

St. Louis Park Public Schools
Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
Monday, April 26, 2021 – 6:30 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 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 26, 2021 in St. Louis Park High School Room C350. Present were Board Members Mary Tomback, Karen Waters, Anne Casey, Ken Morrison, Heather Wilsey, Laura McClendon, C. Colin Cox and Superintendent Astein Osei.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Mary Tomback called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Morrison, seconded by Cox to approve the agenda, as presented. The motion passed 7-0.

OPEN FORUM

There were no Open Forum participants.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Osei recognized St. Louis Park High School senior Erin Brousseau who was named the school's Athena Award winner for 2021. The Athena Awards annually recognize an outstanding senior female athlete from each of the Minneapolis city, suburban and private schools for their achievements in one or more sports. Osei then shared that the St. Louis Park Public Schools & Community Foundation are seeking support for the class of 2021 by purchasing a lawn sign to help raise funds so that the Senior Class party will be open to all students (free of charge). Next, the School Board received an update on the Aquila Elementary School Principal selection process and outlined the timeline. The report concluded with an invitation to view the High School Theatre Program's livestream of its spring production of "Working, A Musical".

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Seeds Feeds Community Garden at Aquila

Patricia Magnuson, Director of Business Services, and SLP Seeds (Seeds Feeds) volunteers Ariel Steinman, Deandre Adams, Kristy Burgeson and Michelle Bissonnette provided an update on the Seeds Feeds Community Garden at Aquila Elementary. Presenters provided an overview of Seeds Feeds and the plans for the community garden. Plans include a shed, water and wash station, compost bin, and learning circle/outdoor classroom in addition to the gardens.

Curriculum and Instruction - Math Update

Patrick Duffy, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and the Math Design team provided an update on math curriculum and instruction. The Math Design Team shared that the Bridges in Mathematics curriculum would be implemented. The team gave a background on Bridges and

shared how the decision was made, alignment between Bridges framework and the strategic direction of the District, and professional development needs for successful implementation.

Safe Learning Plan Update

Superintendent Osei provided a Safe Learning Plan update and included information connected to end of year activities. He shared that in-person learning for students in grades 6-12 recently increased as the District welcomed students back to school in-person in a hybrid model. The District will continue to follow guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education and Minnesota Department of Health leveraging local data and focusing data from within the schools. Superintendent Osei also shared elementary and secondary end of year events and the mitigation strategies to keep students safe during the events.

Self-Funded Health Insurance

Richard Kreyer, Director of Human Resources provided a present self-funded health insurance rates and information for approval at the evening's Action Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Payroll for March 15, 2021 in the amount of 1,582,659.71 and March 31, 2021 in the amount of 1,562,197.49
2. Recap of Expenditures
3. Electronic Fund Transfers
4. Accounts Payable Disbursements
5. Investment Holdings
6. Donations
7. Minutes
8. Agreement to Resolve Special Education Student Matter
9. Personnel

The motion passed 7-0.

ACTION AGENDA

Land Acknowledgement Approval

A motion was made by Casey, seconded by Waters to approve instituting an indigenous land acknowledgement at School Board meetings, as follows:

Proposed Language for Land Acknowledgement

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 colonial power and the district's desire to support the ongoing work of local Indigenous communities to thrive in our schools.

The motion passed 7-0.

High School Principal Contract Approval

A motion was made by Cox, seconded by Morrison to approve the employment contract between Independent School District #283 and LaNisha Paddock as the High School Principal. The motion passed 7-0.

Self-Funded Health Insurance Rates Approval

A motion was made by Morrison, seconded by Wilsey to approve the self-funded health insurance rates, as presented. The motion passed 7-0.

Capital-Related Budgets Approval

A motion was made by Casey, seconded by McClendon to approve the DRAFT Operating Capital, Lease Levy, and Capital Projects Levy (technology) budgets for FY 2022, as presented. The motion passed 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSMITTALS

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Casey, seconded by Cox to adjourn. The motion passed 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved:

Laura McClendon, Clerk

Mary Tomback, Chair

Minutes prepared by Flower M. Krutina