

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, February 15, 2011

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Keith Dixon, Superintendent
Bill Hanson, Deputy Clerk
Melinda Thibault, Secretary

Student Representatives

Marcus Jahn
Lindsey Redenbaugh

Chair Seliga Punyko called the regular school board meeting of February 15, 2011 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

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

Member Glass stated that there were 14 items submitted to the agenda setting session for this board meeting that are not on the agenda.

M-Glass, S-Johnston, to add discussion on required hearings on closing school houses per MN Statute 123B.51 to the agenda.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed addition to the agenda.

Upon a vote the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Glass

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

Upon a vote on the agenda as presented the same passed – 5-2 as follows:

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

Nay: Glass, Johnston

Chair Seliga Punyko asked the student advisors to introduce themselves, and welcomed them.

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the regular school board meeting of January 18, 2011.

2-Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
February 15, 2011

M-Cameron, S-Grover, to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2011 regular school board meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson
Nay: Glass, Johnston

Public Comments
February 2011

Loren Martel, 623 East 7th Street, spoke to the board regarding his concern with the proposed budget shortfall.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.
February 2011

Superintendent Dixon acknowledged the communications received.

Superintendent's Report
February 2011

Superintendent Dixon acknowledged and recognized the following:

- Congratulations to Deb Sauter, principal of Laura MacArthur Elementary School. Deb is one of three finalists for Minnesota 2011 National Distinguished Principal Award. This marks the 28th year the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) have presented the prestigious award.
- Ji-Won Choi (violin) and Henry French (bass), Woodland Middle School, were selected through audition process to participate in the MNSOTA Middle Level Honor Orchestra Concert at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The Middle Level Honor Orchestra's goal is to produce the best possible ensemble with the widest possible representation of students throughout Minnesota.
- Service-Learning Specialist Kathy Bartsias was selected to receive the 2011 State Farm Service-Learning Practitioner Award from the National Youth Leadership Council. She'll receive the award at the National Service-Learning Conference in Atlanta, GA in April.
- Eighth grade students from Morgan Park Middle School are volunteering at Stowe Elementary to help with reading activities. They've created a Reader's Theater, acrostic poetry, and word games. They're serving as role models while encouraging and fostering reading with the younger students

Education Committee Report
February 2011

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

M-Wasson, S-Grover, to approve the Education Committee Report as presented. Upon a vote the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Wasson presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
Fred W. Hase Family Scholarship

WHEREAS, the provisions of the Fred W. Hase Family Scholarship were set up as follows: “The scholarships shall be selected as follows: Any student having a passing grade and a diploma from two schools. The Central High School, Duluth, Minnesota and the Central High School, Bemidji, Minnesota and wishing a university education is eligible. The students wishing to participate shall place their names in a container, and one name drawn each year for each of the above-mentioned schools. The school boards are to supervise such drawing.” and

WHEREAS, Duluth Central High School is set to close after the 2010-11 school year;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board hereby specifically authorizes that upon the closing of Central High School, that portion of the Fred W. Hase Family Scholarship award will be divided equally between East and Denfeld High Schools thus allowing each high school to award a yearly scholarship;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Duluth Public Schools wishes to extend its sincerest appreciation for the Fred W. Hase Family Scholarship.

Resolution #E-2-11-2859

February 15, 2011

M-Wasson, S-Cameron, to approve Resolution E-2-11-2859 – Fred W. Hase Family Scholarship. Upon a vote taken, the same was approved – unanimously.

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.

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	Organization	Author/Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
1.	Minnesota State Colleges and Universities	Jim Arndt	Reallocation of Funds from 2010 Carl Perkins Grant	\$26,903.37	The reallocation of funds will be used to support initiatives within the Lake Superior Consortium.

Resolution E-2-11-2856

February 15, 2011

M-Wasson, S-Cameron, to approve Resolution E-2-11-2856 - Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote taken, the same was approved – unanimously.

Human Resources Committee Report

February 2011

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

M-Cameron, S-Wasson, to approve the Human Resources Committee Report as presented. Upon a vote taken, the same was approved – unanimously.

Business Committee Report

February 2011

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

Member Grover presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Indicating the Intent to Move Forward with an Operating Levy Referendum in November, 2011

WHEREAS the average operating levy for Minnesota school districts is currently \$936 per pupil unit, and

WHEREAS the current operating levy for our district is \$365.60 per pupil unit, and

WHEREAS there is no reasonable expectation for additional funding through state aid which has created a greater need for local support, and

WHEREAS additional funds are needed to create and maintain quality programs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board hereby intends to take future action to place an operating levy referendum on the November, 2011, ballot.

B-2-11-2857

February 15, 2011

M-Grover, S-Wasson, to approve Resolution B-2-11-2857 – Indicating the Intent to Move Forward with an Operating Levy Referendum in November, 2011.

5-Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
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Board member discussion took place regarding conflicting dollar amounts from a board member and administrations presented numbers.

M-Johnston, S-Glass, to table Resolution B-2-11-2857.

Board members discussed the need to support a referendum regardless of differences and the need to find common ground.

Upon a vote to table the item, the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Glass, Johnston

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

M-Wasson, S-Cameron, to amend the resolution so the first paragraph reads “Whereas the current operating levy for Duluth is below the state average and”.

Member Johnston noted his opposition to the amendment.

Upon a vote on the amendment, the same was approved – 5-2 as follows:

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

Nay: Glass, Johnston

M-Glass, S-Johnston, to add a paragraph at the end that says it is necessary to rebuild public trust in this District and we need to become more transparent and we need to open our agenda setting meetings to board members and we need to release the documents that board members have been asking for and not been able to see.

Upon a vote on the amendment the same failed 3-4 as follows:

Yea: Glass, Johnston, Kasper

Nay: Cameron, Grover, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Seliga Punyko called for a vote on the resolution as presented. Member Johnston called a point of order to have discussion before the vote is taken.

Member Johnston noted his concern with the resolution.

Upon a vote on the resolution as amended, the same was approved – 5-2 as follows:

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

Nay: Glass, Johnston

M-Grover, S-Wasson, to approve the remainder of the Business committee report.

Member Grover withheld Item 2.A.1)

Member Glass withheld Items 1.B., 3.A.1), and 3.A.2)

Member Kasper withheld Items 1.F. and 6.D.

Member Johnston withheld Items 2.A.1), 3A.1) & 2), 4.B.4) & 5, 6.D. & E.

Member Glass withheld Item 1.B. – Approval of Payment of Claims to note payments to JCI, the DNT, and legal services.

Member Kasper withheld Item 1.F. – WADM Projections to note his pleasure with the WADM leveling out.

Members Grover and Johnston withheld Item 2.A.1) – Bid 1200 Eastern High School Bid Package #5. Member Grover requested a separate vote on the item. Member Johnston expressed concern that the bid results are not addressed to the District. Kerry Leider, Facilities Management Supervisor explained the bidding process.

Upon a separate vote on Item 2.A.1) Bid 1200 Eastern High School Bid Package #5, the same was approved 5-2 as follows:

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

Nay: Glass, Johnston

Members Johnston and Glass withheld Item 3.A.1) – Bylaw 9000 – Annual Meeting to ask about the proposed change and ask who sets the agenda for the organizational meeting.

Members Johnston and Glass withheld Item 3.A.2) – Bylaw 9045 – Negotiating Committee to note his concern with the change.

M-Glass, S-Johnston, to add a sentence that says as a negotiating committee that the board will meet at least semiannually with the employee groups.

Board discussion took place regarding the proposed amendment and the boards role in the negotiation process.

Upon a vote on the proposed amendment the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Glass, Johnston

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

Discussion continued regarding the process of the board setting parameters for negotiations.

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M-Grover, S-Cameron, to call the question on the remainder of the business committee report. Upon a vote the same was approved 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson
Nay: Glass, Johnston

Upon a vote on the remainder of the business committee report as a whole, the same was approved 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson
Nay: Glass, Johnston

Other
February 2011

Student Advisor Jahn asked about possible money savings by painting the schools less often. Kerry Leider, Facilities Management Supervisor, explained the painting schedule at the schools.

Member Johnston noted his concern that he still had additional items on the business committee to discuss. Chair Seliga Punyko clarified that the committee report had been voted on as a whole.

Member Johnston expressed his concern with the School Exec Connect profile for the superintendent search.

Chair Seliga Punyko adjourned the regular school board meeting of February 15, 2011 at 8:19 p.m.