

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, September 20, 2016

Members Present:

Annie Harala
Art Johnston
David Kirby
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Alanna Oswald
Nora Sandstad (left at 8:20 p.m.)
Harry Welty

Others Present:

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent
Bill Hanson, Deputy Clerk
Jackie Dolentz, Secretary

Student Representatives:

Spencer Fredrickson
Johanna Uden

➤ Chair Harala called the regular school board meeting of September 20, 2016 to order at 6:32 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

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

Chair Harala asked school board members if there was any discussion on the agenda.

M-Sandstad, S-Welty, motioned to amend the agenda to move the Business Committee from 10C to 10A. Upon a vote, the motion to the amend the agenda was approved – unanimously.

Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of August 16, 2016.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2016 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.

Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of August 25, 2016.

M-Sandstad, S-Oswald, to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2016 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.

School and Community Recognition
September 2016

Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present Katie Oliver and John Nachtsheim for recognition. Katie and John were instrumental in helping obtain a \$50,000 grant from the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation to support the parent-teacher home visits project. The project seeks to build a strong connection with parents of school age children by bringing teachers into a student's home to meet their entire family. It's an innovative strategy to help increase family engagement and address the opportunity gap. The Opportunity Gap refers to differences in opportunities available to poor and rich families nationwide. The gap impacts the ability of communities and the nation to solve problems, seize opportunities and achieve goals for education and economic growth. According to Foundation president Holly Sampson, "We hope to make an important difference in the lives of children and families locally as well as develop models that can be expanded and replicated to make meaningful change elsewhere." Thank you, Katie and John, for your work on this important project.

Public Comments
September 2016

Member Loeffler-Kemp read the community vision statement.

Loren Martell, 623 East Seventh Street, spoke to the School Board about the visit by the PMA broker at the June school board meeting.

Sharon Witherspoon, 303 North 53rd Avenue West, Apartment 4, spoke to the School Board about the concerns regarding the achievement gap and curriculum at the Duluth Public Schools.

Karen Perry, 1204 98th Avenue West, spoke to the School Board to discuss communication and ways to implement suggestions that community members have.

Dr. R. Gregoire, 321 Harbor Point Circle, spoke to the School Board about racism and statistics collected to reflect the learning that is taking place at the Duluth Public Schools.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.
September 2016

Superintendent Gronseth stated no communications had been received.

Superintendent's Report
September 2016

Today marks two weeks of school so far and we seem to be off to a good start-- there is a lot going on! Recently the USDA visited our Farm to School Programs and School Gardens. Our schools have beautiful gardens that are producing quite a bit of produce. Our students are able to taste the finished products in the cafeteria and there are several events coming up in the schools that include things like salsa tasting! Besides tasting the produce, students are learning all kinds of lessons through the gardens-- everything from counting skills for first graders, to history and cultural lessons at the middle school. These programs continue to grow and we can look forward to even more connections soon. Our other CTE programs are supporting this too-- our construction program built the sheds! SO many ways for students, parents, and the community to be involved in these efforts! Today was WE Day Minnesota-- a couple of busloads of students headed down to the EXCEL Center to celebrate a year of youth action-- ways that our students work to improve the community through their service. It also serves as motivation for the coming year. The event is HUGE and includes people like Paula Abdul, Jordan Smith, OMI, Sabrina Carpenter, Buzz Aldrin! I'm sure our students will come back full of energy and excitement! There was also a press conference today announcing the return of Kid's Voting to Duluth. Through the work of several partners including the City of Duluth, League of Women Voters, The Y, and others, kids of all ages will be able to vote at all polling places in the school district. I know they are still in need of volunteers to be polling captains. It would be wonderful to have some of our high school students volunteer in this capacity but all are welcome. If you are interested, check out their website at kidsvotingusa.org. I want to share that there are two opportunities coming up for people to share their input-- the first is tomorrow. The city is holding an event at Denfeld High School at 5:30 to kick off "Imagine Duluth". Everyone is invited to share their input regarding their thoughts about the future of the city. Topics such as housing, transportation, and further development will be included. There will be food and activities for the kids as well-- I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of people turn out for this event. The second event is being planned by MDE. It is also an input gathering event --this one around the topic of ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act). State leaders are asking stakeholders for their thoughts on what student success means and how to best measure progress. This is a great opportunity to shape the future of education in Minnesota. This will also be held at Denfeld on Oct. 5 from 6-7:30. And now that school is started up once again, I am sure our students reps have news to share.

Denfeld High: Student Representative Johanna Uden shared thoughts on activities that happened at the beginning of the school year such as welcoming the incoming freshman, a barbeque and an assembly. Students were excited about the football win against their East rival! Students are working hard at getting back into the mindset of returning to school and all that that entails. Students are very excited about the new lab opening in October, and the upcoming Fall Ball, bonfire and homecoming events.

East High: Student Representative Spencer Fredrickson also shared thoughts about the events at the beginning of the school year like the barbeque, assembly and the upcoming homecoming.

Students are looking forward to beating their Denfeld rivals in the soccer game next week, their homecoming football game and are excited about a cyclist at East who was recently placed on the USA amateur bike team with a competition soon in Qatar. Student groups are looking at bullying and mental health issues and how to get more students involved in clubs.

Business Committee Report
September 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 organizations.

SCHOOL	DONOR	AMOUNT	RESTRICTION
Homecroft	Wells Fargo	\$65.00	None
Homecroft	Maurices	\$25.00	None
Lowell	Maurices	\$50.00	None
Lincoln Park	Maurices	\$40.00	Student use
Congdon	Maurices	\$25.00	None
Lester Park	Maurices	\$130.00	None
Lester Park	Kevin Simch	\$428.00	School supplies
	Total	\$763.00	

B-9-16-3394

September 20, 2016

M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve Resolution B-9-16-3394 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Sandstad presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
Maximum Levy Certification

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, will hold a regular school board meeting on December 20, 2016 at 6:30 PM the Board Room of the Historic Old Central High School, and will receive input from the public on the proposed certified levy for 2016 payable in 2017.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board propose the ceiling for the tax levy for Independent School District No. 709 for 2016 payable 2017 at the maximum amount.

Resolution B-9-16-3395

September 20, 2016

M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve Resolution B-9-16-3395 Maximum Levy Certification.

Discussion took place regarding the resolution.

Upon a vote on Resolution B-9-16-3395, the same was approved 6-1.

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Oswald, Sandstad, Welty

Nay: Johnston

Member Sandstad presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
Authorizing the Purchase of Real Property Located at 3215 Elm Street

WHEREAS, the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Duluth (HRA) in 2013 acquired real property located at 3215 Elm Street, Duluth MN, described at Lot 24 and 25 Block 2 Centerdale Addition to Duluth; and

WHEREAS, the HRA has determined the best use of the property is by the ISD 709 for school purposes and has offered to sell the property to ISD709 for One Dollar (\$1.00) plus recording and legal cost estimated not to exceed One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00); and

WHEREAS, The Duluth City Council has approved resolution 16-0593R AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 16-0245R, WHICH AMENDED RESOLUTION NO. 16-0152, WHICH AMENDED RESOLUTION NO. 16-0055, CONFIRMING DEMOLITION ASSESSMENT ROLL TO DELETE A THIRD PROPERTY REDUCING THE AMOUNT ASSESSED, and relating to the subject property resulting in the total cost for acquiring this property by ISD709 at approximately \$1,001.00

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the School Board hereby authorizes the purchase of real property located at 3215 Elm Street, Duluth MN, described at Lot 24 and 25 Block 2 Centerdale Addition to Duluth, in the City of Duluth, in St. Louis County, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the School Board authorizes the School Board Chair to execute a purchase agreement and all other documents required for closing this purchase transaction.

Resolution B-9-16-3396

September 20, 2016

M-Sandstad, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution B-9-16-3396 Authorizing the Purchase of Real Property Located at 3215 Elm Street.

Discussion took place regarding the resolution.

Upon a vote on Resolution B-8-16-3396, the same was approved - unanimously.

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

Member Welty withheld Item 3.B.

Member Oswald withheld Item 3.F.

Member Johnston withheld Items 4.A.1), 4.A.2), 4.A.4) and 5.D.

Member Welty withheld Item 3.B. New Policy 707 – Transportation of Public School Students to discuss the wording.

M-Welty, S-Johnston to amend the last bolded and underlined paragraph on page 3 of the policy to add the following “and a school board member appointed by the school board chair”.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Upon a vote, the amendment to the policy was approved – 6-0.

M-Oswald, S-Welty motion to move section 4E into a regulation and remove it from the actual policy.

Discussion took place regarding this motion.

Member Oswald withdrew her motion.

Member Oswald withheld Item 3.F. New Policy 710 – Extracurricular Transportation to discuss the coach bus provision on page 1, section III.A.2 and to discuss the funding amounts for field trips under page 2, section III.B. Also discussed were items III.B.3 and III.B.4 which references an A-10, which doesn't appear to exist.

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Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.A.1) Duluth Energy Systems Steam Service Agreement to ask if the City will be able to convert enough water into steam to meet bonding requirements.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.A.2) Hallberg Engineering to discuss the amount being charged for re-commissioning to clarify what the District is receiving for this service.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.A.4) ACT District Testing Program – Spring 2017 to discuss the amount of testing that the school district does and any funding the school district receives for providing these tests.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Johnston withheld Item 5.D. Placeholder – Sale of Property to discuss rumors that there have been offers on the properties that the school district has for sale.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote on the remainder of the Business Committee, the same was approved – unanimously.

Education Committee Report
September 2016

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

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

Member Welty withheld Item 1.B.3)

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.B.2) and 1.B.4)

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.B.2) 2016-17 High School Course/Program Offerings Presentation to discuss Principal Sconiers invite to spend time with the school counselors.

Member Welty withheld Item 1.B.3) 2016 ACT Assessment Results to discuss the ACT Themes and Recommendations, and availability of CITS course at the schools.

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Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.B.4) 2016 Multiple Measurements Ratings and Focus Ratings to discuss the statistical significance of the changes in test scores.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

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

Human Resources Committee Report

September 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:

RESOLUTION

Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement Paraprofessional Employees

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 Paraprofessional Employees, a summary of which is in the hands of all School Board members, be approved and adopted for the period of July 1, 2016 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.

Resolution HR-9-16-3393

September 20, 2016

M-Kirby, S-Welty, to approve Resolution HR-9-16-3393 – Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement Paraprofessional Employees.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the same was approved 5-0.

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Oswald, Welty
Abstaining: Johnston

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

Member Johnston withheld Items 2.D. and 3.A.

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Member Johnston withheld Item 2.D. to discuss the Manager of Facilities job description.
M-Johnston, S-Oswald, to amend the job description on page 3 in the Certification or Licensing Requirements Box to delete the word “preferred” at the end of the first sentence and replace with the word “eligible”, add the word “and” on the end of the first sentence; and to delete the word “preferred” at the end of the 2nd sentence.

Discussion took place regarding the amendment.

Member Loeffler-Kemp to call the question. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 4-2.

Yea: Harala, Johnston, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp

Nay: Oswald, Welty

Upon a vote, the amendment to the job description failed – 3-3.

Yea: Johnston, Oswald, Welty

Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp

Member Johnston withheld Item 3.A. BMS Order Regarding the Integration Specialist to discuss the involvement of the BMS in this issue.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Johnston called for a separate vote on Item 2.D. Manager of Facilities job description. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

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

Member Kirby presented the resolution:

SPECIAL 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 grant from said organization 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 organizations.

Organization	Author/Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation – Opportunity Gap Initiative Fund	John Nachtsheim and Katie Oliver	Parent-Teacher Home Visit Project	\$50,000.00	Funds from this grant award will be used to support a parent/teacher home visit program at Lincoln Park Middle School, with hopes of expansion into feeder schools.
Northland Foundation	Amy Starzecki	MDE & MESPA 2016-17 PreK-3 rd Grade Leadership Series Funding Support	\$1,000	Funds from this grant award will be used to support substitute teacher and travel costs for early childhood and elementary teachers and principals to participate in the MDE PreK-3 Building Principals Leadership Series; the Coherence Sessions; and/or the MDE Webinar Series.

Resolution E-9-16-3397

September 20, 2016

M-Kirby, S-Welty, to approve Special Resolution E-9-16-3397 - Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote on the Resolution E-9-16-3397, the same was approved - 6-0.

Chair Harala adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of September 20, 2016 at 9:47 p.m.