

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, January 19, 2016

Members Present:

Annie Harala
Art Johnston
David Kirby
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Alanna Oswald
Nora Sandstad
Harry Welty

Others Present:

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent
Bill Hanson, Deputy Clerk
Melinda Thibault, Secretary

Student Representatives:

Spencer Fredrickson
Alex Stabs
Johanna Uden

➤ Chair Harala called the regular school board meeting of January 19, 2016 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Sandstad, S-Kirby, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same passed – unanimously.

Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of December 15, 2015.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Oswald, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2015 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.

Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of December 15, 2015.

M-Kirby, S-Sandstad, to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2015 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.

Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Organizational Board Meeting of January 4, 2016.

M-Welty, S-Sandstad, to approve the minutes of the Organizational Board Meeting of January 4, 2016 as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.

School and Community Recognition

January 2016

Amy Starzecki: Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present Jenny Pederson, STEM Coordinator for Myers-Wilkins Elementary, for recognition. During STEM Family Night and STEM Day, students and families at Myers-Wilkins took part in educational activities built around Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Teachers partnered with The Works Museum in Bloomington, WDIO-TV, Denfeld Robotics Team, Duluth Children's Museum, local scientists and engineers. Learning opportunities included building paper towers, mini-hoverboards, air-powered rockets, small bridges made from magnets and metal bars, launching paper gliders, learning about the weather and robots and more. It's clear from watching the students and families who took part that Science plus Technology plus Engineering plus Math equals Fun! Many thanks to Jenny Pederson and the teachers, staff and administration at Myers-Wilkins Elementary for providing this educational opportunity.

Public Comments

January 2016

Member Loeffler-Kemp read the community vision statement.

Bernie Bernham, President of Teachers Union, introduced Laura LaFontaine, Phil Thouin and Paul Davis who will be talking about the great things going on in the schools

Laura LaFontaine, an East High teacher, spoke to the school board about the roles she has within the school including: coach, advisor, and parent, and outlined some of the great things going on within the schools.

Phil Thouin, an AEO/ALC teacher spoke to the school board about a School-wide project, themed in Space Exploration, Social Issues, and Star Wars to engage students in different ways.

Paul Davis, a teacher at Stowe, spoke to the school board about the adolescent literacy project and the great things happening in the school.

Taylor Johnson, and Ben Febringer, 401 North 44th Avenue West, spoke to the school board to talk about the importance of the First Robotics and STEM Subjects within the schools.

Tommy Olfafson, 4610 West 6th Street, spoke to the school board regarding the loss of the stained glass class at Denfeld, due to the lack of a licensed teacher, and his hopes that it will be offered again.

Loren Martell, 623 East 7th Street, spoke to the school board regarding his concerns that he felt like he couldn't freely express himself at the last meeting.

Marcia Stromgren, no address provided, spoke to the school board regarding her concerns with several school board issues and district spending.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

January 2015

Superintendent Gronseth acknowledged the communications received.

Superintendent's Report

January 2015

This week marks the end of the first semester. Just a reminder that students do not have school on Friday as teachers work to wrap up things for the semester. Report cards will be coming out soon. Families of elementary students will receive standards-based report cards. This is something that we have been working towards for some time. The new report cards will provide families with very specific information regarding their child's progress. An exciting opportunity for our teachers is taking place next week. The innovation department is hosting another Edcamp--which is teacher-led, teacher-driven professional development. The last Edcamp went very well and I'm glad our teachers have these opportunities to learn from each other. EdCamp night will be held on Thursday, January 28, at HOCHS in room 318 from 4:30 - 7:00 PM.

Now a little bit about winter weather we were somewhat spoiled early in the season by warmer weather. I am pretty sure everyone is aware that the cold weather has moved in and want to give a reminder to make sure your kids are dressed for the cold weather. Hats, mittens, scarves, boots, snow pants, whatever it takes to stay warm on the way to and from school and during recess time. In case of extreme weather, we will be using the same strategies as we have used in the past. In the case of late starts or cancellations, we make those decisions as early as we can--usually around 5:30 a.m. They are communicated several ways but this year we have added automatic dialer calls to our usual communication through the media, email, etc.

Tonight we are welcoming new student representatives to the school board. They will be providing a student report each month to update the board on some of the latest news from our schools. I'd like to introduce you to the 2016 student representatives.

ALC: Alex Stabs – noted that he is the Vice President of the Student Council at ALC, and stated that he is grateful to be here, and thanked the teachers and students for their support.

East: Spencer Fredrickson – stated that it is amazing to be here and is thankful to everyone who helped him on this journey; he is looking forward to a great year.

Denfeld: Johanna Uden – stated she used to live in the Twin Cities, and is now part of the Executive Board, and excited to be part of the board representation.

Education Committee Report

January 2016

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the Education Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each school board member.

Member Loeffler-Kemp 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 various organizations.

	Organization	Author/Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
1	Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation	Denfeld Robotics Students	Denfeld DNA FIRST Robotics Team	\$10,000	Funds from this grant award will be used to support Denfeld’s Robotics Team.
2	Northland Foundation	Leigh Ann Viche, DAPE Teacher	<i>Let’s Dance</i>	\$2,000	Funds from this grant award will be used to support the <i>Let’s Dance</i> program for DAPE students at Lester Park, Myers-Wilkins, and Congdon Park elementary schools.
3	Minnesota Department of Education	Brenda Vathauer, Principal LPMS	Full Service Community Schools	\$97,170.84	Funds from this grant will be used to hire a school coordinator to begin planning, implementing and integrating the full service community school model at Lincoln Park Middle School. This will allow coordination and delivery of social, health, economic and educational services offered through school/community partnerships to improve outcomes for Lincoln Park Middle School students and their families.

E-1-16-3332

January 19, 2016

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve Resolution E-1-16-3332 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools.

Discussion took place regarding the grants.

5 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
January 19, 2016

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

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

Member Welty withheld Items 2.B. and 2.D.

Member Welty withheld Item 2.B. – ISD 709 2016-17 School Year Calendar to ask if there had been any changes. Amy Starzecki, Assistant Superintendent, explained the changes to the calendar. Discussion continued on issues related to the MEA holiday.

Member Welty withheld Item 2.D. - 6190 – Homebound Instruction – Deletion to ask about a corresponding MSBA policy. Amy Starzecki, Assistant Superintendent explained the difference between homeschool and homebound and the fact that there are State Statutes the district follows making the policy unnecessary.

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

Human Resources Committee Report
January 2016

Member Kirby presented the Human Resources Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each school board member.

Member Kirby presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N
Duluth Principals' Association

RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Independent School District 709 and Duluth Principals' Association, a summary of which is in the hands of all School Board members, be approved and adopted for the periods July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017, inclusive, and that the Chairperson and Clerk of the School Board be hereby authorized to execute said Agreement on behalf of the School District.

HR-1-16-3331

January 19, 2016

M-Kirby, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve resolution HR-1-16-3331 – Approval of the Duluth Principals' Association Contract.

Discussion took place regarding the contract.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Kirby, S-Welty, to approve the remainder of the Human Resource Committee report.

Member Welty stated concerns about a resignation listed on the report last month and a termination this month.

Member Loeffler-Kemp stated she was pleased to see that Mandarin Chinese was being offered at both East and Denfeld.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Business Committee Report
January 2016

Member Sandstad presented the Business Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each school board member.

Member Sandstad 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 various organizations.

SCHOOL/PROGRAM	DONOR	RESTRICTION	AMOUNT
Denfeld High	Hunt Electric Corporation	Robotics	100.00
Denfeld High	Parsons Electric LLC	Cheer Team	200.00
Denfeld High	Irving Community Assn	Cheer Team	2,200.00
Denfeld High	US Bank	Cheer Team	50.00
Denfeld High	The Jamar Company	Cheer Team	150.00
Denfeld High	Steven&Barbara Kokotovich	Theatre Program	160.00
Denfeld High	David & Kelly Bolgrien	Theatre Program	30.00
Denfeld High	Eric & Nicole Lange	Theatre Program	30.00
Denfeld High	Central Area Sports Assoc	Physical Education	2,000.00
East High	Rotary Club no.25 of Duluth	Girls Hockey	500.00
East High	Lynette's Portrait Design	Drama	50.00
East High	Kellogg's	None	1,500.00
East High	Rotary Club of Duluth Harbortown	Sterling Strings	250.00
East High	Grandma's Marathon	Sterling Strings	200.00

7 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
January 19, 2016

East High	Glen Avon Women's Assoc.	Sterling Strings	100.00
East High	Sandra Bacon	Sterling Strings	100.00
East High	Karen & Jonathan Sande	Sterling Strings	200.00
East High	St. Anne's Home	Sterling Strings	200.00
East High	North Shore Railroad	Sterling Strings	200.00
East High	Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite	Sterling Strings	200.00
East High	Lynn Wegner	Sterling Strings	250.00
East High	Adventure Running	Cross Country	200.00
Ordean East Middle	Carmen Arnold	Garden Club	100.00
Ordean East Middle	Northland NU Agers	Garden Club	300.00
Ordean East Middle	Lakewood American Legion Auxilary	Garden Club	400.00
Ordean East Middle	Jenny Jenson	Music Program-Violin/Bow	In Kind
Special Services	Troy and Kim Eaton	Quickie Wheelchair	In Kind
Special Services	Troy and Kim Eaton	Hand Propelled Trike	In Kind
Congdon Park	Maurices University	None	55.00
Congdon Park	Congdon Park Foundation	Lego Robotics	2,000.00
Congdon Park	Congdon Park PTA	None	194.40
Congdon Park	Northland Foundation	Excel bus	3,000.00
Congdon Park	Congdon Park PTA	Art supplies for art teacher	1,102.53
Congdon Park	Congdon Park PTA	Art supplies for art teacher	637.46
Congdon Park	Lucy Sharp (student)	Donated to school (cash)	11.00
Congdon Park	London Road Rental Center	Machine rental for garden shed	194.21
Congdon Park	Voyageur Bus	Shuttle for holiday program	100.00
		TOTAL	16,964.60

B-1-16-3333

January 19, 2016

M-Sandstad, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution B-1-16-3333 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Sandstad, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report.

Member Welty withheld Items 3.A., 3.B., and 3.D.

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.F., 3.I and 3.J.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. APU/(WADM) Projections to note his concern with the loss of students to the District. Discussion continued regarding the loss of students.

Member Welty withheld Item 3.A. – Policy 8030-School Board Member Compensation to note his opposition to any increase to their compensation.

M-Welty, S-Johnston, to pull item 3.A. – Policy 8030 from the agenda.

Discussion took place regarding pulling the item from the agenda.

Upon a vote to pull the item from the agenda, the same was approved 4-3 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Oswald, Sandstad, Welty

Nay: Harala, Kirby Loeffler-Kemp

Member Welty withheld Item 3.B. – Formulation of Policies and Bylaws-Deletion to state that the school board should write the policies and not just be handed something to approve and believes there should be a policy committee. Discussion continued regarding the policies.

Member Welty withheld Item 3.D. – 8100 – Adequate Information to Precede Action to note his concern with its deletion, and it was clarified that it was being replaced by 203.5.

Member Johnston withheld Item 3.I. – New Policy 203.2 Order of the Regular School Board Meeting to note his concerns within the policy. Discussion continued regarding the policy.

Member Johnston withheld Item 3.J. – New Policy 203.5 School Board Meeting Agenda to note his concerns within the policy. Discussion continued regarding the policy.

Upon a separate vote on Items 3.I., and 3.J., the same were approved 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad, Welty

Nay: Johnston, Oswald

Upon a vote on the remainder of the Business Committee, the same was approved 6-1 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Kirby Loeffler-Kemp, Oswald, Sandstad, Welty

Nay: Johnston

Other
January 2016

Chair Harala adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of January 19, 2016 at 8:36 p.m.