

# SUSAN LINDGREN PTSO BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## September 12, 2017

### Susan Lindgren Media Center

A [slideshow](#) was shown prior to the meeting beginning  
The meeting was called to order by Erika Scott at 7:05 p.m.

#### Greeting & Introductions

Welcome from Erika Scott and Deanna Plant, PTSO Chairs.

#### Featured Speaker: Astein Osei

- Astein gave an overview of his background and professional experience
- [2015-2020 Strategic Plan](#) overview
  - SLP's core values align with Astein's beliefs as a person and a professional, which is what drove him to decide to take the position as the superintendent in St Louis Park
  - Four strategies are included in the [plan](#):
    1. Teaching and Learning
    2. Structures and Systems
    3. Community Collaboration
    4. Facilities
- Referendum 2017
  - On November 7, 2017, the SLP school district will be asking SLP residents to vote for a [referendum to fund improvements](#) at SLP schools.
  - Astein showed a [video](#) about the referendum that highlighted the improvements that are proposed and why they are needed.
  - To determine what the financial impact of the referendum will have on you specifically, there is a property [tax impact calculator](#) on the school board website that will estimate what it will cost on a monthly basis.
  - The school board takes pride in being responsible for the dollars that the community provides through taxes.
  - A list of the [specific proposed improvements](#) is available on the SLP school website.
  - The following are questions asked by parents at the meeting, and Astein's response:
    - If the 2<sup>nd</sup> bond passes, when does construction start? The remodeling would start right away, start working with contractors and designers. Construction and planning would last a few years. Middle School and High School would have the biggest impact
    - How will the improvements help with the larger class sizes that are currently in elementary schools that will be in the middle school in the near future? The Middle School has about 1000 students currently. In the short term there will need to be some creative thinking and planning for space
    - How was the dollar amount for the referendum determined? \$100.9M was a number decided by the school board and learning design team based on their evaluation and needs identified. There was a learning design team of ~ 38 parents and residents that

worked with the school board to determine what improvements need to be done. When funding is approved, there will be community collaboration available to help make decisions on specific details

- How will the new kitchen format work? All food will be prepped at the HS and distributed to elementary schools. Susan Lindgren hired a new cook that is doing more scratch cooking this year. Less foods from the freezer or prepackaged.
  - The funding will replace the existing operating levy that is going to expire.
  - The two questions that are on the ballot are independent of each other.
  - Parents are encouraged to take a tour of the middle school to see is condition, to help make their decision when voting
  - Would the operating referendum help cover the science program that the HS teachers taught at the elementary schools (ParkSCI)? The program was a short term grant for HS teachers to educate the elementary schools on how to teach science and engineering. Moving forward the goal is to offer more science related teaching in the school. The funding is not planned to bring back ParkSCI, but to increase science teaching
  - For children that can speak in English but struggle with writing, what programs are available to help them? There are programs at all the schools that help with English as a second language.
  - Art classes at the elementary school are lacking, what is the plan moving forward? Astein offered that he needs to learn more about the history of art classes at the schools and where they could fit in the future. His plan going forward is to learn more and determine how art can fit into current schedules. New this year at Susan Lindgren, three grade level specific art lessons will be offered in each classroom.
  - What is a "Next Century" classroom like? It's a classroom with more collaborative work space rather than rows of desks – standing desks, floor seating, getting kids moving and standing
  - When will the construction be done and will it impact classes? Any construction would be done as to not disturb classes and student safety
  - Why did the school decided to go to having all the cooking at one location? The school district researched other school models and decided this was the most efficient and helps reduce costs.
  - Will the referendum be proposed to others in the community that do not have kids in the district? Currently 17% of the residents have children in schools. The school district is doing their best to get out and educate all community members and are available to give presentations as needed.
- Run Hide Fight – new program that is a "options" based approach that has been proved to reduce injuries on situations with an intruder. The school district staff

have spent time with the St Louis Park police before the school year started, to learn about the techniques.

### **Vote Yes! Anne Walsh**

- Anne passed around a signups for anyone that wants to have their name listed as an advocate for the referendum, to get a yard sign and to help with getting the word out to support Vote Yes!
- Learn more here: <https://voteyesslpschools.wordpress.com/>

### **Susan Lindgren PTSO Video**

- Erika showed a [video](#) that highlights all of the activities that the PTSO sponsors over the year

### **Events that have occurred so far this school year:**

- Meet the Teacher/Ice Cream Social
- Welcome Committee
- Directory Update
- Walk and Bike to School Week
- Honey and Rye/Schoolyard Garden Pizza Night

### **Upcoming Events**

- Guys landscaping event
- Staff appreciation
- Book Fair
- SLP Reads
- Math Night

### **Principal's report – Frank Johnson**

- The school yard garden has been doing great and producing an abundance of food. Food donations have been made to Honey and Rye as well as STEP.
- There are three new teachers to the school
- The school is looking for a cafeteria monitor during the hours of 11:30-1:30, if you know anyone that is interested
- Emily Crook – New equity coach in our school. She will be working to close the achievement gap that has increased in the recent years. The school is working hard to try to determine why this is.
- 90% of parents showed up for meet your teacher night
- There is a [video to step parents though all of the papers](#) that went home for kids posted on the school website.
- Fifth grade teachers are done planning for and are looking forward to our new two-day experience at [Camp Iduhapi](#). Our kids go to camp October 9 & 12.

### **Mark your calendar - Next PTSO Meeting is November 14<sup>th</sup> 7-8:30 in the Media Center**

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Attendance: approximately 60 people attended this PTSO meeting

Submitted on September 12, 2017 by Renae Kuehl