

Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting

Of the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 held at: virtually via video conference, Duluth, Minnesota 55802, on

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Members Present:

Kelly Durick Eder
David Kirby
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Jill Lofald
Alanna Oswald
Paul Sandholm

Others Present:

John Magas, Superintendent
Cathy Erickson, CFO
Melinda Thibault, Secretary

Student Representatives:

Aliyah Bartling (Denfeld)

Members Absent:

Sally Trnka

- Chair Lofald called the Regular School Board meeting June 15, 2021 to order at 6:37 p.m.

M-Loeffler Kemp, S-Sandholm, to approve the agenda.

M-Oswald, S-Loeffler Kemp, to add a lease agreement for UHG for the relocation of HOCHS Staff to the Consent Agenda.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Upon a vote, the same was approve 4-2 as follows:

Yea: Durick Eder, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Lofald

Nay: Oswald, Sandholm

Upon a vote on the agenda as amended, the same was approved – 6-0.

School and Community Recognition

June 2021

Jill Lofald: Tonight we recognize the extraordinary pandemic response of our Duluth Public School employees with a resolution of gratitude.

John Magas: Joining the Board in this recognition are Andy Goldfine, representing the Goldfine Family and the Gold Star Teacher Award committee, and Shaun Floerke, President and CEO of the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, welcome.

The Gold Star Teacher Award honors inspiring Duluth Public School teachers. Established by Manly and Lillian Goldfine, awards alternate each year between elementary and secondary teachers. This year we would have nominated elementary school teachers for the award.

However, this has been a year like no other. When so many have stepped up and done inspiring work it's impossible to choose just one person to receive this honor. And so tonight we join the Goldfine family and Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation in recognizing all Duluth Public School teachers as Gold Star Teachers for going above and beyond in response to the COVID 19 pandemic. Next year, the Gold Star Teacher Award will be presented to two teachers, one elementary and one secondary.

Jill Lofald: Thank you all. And now we'll present the Resolution of Gratitude, recognizing the heroic response of all Duluth Public Schools employees, with this video. In addition to the video, a poster reflecting this resolution will be displayed in our schools and offices beginning this summer and into the new school year. ([Link to Poster](#))

Member Lofald presented the resolution:

Resolution of Gratitude

WHEREAS, Duluth Public Schools employees were called upon to shift to a completely different model of instruction and student support due to the COVID-19 pandemic emergency; and

WHEREAS, Duluth Public Schools faculty and staff:

- Created an at-home and virtual version of the school experience for students;
- Researched and adopted best practices for distance learning;
- Modified school spaces to reflect social distancing guidelines and adopted new cleaning strategies;
- Served over ½ million bagged meals to students;
- Delivered free meals to students and supported safe transportation to and from school;
- Kept offices and schools organized to meet the needs of families and students;
- Provided up to date health guidance, contact tracing, and disease prevention;
- Created social, emotional and mental health supports for students;
- Navigated complex employee questions from evolving directives from the federal and state level;
- Ensured the essential activities of payroll, finance, mail and printing continued;
- Addressed technological changes to the way we conduct classes and meetings;
- Reached out to help underserved families and students;
- Managed emergency childcare services and safe learning opportunities for all ages;
- Created safe opportunities for students to engage in athletics and activities;

AND WHEREAS, in honor of the inspirational work put forth by educators during this time of pandemic, the Duluth School Board joins the Goldfine Family and Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation in recognition that all Duluth Public Schools teachers are, in heart and spirit, Gold Star Teachers;

3 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
June 15, 2021

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Duluth School Board extends heartfelt gratitude to all colleagues, faculty and staff for their skills and heroic dedication to students, families, and the Duluth community.

SP-6-21-3818

June 15, 2021

M-Sandholm, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution SP-6-21-3818 – Resolution of Gratitude. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Jill Lofald: Tonight we are pleased to welcome Molly McNamee, Ordean East Middle School for recognition. Molly took first place at state for the Minnesota PTA Reflections Program in her age group in literature and second place at the national level, where she was the only Minnesota student to receive an award in any category. Congratulations! Molly is here tonight to share her award-winning poetry with us.

Public Comments

June 2021

Public comments were played via voice messages, or attached as emails to the agenda (no public presence was allowed at the meeting) as follows (some spellings/names June be incomplete due to lack of information via voice messages):

The following spoke in support of using the additional ESSER funds to hire more social workers and counselors: Tracy Litman, Leah Hamm, Lisa Wentworth

The following people expressed their concern with the retirement of Mike Randolph, and events that lead up to that decision: LeVearne Hagen, John Barger, Kelly Spenningsby, Jesse and Sarah Murray, Larry and Diane Tureson,

Peter Wlosinski spoke regarding his concerns with the proposed blended learning, and to ask that the board return to in person meetings.

Eddie Bashaw expressed questions and concerns with the current curriculum being taught.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

June 2021

Chair Lofald stated that they received a letter from a student regarding his dissatisfaction with the 2020-21 school year.

Superintendent's Report

June 2021

Student Representative Aliyah Bartling (Denfeld): APUSH kids used GIS to map institutionalized racism in red-line districts in Duluth. They did both past and present. Joe Rudd and Phoenix Ocean were named honor court king and queen. Hartley Bauer, a rising senior, is competing in a regional rock climbing competition in Illinois. Duluth Wolfpack, which hosts only one Denfeld player on varsity, Peyton Bradbury, had a great run in playoffs this year. The rising senior ladies got their traditional senior ladies shirts. This year they are Beyoncé themed. Multiple Denfeld students are participating in the Scott Anderson Leadership Forum. Yesterday, they listened to an interactive speech by Joe Beckman. It was great and he might be a great speaker for Duluth Public Schools. Also, at the forum, Dylan Hilton, an extremely talented musician, was able to show his impressive skills as a pianist. He knows Bohemian Rhapsody by heart and it was amazing. The window for high school sports' coaches to do summer coaching has begun. Both soccer teams and for sure the girls' basketball team have two practices a week. Carla Harrold's AP Lang and Comp students wrote argumentative research papers. My topic was on impulsive buying and saving money. Other topics included: the MMA will surpass basketball's worldwide popularity, why women should not take hormonal birth control, how the US prison systems' high incarceration rate affects all Americans, and how the LGBTQ community should be represented in media... just to name a few. Denfeld Shoreliners, the dance team, held their tryouts and have now begun their summer work. Congratulations to Ms. Blanchard as she is going to be the new principal of Wrenshall Schools. The seniors got "tramp stamps" at the all-night grad party. There were \$4.1 million in scholarships awarded to seniors. Lastly, a huge congratulations to all graduating seniors. They will be missed so much by so many.

Superintendent Magas gave a return to learn update and answered questions.

Chair Lofald reviewed the schedule of meetings.

Monthly Committee of the Whole Report

June 2021

Member Lofald presented the Monthly Committee of the Whole report which was available electronically to each school board member.

Policy Committee Report

June 2021

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the Policy Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

Human Resources/Finance Committee Report

June 2021

5 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
June 15, 2021

Member Kirby presented the Human Resources Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

Consent Agenda
June 2021

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Durick Eder, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Member Oswald withheld Item 1.C.2)c.(2) – UHG Lease for discussion and a separate vote.

Upon a vote on Item 1.C.2)c.(2) – UHG Lease, the same was approved – 6-0.

Upon a vote on the remainder of the consent agenda as presented, the same was approved – 6-0.

Special Resolutions/Other Action Items
June 2021

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

**Authorizing School Board Members' Attendance
at the MSBA Summer Seminar and the NSBA Equity Symposium**

RESOLVED, That Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, pay costs incurred, as per District policy, for school board members to attend the MSBA 2021 Summer Seminar and the NSBA Equity Symposium.

Resolution SP-6-21-3819

June 15, 2021

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Kirby, to approve Resolution SP-6-21-3819 - Authorizing School Board Members' Attendance at the MSBA Summer Seminar and the NSBA Equity Symposium.

Upon a vote, the same was approved-6-0.

Other
June 2021

M-Durick Eder, S-Sandholm, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Chair Lofald adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of June 15, 2021 at 10:24 p.m.