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

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Laura McClendon, Clerk

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Mary Tomback, Chair

*Minutes prepared by Flower M. Krutina*