

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, June 17, 2014

Members Present:

Annie Harala
Art Johnston
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Mike Miernicki
Judy Seliga Punyko
Harry Welty
Bill Westholm

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives:

Excused

➤ Chair Miernicki called the regular school board meeting of June 17, 2014 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Harala, to approve the agenda as presented.

M-Johnston, S-Welty, to amend the agenda by adding discussion on how the agenda is set and possible Bylaw Changes.

Discussion took place regarding the requested addition to the agenda, and Member Johnston submitted proposed amendments to Bylaw 9075.

Upon a vote on the requested addition to the agenda, the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Welty

Nay: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm

M-Johnston, S-Welty, to amend the agenda by adding discussion on the \$11.2 million dollars in change orders between ISD 709 and Johnston Controls Inc. that occurred between 2009-2013 but were not approved on by the school board.

Discussion took place regarding the requested addition to the agenda.

Upon a vote on the requested addition to the agenda, the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Welty

Nay: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm

Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same was approved 5-2 as follows:

2 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
June 17, 2014

Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm
Nay: Johnston, Welty

Chair Miernicki asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of May 20, 2014.

M-Harala, S-Westholm, to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2014 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.

Chair Miernicki asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of May 27, 2014.

M-Westholm, S-Harala, to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2014 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.

Chair Miernicki asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of June 10, 2014.

M-Westholm, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2014 Special Meeting as presented.

Member Johnston stated that Chair Miernicki shouldn't have voted on the action items at the June 10th meeting and that he should have recused himself because he was one of the people making the charges. Discussion continued regarding the issue.

Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.

School and Community Recognition

June 2014

Tim Sworsky - Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present Pheasants Forever of St. Louis & Carlton County for recognition. A warm welcome to Phil Storsteen, chapter president; Matthew Bremer, chapter vice president; and David Lood, chapter youth director, who are joining us this evening. A little over a year ago, Pheasants Forever presented a check for \$18,670 to ISD 709 to be applied toward purchase of land for the Habitat for Homecroft project. The project helps provide hands-on learning about wildlife ecology, conservation and biology within a natural environment. More recently, they provided support for the outdoor classroom through a donation of about \$2,000 in curriculum and equipment. This donation will allow all grades to explore, photograph and study nature with a "hands-on" approach in the Habitat for Homecroft outdoor classroom. Many thanks to Pheasants Forever of St. Louis & Carlton County for their support in inspiring and educating our students. Pheasants Forever presented a check for \$2,500.00, made out to Lester Park, to Board Chair Miernicki and Superintendent Gronseth.

Public Comments

June 2014

Anita Stech, 2420 East 6th Street, spoke to the school board regarding the nine tools of civility and commended them for reaffirming the resolution accepting those tools.

Paul King, 1346 West Arrowhead Road, spoke to the school board regarding his concerns with the administration and the investigation called on Member Johnston.

Israel Malachi, 23 West Central Entrance, spoke to the school board regarding his concern with an investigation called on Member Johnston, and district spending.

John Stromgren, 6179 Lakewood Road, spoke to the school board regarding his concern with his increased taxes, and his support for Member Johnston.

Richard Paulson, 524 West Ideal Street, spoke to the school board regarding his concern with the investigation being called on Member Johnston, and the districts spending.

Jane Bushey, 37 North 93rd Avenue West, spoke to the school board in her support of Member Johnston, and issues with the changes in her position with the district.

Dennette Lynch, 6004 Highland, spoke to the school board regarding her idea to stream the meetings live to improve communication and community involvement, and gave her support for Member Johnston.

Marcia Stromgren, 6179 Lakewood Road, spoke to the school board regarding her concerns with increased taxes and her support for Member Johnston.

Brad Clifford, 1005 West 6th Street, spoke to the school board regarding his concerns with how the school board is run and the investigation against Member Johnston.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

June 2014

Chair Miernicki stated the communications received.

Member Johnston expressed his concern with the letter being omitted from the board book backup. Discussion continued regarding the communications and the need to redact information due to data privacy laws.

Superintendent's Report

June 2014

- Another school year has officially closed and we have graduated hundreds of students, which join the thousands of Duluth alumni that came before them, to now become part of that proud tradition in Duluth. Graduation ceremonies give us a great opportunity to celebrate our young people and all that they have accomplished. It's fun to see them excited about pursuing their dreams and hearing about the many plans they have for their futures, going off to college, or starting careers, or entering trade schools. Again this year, Duluth graduates have earned hundreds of thousands in scholarships, and if you multiply that out to renewable scholarships, they have earned millions of dollars in scholarships this year, which is a great deal to be proud of.
- Now that school is out, we have had nearly 100 teachers working on our curriculum alignment project. They are making good progress, working hard, and coming up with great answers. Teachers will continue this work through June, and come back in August to resume their work on this project. Work has also begun on reviewing our Social Studies curriculum in preparation to replace those materials, and you'll hear more about this as we get further along in the process.
- Last week, our principals, some teachers, union reps, and the Board Chair attended a Professional Learning Community (PLC) training in Minneapolis. It was a great opportunity for us to more learn about PLCs. And, this week, the principals are learning more about MTSS, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support.

This is all a part of increasing our student achievement, closing the achievement gap, raising graduation rates. There's a lot of very important work being done this summer to those ends, and I look forward to the implementation in the fall.

Education Committee Report

June 2014

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

Member Harala 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	Northland Foundation	Annette Petersmeyer	KIDS Plus Youth in Philanthropy	\$995	Funds from this grant award will be used to support the Real-World Science Project at Woodland Hills.

E-6-14-3188

June 17, 2014

M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp to approve Resolution E-6-14-3188 - Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved - unanimously.

M-Harala, S-Welty, to approve the Education Committee Report.

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.A.1) and 2.G. – Student Discipline Policy, to note some of his concerns with the policy, and recommended there be forms available for reporting, and a due process. Discussion continued regarding the policy.

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

Human Resources Committee Report
June 2014

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

Member Welty presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
RE: Termination of Certified Long-Term Substitutes

WHEREAS, the School Board desires to provide notice that long-term substitute teaching positions terminate on the date specified in the individual substitute teacher’s contract or at the conclusion of the school year, whichever is earlier;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the employment of all long-term substitute teachers, including those listed below, shall terminate effective at the end of the school day on June 6, 2014, unless another date is indicated below, or on the date specified in the individual substitute teacher’s contract, whichever is earlier.

Brian Jungman

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the School Board shall so notify such teachers in writing before July 1, 2014.

Resolution #HR-6-14-3187

June 17, 2014

M-Welty, S-Harala, to approve Resolution HR-6-14-3187 – Termination of Certified Long-Term Substitutes.

Discussion took place regarding the resolution.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Welty presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N

RE: Termination of Certified Probationary (Non-Tenured) Staff

WHEREAS, during the first three years of consecutive employment all teachers in the public schools in cities of the first class are deemed to be in a probational period of employment during which period the School Board may renew, or not renew, any teachers' annual contract as the School Board shall see fit. The term "teacher" includes every person regularly employed, as a principal, or to give instruction in a classroom, or to superintend or supervise classroom instruction, or as a placement teacher and visiting teacher.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board on Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, as follows:

1. The employment contracts of the following probationary teachers shall not be renewed and their employment shall terminate at the end of the school day on June 6, 2014, unless another date is indicated below, in which case the employment of the particular teacher shall terminate on that date.

Kevin Abrahamson – 7/31/14 – position discontinued

2. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Clerk of the School Board shall notify such teachers in writing before July 1, 2014, of the termination of their employment.

Resolution #HR-6-14-3186

June 17, 2014

M-Welty, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution HR-6-14-3186 – Termination of Certified Probationary (non-tenured) Staff.

Discussion took place regarding the resolution.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-1 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Welty, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Withdrew Item C. on the agenda.

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

7 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
June 17, 2014

Member Johnston withheld Item 1. - Staffing Report Action Items, to note his concerns with the teachers' contract that was passed, in relation to the change in minimum time to be eligible for health insurance. He also asked if there would be the same number of new hires as there were retirements. Mr. Sworsky explained the process. Discussion continued regarding his question.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Business Committee Report
June 2014

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

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N
Authorized Student Activity Bank Account Signer

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

<u>District Building</u>	<u>Banking Institution</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Addition of Authorized Signer</u>	<u>Removal of Authorized Signer</u>
Piedmont	DTCU	XXXXX4		Diana Stratioti
Woodland Hills	DTCU	XXXX1		Judy Gilbertson
B-6-14-3190				June 17, 2014

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Westholm, to approve Resolution B-6-14-3190 – Authorized Student Activity Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved - unanimously.

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

A full and correct copy of the MSHSL resolution can be seen in the Business Office at HOCHS.

B-6-14-3191

June 17, 2014

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Westholm, to approve Resolution B-6-14-3191 – Minnesota State High School League Membership 2014-15.

8 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
June 17, 2014

Discussion took place regarding the resolution.

Upon a vote, the same was approved - unanimously.

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N
Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, that the fiscal year 2015 budget as presented to the School Board, be adopted.

B-6-14-3192

June 17, 2014

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Westholm, to approve Resolution B-6-14-3192 – Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget.

Discussion took place regarding the resolution and proposed budget.

Upon a vote, the same was approved 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm

Nay: Johnston, Welty

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N
Ten-Year Capital Facilities Plan – 2014 Update

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, that the Ten-Year Capital Facilities Plan – 2014 Update, is approved.

B-6-14-3193

June 17, 2014

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Westholm, to approve Resolution B-6-14-9313 – Ten Year Capital Facilities Plan – 2014 Update. Upon a vote, the same was approved - unanimously.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Harala, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee Report:

Member Welty withheld Items 3.A.2) and 4.A.2)

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.F., Separate votes on all of 2.A., 3.A., and 4.A. & C.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. – WADM Projection to note his concerns with the report and the loss of students.

Upon a separate vote on all of Item 2.A. – Bids, the same was approved – 6-0. (Member Harala absent for vote)

9 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
June 17, 2014

Member Johnston withheld Item 3.A.1) – Bylaw 9070 Regular Meetings to note his concern that it should not change and it should continue to allow two people to call a meeting.

M-Welty, S-Johnston, to make an amendment that the number of members it takes to call a meeting be kept at two.

Discussion took place regarding the requested amendment.

Upon a vote on the proposed amendment, the same failed 2-4 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Welty

Nay: Harala, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm

Absent for vote: Loeffler-Kemp

Upon a vote on the revisions, as proposed, to Bylaw 9070 – Second Reading. The same was approved 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm

Nay: Johnston, Welty

Member Welty withheld Item 3.A.2) – Bylaw 9100 – Special Meetings to ask that the number of members required to call a meeting be kept at two.

M-Johnston, S-Welty, to delete three and add two. Upon a vote, the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Welty

Nay: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm

Upon a vote on the revisions, as proposed, to Bylaw 9100 – Second Reading the same was approved 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm

Nay: Johnston, Welty

Member Welty withheld Item 4.A.2) PEIP Insurance Renewal to ask about questions about the program. Mr. Hanson explained the process of choosing providers and employee costs.

Upon a separate vote on 4.A.1)-3) - Contracts, the same was approved - unanimously.

Upon a separate vote on Item 4.C.1, - Leases, the same was approved - unanimously.

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

Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Welty, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Special Resolutions

June 2014

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

School Board Reaffirmation

ACCEPTING THE NINE TOOLS OF CIVILITY

WHEREAS, in March 2012, the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 reaffirmed their acceptance of the *Nine Tools of Civility*; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Independent School District No. 709 continue to place a high value on respect and civility in their lives and they understand that these characteristics are essential to any healthy community; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 supports opportunities for civil discourse and discussion in the community and within the School District; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 addresses sometimes controversial issues about which people often feel passionately – which at times leads to uncivil behavior; and

WHEREAS, an atmosphere of incivility and disrespect can have a damaging effect on the proceedings, on the quality of debate, and on the practice of democracy itself.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 continues to recognize the *Nine Tools of Civility* that will provide increased opportunities for civil discourse in order to find positive resolutions to the issues that face our community. These Tools include:

1. Pay attention
2. Listen
3. Be inclusive
4. Don't gossip
5. Show respect
6. Be agreeable
7. Apologize
8. Give constructive criticism
9. Take responsibility

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 shall continue to promote the use and adherence of the *Nine Tools of Civility* in conducting the business of the School Board.

Resolution SP-6-14-3189

June 17, 2014

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Westholm, to approve Resolution SP-6-14-3189 – Accepting the Nine Tools of Civility.

Discussion took place regarding the resolution.

M-Johnston, S-Welty, to table the resolution until next month.

Discussion took place regarding the motion to table the resolution.

Upon a vote on the motion to table the resolution, the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Welty

Nay: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm

Discussion took place regarding the resolution.

M-Johnston, S-Welty, to add a number 10 - be honest and care for other members.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed amendment. After discussion it was decided to adopt an additional principal but not change the document the civility project put together.

Upon a vote, the same passed 4-3 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Johnston, Miernicki, Welty

Nay: Loeffler-Kemp, Seliga Punyko, Westholm

Upon a vote on the resolution as amended, the same was approved – unanimously.

Other
June 2014

Member Johnston asked about issues at Piedmont and a large percentage of the teachers applying for other jobs. Superintendent Gronseth reviewed changes taking place at Piedmont.

➤ Chair Miernicki adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of June 17, 2014 at 10:25 p.m.