

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, April 20, 2010

Members Present:

Mary Cameron
Gary Glass
Tim Grover
Art Johnston
Tom Kasper
Judy Seliga Punyko
Ann Wasson

Others Present:

Keith Dixon, Superintendent
Bill Hanson, Deputy Clerk
Melinda Thibault, Secretary

Student Representatives:

Maia Dalager
Peter Witzig

Chair Grover called the regular school board meeting of April 20, 2010 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Cameron, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote the same was approved - unanimously

Chair Grover asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the special school board meeting of March 16, 2010.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Cameron, to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2010 special school board meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Chair Grover asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the regular school board meeting of March 16, 2010.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Cameron, to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2010 regular school board meeting.

Secretary Thibault provided a corrected copy of page 6 of the minutes correcting the statement by Superintendent Dixon that the schools would be Central and East next year not Denfeld and Central.

Member Johnston stated that the third paragraph regarding debate was on his appeal of the chairs ruling on his point of order, not on the point of order itself, and noted that the legal counsel's reference to Roberts Rules was on debate of a point of order, not on an appeal of the chairs decision.

Member Johnston indicated that the motion and second for the Education Committee report were out of chronological order.

2 - Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
April 20, 2010

Member Johnston indicated that the motion and second for the Human Resources Committee report were out of chronological order.

Member Johnson indicated that on page ten in paragraph nine that he asked why some contracts were not dated, not signed as noted in the minutes.

Member Johnston indicated that the chronological order of the Business Committee was not correct and that the resolutions were voted on prior to discussion of withheld items.

Member Johnston indicated that a motion and second to the Business Committee was listed in two places and that there was never a motion or second made on the entire Business Committee. SECRETARIES NOTE: Upon review of the DVD there was a motion and second made just after the resolutions had been approved. Change to minutes to delete first occurrence of the motion and second only.

Member Glass indicated that he would like it noted that the meeting was adjourned before he could speak during the "Other" portion of the agenda.

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

Public Comments

April 2010

Brenda Anderson, 703 Ebony, spoke to the board to ask the board to support holding the Plan B Referendum vote during the primary election in August 2010. She also voiced concerns about her board representative, and issues with the handling of public letters.

Chair Grover clarified that all letters are part of the public record in the spindled letter file, and that there was a brief time when there was some confusion on the matter but that it has been clarified and resolved.

Anna Menzel, 4301 Grouse Ridge, spoke to the board to give an update on the Students for the future upcoming activities and that they will email the board with specific information.

Loren Martel, 623 East 7th Street, spoke to the school board regarding his concern with the handling of public letters.

Chair Grover clarified again that all letters are in the file.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

April 2010

Superintendent Dixon acknowledged the communications received.

Superintendent's Report
April 2010

The National PTA designated May 2nd through 8th, 2010 as Teacher Appreciation Week, Superintendent Dixon extended his sincere thanks for their effort and dedication to educating our students.

Superintendent Dixon extended congratulations to our 2010 Goldfine Gold Star Teacher Award nominees:

- Holly Bowen-Bailey, Woodland Middle School
- Peggy Ehlert, Secondary Technical Center
- Laura LaFontaine, Denfeld High School
- Cheryl Lien, East High School
- Sue Solin, Morgan Park Middle School
- Deb Wendling, Central High School
- Dani Westholm, Unity ALC

Superintendent Dixon congratulated the following on their accomplishments:

- Kai Fei and Acadia Osborne, East High School, have qualified as National Merit Scholars
- Anette Strom, teacher at Woodland Middle School, is the recipient of a Seagate Science Mentor Award. She received the award at the State science and Engineering Fair.
- Rockridge/Lester Park students collected 2500 pounds of food for the local food shelf. They also collected 300 pounds of pennies (\$710) for disaster relief in Haiti, just under \$95 for Pennies For Patients and \$1200 for Jump Rope For Heart!
- East High School sent two teams to the Lake Superior Economics Challenge at UMD. Meredith Stewart, Cora Ellenson-Myers, R. Scott Albert, Steven Tarnowski, and Joe Benning participated, and East took first place in the large school division! Individual awards were given to R. Scott Albert as a tie for first place, and to Cora Ellenson-Myers for third place. East goes on to the State competition in April at the Federal Reserve in Minneapolis.
- Top students from the Secondary Technical Center received state awards and will attend the Business Professionals of America (BPA) 2010 National Leadership Conference, "Shoot for Success," in Anaheim, CA in May:
 - Brandon Commerford, First – Network Administration Using Microsoft, Fifth – C++ Programming
 - Brandon Engbloom - Leadership Academy
 - Kyle Foucalt, Third – Computer Security, Fifth – CISCO Systems Administration
 - Samantha Bull, Statesman Torch Awards, Intern Program, Fourth – Network Administration Using Microsoft
 - Thang Dinh, Third – Computer Network Technology Concepts
 - Tim Wagner, Statesman Torch Awards, Intern Program

- Duluth Public School students did well in the 2010 PBS Kids Go! Writers Contest:

4 - Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
April 20, 2010

- Kindergarten Finalists (top 30): Emily Neveau, Drew Larkin, Walter Stall - Congdon Park
- 1st Grade Finalists (top 30): Alexandra Niska - Lakewood
- 2nd Grade Finalists (top 30): Ella Gish, Angelique N. Johnson – Lowell, (top 10): Tristan Bombardieri, Rylea S. Patterson – Lowell, Grand Prize Winners: Emma Natale - Lowell
- 3rd Grade Finalists Top 10: Tanner Sundberg - Homecroft
- Lincoln Piedmont School teacher Elizabeth Kersting-Peterson is the recipient of a \$2500 Toyota TAPESTRY grant for excellence and innovation in science education. She's one of 79 teachers selected from more than 500 applications to receive the grant this year. The grant will allow her first graders to pair up with University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) graduate students to work on The Great Lakes Worm Watch, a research project regarding the threat that exotic earthworm species may pose to the long term stability of the Great Lakes ecosystem.
- Ahna Webster, Congdon Park Elementary, advances to the National PTA Reflection Arts Competition after winning a gold medal at the State event. Four students at Congdon Park Elementary received awards at the State Competition.
 - Ahna Webster, Award of Outstanding Interpretation (gold) - Film Production
 - Emily Reinhardt, Award of Excellence (silver) - Visual Arts
 - Chloe Blair, Award of Merit (bronze) - Visual Arts
 - Sara Mason, Award of Merit (bronze) – Literature
- HeadStart parents and staff got together to teach and learn the art of crocheting. Through an effort led by Amanda Engelun they produced 30 crocheted hats and donated them to the Bethany Crisis Shelter.
- Students in the Secondary Technical Center Agriculture program will represent their FFA Chapter at the state convention at the end of April. Congratulations to the following students for qualifying at their regional events:
 - Heather Leusman- 2nd Place Individual in Nursery Landscaping
 - Max Fye, Brittany Smith, Ryan Biggs, Kiefer Olson - 5th Place in the Forestry Team Event

Member Johnston commented on the public letters issue and the policy that states they should be assigned to a committee for review. Board discussion continued on how public letters are handled, whether they are answered and that it is a good topic to discuss at the meeting with the MSBA.

Education Committee Report

April 2010

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

Member Seliga Punyko 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	Christen Hull, Special Education Teacher at Lakewood Elementary	Reading Intervention for Special Education Students	\$420.00	Funds to be used to support Lakewood's Reading Intervention for Special Education Students project.
2.	Perpich Center for Arts in Education	Deb Sauter, Principal MacArthur Elementary	Perpich Arts and Schools as Partners (ASAP) Grant	\$5,500 per year for two years	Funds to be used to support the design of fifth grade story/creative drama/writing curriculum.
3.	Minnesota Department of Health	Jim Arndt, Principal at STC	Minnesota Health Careers Promotion Grant	\$8,267	Funds to be used to support activities within the Medical Occupations Program at STC.
4.	Minnesota Department of Education	Kathy Bartsias, Learning Services Coordinator	Learn and Serve Minnesota Service-Learning Grant	\$14,000	Funds to be used to support building sustainability of district-wide service-learning including vision and leadership, ongoing high-quality professional development, progress monitoring and continuous improvement, school-community collaborations, and curriculum assessment.

Resolution #E-4-10-2748

April 20, 2010

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Cameron to approve Resolution E-4-10-2748 - Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote taken, the same was approved - unanimously.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Cameron, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee report as presented.

6 - Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
April 20, 2010

Member Johnston withheld Items 3.A.1), 2), 3), 4), and 5) for separate votes, and 3.C. and 3.D. for discussion.

Member Kasper withheld Item 1.C.

Member Kasper withheld Item 1.C. – Two High School, Two Middle School Transition Updates to thank administration for all their hard work on this issue. He noted his concern regarding the reduction of certified staffing through the process, and asked questions about where the reduction in funding is coming from, and what specific positions perform. Member Johnston asked questions about the increase in the size of staff at Central next year, the use of classrooms, and the big fill process.

Member Johnston withheld Item 3.A.1) to ask for a separate vote on the item. Member Glass asked about the review of materials. Joe Hill, Assistant Superintendent, indicated that the materials would be reviewed at the May Education Committee meeting.

Discussion took place regarding withholding items for a separate vote if they are supported or not supported.

Upon a separate vote on taken on item 3.A.2) – 2010-11 Federal Head Start Grant Application – the same was approved – unanimously.

Upon a separate vote on taken on item 3.A.3. – Federal Head Start 1.84% COLA Grant Application for 2010-11 – the same was approved – unanimously.

Upon a separate vote on taken on item 3.A.4. Federal Head Start 1.84% COLA Grant Application for July 2010 – the same was approved – unanimously.

Upon a separate vote on taken on item 2.A.5. – Minnesota Partnership for School Connectedness (MPSC) – the same was approved – unanimously.

Upon a separate vote on taken on item 1.C. – Extended Trip Requests – the same was approved – unanimously.

Upon a separate vote on taken on item 1.D. – Diplomas – the same was approved – unanimously.

Upon a vote taken on the remainder of the Education Committee as presented - the same was approved – 5-2 as follows.

Yea: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Nay: Glass, Johnston

Human Resources Committee Report

April 2010

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

M-Cameron, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the Human Resources Committee report as presented.

Member Glass withheld Item 3.A.

Member Johnston indicated that he is unclear on why the board approves these items. Member Glass indicated that this is the section where staff is hired and the board approves those hires.

Member Glass withheld item 3.A. – Diversity/Integration Specialist-Systems to ask about the position and how it will work. Discussion took place on the specifics of the position, accountability issues, and physical requirements listed on the posting.

Member Kasper asked about the possibility of losing desegregation funds from the state. Bill Hanson, Director of Business Services, stated that there does not appear to be any change in funding from this legislative session but that could change in the future.

M-Cameron, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the Human Resources Committee report as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-1 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Glass, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Nay: Johnston

Business Committee Report

April 2010

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

Member Wasson presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Changing the Date of the Previously Approved Non-binding Plan B Referendum

WHEREAS, the School Board previously recognized that the District will incur unbudgeted expenses related to conducting a non-binding referendum submitted by Let Duluth Vote, and

WHEREAS, the School Board previously approved a resolution to proceed with conducting a non-binding referendum, in conjunction with the general election in November 2010, consistent with the petition language previously submitted by Let Duluth Vote, and

8 - Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
April 20, 2010

WHEREAS, some board members would like the School Board to consider changing the date of the non-binding Plan B referendum the primary election to be held in August, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board hereby authorizes Administration to coordinate plans to conduct the non-binding Plan B referendum in conjunction with the primary election in August 2010 rather than the previously approved schedule in conjunction with the general election in November 2010.

B-4-10-2749

April 20, 2010

M-Wasson, S-Johnston, to approve Resolution B-4-10-2479 – Changing the Date of the Previously Approved Non-binding Plan B Referendum.

Board discussion took place regarding the resolution and the timing of the election.

Upon a vote taken, the same failed – 3-4 as follows:

Yea: Glass, Johnston, Kasper

Nay: Cameron, Grover, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Member Wasson presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Purchase of Real Property Located at 407 Atlantic Avenue

WHEREAS, the School Board by Resolution B-6-07-2452 adopted a Long-range Facilities Plan for the District, and therein also directed the District's administrative staff to commence with the identification and negotiation of land to be acquired as identified in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Administration working with Johnson Controls and the District's Legal Counsel have identified property and negotiated terms to purchase the property described above; and

WHEREAS, said property will be used for school purposes including the purposes set forth in Minnesota Statute Section 123B.51.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board hereby authorizes the purchase of real property located at 407 Atlantic Avenue, Assessor's Parcel No. 010-0330-00850, further described as the South ½ of Lot 7 and Lot 8, Bryant Addition to Duluth, First Division, City of Duluth, in St. Louis County, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board authorizes the School Board Chair to execute a purchase agreement and all other documents required for closing this purchase transaction.

B-4-10-2751

April 20, 2010

M-Wasson, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve Resolution B-4-10-2751 – Authorizing the Purchase of Real Property Located at 407 Atlantic Avenue.

Member Johnston and Member Glass expressed their opposition to the resolution.

9 - Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
April 20, 2010

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

Yea: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Nay: Glass, Johnston

Member Wasson presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Authorizing the Purchase of Real Property Located at 3208 Greysolon Place

WHEREAS, the School Board by Resolution B-6-07-2452 adopted a Long-range Facilities Plan for the District, and therein also directed the District's administrative staff to commence with the identification and negotiation of land to be acquired as identified in the Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Administration working with Johnson Controls and the District's Legal Counsel have identified property and negotiated terms to purchase the property described above; and

WHEREAS, said property will be used for school purposes including the purposes set forth in Minnesota Statute Section 123B.51.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board hereby authorizes the purchase of real property located at 3208 Greysolon Place, Assessor's Parcel No. 010-1370-03095, further described as Lot 4 except the Easterly 18 feet and Lot 5 except the Westerly 16 feet, Block 17, Plat of Rearrangement of Part of East Duluth and of First Addition to East Duluth, City of Duluth, in St. Louis County, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board authorizes the School Board Chair to execute a purchase agreement and all other documents required for closing this purchase transaction.

B-4-10-2753

April 20, 2010

M-Wasson, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve Resolution B-4-10-2753 Authorizing the Purchase of Real Property Located at 3208 Greysolon Place. Upon a vote taken, the same was approved 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Grover, Kasper Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Nay: Glass, Johnston

M-Wasson, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report as presented.

Member Glass withheld Items 3.A.1), and 2), and 1.B.

Member Kasper withheld Item 4.B.3.

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.B., 3.A.2), 6.F. and 6.J.

Member Glass withheld Item 1.B. – Approval of Payment of Claims to note the payments made to Johnston Controls for the Long Range Facilities Plan. Discussion took place regarding the report

10 - Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
April 20, 2010

and requested additional information on payments for JCI's services.

Member Glass withheld Item 3.A.1) – Suspension of Policy 3136 to ask why the policy is being suspended. Bill Hanson explained the special circumstances

Member Glass withheld Item 3.A.2) Policy 9075 – Agenda for Regular Meetings to express his concerns with the proposed policy changes. Board discussion continued regarding the proposed changes and the reasoning for those changes.

M-Johnston, S-Glass, to send this item to a committee charged with revising the bylaws and to report back to the board in two months. Upon a vote, the same failed 3-4 as follows:

Yea: Glass, Johnston, Kasper

Nay: Cameron, Grover, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

M-Johnston, S-Glass to delete the line prior to the agenda setting session and replace it with 12 days. Upon a vote the same failed 3-4 as follows:

Yea: Glass, Johnston, Kasper

Nay: Cameron, Grover, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

M-Johnston, S-Glass, to add a section number four to read The agenda for each School Board meeting shall be prepared jointly in advance by the Chairperson of the School Board, the Superintendent, and the Clerk of the School Board. All school board members and the public will be notified three days in advance when the agenda is prepared, and school board members and the public will be encouraged to attend. Items initiated at a School Board meeting by a member of the School Board which are not on the agenda shall not be acted upon but shall may be taken up at a subsequent the next non-special meeting unless consideration is requested by unanimous vote of the full School Board. Upon a vote taken, the same failed 3-4 as follows:

Yea: Glass, Johnston, Kasper

Nay: Cameron, Grover, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Member Kasper withheld 4.B.3) to note that he was pleased that it was a deduction rather than an add on.

Upon a vote taken on the remainder of the Business Committee, the same was approved 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Nay: Glass, Johnston

Member Johnston withheld Item 6.F. – Change Orders Related to the Long Range Facilities Plan to ask questions on the specifics of how the change orders wind up on this report as opposed to

11 - Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
April 20, 2010

being approved by the school board. Kerry Leider, Facilities Management Supervisor explained the difference in the reporting.

Member Johnston asked why there weren't signatures on all the backup items. Kerry Leider explained that they don't always have the complete documents at the time the report is printed but want to put something in for backup.

Member Johnston withheld Item 6.J. – Internal Auditor Discussion to note the importance of having an internal auditor. A handout will be provided by the board secretary at a later date.

Other
April 2010

Member Glass asked to give prior notice for items he would like discussed including; information on bullying and bomb threats at Woodland Middle School, information he had requested previously from Human Resources and Finance, and the schedule for hearings regarding school closures. Chair Grover indicated that the hearings on school closures would not take place for some time since there weren't any school closures for over a year.

M-Wasson, S-Seliga Punyko, for adjournment. Upon a vote the same was approved 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Nay: Glass, Johnston

Chair Grover adjourned the regular school board meeting of April 20, 2010 at 9:18 p.m.