

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
Study Session
Monday, March 8, 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, March 8, 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 Tami Reynolds, Director of Student Services, Richard Kreyer, Director of Human Resources, Scott Meyers, Restorative Practices Coordinator, Michele Edwins, Peter Hobart School Social Worker, and Flower Krutina, Executive Leadership Partner.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Mary Tomback called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Osei first shared that St. Louis Park High School was named one of fourteen recipients of the Journalism Education Association (JEA) First Amendment Press Freedom Award for 2021. This is the sixth time in the last seven years that the High School has received the award. He then congratulated High School junior Semona Robel who recently earned second place in a criminal justice reform youth essay, video and audio contest organized by the Minnesota Urban Debate League and the Star Tribune Opinion Department. Osei concluded his report by congratulating Talia Liss-sour Lissauer who was named the 2021 Minnesota Journalist of the Year. Talia will now move on to the National Journalist of the Year competition. This is the second year in a row that a St. Louis Park student has been awarded Minnesota Journalist of the Year.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Restorative Practices

Scott Meyers, Restorative Practices Coordinator provided an update on restorative practices in the District. Meyers shared that Restorative Practices is a way of being for schools, not a program to implement. It has history in many Indigenous/People of Color cultures and communities throughout the world. Through community-building we will create more pathways to prioritize relationships, navigate conflict, restore community, and repair harm. Restorative Practices is different from Restorative Justice in that the focus of Restorative Justice is on alternative consequences for behavior. Meyers shared a timeline of Restorative Practices in St. Louis Park Public Schools, who members of the Restorative Practices Team are, the three tiers of practices, how these practices align with the District's mission, and the work being done currently. Restorative Practices work currently being done includes training and consultation, development of site work plans, alignment of current practices, and learning from students.

Land Acknowledgement

Laura McClendon, Board Clerk presented information on a proposed land acknowledgment for School Board meetings. McClendon described what a land acknowledgment is and why St. Louis Park Public Schools should have one, shared a map of indigenous land that the District sits on, a possible timeline for implementation, and recommended additional actions that the School Board should take to support indigenous students and families. The draft language that was presented read:

We are gathered on the land of the Dakota and Ojibwe peoples. I ask you to join me in acknowledging the Dakota and Ojibwe community, their elders both past and present, as well as future generations. St. Louis Park Public Schools also acknowledges that it was founded upon exclusions and erasures of many Indigenous Peoples, including those on whose land this school district is located. This acknowledgement demonstrates a commitment to dismantling the ongoing legacies of ~~settler~~ (colonial mistrust/ power) and the district's desire to support the ongoing work of local Indigenous communities to thrive in our schools.

McClendon thanked the American Indian Parent Advisory Council for providing feedback on the proposed land acknowledgement and for their collaboration.

Safe Learning Plan Update

Superintendent Osei shared a Safe Learning Plan Update and updated recommendations to the School Board for approval. Osei highlighted the vaccination POD (point of distribution) that was able to be offered to staff through a partnership with Hennepin County. He then shared his recommendations to increase in-person learning opportunities for students in grades 6-12 with additional mitigation strategies. Osei's recommendation to the School Board for approval was the following:

- Increase in-person learning opportunities for students in grades 6-12 to 4 days a week starting on April 12, 2021.
- Hybrid - No assigned capacity (Approximately 70% of secondary students are in hybrid)
- In-person learning 4 days a week (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday)
- Six feet physical distance whenever feasible; when six feet of distancing cannot be met, a minimum of three feet of physical distance between students must be maintained.
- Continue to provide a Student Support/Feedback day (Wednesday)
- Continue to offer distance learning for students (Cohort C)

Policy Development - First Reading Policies 514 Bullying Prohibition and 524 Internet Acceptable Use and Safety

The School Board reviewed policies 514 Bullying Prohibition and 524 Internet Acceptable Use and Safety (Students) as a first reading. Vice Chair Casey recommended that Policy 514 be taken back to the Policy Committee for further review and edits.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Minutes

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

ACTION AGENDA

Safe Learning Plan Approval

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

2020-2025 Strategic Plan for Racial Equity Transformation Approval

A motion was made by Tomback, seconded by Casey to approve the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan for Racial Equity Transformation, as presented. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSMITTALS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Morrison, seconded by McClendon to adjourn. By means of roll call vote, motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Laura McClendon, Clerk

Mary Tomback, Chair

Minutes prepared by Flower M. Krutina