

Minutes of the Special 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

Monday, September 9, 2019

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent
Melinda Thibault, Secretary

Members Absent:

None

- Chair Loeffler-Kemp called the Special School Board meeting of September 9, 2019 to order at 4:20 p.m.

School Board Vacancy:

Chair Loeffler-Kemp made the following statement: The purpose of today's meeting is to acknowledge that we have received in writing on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 a written resignation effective immediately from Josh Gorham to resign from the Duluth School Board. Based on the written resignation by Josh Gorham, to be effective immediately, we are declaring a vacancy on the Duluth School Board.

Due to the timing of Josh's (Josh Gorham) resignation, with regards to elections, our next steps are to fill the vacancy with an appointment to hold the seat until a special school board election would be conducted in November 2020 where a candidate would be elected to fill the seat in January 2021.

Member Loeffler-Kemp stated that State Statute indicates that the vacancy must be filled by appointment but that it doesn't indicate what that process has to look like and opened the floor to discussion.

Discussion took place regarding the process to apply for the vacant school board seat.

M-Lofald, S-Oswald, to go with an application process to fill the vacant school board seat. Upon a vote, the same was approved 6-0

Discussion continued on the process and what questions to use in the application.

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M-Trnka, S-Sandstad, to use the following three questions on the application:

1. **Why do you want to be a Duluth Public Schools board member?**
2. **What skills and experiences would you bring to the Duluth Public Schools (personally, professionally, and in community involvement)?**
3. **How would you represent our diverse district community?**

Upon a vote the same passed 6-0.

Discussion continued regarding the process, how to apply and whether to use an interview process.

M-Oswald, S-Trnka, to use a personal interview process. Upon a vote, the same was approved 5-1 as follows:

Yea: Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Lofald, Oswald, Trnka
Nay: Sandstad

Discussion continued on the interview process and how many applicants to interview.

M-Trnka, S-Oswald, to table forming the interview questions until after the Regular School Board meeting on September 17, 2019, and decide on timeline at this meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved 6-0.

Discussion continued regarding the timeline, and what to do if a candidate can't be at the interviews in person.

Timeline:

September 9, 2019 - Special Meeting – Announce vacancy, determine process, fill Clerk position.

September 12-23, 2019 - Take applications starting Thursday, September 12th through Monday, September 23rd, 2019.

September 17, 2019 – Special School Board meeting to determine interview questions and process.

September 23-30, 2019 – Board members review applications.

September 30, 2019 - Special Meeting to interview and choose new member – read resolution once voting has finished.

October 1-November 1, 2019 - 30 day waiting period

November 2, 2019 - New board member term begins

M-Oswald S-Lofald, to allow candidates to participate via alternative technological means. Upon a vote, the same failed 2-4 as follows:

Yea: Lofald, Oswald
Nay: Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad, Trnka

Discussion continued regarding the upcoming meeting to decide on the interview questions and process.

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Election of Clerk:

Chair Loeffler-Kemp opened nominations for the position of clerk.

- Member Trnka nominated Member Oswald

Upon a vote to appoint Member Oswald as Clerk for the remainder of the year, the same passed 6-0.

M-Trnka, S-Sandstad, to adjourn the meeting, the same was approved 6-0.

Chair Loeffler-Kemp adjourned the Special School Board meeting of September 9, 2019 at 6:21 p.m.