

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, May 19, 2015

Members Present:

Annie Harala
Art Johnston
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp (via Skype)
Mike Miernicki
Judy Seliga Punyko (left at 7:29)
Harry Welty
Bill Westholm

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives:

Jude Goossens
Thomas Olafson

➤ Chair Seliga Punyko called the regular school board meeting of May 19, 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 – 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 April 21, 2015.

M-Westholm, S-Harala, to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2015 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. 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 May 12, 2015.

M-Harala, S-Westholm, to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2015 Special School Board Meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 6-0.

School and Community Recognition

May 2015

Ed Crawford: Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to Present Doreen Ruhanen, a teacher at Homecroft Elementary, for recognition. Doreen is the recipient of the 2015 Goldfine Gold Star Teacher Award. Manley and Lillian Goldfine established a fund for the Gold Star Teacher Award in 2006 through the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation, to honor inspirational public school teachers for their dedication, skills and hard work. Nine ISD 709 elementary school teachers were nominated for the Award based on several criteria, including impact in the classroom, school and community, and their efforts to pursue professional development. Doreen Ruhanen was selected for the award by committee through a competitive

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application process. Ms. Ruhanen has taught in Duluth for 25 years and currently teaches first grade at Homecroft Elementary. According to Homecroft Principal Cher Obst, “Students who enter Doreen’s classroom quickly find themselves immersed in a world of wonder, movement and development that keeps them on track and engaged in learning.” Doreen has served on the ISD 709 Service Learning Committee, ISD 709 Reading Pilot and Assessment Committees and has worked as a mentor, training staff on curriculum. She has been involved with Kappa Delta Phi (International Honor Society in Education) and recently received the Cooperating Teacher Exemplary Service Award from the College of St. Scholastica. She has served on St. Scholastica’s Teacher Education Advisory Committee for over 10 years, recommended for the position by colleagues and peers. Volunteer activities include Second Harvest Food Bank, bell-ringing for the Salvation Army, and a community Breakfast with Santa event, among others. Congratulations to Doreen and to all of this year’s Goldfine Gold Star Teacher Award Nominees!

Public Comments

May 2015

Jeff Funk, 4015 Luverne Street, spoke to the school board regarding his concern with lights being installed at the staff parking lot at East High School, and traffic issues at the school site.

Pat O’Connell, 4322 Robinson Street, Duluth Chargers Lacrosse team, spoke to the school board to thank them for approving a MSHSL Lacrosse Team.

Ben Prunuske, a 5th grader at Congdon, spoke to the school board to thank them for supporting the addition of the Lacrosse team.

Laura Larson, a Jr. at East High, spoke to the school board to thank them for supporting the addition of the Lacrosse team.

Daniel O’Connell, a student and Lacrosse player, spoke to the school board to thank them for supporting the addition of the Lacrosse team.

Barb Walcome, 514 Wyoming, spoke to the school board express her concerns with events that took place at the previous board meeting.

Gary Glass, 143 Occidental Boulevard, spoke to the school board to note his concern with the districts proceedings against Art Johnston and the lack of civility among the school board.

Marcia Stromgren, no address provided, spoke to the school board regarding her issues with adding sports and not investing the money in education.

Rogier Gregoire, 321 Harbor Point Circle, spoke to the school board regarding his concern with racists events at Denfeld and the mischaracterization of the issue by the board.

Paul Goossens, no address provided, spoke to the school board regarding the continued bad behavior of the board members.

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Loren Martell, 623 East 7th Street, spoke to the school board regarding his concerns how the special board meeting was handled.

Brad Clifford, 1005 West 6th Street, spoke to the school board regarding his concerns with the proceedings against Art Johnston.

Art Johnston, School Board member, spoke to the school board regarding his concern with the proceedings against him and the actions at the previous special meeting.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

May 2015

Superintendent Gronseth acknowledged the communications that had been received.

Superintendent's Report

May 2015

Superintendent Gronseth: We are busy wrapping up the end of the school year. I am sure the students would be able to tell you that there are just 11 days left in the school year. There are many activities going on in our schools--in fact there is a band concert at East tonight. Our students are very busy with final projects and finishing the year strong.

Last week we had the annual Goldfine Gold Star Teacher Award Celebration. This year the nominees were: Roberg Berg, Stowe Elementary, Carol Gallinger, Congdon Park Elementary, Debra Gilbertson, Piedmont Elementary, Melissa Kelley, Myers-Wilkins Elementary, Anne Krafthefer, Lester Park Elementary, Phyllis Makila, Lakewood Elementary, Doreen Ruhanen, Homecroft Elementary, Melissa Scanlon-Olson, Laura MacArthur Elementary, Cyndi Venberg, Lowell Elementary. While all of the candidates are examples of great teachers, it was Doreen Ruhanen that was the award recipient this year. We congratulate Mrs. Ruhanen and thank her for all she does.

Now let's hear about what is going on in the schools from our student reps: Tommy, would you like to start?

Tommy Olafson- it has been a very busy month with testing. Prom was held earlier in the week. Honors night for graduates is on May 28th and graduation is June 4th. Sports sectionals are coming up. Seniors only have seven days of high school left, and they are excited for the upcoming senior assembly and senior cruise.

Jude Goossens – students are busy wrapping up the end of the year with the testing and then finals. The East Robotics team took first place in state competition. The Executive board and Association have appointed their new officers. Everyone is excited to get out of school. In addressing the issues facing the board of the past few months it is disappointing to see the board's behavior from a student perspective and the board should take the opportunity to move on from here.

Superintendent Gronseth - Tonight we are holding another annual event, the awarding of the Hase Family Scholarship. Fred Hase graduated from Central High School in 1915. The Hase Family Scholarship Trust provides an annual scholarship for a graduate of each of Duluth’s two high schools who are enrolling in a post-secondary school in the Fall. Two non-renewable awards of \$2,250 will be granted this year. The winners are: East High School – Timothy Renier, Denfeld High School Dylan Johnson.

Member Seliga Punyko and Student Advisor Jude Goossens left at 7:29 to attend a Senior Band Concert. Vice-Chair Harala took over the Chair position for the remainder of the meeting.

Education Committee Report
May 2015

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

Member Miernicki 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	Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation – Duluth Public Schools Endowment Fund	Various	Various	\$16,064.55	Funds from these ten grant awards will be used to provide supplemental funding to enrich the academic, cultural, and overall experiences of Duluth Public Schools students and staff. See the attached spreadsheet with additional details.

M-Miernicki, S-Welty, to approve Resolution B-5-15-3267 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

M-Harala, S-Welty, to approve the Education Committee Report.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.4)
Member Miernicki withheld Items 2.D. and 2.E.
Member Welty withheld Items 1.A.2) and 3)
Member Harala withheld Item 2.B.

Member Welty withheld Items 1.A.2) and 3) to note that the school board does have good discussions at the committee meeting and thanked Dr. Carey, Director of Curriculum, for the good presentations and information. Dr. Carey noted that he is only the public face and there is a whole department working in the background that deserves credit.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.4) Summer Curriculum Work to note that members of the NAACP contributed to the conversation at the committee and to note his concerns that we need to be more sensitive.

Member Harala withheld Item 2.B. Recommended Revisions to Policy 6140.10-Co-Curricular Activities Participation Fees to note her concern with the proposed changes and that she has asked for more information.

M-Harala, S-Welty, to table Item 2.B. – Recommended Revisions to Policy 6140.10-Co-Curricular Activity Participation Fees.

Discussion took place regarding the item.

Upon a vote, the same passed – 6-0.

Member Miernicki withheld Items 2.D. and 2.E. - Independent Provider Request/Duluth Equestrian Club to note that there would be no cost to the district for the Equestrian Club program. 2.D. – Create a Duluth Minnesota State High School League Lacrosse Team to urge the board to pass the program and noted that students make lifelong friends in these programs and studies show students who participate in activities do better in school. Discussion continued regarding the program.

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

Human Resources Committee Report

May 2015

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:

RESOLUTION
Education Minnesota Clerical Local 692-A

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 Education Minnesota Clerical Local 692-A, a summary of which is in the hands of all School Board members, be approved and adopted for the periods of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2015, and 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.

M-Miernicki, S-Welty, to approve Resolution HR-5-15-3262 – Approval of Two Contracts for Education Minnesota Clerical Local 692-A, Dated 7/21/13-6/30/15 and 7/1/15 - 6/30/17. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

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

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.D.

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.D. Policy 4015 First reading to note that he didn't attend the committee meeting but that he would like to have more discussion on it at the next meeting. Discussion continued regarding the policy.

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

Business Committee Report
May 2015

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.

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SCHOOL	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME/ORG	RESTRICTION	AMOUNT
Denfeld High		Faith Haven Inc	Speech	75.00
Denfeld High		Kiwanis Club of Spirit Valley Duluth	Key Club	300.00
Denfeld High		Port of Duluth Kiwanis Club	Key Club	300.00
Denfeld High	Norma Hoffbauer	In Memory of John Hoffbauer	Scholarship	1,000.00
Denfeld High	Kathy & James	Doyle	Robotics	50.00
Denfeld High		Irving Community Assn	Girls Basketball	2,000.00
Denfeld High		Irving Community Assn	Boys Basketball	2,000.00
ECSE/District Wide	Christine	Schedin/NuMotion	B-5 Programs/Snug Seat & Giraffe Stander w/Accessories	In Kind
Homecroft		Hermantown Credit Union	Field Trips	200.00
Stowe		Irvin Community Association	Wolf Ridge Trip	1,000.00
Ordean East MS	Celeste	Curley-Black	Art Class	25.00
Ordean East MS	Rebecca	Butler	Art Class	30.00
East High		Rotary Club No. 25 of Duluth	Association	1,000.00
East High		Maurices	General	1,250.00
East High		ICO	Business Professionals of America	2,500.00
East High	Persons, Garry		Band	5,000.00
East High	Duluth East Music Boosters	Attn: Jerry Upton	Choir	4,000.00
East High		Ordean Foundation	Business Professionals of America	2,889.27
East High	Charlotte Boyd		East Robotics	100.00
East High	T.R. Martin		East Robotics	100.00
East High	Kathleen B Thibault		East Robotics	50.00
East High		Ulland Brothers	East Robotics	200.00
East High	Michael Voglewede		East Robotics	50.00
East High	Jennifer Young		East Robotics	100.00
East High	Carol Person		East Robotics	100.00
East High	Janice Small		East Robotics	50.00
East High	Ann Hollick		East Robotics	200.00
East High		F. I. Salter real estate Inc	East Robotics	500.00
East High	Wanda Rentz		East Robotics	200.00
East High	The Liang's		East Robotics	350.00
East High	Wayne Brandt		East Robotics	100.00
East High	David Clapper		East Robotics	250.00
East High	Andrew & Rebecca Wheeler		East Robotics	100.00
East High	Colleen & Robert Porter		East Robotics	100.00
East High	Richard Cleath		East Robotics	100.00
East High	Randy Mohn		East Robotics	100.00
East High	LaCourse & Envall		East Robotics	50.00
East High	Donald & Shirley Tesch		East Robotics	300.00
East High	Deborah Swenson		East Robotics	100.00
East High	Judith Sheriff		East Robotics	50.00
East High	Chris Lane		East Robotics	425.00
East High	John Murphy		East Robotics	100.00
East High	Donna Van Kessel		East Robotics	200.00
East High	Mrs. Lilly Peterson		East Robotics	50.00
East High	Martha Kragenbring		East Robotics	5,000.00
East High	Michael Semotuk		East Robotics	350.00
East High	Gail Watczak		East Robotics	50.00
East High	Ray Higin	MN Forest Industries	East Robotics	50.00
East High	Steve Loudin	Tricel Corperation	East Robotics	500.00
			TOTAL	33,594.27

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M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution B-5-15-3264 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

Member Westholm 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>
ISD709	MN Liquid Asset Fd	XXXXX3	Sheila Stevens	
	MN Trust	XXXXX8	Sheila Stevens	

B-5-15-3265

May 21, 2015

M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve B-5-15-3265 – Authorized Student Activity Bank Account Signer. Upon a vote the same – 6-0.

Member Westholm Presented the Resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N
Ten-Year Capital Facilities Plan – 2015 Update

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, that the Ten-Year Capital Facilities Plan – 2015 Update, is approved.

M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution B-5-15-3268 – Approving the Ten-year Capital Facilities Plan.

Discussion took place regarding the ten year plan.

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

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

Member Harala withheld Item 3.A.

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.B., 1.F, 2.A.3) and 5.E.

Member Harala withheld Item 3.A. Bylaw 9115-School District Elections to ask if members had any questions or concerns with the second reading. Bill Hanson, CFO/Executive Director of Business Services explained that the district is still waiting for confirmation on whether the law related to the change took place during the legislative session and that it could change the outcome of the process if it wasn't. Discussion continued on the subject.

Upon a vote on a separate vote on Bylaw9115-School District Elections, the same passed 4-2 as follows:

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

Member Westholm presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION PROVIDING THAT
SCHOOL BOARD GENERAL ELECTIONS HELD AFTER 2017
SHALL BE HELD IN THE EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS;
ESTABLISHING A TRANSITION PLAN

WHEREAS, the school board has previously determined that the school district should hold its general election in November of the odd-numbered year; and

WHEREAS, the school board now believes that voter participation would be greater and election administration easier if school district general elections were held in conjunction with state general elections in November of the even-numbered year; and

WHEREAS, Laws 1994, Chapter 646, Section 26, Subdivision 1, provides that a political subdivision that initially chooses odd-numbered year elections and later determines to change to even-numbered year elections may do so by the adoption of a new resolution that contains an orderly plan for the transition;

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

1. School board general elections held after 2017 in Independent School District No. 709 shall be held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of the even-numbered year.

2. The terms of office of school board members elected in 2015 will be for a three year term to expire in January of 2019. The terms of office of school board members elected in 2017 will be for a three year term to expire in January of 2021. The terms of office of school board members elected in 2018 will be for a four year term and thereafter. The terms of office of school board members elected in 2020 will be for a four year term and thereafter.

3. The school board shall notify the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located in whole or in part of its determination to hold its general election in November of the even-numbered year in 2018 and thereafter.

B-5-15-3270

May 21, 2015

M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution B-5-15-3270 – Resolution Providing that School Board General Elections Held After 2017 Shall Be Held in the Even-Numbered Years; Establishing a Transition Plan

Discussion took place regarding the resolution.

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

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

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Member Johnston withheld Item 1.B. – Approval of Payment of Claims to note his concerns with legal fees.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. – WADM Projections to note his concern with the drop in student numbers. Discussion continued regarding student numbers.

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.A.3) Western Tennis Courts and Discus Civil plan to ask if the courts would be open to the public. Kerry Leider, explained that they will be working with the City of Duluth on management of the courts. Discussion continued regarding the item.

Member Johnston withheld item 5.E. Sale of Property placeholder to ask what the status of the Rockridge and Morgan Park sales are noting the community in Morgan Park is asking for a discussion with the developers. Kerry Leider stated that having community conversations right now would be too early in their process but that he is confident they will have those conversations at some point.

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

Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Westholm, Welty

Nay: Johnston

Other
May 2015

Vice-Chair Harala adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of May 19, 2015 at 9:10 p.m.