

## **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, May 18, 2021

### **Members Present:**

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

### **Others Present:**

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

### **Student Representatives:**

Stella Schutz (East)  
Aliyah Bartling (Denfeld)

- Chair Lofald called the Regular School Board meeting May 18, 2021 to order at 7:33 p.m.

**M-Oswald, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the agenda. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same was approved – unanimously.**

## **School and Community Recognition**

**May 2021**

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Jill Lofald:

A video was presented recognizing tenured teachers and retirees.

Tonight we recognize and congratulate our newly tenured teachers and staff. Following three years of rigorous evaluations, observations, in-servicing and mentoring, teachers and administrators who meet district standards and expectations are granted tenure.

Tonight we also recognize and thank those retiring from our school district this year. We honor their devoted service to Duluth Public Schools and significant contribution to public school education.

## **Public Comments**

**May 2021**

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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 may be incomplete due to lack of information via voice messages):

Dave Reyem - regarding his concern the district spending money on hiring of administrators when there are dire needs in facilities/maintenance, and transportation.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**

**May 2021**

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Chair Lofald stated that there were no communications received.

**Superintendent's Report**

**May 2021**

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Student Representative Aliyah Bartling (Denfeld): Tessa Shauer of the speech team finished in the top 30 at nationals. She placed 21st. SOS is having an outdoor picnic with pizza from VIP Pizza. We have ordered the senior ladies' T-shirts for the class of 2022. The theater is opening Beth. It will take place in the Denfeld courtyard. Seniors will visit their elementary schools. Debate team member Vivian Shaefer qualified for the national debate tournament that will be held June 13-16. She will be debating whether or not it is justified to limit civil liberties in the event of a public health emergency. Class pathways to teaching by Mr. Lewis. We held a successful student rally for Black Lives Matter last Thursday. Skyler Fossum and Adler Wormuth of the tennis team have been consistently winning. Baseball has a game in proctor tonight. Tomorrow they play in Grand Rapids. Last week they beat Spring Lake Park 2-1 and Hibbing 7-2. Softball had their last two regular-season games last night. They beat Eveleth 5-4. In the second game, they won 11-1. Sam Snyder has a two-run home-run. Hanna Hovland had a solo home run. Hanna Hovland has been consistently hitting home runs and getting talked to by coaches from huge D1 schools like UW Madison. The track has been doing pretty well. In the conference meet, Isaac Fink won the mile and Joey McCormick got second in the two-mile and the 4x800 got third at the conference. Claire Barlass got second in the 800. People are pretty excited about younger kids being able to get the vaccine. I have talked to many freshmen who are excited about finally being able to get the vaccine.

Student Representative Stella Schutz (East): Hi everyone! So as the school year wraps up, seniors are solidifying their plans for what they'll do post-high school. Reading out a comprehensive list to you all would probably get quite long, so if you are interested in accessing that information, it'll be published on our student newspaper website soon. That's [greyhound.newspaper.com](http://greyhound.newspaper.com). With that though, we have a few new commitments, Nick LaFontaine for track at Iowa Central College, Crystal Kazmarcyk for Cross country and track at Grinnell College, Allie Niska for track at North Dakota State, Giovanni Saldivar for basketball and Bo Brown for baseball both at Saint Scholastica, and Lily Betros for cheer at St. Thomas. After competing in virtual History Day State, Hannah Mason, Natalie Miller, and Emma Ambrosi have qualified for the 2021 National Competition, and Emma also won the Geo H ELwell topical prize for best project on Environmental History. A second vaccine clinic is happening at East after the success of the first one, with this one open to all who are eligible, including adolescents 12 and older which is very exciting. The theater department put on a normal looking production of Sarah Ruhl's "Eurydice," I was unable to see it but I heard glowing reviews from those that did. Unlike the production in the fall, audience members were able to watch from inside the auditorium. Spring week is this week which is exciting! I mentioned it last meeting but it is a spirit week put on by a collaborative exec association and sources of strength board.

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

Fred Hase Scholarship: Mr. Fred W. Hase graduated from Duluth Central High School in 1915. Pursuant to amendments made to the family trust, the Fred W. Hase Family Scholarship provides an annual award for a graduate of each of Duluth's two high schools who are enrolled in a post-secondary school in the fall of the same year. As outlined in the scholarship trust, the names of all graduating seniors from Denfeld and East High Schools are placed in the Fred W. Hase Scholarship Bowl and a winner and two runner ups for each school are drawn.

The winners for the Fred Hase Family Scholarship were drawn as follows: East High-Anthony Mickendrow, Denfeld High: Owen Walcznski

Chair Lofald reviewed the schedule of meetings.

**Monthly Committee of the Whole Report**

**May 2021**

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

**Policy Committee Report**

**May 2021**

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

**Human Resources/Finance Committee Report**

**May 2021**

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

**Consent Agenda**

**May 2021**

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**M-Durick Eder, S-Trnka, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a vote on the consent agenda as presented, the same was approved – Unanimously.**

**Special Resolutions/Other Action Items**

**May 2021**

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Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE TO BE NATIONAL GUN  
VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY**

This resolution declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Duluth School District to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a country must do more to reduce gun violence.

**WHEREAS**, every day, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are more than 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans are 25 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota has hundreds of gun deaths every year; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting public safety in the communities they serve is a high priority of the school district; and

**WHEREAS**, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with responsible gun ownership; and

**WHEREAS**, the pandemic facing America has drastically impacted communities and individuals sheltering in place which may result in situations where access to firearms results in increased risk in intimate partner violence gun deaths, suicide by gun and unintentional shootings;

**WHEREAS**, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in the presidential inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later, should be now celebrating her 23rd birthday; and

**WHEREAS**, to help honor Hadiya – and the more than 100 Americans whose lives are cut short every day and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day – a national coalition of organizations has designated June 4, 2021, the first Friday in June, as National Gun Violence Awareness Day; and

**WHEREAS**, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

**WHEREAS**, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 4th, the first Friday in June in 2021, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, by wearing orange on June 4, 2021 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

**WHEREAS**, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Duluth School Board declares the first Friday in June, June 4, 2021, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. We encourage all schools to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

SP-5-21-3810

May 18, 2021

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Kirby, to approve Resolution SP-5-21-3810 - Declaring the First Friday In June To Be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Upon a vote, the same was approved-unanimously.**

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**Other**  
**May 2021**  
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Member Durick Eder gave an update on the College of St. Scholastica tutoring program provided to our students this year.

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

Chair Lofald adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of May 18, 2021 at 9:15 p.m.