

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, November 20, 2012

Members Present:

Tom Kasper
Mike Miernicki
Art Johnston
Judy Seliga Punyko
Ann Wasson
Bill Westholm

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives

Ariel Pendelton

Members Absent:

Mary Cameron

There was a tenured teacher's reception held prior to the start of the board meeting.

- Chair Wasson called the regular school board meeting of November 20, 2012 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Westholm, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same was approved – 6-0.

Chair Wasson asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of October 16, 2012.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Kasper, to approve the minutes of the October 16, 2012 Regular School Board Meeting as amended.

Member Johnston noted that on page 3 there are two seconds that should be listed as Seliga Punyko not Wasson.

Member Johnston noted that a motion he made on page three was not listed. Discussion took place regarding his requested correction. Chair Wasson ruled that the motion was not seconded and would not be included in the minutes.

Member Johnston noted that on page four the second motion was seconded by Kasper not Westholm.

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

Public Comments
November 2012

Chair Wasson reminded the audience to follow the civility code and that they have three minutes to speak.

Loren Martell, 623 East 7th Street, spoke to the board regarding his concerns with change orders and costs within the long range facilities plan.

Marcia Stromgren, No address provided, spoke to the board regarding her concern with large class sizes and district spending.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.
November 2012

Superintendent Gronseth acknowledged the communications received.

Superintendent's Report
November 2012

Superintendent Gronseth acknowledged/congratulated:

- Congratulated the newly tenured teachers
- Tonya Sconiers as the recipient of the YMCA Women of Distinction Award

Education Committee Report
November 2012

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

Member Kasper 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 | Pam Rees | Pilot Parent Group | \$4,825 | Funds from this grant award will be used to support a pilot parent group for parents in the Head Start Program. |
| 2 | Northland Foundation | Annette Petersmeyer | Impacting the Lives of Today's Troubled Youth Project | \$1,000 | Funds from this grant award will be used to support the Impacting the Lives of Today's Troubled Youth Project at Woodland Hills Academy. |
| 3 | Northland Foundation | Wendy Teresi | Unity School Store | \$885 | Funds from this grant award will be used to support the Unity School Store. |

E-11-12-3057

November 20, 2012

M-Kasper, S-Miernicki, to approve the Resolution E-11-12-3057 Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

M-Kasper, S-Westholm, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

Human Resources Committee Report
November 2012

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

M-Westholm, S-Kasper, to approve the Human Resources Committee Report as presented.

Member Johnston asked if board members would receive information on non-certified layoff totals. Tim Sworsky, Human Resources Senior Manager, stated that he would put something together and get it to them. Member Johnston noted his concern with overall reductions in staff.

Member Kasper asked for an update on the staff that has been recalled from layoff. Tim Sworsky, Human Resources Senior Manager, reviewed the recalls from layoff to date.

Member Johnston asked about hire dates that already occurred and what would happen if the board didn't approve them. Mr. Sworsky explained the process. Bill Hanson, CFO/Executive Director of Business Services, reminded board members that the funds for the positions are approved as part of the overall budget.

Upon a vote on the Human Resources Report as presented, the same was approved – 5-1 as follows:

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

Nay: Johnston

Business Committee Report
November 2012

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

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Kasper, to approve the Business Committee Report as presented.

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.F., 4.A.1), separate vote on 4.A.2), 4.B.1), 5), 6) an 7), 4.B.1., 4.B.2, 6.E and 6.F.

Student Representative Pendelton asked about having some sort of sign with the name of the school at Denfeld.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. – WADM Projections to note his concern with the loss of students.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.A.1) – Ron Soberg –Lobbyist Contract to note that he does not support the position. Superintendent Gronseth stated his support for the position.

Member Johnston requested a separate vote on Item 4.A.2).

Upon a separate vote on Item 4.A.2) - UMD College in the Schools, the same was approved 6-0.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B.1) – Ordean East Middle School Change Orders to note his concern that some of the items have already been completed and asked what would happen if something wasn't approved by the board. Superintendent Gronseth stated that administration is following the direction of the board.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B.5) and 7) Piedmont Elementary School/Lincoln Park Middle School Change Orders to note his concern with change orders being completed before the board approves them.

Member Johnston chose not to speak on the remainder of the items he withheld.

Upon a vote on the remainder of the business committee report as presented, the same was approved 5 – 1 as follows:

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

Nay: Johnston

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Other
November 2012

Superintendent Gronseth noted that the signage issue at some schools had been discussed by administration and asked Kerry Leider what could be done. Mr. Leider stated that signage could be added to Denfeld but that it would be an additional cost. Student Representative Pendelton thanked administration for considering the request.

- Chair Wasson adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of November 20, 2012 at 7:22 p.m.