

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 24, 2013

Members Present:

Mary Cameron
Art Johnston
Tom Kasper
Mike Miernicki
Ann Wasson
Bill Westholm – arrived at 4:48 PM

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives:

Erik Thibault
Katlyn Persch

Members Absent:

Judy Seliga Punyko

➤ Chair Kasper called the regular school board meeting of September 24, 2013 to order at 4:31 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Wasson, S-Miernicki, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same was approved – 5-0.

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of August 20, 2013.

M-Wasson, S-Cameron, to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2013 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 5-0.

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of August 20, 2013.

M-Wasson, S-Cameron, to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2013 Regular School Board Meeting as presented.

Member Johnston noted that on page one it should be listed that Superintendent Gronseth was in attendance.

Member Johnston stated that he made a point of order during discussion on the ballot question resolution and that it should be in minutes along with the chairs ruling.

Upon a vote, the same was approved as corrected – 5-0.

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of September 13, 2013.

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M-Wasson, S-Cameron, to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2013 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 5-0.

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of September 17, 2013.

M-Wasson, S-Cameron, to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2013 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 5-0.

School and Community Recognition
September 2013

The school board acknowledged/congratulated:

Sara Lemon, East High, recently attended the FCCLA National Leadership Conference in Nashville, TN. FCCLA stands for Family, Career and Community Leaders in America. It's a national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through Family and Consumer Sciences education. At the national conference she presented a service project on the dangers of texting and driving and was awarded a Silver Medal in her division. The project included a survey, public awareness materials and community partnerships. She's planning to expand the project to present at the 2014 State Leadership Conference and would like it to include having students and teachers sign a pledge not to Text and Drive.

Public Comments
September 2013

Mike Akervik – Not in attendance

Richard Haney, 8114 Huckleberry Lane, spoke to the board to encourage the board members to support the easement for the bike trail on the Central High School property.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.
September 2013

Superintendent Gronseth stated that no communications had been received.

Superintendent's Report
September 2013

Superintendent Gronseth stated that it has been a great start to the school year and sent out thanks to the principals, staff and teachers for their efforts in making it a success. He stated that the open houses at Meyers-Wilkins and Congdon Park had been held and the people were

excited to see the updated classrooms and facilities. He added that now the districts focus can be on student achievement and the best use of our resources toward that goal. He urged the public to learn more about the levy that will be on the ballot this November by visiting the website and that he would be happy share information with groups and organizations who would like him to.

Education Committee Report
September 2013

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

Member Cameron 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.	Essentia Health	Deidre Quinlin	Habitat Health Services Program Grant	\$20,000	Funds from this grant award will be used to support Habitat’s Health Services Program.
2.	Ordean Foundation	Deidre Quinlin	Habitat Teen Parent Collaborative Grant	\$40,000	Funds from this grant award will be used to continue a cost effective system of core services and supports for pregnant and parenting students and their children in the District to be provided in partnership with community stakeholders.
3.	Minnesota Department of Education	Charlie Leibfried	Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Title I Pre K Incentives Grant	\$75,000	Funds from this grant award will be used to support the opening of a Title I Early Childhood classroom at Myers-Wilkins Elementary School to serve primarily three year olds that have family incomes which fall below 200 percent of the 2013 Federal Poverty Guidelines.

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4	Minnesota Department of Education	Edye Howes	2013-15 Success for the Future Grant	\$69,452 7/1-13 - 6/30/14 \$69,452 7/1/14 – 6/30/15	Funds from this grant award will be used to fund Indian Education staff positions and provide educational opportunities to American Indian students, parents, and staff in Duluth Public Schools.
5	Southern St. Louis County Family Services Collaboration	Pam Rees	Family Services Collaboration Grant	\$16,175	Funds from this grant award will be used to train Head Start staff on the Circle of Security Model of Parent-Child Interaction.
6	Northland Foundation	Pam Rees	Alignment Grant	\$2,500	Funds from this grant award will be used to continue work on Pre K to Grade Three alignment.

E-9-13-3133

September 24, 2013

M-Cameron, S-Miernicki, to approve the Resolution E-9-13-3133 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

M-Cameron, S-Westholm, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report.

Member Johnston withheld items 1.A.2) and 1.A.3)

Member Johnston withheld item 1.A.2) – 2013 Assessment Results to note his concern with the gap in the test results between Lincoln and Ordean East Middle Schools and East and Denfeld High Schools. Superintendent Gronseth stated that we continue to work at closing those achievement gaps.

Member Johnston withheld item 1.A.3) Laura MacArthur School Improvement Update to state that he is encouraged with the progress they have made in dealing with their Priority School status. Superintendent Gronseth stated that it took everyone working together to make it happen.

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

Human Resources Committee Report
September 2013

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

M-Westholm, S-Wasson, to approve the Human Resource Committee report. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

Business Committee Report
September 2013

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

M-Wasson, S-Cameron, to approve the Business Committee Report withholding the resolutions:

Member Westholm withheld item 2.A.1)

Member Westholm withheld item 2.A.1) – Bid 1231 – Snow Plowing Services to ask for clarification on the bid awards. Kerry Leider, Facilities Management Supervisor, explained the results and stated that the awards are listed in the bid tab results in the backup.

Member Johnston withheld Items 2.A.1), 2.C.1) & 2) for a separate vote, and 4.B. for discussion.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B. Change Orders to note his concern with them. He also stated that he had some questions from the public about how the kindergarten cubbies were designed at Congdon Park. Kerry Leider explained that the decision was to have them in the rooms rather than in the corridors and some concerns arose once they saw the cubbies and felt the need for additional corridor lockers.

Upon a separate vote on Item 2.A.1) – Bid #1231 Snow Plowing Services, the same was approved – 6-0.

Upon a separate vote on Item 2.C.1) – Voyageur Bus Company RFQ 4086, the same was approved – 6-0.

Upon a separate vote on Item 2.C.1) – Voyageur Bus Company Quote 4150, the same was approved – 6-0.

Upon a vote on the Business Committee report withholding the resolutions, the same was approved – 5-1 as follows:

Yea: Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

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Member Wasson 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 17, 2013 at 6:30 PM the Board Room of the Historic Old Central High School, and will receive input from the public on the proposed certified levy for 2013 payable in 2014,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board propose the ceiling for the tax levy for Independent School District No. 709 for 2013 payable 2014 at the maximum amount.

B-9-13-3134

September, 24, 2013

M- Wasson S-Westholm, to approve Resolution B-9-13-3134 – Maximum Levy Certification.

Discussion took place regarding the levy certification.

M-Miernicki, S-Wasson, to call the question.

Chair Kasper called for a vote on the item.

Member Johnston made a point of order that they need to vote on calling the question before voting on the item. Chair Kasper stated that he was correct.

Upon a vote on calling the question, the same passed 5-1 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Kasper, Miernicki, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Upon a vote on the resolution, the same was approved – 5-1 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Kasper, Miernicki, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Member Wasson presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Granting a Public Utility Easement to the City of Duluth for the Water Main and Hydrants on the East High School Property

WHEREAS, Independent School District #709 is the owner of the property in St. Louis County, Minnesota legally described on the Water Main Exhibit attached hereto; and

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WHEREAS, the City of Duluth requires a utility easement over the property for the benefit of the Property at no cost to the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Duluth is requesting a permanent, perpetual utility easement over the Property, the location of which easement is more particularly described in the Water Main Exhibit attached hereto.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota that the Dedication of a Utility Easement at East High School to the City of Duluth for the purpose of constructing and maintaining a water main serving the Property and school buildings, is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board authorizes the School Board Chair to execute the final Easement Agreement that is substantially the same as the agreement and exhibit attached hereto.

B-9-13-3131

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M-Wasson, S-Cameron, to approve Resolution B-9-13-3131 - Granting a Public Utility Easement to the City of Duluth for the Water Main and Hydrants on the East High School Property. Upon a vote, the same was approved 6-0.

Member Wasson presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Granting a Pedestrian and Bike Trail Easement to the City of Duluth at Central High School

WHEREAS, Independent School District #709 is the owner of the property in St. Louis County, Minnesota legally described on the Permanent Easement Exhibit attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the City of Duluth wishes to obtain an easement across this property for the benefit of the general public and City of Duluth; and

WHEREAS, the pedestrian and bike trail easement is more particularly described in Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the recording of this Easement will be contingent upon the approval of a UDC Zoning Map Amendment that will change the Central property from a R-1 zone to a MUB and R-2 as shown on Exhibit B;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota that the Dedication of the New Pedestrian and Bike Trail Easement at Central High School to the City of Duluth as conditioned above, is hereby approved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board authorizes the School Board Chair to execute the final Easement Agreement upon approval of UDC Zoning Map Amendment.

B-9-13-3130

September 24, 2013

M-Wasson, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution B-9-13-3130 –Resolution Granting a Pedestrian and Bike Tail Easement to the city of Duluth at Central High School.

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Discussion took place regarding the easement.

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

Other
September 2013

Student Representative Thibault noted that it is important to have the conversations during the meeting but that it is also important to be respectful and have the most civil discussion possible.

- Chair Kasper adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of September 24, 2013 at 5:45 p.m.