

## 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, December 17, 2013

### Members Present:

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

### Others Present:

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

### Student Representatives:

Katlyn Persch  
Erik Thibault

➤ Chair Kasper called the regular school board meeting of December 17, 2013 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

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

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of November 19, 2013.

**M-Wasson, S-Westholm, to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2013 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.**

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of November 19, 2013.

**M-Wasson, S-Westholm, to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2013 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.**

### School and Community Recognition

December 2013

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The Denfeld Jazz Band was chosen for recognition. Principal Tonya Sconiers was there to accept the award on behalf of this talented group. The Denfeld High School Jazz Band is featured on a new CD - *Minnesota Beatle Project Vol. 5* - which was released this month. Our students are in good company as the CD includes performances by Actual Wolf, Gary Burger, Greycoats, The Cactus Blossoms and more. Recordings purchased directly from Denfeld High School earn \$5 each to support the Denfeld Jazz Band.

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Bill Hanson, CFO/Director of Business Services made a presentation for the Public Tax Levy Hearing.

**Public Comments**  
**December 2013**

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Rosie Loeffler-Kemp, 2902 Bald Eagle Trail, school board member elect, spoke to the board to thank the three outgoing school board members for their service.

John Stromgren, 6179 Lakewood Road, spoke to the board regarding his concern with the increase on his tax statement for non-voter approved levy, and his overall concern with the cost of taxes.

Annie Harala, 1129 North 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue East. school board member elect, spoke to the board to thank the outgoing school board members for their service.

Marcia Stromgren, 6179 Lakewood Road, spoke to the board regarding her concern with the costs of the long range facilities plan and the resulting increase in taxes, and the lack of improvement in student test scores.

Loren Martell, no address provided, spoke to the board regarding his concern with outgoing board members.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**  
**December 2013**

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There were no communications received.

**Superintendent's Report**  
**December 2013**

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Superintendent Gronseth Bill honored and expressed appreciation to outgoing board members and student advisors, and presented each with a certificate and small memento of appreciation.

**School Board Members**

- Tom Kasper ... 2010-2013
- Ann Wasson ... 2004-2013
- Mary Cameron ... 1998-1999 & 2002-2013

**Student Advisors to the School Board**

- Katlyn Persch ... 1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013
- Erik Thibault ... 1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013

School board members expressed their thanks to the outgoing members for their service.

**Education Committee Report**  
**December 2013**

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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	Northland Foundation	Ed Crawford	Youth Success Team Grant	\$30,000	Funds from this grant award will be used to support funding AmeriCorp Volunteers in the Duluth Public Schools as part of our Youth Success Teams.

E-12-13-3146

December 17, 2013

**M-Cameron, S-Wasson, to approve the Resolution E-12-13-3146 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**M-Cameron, S-Wasson, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report. Upon a vote on, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**Human Resources Committee Report**  
**December 2013**

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

**M-Westholm, S-Wasson, to approve a new Head Start Dietitian/Nutritionist, District Wide Position. Upon a vote, the same was approved - unanimously.**

**M-Westholm, S-Wasson, to approve the remainder of the Human Resource Committee report. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**Business Committee Report**  
**December 2013**

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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-Wasson, to approve the Business Committee Report withholding the resolutions:**

Member Johnston withheld 1.A. and 4.A.

Member Westholm withheld Item 1.F.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A. – Financial Report – to note concerns within the report. Discussion took place regarding the audit report.

Member Westholm withheld Item 1.F. – WADM Projections to ask for clarification on the report.

**Upon a separate vote on Items. 4.A.1) & 2) – PERMAR Security Services Agreements, the same was approved - unanimously.**

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

**Yea: Cameron, Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm**  
**Nay: Johnston**

Bill Hanson explained that Resolution 5.A. will not be necessary if 5.B. is approved with the amount currently listed.

Member Seliga Punyko presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
**Certified Tax Levy 2013 Payable 2014**

BE IT RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, to hereby set the Tax Levy for 2013 Payable 2014 at \$32,363,566.93.

B-12-13-3148

December 17, 2013

**M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve Resolution B-12-13-3148 – Certified Tax Levy 2013 Payable 2014.**

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Discussion took place regarding the proposed tax levy.

**M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson to call the question.**

Member Johnston made a point of order that it would be wrong to cut off discussion on the resolution. Chair Kasper called for a vote to call the question.

**Upon a vote on calling the question, the same was approved – 6-1 as follows:**

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

**Nay: Johnston**

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

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

**Nay: Johnston**

Member Seliga Punyko presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N  
Authorized Student Activity Bank Account Signer

RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that it hereby authorizes the following:

<u>District Building</u>	<u>Banking Institution</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Addition of Authorized Signer</u>	<u>Removal of Authorized Signer</u>
Lowell	DTCU	XXXX4	Gayle Hunger	Lynn Litzinger

B-12-13-3149

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**M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve Resolution B-12-13-3149 – Authorized Student Activity Bank Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Outgoing board members spoke regarding their service on the board and thanked everyone involved in supporting education during their time of service.

**Special Resolutions**  
**December 2013**  
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Member Seliga Punyko presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
**Board Member Attendance at MSBA Leadership Conference**  
**And Phase I/II Programs for New Board Members**

RESOLVED, That Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, pay costs incurred, as per District policy, for school board members to attend the Minnesota School Boards Association 93<sup>rd</sup> Leadership Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 16-17, 2014 and the Phase I and II Programs for New Board Members.

S-12-13-3150

December 17, 2013

**M-Seliga Punyko, S-Westholm, to approve Resolution S-12-13-3150 Board Member Attendance at MSBA Leadership Conference. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**Other**  
**December 2013**  
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Student Advisor Thibault thanked everyone for his time of service on the board. Student Advisor Persch also thanked everyone and that she hopes that the tradition of having student representatives will continue.

- Chair Kasper adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of December 17, 2013 at 8:25 p.m.