

## **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, June 16, 2015

### **Members Present:**

Annie Harala  
Art Johnston  
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp  
Mike Miernicki  
Judy Seliga Punyko  
Harry Welty  
Bill Westholm

### **Others Present:**

Ed Crawford, Assistant Superintendent  
Bill Hanson, Deputy Clerk  
Melinda Thibault, Secretary

### **Student Representatives:**

Jude Goossens  
Thomas Olafson

➤ Chair Seliga Punyko called the regular school board meeting of June 16, 2015 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

**M-Harala, S-Westholm, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same passed – unanimously.**

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of May 19, 2015.

**M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2015 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented - unanimously.**

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of May 19, 2015.

**M-Harala, S-Westholm, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2015 Regular School Board Meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.**

## **School and Community Recognition**

**June 2015**

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Bill Hanson: Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present Ed Crawford for recognition. As you know, he is retiring from the district at the end of this school year. Ed made a lasting impact on innumerable students, families, and staff through his dedication to public education commencing in October of 1979 when he became a school social worker, through his service as an Assistant Principal and Principal, and culminating with his retirement as Assistant Superintendent. He influenced countless positive and lasting outcomes through his leadership and involvement on many District-wide committees, including the Teacher Evaluation Committee, the System Accountability Committee, the Education Equity Advisory Committee, and the District Quality Leadership Team, among others. Ed has dedicated time and expertise to the community

through his participation on St. Mary's Medical Center Board of Directors, Duluth Teachers' Credit Union Board of Directors, Woodland Hills Board of Directors, Northland Foundation Board of Trustees, as Chairperson of the YMCA Board of Trustees, College of St. Scholastica Board of Trustees, as Commissioner and Chairperson of the Housing Redevelopment Authority Board and other leadership positions. He's been recognized and awarded for his leadership in public education, named 2001 Northeast Division Assistant Principal of the Year, receiving the 2005 Sister Ann Edward Scanlon Award from the College of St. Scholastica, and named 2009 Northeast Division Principal of the Year. Upon his retirement, the enthusiasm, passion, and commitment that Ed Crawford invested in public education will continue to influence and guide our school district for years to come. Congratulations, Ed, and many thanks for your service.

### **Public Comments**

**June 2015**

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Loren Martell, 623 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke to the school board regarding his concerns with the school board behavior and actions.

Joel Heller, 514 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke to the school board regarding how impressed he was with the girls from the East High School swim team that showed up at the YMCA swim meet to introduce themselves and talk to the young children about swimming.

Member Johnston noted that the mission statement read at the start of public comment is not the one in the policy book. Member Loeffler-Kemp stated that she chose that particular statement because it partially came from the community.

### **Communications, Petitions, Etc.**

**June 2015**

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Assistant Superintendent Crawford acknowledged the communications that had been received.

### **Superintendent's Report**

**June 2015**

Assistant Superintendent Crawford: One of the highlights of this job is being able to attend high school graduations. We had a total of 642 students who received their High School diplomas 2 weeks ago. We also had 13 students from our various residential programs who received their diploma and 8 students who received their GED. Those are always extra special commencement events. Many of these graduates have persevered through some difficult challenges. We are extremely proud of their accomplishments. We want to wish all of our graduates the very best in their future endeavors. As you know, the district doesn't remain very still during the summer months. We have a lot of things going on in our schools and throughout the district. For example, we have approximately 245 students attending the ALC program and a little fewer than 200 students attending summer school at Denfeld High School. We also have Key-zone programs in most of our elementary schools, a Youth Enrichment Program at Ordean-East and Lake Superior Swim Club has a program in both of our middle schools. Also, 95 teachers attended the third annual Tech Camp held at East High School on June 8, 9 and 10 organized by the ISD 709 Innovation team. Teachers listened to keynote messages by Tammi Wilkins, ISD 709 Innovation

3 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
June 16, 2015

Coordinator and Brad Gustafson, Principal of Greenwood Elementary in Wayzata Public Schools. They also participated in breakout sessions covering topics such as Google Drive, formative assessment tools, making podcasts, connected classrooms and WeVideo which is a video editing tool. Many teachers had the opportunity to share the great learning experiences happening in their classrooms and are all very excited to bring the new things they've learned into their classrooms in the fall. In addition, seven more classrooms will be the benefactors of class sets of Chrome-books! Those seven teachers will be attending additional professional development sessions led by the Innovation team throughout the 2015-16 school year. Tuesday, June 9 was Principal Day at Tech Camp with 15 principals attending. They were able to hear the keynote address by Brad Gustafson and attend breakout sessions led by Brad, Sue Lehna, principal from Lester Park and Brenda Vathauer, principal from Lincoln Park. Finally, from June 8th through the 26th, teachers from across the district will be continuing to improve our curriculum for students. Teachers from 9 different content areas and grade levels K-12 are meeting at either Ordean East Middle School or East High School with their peers to continue this work. The curricular areas they're working on this summer are: Art, Career and Technical Education, English, Health and Physical Education, Math, Music, Science, Social Studies and World Language. The teachers are working to create an aligned curriculum that matches the requirements established by the state of Minnesota and to create common assessments to measure student progress toward that learning. Our teachers have shown a strong dedication to continue working beyond the school year to improve our programming for students. I want to end my report by stating what a privilege it's been to have served the Duluth School district for the past 35 years - I've worked with outstanding and dedicated individuals including faculty, staff, students, families and community leaders. I feel extremely fortunate to have served in a community where I grew up and attended Junior high, high school and college. If the truth be told, the opportunities I've had in the Duluth school district have been well beyond my wildest dreams! So thank you for this opportunity. I look forward to the next chapter in my life, including spending time with family and friends, traveling to some exotic parts of the world, and being able to do whatever I'd like that, I'm hopeful, will not require an alarm clock or a suit and tie! Again, thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

Jude Gooseens – stated that the students are excited that school is out. He said that many students are still active in the summer with co-curricular activities, and that many students are getting involved with volunteer activities as well.

Tommy Olafson – stated that the ACT scores are in and there were only seven<sup>7</sup> students that didn't take it. He mirrored Jude's observations that many students are still active in different activities throughout the summer.

**Education Committee Report**

**June 2015**

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

**M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the Education Committee Report.**

Member Welty stated that the committee meeting went quite long and reminded those who don't know that a lot of work is done ahead of the board meeting at those committee meetings. He suggested that the committee meetings be televised.

Member Miernicki stated that the commencement ceremonies were wonderful and he wanted to thank all the staff involved in putting them on.

**Upon a vote on the remainder of the Education Committee, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**Human Resources Committee Report**  
**June 2015**

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

Member Miernicki presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N

RE: Termination of Certified Probationary (Non-Tenured) Staff

**WHEREAS**, during the first three years of consecutive employment all teachers in the public schools in cities of the first class are deemed to be in a probational period of employment during which period the School Board may renew, or not renew, any teachers' annual contract as the School Board shall see fit. The term "teacher" includes every person regularly employed, as a principal, or to give instruction in a classroom, or to superintend or supervise classroom instruction, or as a placement teacher and visiting teacher.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the School Board on Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, as follows:

The employment contracts of the following probationary teachers shall not be renewed and their employment shall terminate at the end of the school day on June 5, 2015, unless another date is indicated below, in which case the employment of the particular teacher shall terminate on that date.

Deann Dahl  
Nicholas DeShaw  
Mary Irvine  
Timothy Little  
Gardner Nutting  
Kellie Powless  
Sarah Remington – 7/17/15  
Kimberly Willer

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Clerk of the School Board shall notify such teachers in writing before July 1, 2015, of the termination of their employment.

HR-6-15-3271

June 16, 2015

**M-Miernicki, S-Welty, to approve Resolution HR-6-15-3271 – Termination of Non-Tenured Certified Staff.**

5 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
June 16, 2015

Discussion took place regarding the resolution.

**Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Miernicki presented the resolution:

**R E S O L U T I O N**  
RE: Termination of Certified Hourly Staff

*BE IT RESOLVED* by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the employment of the following hourly teachers shall terminate effective at the end of the school day on June 5, 2015, unless another date is indicated below, in which case the employment of the individual shall terminate on that date.

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED* that the Clerk of the School Board shall notify such teachers in writing before July 1, 2015, of the termination of their employment.

Patricia Bennett  
Elizabeth Chelseth  
Patricia Kolar  
Jeanne Rodberg  
Robin Williams  
Allison Yakle

HR-6-15-3272

June 16, 2015

**M-Miernicki, S-Welty, to approve Resolution HR-6-15-3272 – Termination of Certified Hourly Staff. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Resolution HR-6-15-3273 was pulled.

Member Miernicki presented the resolution:

**R E S O L U T I O N**  
**Food Service Employees**

RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District #709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Independent School District #709 and the Food Service Employees, a summary of which is in the hands of all School Board members, be approved and adopted for the periods July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2016, inclusive, and that the Chairperson and Clerk of the School Board be hereby authorized to execute said Agreement on behalf of the School District.

HR-6-15-3274

June 16, 2015

**M-Miernicki, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution HR-6-15-3274 – Approval of Food Service Employees Collective Bargaining Agreement effective dates 7/1/13-6/30/16.**

Discussion took place regarding the resolution.

6 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
June 16, 2015

**Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**M-Miernicki, S-Westholm, to approve the remainder of the Human Resource Committee report,**

**M-Welty, S-Johnston, to move that leave be denied to the second name under Certified Leaves of Absence on the report.**

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

**Upon a vote, the same failed 2-5 as follows:**

**Yea: Johnston, Welty**

**Nay: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm**

Member Johnston withheld Item 5. – Approval of Policy 8050 – Code of Ethics for discussion and a separate vote.

**M-Johnston, S-Welty, by removing all items that have been added on pages 14 and 15 to return to the original language of the MSBA policy.**

Discussion took place regarding the proposed amendment.

**Upon a vote, the same failed 2-5 as follows:**

**Yea: Johnston, Welty**

**Nay: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm**

**Upon a vote on the policy changes first reading as presented, the same was approved 5-2 as follows:**

**Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm**

**Nay: Johnston, Welty**

**Upon a vote on the remainder of the Human Resources Committee report, the same was approved – unanimously.**

### **Business Committee Report**

**June 2015**

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

Member Westholm presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 465.03 requires a school district to accept donations by resolution expressed in the terms prescribed by the donor in full; and,

WHEREAS, acceptance of the donations 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 donations 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.

SCHOOL	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME/ORG.	RESTRICTION	AMOUNT
Lester Park		Lester Park PTA	Library Shelves	\$1,970.92
Homecroft		Wells Fargo	None	80.00
			TOTAL	\$2,050.92

Resolution B-6-15-3275

June 16, 2015

**M-Westholm, S-Harala, to approve Resolution B-6-15-3275 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Westholm presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION RESCINDING RESOLUTION B-5-15-3270 –PROVIDING THAT  
SCHOOL BOARD GENERAL ELECTIONS HELD AFTER 2017  
SHALL BE HELD IN THE EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS;  
ESTABLISHING A TRANSITION PLAN**

WHEREAS, in order to realize a cost savings and to help ensure a voter turnout that is as large as possible, the school board passed Resolution B-5-15-3270 on May 19, 2015 with the intent to move to an even year election cycle, and;

WHEREAS, on May 19, 2015 Bylaw 9115 was amended to move the district to an even year election cycle, and;

WHEREAS, within Laws of Minnesota for 1973 Chapter 281 – H.F.No. 1467 requiring the district to hold its elections in conjunction with the City of Duluth in the odd year cycle failed to be revised within the 2015 legislative session;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the school board of Independent School District No. 709 State of Minnesota, as follows:

1. Resolution B-5-15-3270 is hereby rescinded to the extent that it proposes the district move to an even year cycle.
2. The terms of office of school board members elected in 2015 will remain for a four year period.

3. The school board shall revise Bylaw 9115 to reflect its election cycle will remain in the odd year election cycle.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that the school board will continue to research a move to an even year election cycle in the future.

B-6-15-3276

June 16, 2015

**M-Westholm, S-Harala, to approve B-6-15-3276 – Resolution Rescinding Resolution B-5-15-3270 Providing that School Board General Elections Held After 2017 Shall Be Held in the Even Numbered Years; Establishing a Transition Plan. Upon a vote the same – unanimously.**

Member Westholm Presented the Resolution:

**R E S O L U T I O N**  
Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, that the fiscal year 2016 budget as presented to the School Board, be adopted.

Resolution B-6-15-3277

June 16, 2015

**M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution B-6-15-3277 – Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget.**

Discussion took place regarding the budget.

**Upon a vote, the same was approved 6-1 as follows:**

**Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Welty, Westholm**  
**Nay: Johnston**

Member Westholm presented the resolution:

**R E S O L U T I O N**  
**Annual Recertification of the Superintendent as the Identified Official with Authority for MDE SERVS Financial**

RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that to meet the requirement in accordance with MN State Access control Security Standard 1.0, it is requested that authorization be given to the Superintendent to serve as the Identified Official with Authority for MDE SERVS Financial.

RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the Superintendent of Schools, be designated the legal authorized representative to serve as the Identified Official with Authority for MDE SERVS Financial for the school district.

B-6-15-3278

June 16, 2015



9 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
June 16, 2015

**M-Westholm, S-Harala, to approve Resolution B-6-15-3278 – Annual Recertification of the Superintendent as the Identified Official with Authority for MDE SERVS Financial. Upon a vote, the same was approved - unanimously.**

**M-Westholm, S-Harala, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report.**

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.E., 3.A. and 4.A.  
Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 6.D.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.E. – WADM Projections to note his concerns with the drop in student numbers. Discussion took place regarding the WADM Projections.

Member Johnston withheld Item 3.A. Policy 9115 – School Board Elections just to clarify that we weren't changing to even years but staying at odd years.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.A. – Insurance Brokerage and Risk Management Services Renewal for Duluth Public Schools – Marsh & McLennan Agency to ask about the commission.

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 6.D. – Facilities Management & Capital Project Status Report to note the district is working with the city to install high efficiency boilers.

**Upon a vote on the remainder of the Business Committee, the same was approved – 6-1 as follows:**

**Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm, Welty**  
**Nay: Johnston**

**Other**  
**June 2015**  
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Chair Seliga Punyko adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of June 16, 2015 at 8:14 p.m.