

## 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, September 19, 2017

### Members Present:

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

### Others Present:

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent  
Doug Hasler, Deputy Clerk  
Jackie Dolentz, Secretary

### Student Representatives:

Benjamin Emmel  
Cabrilla Francis

➤ Chair Kirby called the Regular School Board Meeting of September 19, 2017 to order at 6:31 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

Member Welty read the Eleven Tools of Civility.

**M-Kirby, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to add an item to the Business Committee report under 2.C. – Quote #4275 Annual District-Wide Painting Labor. Upon a vote, the motion was approved – unanimously.**

**M-Harala, S-Oswald, to approve the agenda as amended.**

Chair Kirby asked School Board members if there was any discussion on the agenda.

**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 August 22, 2017.

**M-Welty, S-Sandstad, to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2017 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the minutes were approved as presented - unanimously.**

### School and Community Recognition

September 2017

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Members of the Board, I'm pleased to present Brenda Vathauer and John Hirman. They're here representing Lincoln Park Middle School. The Minnesota Department of Education recognizes schools for successful work using Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports, also known as

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PBIS. It's a data driven program used throughout the state, with training and technical support to promote improvements in student behavior. PBIS helps schools set clear expectations for students, teachers and families and provides new ways to address behavior issues. I'm pleased to let you know that MDE chose Lincoln Park Middle School as a 2017 PBIS Sustaining Exemplar School. The award identifies and recognizes schools that have completed PBIS implementation and are continuing to achieve positive student outcomes by sustaining school-wide PBIS with fidelity. The award recognizes Lincoln Park as a leader in supporting positive behavior and improving school climate. Congratulations to Lincoln Park staff, students and families. Thank you for all you do to promote safe, welcoming environments in our schools.

**Public Comments**  
**September 2017**

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Anne Skwira-Brown, 3702 Northridge Drive, on behalf of the Community Based School Equity Initiative, spoke to the School Board to remind them of the four selected priority areas that have surfaced from the work of the Initiative.

Josh Gorham, 4402 Pitt Street, spoke to the School Board about community partners, and to comment on the impressive dollar amount of grants coming into the school district.

Bogdana Krivogorsky, address not provided, spoke to the School Board to encourage the Board not to approve the change order for the playground mulch replacement.

Kurt Kuehn, 4839 Oakley Street, spoke to the School Board about transparency in government, the data practices act and access to district's policies and procedures.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**  
**September 2017**

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Superintendent Gronseth stated no communications had been received.

**Superintendent's Report**  
**September 2017**

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September is Attendance Awareness Month. Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through middle and high school. Our goal this year is to ensure that every student attends school regularly. Families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understanding why attendance is so important for success in school and in life. When students miss too much school, regardless of the reason, it can cause them to fall behind academically. Children are less likely to succeed if they are chronically absent which means missing 18 or more days over the course of the school year. Research shows: (1) Children chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade are much less likely to read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade. (2) By 6th grade, chronic absence is a proven early warning sign for students at risk for dropping out of school. (3) By 9th grade good attendance can predict graduation rates even better than 8th grade test

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scores. Clearly, going to school regularly matters. Over the next school year we'll share tips for staff and families using resources from Attendance Works. You can check it out at [www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org).

Yesterday the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation held its annual Touchstone Awards Celebration. In addition to the Red Cross, two of our partners received recognition: The Myers-Wilkins Community School Collaborative, and the Scott Anderson Leadership Forum. Both programs do so much to support our students! We want to thank them for their efforts and congratulate them on receiving this honor. Congratulations also go to Jebeh Edmunds who received a 20 Under 40 Award! Jebeh is a teacher at Congdon Park Elementary and also taught at Myers-Wilkins Elementary. She holds a Master's of Science in Teaching from The College of St. Scholastica and works to educate, teach, and inspire young Duluth learners every day. Congratulations, Jebeh! Also of note is a Denfeld Alum, CJ Ham, who made his first touchdown with the Minnesota Vikings. Thank you for providing probably the best moment of the entire game!

In other news, the playground mulch replacement project is still in process. When we began the project it was shared that the completion date would be October 15th. Some of the projects have been completed and others will be wrapping up soon. We have heard that when kids start playing on the wood chips, it will take a while to get packed down and in the meantime they may have some sawdust on them. Probably better than being covered with the rubber mulch though. I am glad that it is all being recycled for some other use.

I have received a couple questions about telepresence and where we are in the process. The systems will be installed in the coming weeks. We will start training staff and they will have opportunities to try it out during the Spring Semester. Our plan is to have our first classes in place over telecommunication next fall.

The United Way Chili Cook-off takes place on Thursday of this week. I encourage everyone to head to the DECC from 5-7 p.m. and try all of the different kinds of chili, about 40 different kinds, and then of course vote for our culinary student's Black Bean Chipotle Chili! This is another example of the many ways our students get involved in the community. Thank you for your efforts!

Speaking of food, I want to encourage everyone to look into free and reduced price lunch eligibility. There is a link on our webpage to apply electronically. In three clicks, you will be able to see the eligibility information. Simply click the link on the web page, indicate our state as MN and then click on Duluth Public Schools. The next screen includes a chart of income eligibility and other indicators of eligibility. As a point of reference, a family of 3 with a family income of 37,777 qualifies, as does a family of 4 with an income level of \$45,510. It is important to all of our schools to identify families who qualify for free or reduced price lunch as it not only provides nutritious food to the student, but also increases the level of funding their school receives for both the state and federal levels.

Now that school is well underway, it's time to hear our student school board representatives first official reports as seniors!

Denfeld High School: Student Representative Ben Emmel is excited for this school year as a senior! Freshmen orientation went well with various activities to help the Freshmen become acclimated to high school. Fall sports are in full swing! Homecoming week is here with the annual bonfire and many other activities. Save the date for the high school musical from November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Education Committee Report**  
**September 2017**

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Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the Education Committee Report, a copy of same being in the hands of each School Board member.

**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 grant from said organization 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.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Author/ Contact</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Terms</b>
Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless	Katie Danielson	Open Your Heart to the Hungry and Homeless Grant	\$3,000.00	Funds will support the educational pursuits of students who are homeless.
State of Minnesota Indian Affairs Council	Edye Howes	Dakota and Ojibwe Language Revitalization Grant	\$80,063.43	Funds will support the cost of an Ojibwe Immersion Coordinator, technology for students, curriculum development and family/teacher Ojibwe Language Camps.
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Pam Bowe	Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Program Grant	\$14,484.00	Funds will be used for produce and food preparation equipment at Stowe Elementary School.

Organization	Author/ Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
Northland Foundation	Jennifer Jaros	ECFE - The First Year Program Grant	\$5,000.00	Funds will be used to continue to support the Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) First Year Program. The program assists first-time parents (18 years and over) who have experienced multiple ACES (Adverse Childhood Experiences), have identified mental health needs and received limited support during the critical transition time between pregnancy and actual parenthood.

Resolution E-9-17-3478

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**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve Resolution E-9-17-3478 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools.**

Discussion took place regarding this item.

**Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**RESOLUTION**

**Support of Restricting Youth Access to Flavored Tobacco Products**

WHEREAS, tobacco use among youth is a community wide issue;

WHEREAS, the School District has adopted a Wellness Policy to promote healthy choices in our schools;

WHEREAS, lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States;

WHEREAS, more than 90% of deaths from lung cancer are caused by cigarette smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke;

WHEREAS, tobacco companies continue to market specifically to children with youth-appealing packaging and additives such as candy, fruit, menthol, and desert flavorings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Duluth School Board, in an effort to decrease the rates of tobacco addiction and therefore lung cancer in our community, supports current efforts to reduce access to products such as menthol and other flavored tobacco products that appeal specifically to children and urge the Duluth City Council to restrict the sale of menthol and other flavored tobacco products to adult only tobacco stores within the city.

Resolution E-9-17-3479

September 19, 2017

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Harala, to approve Resolution E-9-17-3479 – Support of Restricting Youth Access to Flavored Tobacco Products.**

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Discussion took place regarding this item.

**Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Harala, to approve the Education Committee Report. Upon a vote, the remainder of the Education Committee Report was approved – unanimously.**

**Human Resources Committee Report**  
**September 2017**

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Member Sandstad presented the Human Resources Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each School Board member.

**M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve the Human Resource Committee Report. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**Business Committee Report**  
**September 2017**

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Member Harala presented the Business Committee Report, a copy of same being in the hands of each School Board member.

Dave Spooner updated the School Board on the added agenda item – Quote #4275 Annual District-Wide Painting Labor.

Member Harala 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 organizations.

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>DONOR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>RESTRICTION</b>
HOCHS	Eileen Nelson	In Kind	Art
Lester Park	Ruth Backlund	In Kind	None
Lester Park	Employees of Health Partners	In Kind	None
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

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**M-Harala, S-Welty, to approve Resolution B-9-17-3481 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Harala presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

Authorized Bank Account Signer – August 2017

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

<b>District Building</b>	<b>Banking Institution</b>	<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Addition of Authorized Signer</b>	<b>Removal of Authorized Signer</b>
Homecroft	DTCU	XXXX2	Coleen Nordwall	Maria Rinne

Resolution B-9-17-3482

September 19, 2017

**M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-9-17-3482 – Authorized Bank Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Harala presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

Maximum Levy Certification

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, will hold a regular school board meeting on December 19, 2017 at 6:30 PM in the Board Room of the Historic Old Central High School, and will receive input from the public on the proposed certified levy for 2017 payable in 2018.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board propose the ceiling for the tax levy for Independent School District No. 709 for 2017 payable 2018 at the maximum amount.

Resolution B-9-17-3483

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**M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-9-17-3483 – Maximum Levy Certification.**

Discussion took place regarding this item.

**Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Harala presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
Rockridge School Renovation

WHEREAS, Independent School District 709 currently has a lease for a building located at 110 West Redwing Street that houses the Woodland Hills Academy, State location number 580; and

WHEREAS, ISD No. 709's current lease is expiring on 12/31/2017 for the building located at 110 West Redwing Street that houses the Woodland Hills Academy; and

WHEREAS, staff evaluation of available spaces has led to a location for the Woodland Hills Academy at the District Owned building located at 4849 Ivanhoe Street formerly known as Rockridge Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, there is deferred maintenance and remodeling that needs to take place at this site to effectively run the operation for the Woodland Hills Academy currently known as "The Hills"; and

WHEREAS, the current schedule needed in order to complete this project by the lease expiration date is critical;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of ISD No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, directs the District's Administration to finalize the project construction scope to maximize the efficiency of the dollars spent and work accomplished, and upon finalization of such project scope, does grant the authority for the School Board Chair to enter into agreement and execute an AIA agreement with Kraus-Anderson Construction Company, through the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) procurement contract MN02IR-042517-KRU. This contract is in a **not to exceed amount of \$2,700,000.00** for the construction work on the project.

Resolution B-9-17-3484

September 19, 2017

**M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution B-9-17-3484 – Rockridge School Renovation.**

Discussion took place regarding this item.

**Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee Report.**

Member Oswald withheld Items 2.C., 4.A.1) and 6.A.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B.1)

Member Johnston asked for a separate vote on 4.B.1)

Member Welty withheld Item 1.F.

Member Welty asked for a separate vote on 4.B.1)

Member Welty withheld Item 1.F. APU Projections to inquire if there was in a change of the method of counting Pre-K students.

Discussion took place regarding this item.



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Member Oswald withheld Item 2.C. Quotes to discuss the painting quote added to the agenda to discuss the process when schools need painting, etc. and to ensure we don't pay more for vendors versus hiring permanent staff.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Oswald withheld Item 4.A.1) Duluth Energy Systems (Duluth Steam – City of Duluth) to discuss the capacity charge rates listed in the contract and if the listed rates were correct. As of right now, the rates are correct as listed in the contract. The capacity charge fluctuates annually based on the Duluth City Council votes.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B.1) Change Order #2 for RFP #306 – Removal of Rubber Mulch from Playgrounds for SAS+ Associates Phase II to ask for a separate vote and to discuss the additional charges by the vendor.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

**M-Sandstad, S-Oswald, to postpone definitely until the October School Board meeting Item 4.B.1) Change Order #2 for RFP #306 – Removal of Rubber Mulch from Playgrounds for SAS+ Associates Phase II.**

Discussion took place regarding this item.

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

**Yea: Johnston, Oswald, Sandstad, Welty**

**Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp**

Member Oswald withheld Item 6.A. Expenditure Contracts to discuss the multiple interpreter contracts and the varying reimbursement rates among the contracts.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

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

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**Other**  
**September 2017**  
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Student Representative Ben Emmel asked the School Board if a date has been scheduled for the meeting regarding what the Special Education department could sell regarding fundraising and if students were allowed to come to the meeting. The meeting hasn't been set just yet and students will be invited.

**M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same passed – unanimously.**

➤ Chair Kirby adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of September 19, 2017 at 8:43 p.m.