

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, April 19, 2016

Members Present:

Annie Harala
Art Johnston
David Kirby
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Nora Sandstad
Harry Welty

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives:

Spencer Fredrickson
Johanna Unden

Members Absent:

Alanna Oswald

➤ Chair Harala called the regular school board meeting of April 19, 2016 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Welty, S-Sandstad, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same passed – 6-0.

Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of March 22, 2016.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2016 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 6-0.

Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of March 22, 2016.

M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2016 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 6-0.

Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of March 31, 2016.

M-Welty, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2016 Special School Board Meeting as presented.

Member Johnston noted a correction on page 2 in the second paragraph to change the word dale to sale.

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

Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of April 11, 2016.

M-Sandstad, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2016 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved 6-0.

School and Community Recognition

April 2016

Amy Starzecki: Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present Jennifer Fabbro, Denfeld High School, and several students who are attending tonight to accept this recognition on behalf of their entire class: Madison Dosan (doe-shun), Zevin Lewis, McKenzie Mehling and Austin Mehling. Jennifer and her class conducted a drive to collect new or gently used teddy bears that they have outgrown. They did some of this work during the "WIN - what I need" period in the morning and at other times throughout the day, involving the entire Denfeld student body and staff. They collected ten boxes of stuffed animals to give to Duluth police, firefighters and paramedics. These professionals will give the toys to children to help provide comfort in emergency situations. This "Teddy Bear Drive" is a good example of project-based learning, students working on a project and learning a variety of academic, team-building and social skills as they go. Many thanks to these caring students and to Jennifer for helping make a difference in the lives of children in our community!

Public Comments

April 2016

Member Loeffler-Kemp read the community vision statement.

Gordon Downs, 401 N. 76th Avenue W., spoke to the school board regarding his concern with the board's decision not to sell the Central site for use by Edison.

Andrew Miller and Ellie Patronas, 4828 Tioga Street, spoke to the school board regarding Ordean East Middle Schools Destination Imagination program and about their upcoming trip to the global competition.

Bernie Bernham, President of Teachers Union, stated that there is also a group from Congdon Elementary going to the Destination Imagination global competition.

Bob Hill, 5231 Norwood Street, spoke to the school board regarding his hope that the decision not to sell the Central site doesn't continue to be a divisive issue within the board.

Lori Frisk, 1933 Waverly Avenue, spoke to the school board to ask that they reconsider the cuts to zero hour proposed at the preliminary budget meeting.

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Doug Zychowski, 1424 N. 56th Street, an employee of the school district, spoke to the school board about the importance of recognizing the different way students learn and to continue looking at different ways to educate our students.

Catherine Nachbar, 5118 Colorado Street, a teacher in the district, introduced a group of students who will talk about History Day and the We Day projects going on in the schools.

Sam Anderson and John Kroska, students in the district, spoke to the school board about their experience with the History Day projects.

Greta Dembroski, Paige Olson, Lizzie Nikceovich, students in the district, spoke to the school board regarding their We Day projects, what can we do as a whole and how inspiring it was to see young people wanting to make a change.

Carla Harrold, 1828 Ponderosa, Curriculum Specialist for the Duluth Schools, spoke to the school board regarding the work being done to improve the best learning experiences for staff and students.

Carrie Duncan, 215 West 7th Street, spoke to the school board regarding her concern with the decision not to sell the Central site for use by Edison.

Marcia Stromgren, no address provided, spoke to the school board regarding her concern with the board's decision not to sell the Central site for use by Edison and that they should reconsider.

Loren Martell, no address provided, spoke to the school board to present numbers he came up with regarding the possible loss of students to the Edison High School.

Beth Kersting Peterson, 216 West 3rd St., spoke to the school board regarding her concern with the procedures to request the use of staff development funds, and the denial of her request.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

April 2016

Superintendent Gronseth acknowledged the communications received.

Superintendent's Report

April 2016

Superintendent Gronseth Learning is truly universal--something we all do from the moment we enter the world. We learn some things easily and others are at times more difficult. The things that come easily are almost unnoticeable while other things, the things we really want to learn and have to work at are usually more memorable. It is during these times that we are truly engaged in learning. Last week there was event that celebrated this type of learning. It was called Ignite Learning and it was an amazing event! If you are familiar with TED Talks, this was a local version that was planned by Tammi Wilkins and her team. Eleven speakers in all talked about their life's most memorable learning. Some speeches were about learning new skills like

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nature photography or mountain biking while others were about learning ways of being through parents or grandparents. Each of the speakers brought something new to the event and it was meaningful and wonderful. The event was recorded and we will be sharing pieces of the event in the near future. Thank you to Tammi and her team-- all the work was worth it and we look forward to the next Ignite Learning event!

Earlier that same day I had attended the MSBA Phase III training which is about creating highly functioning school boards with Member Oswald and Member Loeffler-Kemp earlier that same day. It was a great training but I'm glad I made it back in time for the Ignite Learning event as well.

Another successful event was the planned by a student group at Denfeld called "Invasion". They hosted an Asian Pacific Legal Experience Display that was available through the Minnesota State Court System. We applaud their efforts to bring knowledge and understanding to the challenges Asian immigrants have had throughout US history. Thank you for your efforts in planning for this event.

I'm guessing that our student representatives had a big day today as it was ACT Day. All juniors had the opportunity to take the ACT today. There were many volunteer opportunities for all other students today. I am sure that our students have made a notable impact on the community day through ACTion Day!

East: Spencer Fredrickson – it was a busy day with ACT testing for Juniors and other students participating in volunteer opportunities. Green week has started and this week students wore blue to support the end of water pollution, Amnesty International programming works to promote and engage students in conversations about global human rights, prom is coming up, they held a school assembly for the startup of spring sports teams, history day students had a sendoff to state and two knowledge bowl teams also went to state. The student body is asking the board to reconsider the decision to cut back on the zero hour programming for next year as it is necessary for some students to fit all the classes in that they would like to take.

Denfeld: Johanna Uden – it was a big day for Juniors with the ACT testing. Five speech students went to state, four students went to Washington DC for a scholarship opportunity, band and orchestra also went to Washington DC, the robotics team went to regionals and placed fourth and worlds are coming up. She stated that it was very educational hosting the Asian Legal Experience, and that there are many upcoming events in the arts including the school play. Imagine Denfeld is in full swing, which is a movement for administration to step back and look at what is working and what needs to be improved starting with surveys.

Education Committee Report
April 2016

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

Member Loeffler-Kemp 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
Scott D. Anderson Leadership Foundation	Duluth Public Schools	Scott Anderson Leadership Forum	\$19,677.00	Funds from this grant will be used to support the annual Scott Anderson Leadership Forum – Summer 2016
Community Leaders Fund			\$4423	

E-4-16-3362

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M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve Resolution E-4-16-3362 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

M-Welty, S-Sandstad, to move the Federal Head Start Grant Application to the Action Item Section. Upon a vote, the same was approved 6-0.

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.D.1) and 2.D.2)

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.D.1) 2015 Graduation Data. Chair Harala stated that she was very appreciative of the presentation and data. Member Johnston noted his concerns with some of the numbers and asked for absolute numbers in addition to percentages. Discussion continued regarding the data.

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.D.2) Duluth Headstart Community Assessment to note some specifics within the data. Chair Harala asked that the data be shared with Mayor Larson, the City Council, St. Louis County Commissioners, and State Representatives. Discussion continued regarding the assessment data.

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M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report.
Upon a vote on the remainder of the Education Committee, the same was approved – 6-0.

Human Resources Committee Report
April 2016

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

Member Kirby presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N
Education Directors Association

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 Education Directors Association, a summary of which is in the hands of all School Board members, be approved and adopted for the period July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2017, 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-4-16-3363

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M-Kirby, S-Welty, to approve Resolution HR-4-16-3363 – Education Directors Association.

Member Johnston asked questions regarding who is covered under the contract.

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

M-Kirby, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the remainder of the Human Resource Committee report.

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.D.

Member Welty withheld Item 1.

Member Welty withheld Item 1. – Staffing Report Action Items to note the principal retirements.

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.D. – Policy 8050 Renumbering to 209 – Code of Ethics to note his issues within parts of the policy.

Upon a separate vote on Item 2.D. – Policy 8050 Renumbering to 209-Code of Ethics, the same was approved 4-2 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

Nay: Johnston, Welty

Upon a vote on the remainder of the Human Resources Committee, the same was approved – 6-0.

Business Committee Report
April 2016

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

Member Sandstad 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/ORGANIZATION	RESTRICTION	AMOUNT
Homecroft Elementary		Hermantown Federal Credit Union	Kindergarten Field Trip	200.00
Lincoln Park		Northland Foundation	Glass Fundraising Project	929.00
Homecroft Elementary		Maurices	None	25.00
District Wide	Anne	Whitworth	Middle School Swim Program	100.00
Lincoln Park		Maurices	None	25.00
			TOTAL	1,279.00

B-4-16-3359

April 19, 2016

M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve Resolution B-4-16-3359 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

M-Sandstad, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report.

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Member Welty withheld Item 1.H.
Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. APU/(WADM) Projections to note his concerns with the loss of students. Discussion continued regarding declining enrollment.

Member Welty withheld Item 1.H. Child Nutrition Breakfast and Lunch Meal Price Increase to ask about if our district charges less than the maximum allowed.

Upon a vote on the remainder of the Business Committee, the same was approved – 5-1 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad, Welty
Nay: Johnston

Other
April 2016

Chair Harala adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of April 19, 2016 at 9:24 p.m.