

## 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, October 18, 2011

### Members Present:

Gary Glass  
Tim Grover  
Tom Kasper  
Art Johnston  
Judy Seliga Punyko  
Ann Wasson

### Others Present:

Bill Gronseth, Assistant Superintendent  
Bill Hanson, Deputy Clerk  
Melinda Thibault, Secretary  
Student Representatives  
Marcus Jahn  
Lindsay Redenbaugh

### Members Absent:

Mary Cameron

Chair Seliga Punyko called the regular school board meeting of October 18, 2011 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

### M-Wasson, S-Kasper, to approve the agenda as presented.

Member Johnston called a point of order regarding two agenda items (discussion of amendment number two to the red plan, and the resolution for transfer of funds from debt to general accounts) he had requested be put on the agenda by previous notice and submitted for agenda setting and requested that the items be added to the agenda.

Chair Seliga Punyko ruled that the items will not be put on the agenda. Discussion took place regarding the addition of the items.

### M-Johnston, S-Glass, to appeal the decision of the chair.

Discussion took place regarding the appeal.

### Upon a vote to uphold the decision of the chair the same passed 4-2 as follows:

Yea: Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Nay: Glass, Johnston

### M-Johnston, S-Glass, to amend the agenda to add discussion of amendment number two to the original red plan review and comment dated October 13<sup>th</sup> given to board members on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion took place regarding the request to add the item to the agenda.

2-Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
October 18, 2011

**Upon a vote, the same failed 2-4 as follows:**

**Yea: Glass, Johnston**

**Nay: Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson**

**M-Johnston, S-Glass, to add to the agenda discussion on information being presented to the public by the school district on the upcoming election on the operating levy.**

Discussion took place regarding the proposed addition to the agenda.

**Upon a vote, the same failed 2-4 as follows:**

**Yea: Glass, Johnston**

**Nay: Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson**

**M-Johnston, S-Glass, to add to the agenda discussion of staff using internal public school communications and computers to campaign and solicit funds for the upcoming general election of the levy referendum.**

Discussion took place regarding the proposed addition.

**Upon a vote, the same failed 2-4 as follows:**

**Yea: Glass, Johnston**

**Nay: Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson**

**Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same passed 4-2 as follows:**

**Yea: Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson**

**Nay: Glass, Johnston**

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the special school board meeting of September 16, 2011.

**M-Wasson, S-Kasper, to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2011 special school board meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 6-0.**

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the special school board meeting of September 20, 2011.

**M-Wasson, S-Kasper, to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2011 special school board meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 6-0.**

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular school board meeting of September 20, 2011.

3-Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
October 18, 2011

**M-Grover, S-Kasper, to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2011 regular school board meeting.**

Member Johnston stated that the time listed that Member Seliga Punyko arrived was incorrect. Upon review the time is correct – no change to the minutes. Member Johnston noted that in three places within approval of minutes it said Chair Seliga Punyko and it should have been Vice-Chair Wasson. Member Johnston stated that he made a point of order at the end of the meeting that it was illegally adjourned. Upon review the tapes had been shut off at adjournment and there is no record – no change to the minutes.

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

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the special school board meeting of October 6, 2011.

**M-Wasson, S-Kasper, to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2011 special school board meeting.**

Member Glass stated that he had made a motion regarding adding an agenda item to appoint the makeup of the school naming committee and Member Johnston stated he had made a point of order regarding a motion that was on the floor and neither of those items was listed in the minutes.

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

**Public Comments**  
**October 2011**

Bob Lyman, 3205 Greyslon Road, spoke to the board regarding his concern with remodeling at Congdon Elementary School and the plan to buy properties for the relocation of the hockey rink.

Mike Piette, 3214 Greysolon Place, spoke to the board regarding his concern with remodeling at Congdon Elementary School and the placement of the hockey rink which could displace homeowners.

Rich Paulson, 524 West Ideal Street, spoke to the board regarding his concern with the bond resolution on the agenda and the method of borrowing.

Loren Martell, 623 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke to the board regarding his concern with school board members' behavior toward each other at the last meeting.

Scott Fisher, 1801 Wallace Avenue, spoke to the board regarding naming the Eastern Middle School to recommend that the building be named Ordean Middle School.

Claudie Washington, 11 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke to the board in support of renaming the Eastern Middle School the Meyers-Wilkins Middle School.

Marcia Stromgren, 6179 Lakewood Road, spoke to the board regarding a complaint against the district by the MN Voters Alliance and Duluth Taxpayers Association.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**

**October 2011**

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Assistant Superintendent Gronseth acknowledged the communications received.

**Superintendent's Report**

**October 2011**

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Assistant Superintendent Gronseth thanked the community for their help in addressing issues that have come up with the start of the school year.

**Education Committee Report**

**October 2011**

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

Member Wasson 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	Annette Petersmeyer	REACH Program – Making Positive Connections Between At-Risk Youth and the Community	\$2,500	Funds from this grant award will be used to support the REACH Program with student incentives, monthly awards, transportation,

5-Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
October 18, 2011

					and community outings.
2	Qwest Foundation	Bonnie Fritch/Kimberly Evavold-Bolf	2010 Qwest Teachers and Technology Grant	\$7,500	Funds from this grant award were used to purchase and integrate a SMART table into Lakewood's K-3 curriculum in the areas of critical thinking, problem solving, and decision making skills.

Resolution E-10-11-2938

October 18, 2011

**M-Wasson, S-Kasper, to approve Resolution E-10-11-2938 - Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote taken, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**M-Wasson, S-Kasper, to name the Eastern Middle School the Ordean East Middle School.**

Board discussion took place regarding naming of the middle school.

**M-Grover, S-Johnston, to amend Member Wassons motion to name the school Myers-Wilkins Middle School.**

Discussion took place regarding the proposed amendment.

**Upon a vote on the amendment to the motion, the same failed 3-3 as follows:**

**Yea: Glass, Grover, Johnston**

**Nay: Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson**

Discussion took place regarding the original motion and the committee's recommendation.

**M-Johnston, S-Glass, to postpone the motion/decision until the next regular meeting.**

Discussion took place regarding the amendment and what would happen if a decision isn't made.

**Upon a vote, the same failed 3-3 as follows:**

**Yea: Glass, Grover, Johnston**

**Nay: Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson**

**Upon a vote on the original motion to name the school Ordean East Middle School, the same failed 3-3 as follows:**

**Yea: Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson**

**Nay: Glass, Grover, Johnston**

**M-Grover, S-Johnston, to add this item to the November agenda because the board is at an impasse on this issue. Member Grover withdrew his motion and will bring it forward for**

6-Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
October 18, 2011

**placement on the November agenda.**

**M-Wasson, S-Kasper, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report as presented.**

Member Kasper withheld Item A.1) – 2011 MCA and 2011 AYP Results to ask for the reports in color. Member Glass noted his concern with the results and bringing teachers up to speed on the curriculum.

**Upon a vote on the remainder of the Education Committee Report as presented, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**Human Resources Committee Report**

**October 2011**

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

**M-Kasper, S-Wasson, to approve the Human Resources Committee Report, withholding the action items as presented.**

Member Glass asked about co-curricular positions and Member Kasper asked about the number of employee recalls to date.

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

**M-Kasper, S-Grover, to approve the Increase of Hourly Rates for Retired Employee/Laid Off Clerical. Upon a vote the same was approved 5-1 as follows:**

**Yea: Grover, Johnston, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson**

**Nay: Glass**

**M-Kasper, S-Wasson, to approve the Individual Contract for Sarah Ullmer, MN Alliance With Youth. Upon a vote taken, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**M-Kasper, S-Wasson, to approve the New Curriculum & Instruction Coordinator Position.**

Board discussion took place regarding the proposed positions.

**Upon a vote taken, the same was approved – 5-1 as follows:**

**Yea: Grover, Johnston, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson**

**Nay: Glass**

**M-Kasper, S-Wasson, to approve the Revised Job Description for the Federal Programs**

7-Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
October 18, 2011

**Supervisor/Grant Writer. Upon a vote taken, the same was approved – 5-1 as follows:**

**Yea: Grover, Johnston, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson**

**Nay: Glass,**

**Business Committee Report**

**October 2011**

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

**M-Grover, S-Kasper, to approve the Business Committee Report, withholding the resolution, as presented.**

Member Glass withheld Items 1.A., 1.B., and 3.A.1)

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F., 3.A.1), 4.A.1) and 3)

Member Glass withheld Item 1.A. – Financial Report to ask about budget transfers. Jody LeBlanc, Finance Manager explained the transfers.

Member Glass withheld Item 1.B. – Approval of Payment of Claims to ask about attorney costs, and note specific payments to JCI. He also asked for a report of total payments to JCI.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. – WADM Projections to ask about the increase in ADMs. Bill Hanson, Director of Business Services, explained the projections.

Members Glass and Johnston withheld Item 3.A.1) – Suspension of Bylaw 9095 – Order of Business to note their concerns with the proposed agenda.

**M-Grover, S-Johnston, to postpone this item until the November Board meeting. Upon a vote the same passed – 6-0.**

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.A.1) – Delta Dental Renewal to ask about the fee included in the agreement and increases in premiums. Bill Hanson and Jody LeBlanc explained the costs.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.A.3) – Health Reimbursement Arrangement/125 Flex Plan/Third Party Administrators Renewal to clarify that it is for the administration of the program and not the actual insurance. Member Glass asked for information on how many employees are served by the plans.

**Upon a vote on the remainder of the business committee report as presented, the same was approved 4-2 as follows:**

**Yea: Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson**

**Nay: Glass, Johnston**

Member Grover presented the resolution:

Resolution Declaring Intention To Issue General Obligation  
Alternative Facilities Capital Appreciation Bonds, Series 2011b,  
Of Independent School District No. 709 In The Principal Amount  
Of Not To Exceed \$787,634.25

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board (the “School Board”) of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota (the “District”), as follows:

Section 1. Authority. Under and pursuant to the authority contained in Minnesota Statutes, Section 123B.59 (the “Act”), and Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 475, the District is authorized to issue general obligation bonds to provide funds to finance repairs and replacements contained in the District’s ten-year facility plan under the Act, as updated (the “Plan”), as approved by the School Board. The Plan is incorporated in this resolution as though fully specified herein.

Section 2. The Bonds. The School Board hereby determines that it is necessary, expedient, and in the best educational interest of the District’s pupils and residents that the District issue, sell and deliver its General Obligation Alternative Facilities Capital Appreciation Bonds, Series 2011B (the “Bonds”), in the principal amount not to exceed \$787,634.25, for the purpose of providing funds for the abatement of hazardous components at East High School (Ordean), Grant Elementary and Congdon Elementary, pursuant to the Plan (the “Projects”) and costs of issuance of the Bonds.

Section 3. Notice of Intent to Issue Bonds. Pursuant to the requirements of the Act, the Chief Financial Officer/Executive Director of Business Services shall cause the publication in the official newspaper of the District a notice of intent to issue the Bonds for the Projects.

Section 4. Official Intent. This resolution constitutes a declaration of official intent under Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2. The District reasonably expects to reimburse expenditures with respect to the capital expenditures being financed.

**M-Grover, S-Kasper, to approve Resolution B-10-11-2939 – Resolution Declaring Intention To Issue General Obligation Alternative Facilities Capital Appreciation Bonds, Series 2011b, Of Independent School District No. 709 In The Principal Amount Of Not To Exceed \$787,634.25.**

Board discussion took place regarding the resolution.

**Upon a vote, the same was approved – 4-2 as follows:**

**Yea: Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson**

**Nay: Glass, Johnston**

**Other**  
**October 2011**

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Student Representative Jahn stated that in general students are very happy in the new building and some class sizes have improved.

9-Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
October 18, 2011

Chair Seliga Punyko adjourned the regular school board meeting of October 18, 2011 at 9:05 p.m.