

## **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 18, 2014

### **Members Present:**

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

### **Others Present:**

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

### **Student Representatives:**

Paul Manning  
Kobe Tremble

There was a tenured teacher celebration prior to the board meeting. Chair Miernicki congratulated all the newly tenured teachers.

➤ Chair Miernicki called the regular school board meeting of November 18, 2014 to order at 6:32 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

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

Chair Miernicki asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of October 21, 2014.

**M-Westholm, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2014 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented - unanimously.**

## **School and Community Recognition**

**November 2014**

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Ed Crawford: Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present representatives from the Denfeld and Duluth East High School Key Clubs for recognition. Key Club is an international student run service organization providing opportunities to build character and develop leadership by creating a better community through acts of service. Working individually and in partnership, both the Denfeld and Duluth East high school Key Clubs are making significant contributions to our community. Recently the two Clubs worked together to help collect donations for Life House, an organization dedicated to helping homeless teens. This Camp In A Box event collected over \$3,400. The Denfeld Key Club recently celebrated its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They worked to collect over \$1,000 for the Feed Local Kids campaign and are collecting items for Operation Christmas Child and Toyland Express. The Duluth East Key Club recently helped clean up Lismore

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Road. They worked with Kiwanis of Friendly Duluth members as part of the "Adopt a Highway" program. They'll be working on Light the Lakewalk with Life House in December and bell ringing for the Salvation Army. The list of activities for both Key Clubs, past and future – literally – could go on and on. Congratulations to our two high school Key Clubs and the excellent work they're doing to help our community.

**Public Comments**

**November 2014**

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Terry Dzuck, 2415 West Skyline, President of the Education Minnesota Clerical unit, spoke to the school board regarding their support for the clerical reclassifications on the board report.

Barb Walcome, 5314 Wyoming, spoke to the school board regarding her concern with civility among the board members, and the investigation into Member Johnston.

Marcia Stromgren, no address provided, spoke to the school board regarding her concern with her increased taxes and lack of student achievement.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**

**November 2014**

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Chair Miernicki stated that there no communications had been received.

**Superintendent's Report**

**November 2014**

Superintendent Gronseth – Congratulated all the tenured teachers celebrated prior to the meeting. Our students have been busy! I am so impressed with the events and opportunities our students are creating. From The Path to Peace Walk organized by our high school students, to "Socktober" at Congdon, and the "Feed the Hungry" which I believe we will hear more about next month--- our students are making a difference in the community. We can be proud of the work they are doing. The November 6th Annual Meeting- shared DWCIP & WBWF progress, went well, thank you to the students and staff who helped to make it possible (Myers Wilkins World Beat Drummers, Sterling Strings, Culinary Students, Deb Hannu for making the Art displays, and the many groups that had informational tables. There was a Realtor tour- Last Friday, 15-20 realtors, toured Laura MacArthur, Lincoln, Denfeld and East and we are planning another tour soon. Reminder again now that our weather has turned wintery-- we have the possibility of two-hour late starts for cold/snow days (shared through social media, media outlets, and email). There will be many opportunities in the coming weeks for the community to come to events in our schools, or to see students performing throughout the community. I encourage people to come and enjoy these performances and celebrations-- I think the talents of our students bring a special joy to this season that I always look forward to.

**Education Committee Report**

**November 2014**

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

Member Westholm 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	United States Department of Education	Edith Howes	Johnson O'Malley Grant	\$18,036 plus carry forward amount of \$20,362.40	Funds from this grant award will be used to support the Duluth Public Schools Indian Education Program.
2	Minnesota Department of Education	Tonya Sconiers	Alternatives to Suspension Grant – Cohort 2	\$20,000	Funds from this grant award will be used to support the continuation of reducing out-of-school suspensions at Denfeld High School.
3	Ordean Foundation	Deidre Quinlan	Habitat Teen Parent Collaborative Grant	\$40,000 plus carry forward amount of \$5,000	Funds from this grant award will be used to support the Habitat Teen Parent Collaborative.
4	Minnesota State Arts Board	Annette Petersmeyer	Arts Learning Grant	\$6,750	Funds from this grant award will be used to support the Arts at Woodland Hills Academy.

E-11-14-3210

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**M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution E-11-14-3210 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved - unanimously.**

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

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.4)

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.1) and 1.A.2)

Member Seliga Punyko withheld Item 1.A.3)

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.1) -MN PCAE – to comment on the presentation and thanked Deb Hannu as well as Jeremy Holien.

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Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.2) – Regulation 6095R-Curriculum (K-12) – to note that he would like more discussion on a seventh hour. Discussion continued regarding the seventh hour issue and board members asked for more information including cost. Superintendent Gronseth stated that administration could put information together for them.

Member Seliga Punyko withheld Item 1.A.3) – New Fab Lab Elective Course Proposal for the 2015-16 School Year to ask if there is special licensure required for the course. Mike Carey explained that there is and there has already been staff hired.

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.4) – Regulation 5040R Student Transfers to review the transfer issue. Discussion continued regarding the transfer process.

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

**Human Resources Committee Report**  
**November 2014**

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

**M-Welty, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the Human Resource Committee report.**

Member Johnston withheld Item 3.A. and 3.B.

Member Johnston withheld Item 3.A. and began to read a statement. Chair Miernicki ruled him out of order.

Member Johnston withheld Item 3.A. – Questions regarding Duluth Federation of Teachers Contract to note his concern with the timing of contract negotiations. Discussion continued regarding the issue.

Member Johnston withheld Item 3.B. – Discussion of revisions to the next Superintendent's Review document to note that he believes there should be a committee assigned to do this. Discussion continued regarding the issue.

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

**Business Committee Report**  
**November 2014**

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

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Member Loeffler-Kemp 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.

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>FIRST NAME</b>	<b>LAST NAME/ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>RESTRICTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Congdon		Target Corporation	None	2,027.38
Congdon		Zeitgeist Arts	Lego Club	203.81
Congdon		Congdon PTA	Reusable bowls for Congdon cafeteria	446.19
Lakewood	Target	Take Charge of Education	None	848.99
Lakewood		Lakewood Aux American Legion	None	100.00
Lakewood		Lakewood Aux American Legion	None	200.00
Lakewood	Carmen	Arnold	None	200.00
Lakewood	Kristen	Woodhull	None	100.00
Denfeld	Target	Take Charge of Education	General Acct needs	3,023.11
Denfeld		Maurices	General Fund Acct	350.00
Denfeld		Maurices	General Fund Acct	650.00
Denfeld		United Health Foundation	Robotics	500.00
Denfeld		Allendale Motel	Robotics	500.00
Denfeld	Keith and Debra	Olafson	Art	30.00
Denfeld	Debra	Alander	Art	30.00
Denfeld	Mary and Michael	Gerchman Smith	Art	30.00
Denfeld	Heather	Emmel	Art	30.00
Denfeld	James and Gwen	Stabe	Art	30.00
Denfeld	Krista and Michael	Hill	Art	20.00
Denfeld	Marcy and Keith	Easty	Art	25.00
Denfeld	Elmer and Margaret	Leppi	Art	25.00
Denfeld	Julie and Jeffrey	Johnson	Art	25.00
Denfeld	Thomas and Marilee	Tusken	Art	25.00
Denfeld	Carla and Michael	Liston	Art	25.00
Denfeld	Kevin and Anne	Skwira-Brown	Art	25.00
Denfeld	Shelly Jo	Wick-Zeman	Art	30.00
Denfeld	Michelle	Van Dell	Art	30.00
Denfeld		The Men's Wearhouse	General Fund Acct	155.00
Denfeld	Carmen	Rich	Art	25.00
Denfeld	Carmen	Rich	Art	20.00

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Myers-Wilkins	Target	Take Charge of Education	None	737.47
Myers-Wilkins	Cathleen	Brown	None	75.00

Resolution B-11-14-3211

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**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Harala, to approve Resolution B-11-14-3211 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved - unanimously.**

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Harala, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee Report:**

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.B., 3., 6.D. and F. Separate vote on 1.G.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A. – Payment of Claims to ask questions regarding specific items on the Payment of Claims. Discussion continued regarding the item.

**Upon a separate vote on Item 1.G. – Fund Raisers the same was approved - unanimously.**

Member Johnston withheld Item A.3. - Policies and Regulations to ask when the policy regarding adding items agenda might be discussed.

Member Johnston withheld Item 6.D. – Facilities Management & Capital Project Status Report to ask about the vandalism at the Central High and STC sites. Kerry Leider reviewed the incidents. Discussion continued regarding the report.

Member Johnston withheld Item 6.F. – Discussion on Decision Making Process to make notes about the discussion that took place at the committee meeting. Discussion took place regarding the item.

**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**  
**November 2014**  
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Chair Miernicki stated that the board is working for the students and he thanked the student representatives for serving on the board.

Student Representative Manning stated that there are a lot of great things going on. He asked that the board members stick to the agenda.

Student Representative Tremble stated that it is important to have a diverse curriculum and is excited about the Fab Lab. He said he would like to see more language and industrial tech classes in the future.

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Member Loeffler Kemp encouraged people to go out to the web site and look at the annual report. She also encouraged people to get out to the holiday programs taking place in the schools.

Member Harala stated that she is happy with the administrative reorganization and that now there is someone in charge of curriculum and integrated technology learning.

- Chair Miernicki adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of November 18, 2014 at 8:27p.m.

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Chair

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Clerk