

Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting

Of the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 held at the Historic Old Central High School, 215 North First Avenue East, Duluth, Minnesota 55802, on

Tuesday, December 18, 2018

Members Present:

Josh Gorham
David Kirby
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Jill Lofald
Alanna Oswald
Nora Sandstad
Sally Trnka

Others Present:

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent
Cathy Erickson, CFO
Jackie Dolentz, Secretary

Student Representatives:

Maggie Carlos (Denfeld)
Finnegan White (Duluth East)

➤ Chair Kirby called the Regular School Board meeting of December 18, 2018 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Sandstad, to approve the agenda as presented.

M-Trnka, S-Oswald, to Postpone Indefinitely Resolution B-12-18-3609 – Establishing Combined Polling Places for Multiple Precincts and Designating Hours During Which the Polling Places Will Remain Open for Voting For School District Elections Not Held on the Day of a Statewide Election from the Business Committee agenda. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Upon a vote, the agenda was approved as amended – unanimously.

Chair Kirby asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of November 20, 2018.

M-Lofald, S-Gorham, to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2018 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

School and Community Recognition **December 2018**

Members of the Board, this month we're recognizing Gautam Mereddy from Duluth East High School. The ACT and SAT are college entrance exams. Out of the 1.8 million students who take the ACT every year, only about 1,000 get the highest possible score. Gautam Mereddy earned perfect or near perfect scores on all five of the ACT and SAT college entrance exams he took; a rare and remarkable feat! When interviewed by the local paper he said, "If you're going to do anything, you should try to do it to the best of your abilities." He also said something very important. "There's more to a student than just some test numbers and whatnot." And there is certainly much more to Gautam than perfect test scores. He takes AP and College In the Schools

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courses at Duluth East, is a member of the school's National Honor Society and is a recipient of the AP Scholar Award and Duluth East Academic Letter Award. Gautam does healthcare related volunteer work with St. Luke's, Essentia Health, Solvay Hospice House and Chris Jensen. Working with UMD graduate students and a professor, he has conducted cancer research and co-authored four peer-reviewed research publications. His school activities include Math Team, Tutor, STEM Club and Knowledge Bowl. He plays guitar and is a Judo Brown Belt through the Duluth Judo Club. Congratulations, Gautam, for your accomplishment on the ACT and SAT and for inspiring us with your enthusiasm for learning new skills and taking on new challenges.

Truth In Taxation Presentation

December 2018

The Truth in Taxation Presentation was given by Cathy Erickson, Chief Financial Officer, Executive Director of Business Services.

The public was given an opportunity to ask questions.

Public Comments

December 2018

Dani Dunphy, address not provided, provided Education Equity Advisory Committee (EEAC) updates to the School Board.

Anne Krafthefer, 1601 East Fourth Street, spoke to the School Board about legislation.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

December 2018

Superintendent Gronseth stated that no communications had been received.

Superintendent's Report

December 2018

There have been many opportunities last week and this week for our students to display their talents. As I have heard them playing instruments, singing, or have viewed their artwork, I have been very impressed! Creativity and expression are important to the education process. A well balanced curriculum rich in the arts will help all of our students. We have many staff members who help students to cultivate creativity, problem solving, precision, the ability to work with others, and the many other skills necessary to be successful in just about every field.

I am sure I don't have to remind our students that winter break starts this weekend. School will resume on January 2, 2019. I hope that whatever your family traditions are in December, that

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your winter break is a chance to recharge and relax. When we return there are just three weeks left in the semester!

I also want to take an opportunity to thank our Student Representatives to the School Board. Maggie and Finn have both done an outstanding job during their year. Their reports are always a highlight of our meetings as they serve as a reminder of why we are all here. Tonight they will be sharing their final reports. We would like to recognize your service with a certificate and a small token of appreciation. Thank you for all you have done!

Student Representative Finn White, during his last address to the School Board, spoke about activities happening at Duluth East such as the government students attending tonight's School Board meeting to meet class requirements, the recent holiday concert was a huge success as well as their performances around the city. Winter sports are under way and the holiday spirit-themed week is happening with hot chocolate, blanket donations, giving tree program and assemblies. Congratulations to Vanessa Farrell, the new 2019 Student Representative from Duluth East. Thank you Finn for your service!

Student Representative Maggie Carlos, during her last address to the School Board, spoke about activities happening at Denfeld such as Spirit Week and holiday activities such as pajama day, holiday color day, and ugly sweater day. Maroon 16 has been singing around the city. The Math team is doing fantastic and is currently in first place in the state. Winter sports are continuing with the hockey team ranked sixth in the state. Congratulations to Emma Natale who will be the new 2019 Student Representative from Denfeld. Thank you Maggie for your service!

Education Committee Report
December 2018

Member Lofald presented the Education Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

Member Lofald presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 465.03 requires a school district to accept grants by resolution expressed in the terms prescribed by the donor in full; and,

WHEREAS, acceptance of the grant in accordance with the donor's terms is in the best interest of the Duluth Public Schools:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Duluth Public Schools does accept the below-described grants from said organizations in accordance with the terms set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Duluth Public Schools wishes to extend its grateful appreciation to these organizations.

Organization	Author / Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
St. Luke's Foundation	Ron Lake	Sources of Strength (S.O.S.)	\$15,000	Funds will be used to support Sources of Strength (S.O.S.) programing Duluth East and Denfeld High Schools
Arrowhead Manufacturers and Fabricators Association (AMFA) Educational Trust	Brad Vieths	Engineering Design and Manufacturing Programs at Ordean East Middle School	\$2,000	Fund will be used to purchase new miter and band saws for Ordean East Middle School

Resolution E-12-18-3604

December 18, 2018

M-Lofald, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution E-12-18-3604 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Lofald, S-Oswald, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report.

Member Oswald withheld Item 2.A.1)
 Member Sandstad withheld Item 1.C.1)

Member Sandstad withheld Item 1.C.1) Check and Connect Program Update to clarify if all grade levels were being served at Denfeld.

Member Oswald withheld Item 2.A.1) ISD 709 Calendar 2019-20 School Year to comment that the last day of school next year is on a Friday and not a Thursday.

Upon a vote, the remainder of the Education Committee Report was approved – unanimously.

Human Resources Committee Report
December 2018

Member Gorham presented the Human Resources Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

M-Gorham, S-Trnka, to approve the Human Resource Committee report. Upon a vote, the Human Resources Committee report was approved – unanimously.

Business Committee Report
December 2018

Member Trnka presented the Business Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

Member Trnka presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 465.03 requires a school district to accept donations by resolution expressed in the terms prescribed by the donor in full; and,

WHEREAS, acceptance of the donations in accordance with the donor’s terms is in the best interest of the Duluth Public Schools:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Duluth Public Schools does accept the below-described donations from said organizations in accordance with the terms set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Duluth Public Schools wishes to extend its grateful appreciation to these individuals and organizations.

SCHOOL	DONOR	AMOUNT	RESTRICTION
Area Learning Center	DFT	\$100.00	ALC Student Holiday Auction
Congdon	Maurices	\$67.00	None
Denfeld	Thomas and Michelle Stender	\$500.00	Drama Department
Denfeld	Joe Westerberg	\$125.00	Boys Basketball
Denfeld	Joe Westerberg	\$125.00	Girls Basketball
Denfeld	Allete Clean Energy, Inc.	\$500.00	Drama Department
Denfeld	The Jamar Company	\$100.00	Fab Labs at East and Denfeld
Denfeld	Parsons Electric	In Kind	None
Denfeld	Graybar Electric Supply	In Kind	None
Denfeld	Pete and Maureen Olson	In Kind	Gym class
Denfeld	Karen and Royal Alworth	\$100.00	Hunter Hut
District-Wide	Carolyn Zanko	In Kind	None
District-Wide	Advantage Emblem	In Kind	None
District-Wide	Nancy Holmgren	\$100.00	Families in Transition program
District-Wide	Stephanie & Thomas Chartier	\$25.00	Families in Transition program
ECFE Families in Transition	Barnes Noble customers	In Kind	ECFE families and library
HOCHS	MN Teachers Retirement Association	In Kind	None
Lakewood	Maurices	\$33.00	None
Laura MacArthur	Bethany Community Church	In Kind	None

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Laura MacArthur	Anonymous	In Kind	None
Laura MacArthur	Elks Lodge Auxiliary	In Kind	None
Laura MacArthur	Maurices	\$40.00	None
Laura MacArthur	Skybridge Americas, Inc	\$25.90	None
Laura MacArthur	West Duluth American Legion Auxiliary	In Kind	Students
Lester Park	Maurices	\$67.00	None
Lincoln Park	Maurices	\$30.00	None
Lincoln Park	Duluth Elks Lodge and All American Club Auxiliary	In Kind	None
Lincoln Park	Tonia Villegas	\$600.00	Student lunch balances
Lowell	Rotary Club of Duluth #25	In Kind	Library
Lowell	Citon Computer Corp.	In Kind	Computer lab
Lowell	Maurices	\$33.00	None
Stowe	Parent Group	\$1,000.00	Wolf Ridge trip
Stowe	Parent Group	\$1,300.00	Teacher classroom accounts
Stowe	Maurices	\$33.00	None
Stowe	Sammy's Pizza & Restaurant	In Kind	After school clubs
Stowe	Susan Woods	In Kind	Students
Stowe	Asbury United Methodist Church	In Kind	Students
Stowe	Bethany Community Church	In Kind	Students
Stowe	Beacon Pointe Hotel	In Kind	Students

Resolution B-12-18-3606

December 18, 2018

M-Trnka, S-Lofald, to approve Resolution B-12-18-3606 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Trnka presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Authorized Bank Account Signer – December 2018

RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that it hereby authorizes the following:

District Building	Banking Institution	Account Number	Addition of Authorized Signer	Removal of Authorized Signer
Congdon Park	North Shore	XXXX4030	Heidi Klassen	Mikilia Carroll

Resolution B-12-18-3607

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M-Trnka, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-12-18-3607 – Authorized Bank Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Trnka presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Certified Tax Levy 2018 Payable 2019

BE IT RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, to hereby set the Tax Levy for 2018 Payable 2019 at \$39,837,624.11.

Resolution B-12-18-3608

December 18, 2018

M-Trnka, S-Oswald, to approve Resolution B-12-18-3608 – Certified Tax Levy 2018 Payable 2019.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Trnka presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Resolution of Support Authorizing Acceptance of Safe Routes to School Grants Related to Providing Improvements to Pedestrian Access to Various Schools in the City of Duluth

RESOLVED, that the city of Duluth (“city”) act as the legal sponsor for the Safe Routes to School project as contained in the 2018 Infrastructure Grant applications to be submitted prior to January 4, 2019, and that the mayor and clerk are hereby authorized to apply to the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration for a grant not to exceed

\$300,000 for funding of each of the following two projects: 1) Sidewalk improvements along designated Safe Routes to School to Lincoln Park Middle School, and 2) Pedestrian crossing improvements identified in Safe Routes to School plans for elementary schools;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the city has the legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and the institutional, managerial and financial capability to ensure adequate project administration;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that although no local match contribution is required, the city commits to provide an additional \$100,000 in funds for the Lincoln Park application.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the city designate the Lincoln Park Middle School Pedestrian and ADA Improvements as the first priority for funding, and that the Duluth Elementary Schools Pedestrian Crossing Improvements be ranked the second priority.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the city has adopted Ordinance 18-049 on September 24, 2018 requiring new subdivisions to incorporate Safe Routes to School Infrastructure;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon approval of its application by the state, the mayor and clerk may enter into a grant agreement with the state of Minnesota for the above referenced projects and receive said grant payable into Permanent Improvement Fund 411, Department 035 (Capital Projects Accounts). Source 4210-01 (Pass-thru federal grants capital), and that the city certifies that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the mayor and clerk are hereby authorized to execute such documents as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of the city.

Resolution B-12-18-3610

December 18, 2018

M-Trnka, S-Gorham, to approve Resolution B-12-18-3610 – Resolution of Support Authorizing Acceptance of Safe Routes to School Grants Related to Providing Improvements to Pedestrian Access to Various Schools in the City of Duluth.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the same was approved - unanimously.

M-Trnka, S-Sandstad, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report. Upon a vote, the remainder of the Business Committee report was approved – unanimously.

Special Resolutions
December 2018

Member Lofald presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Board Member Attendance at 2019 MSBA Leadership Conference

RESOLVED, That Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, pay costs incurred, as per District policy, for school board members to attend the Minnesota School

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Boards Association 2019 Leadership Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 16-18, 2019.

Resolution SP-12-18-3605

December 18, 2018

M-Lofald, S-Oswald, to approve Resolution SP-12-18-3605 – Board Member Attendance at 2019 MSBA Leadership Conference. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Other
December 2018

M-Gorham, S-Oswald, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

➤ Chair Kirby adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of December 18, 2018 at 7:42 p.m.