

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, December 20, 2011

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives

Marcus Jahn
Lindsay Redenbaugh

- Chair Seliga Punyko called the regular school board meeting of December 20, 2011 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

The Denfeld Chamber Orchestra played for board members prior to the meeting.

M-Wasson, S-Kasper, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same passed – unanimously.

Member Glass noted that he had submitted two items that were not placed on the agenda.

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the special school board meeting of November 10, 2011.

M-Wasson, S-Grover, to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2011 special school board meeting.

Member Johnston noted that on Page 2 the minutes should state that he did attend the closed session. Member Glass noted that he stated he did not plan to record the meeting, not just a no answer.

Upon a vote, the same was approved as corrected – unanimously.

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special school board meeting of November 15, 2011.

M-Kasper, S-Wasson, to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2011 special school board meeting.

Member Johnston noted that the minutes should state that he did attend the closed session. Member Glass noted that he stated he did not plan to record the meeting, not just a no answer.

2-Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
December 20, 2011

Upon a vote, the same was approved as corrected – unanimously.

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the regular school board meeting of November 15, 2011.

M-Wasson, S-Kasper, to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2011 regular school board meeting.

Member Johnston stated that in the Superintendents report it should indicate that he asked a question about the notification from MDE on the review and comment and was told we had not received one.

Upon a vote, the same was approved as corrected – unanimously.

Bill Hanson, CFO, Executive Director of Business Services gave the Truth in Taxation presentation. Member Johnston noted concerns with some of the information presented.

Public Comments
December 2011

Terri Akervik, Music Learning Services, acknowledged a donation by Vega Productions of over 35 musical instruments.

Stephan Gorny, 5210 Greenwood Road, spoke to the school board to thank board members for the new/improved buildings and presented handmade cards from students in the early childhood program.

Adrienne Payne, 4216 Grand Avenue, spoke to the board, regarding issues with her son's needs not being met and issues with the school he attends. Assistant Superintendent Gronseth stated that he is aware of the situation and that the District is working toward a resolution.

Loren Martell, 623 East 7th Street, spoke to the board regarding his concern with the amount of money being spent out of the reserves.

Paul Goossens, 1816 North Road, spoke to the board to extend his appreciation for the service by Tim Grover on the school board.

Bevan Schraw, 531 North 22nd Avenue West, spoke to the school board to congratulate the new board members and to thank Tim Grover and Gary Glass for their service on the school board.

Claudie Washington, 11 West 4th Street, spoke to the school board regarding his disappointment in the compromise in the naming of the middle school.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.
December 2011

Interim Superintendent Gronseth stated no communications had been received.

Superintendent's Report
December 2011

Interim Superintendent Bill Gronseth acknowledged the donation of musical instruments and the musical performance prior to the meeting.

He acknowledged and thanked the outgoing school board members and congratulated Judy Seliga Punyko on receiving the MSBA's Directors Award. He also thanked the outgoing student representatives for their service on the board.

Member Grover made a statement regarding his service on the board.

Member Johnston asked if the District has received a response from MDE on the review and Comment. Bill Hanson explained that he received a letter from MDE with several questions and that he was working on a response.

Education Committee Report
December 2011

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	Victoria Sundell	ECFE Supportive Parenting Group – Early Childhood Special	\$600.00	Funds from this grant award will be used to support the ECFE Supportive Parenting Group.

			Education Project		
--	--	--	----------------------	--	--

Resolution E-12-11-2958

December 20, 2011

M-Wasson, S-Kasper, to approve Resolution E-12-11-2958 - Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote taken, the same was approved – unanimously.

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

Member Kasper withheld Item 1.A.1)

Member Grover withheld Item 2.A.1)

Member Kasper withheld Item 1.A.1) – Anti-bullying Initiatives Underway within the Duluth Public Schools to acknowledged Ron Lake in his new Climate Control position and to state that the Rachaels Challenge Program presentation was wonderful. Student Representatives Lindsay Redenbaugh and Marcus Jahn both noted that the presentation was an important one and had a huge impact.

Member Grover withheld Item 2.A.1) – Recommended Middle and High School Course offerings for the 2012-13 School Year to note that the recommendation should be fixed to state that it is for approval.

Upon a vote on the remainder of the Education Committee Report as presented, the same was approved – unanimously.

Human Resources Committee Report
December 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 Building Systems Technology coordinator position. Upon a vote, the same was approved - unanimously.

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

Business Committee Report
December 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 AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE
GENERAL FUND TO THE DEBT SERVICE FUND REGARDING
FINANCING OF THE LONG-RANGE FACILITIES PLAN**

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

Section 1. A. The Board approved a Long-Range Facilities Plan, as amended (the “Facilities Plan”), which calls for renewal and remodeling of existing school facilities, additions to existing facilities and construction of new schools.

B. The District has submitted the Facilities Plan to the Minnesota Department of Education (i) for approval of the Facilities Plan; (ii) for approval of the financings for the Facilities Plan, and (iii) for review and comment on the Facilities Plan. The Commissioner of Education has approved the Facilities Plan and the financing for the Facilities Plan.

C. The District has issued six series of obligations to finance the Facilities Plan, including the \$71,170,000 Taxable Full Term Certificates of Participation, Series 2009A (Build America Bonds – Direct Pay), dated October 1, 2009 (the “Series 2009A COPs”).

D. The financing plan for the Facilities Plan anticipates canceling all or a portion of tax levies for the Series 2009A COPs each year from general fund monies derived primarily from operational savings, rebates and grants and proceeds from the sale of excess properties.

Section 2. The Board hereby authorizes, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 475.61, Subd. 3(g), the permanent transfer of funds from the General Fund (Fund 01) to the Debt Service Fund (Fund 07) in the amount of \$4,587,733.00 for the purpose of canceling a portion of the tax levy for the Series 2009A COPs for Levy Year 2011/Collection Year 2012.

B-12-11-2955

December 20, 2011

M-Grover, S-Wasson, To Approve Resolution B-11-11-2955 – Resolution Authorizing Transfer Of Funds From The General Fund To The Debt Service Fund Regarding Financing Of The Long-Range Facilities Plan.

Discussion took place regarding the transfer.

M-Johnston, S-Glass to delete the \$4,587,733 amount and replace it with \$2,323,290.58, which is the amount listed in the review and comment document.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed amendment.

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

Yea: Glass, Johnston

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

Upon a vote on original resolution, the same passed 5-2 as follows:

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

Nay: Glass, Johnston

Member Grover presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Certified Tax Levy 2011 Payable 2012

BE IT RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, to hereby set the Tax Levy for 2011 Payable 2012 at \$25,848,261.61.

B-12-11-2956

December 20, 2011

M-Grover, S-Wasson, to approve Resolution B-12-11-2956 – Certified Tax Levy 2011 Payable 2012

Board discussion took place regarding the resolution.

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

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

Nay: Glass, Johnston

Member Grover presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

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 Auth. Signer</u>
East	Northshore Bank Of Commerce	XXXXXXX9		Nathan Glockle
ALC (GED)	DTCU	XXXX9		Michael Conboy
Laura MacArthur	Western	XXXXXXX2	Nathan Glockle	Deb Sauter
Morgan Park	Park State Bank	XXXXXXX0	Susan Cora	Yvonne Eider

B-12-11-2957

December 20, 2011

M-Grover, S-Kasper, to approve Resolution B-12-11-2957 Authorized Account Signers..

7-Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
December 20, 2011

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously

M-Grover, S-Wasson, to table Resolution B-12-11-2954 – to Approve the Joint Powers Collaborative Agreement with the City of Duluth. Upon a vote to table the resolution, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Grover, S-Kasper, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee Report, as presented.

Member Johnston withheld Items 2.C.1), 3.A.1) for a separate vote, 4.A.1) & 2) for a separate vote, 4.B.1), 4.B.2), and 6.E.

Member Glass withheld Item 1.A., 1.B. and 4.B.3)f. for a separate vote.

Member Glass withheld Item 1.A. – Financial Report, to comment on what funds the auditors seem to focus on, and other areas he believes should be looked at. Bill Hanson commented on Member Glass' concerns.

Member Glass withheld Item 1.B. – Approval of Payment of Claims to note payments to JCI.

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.C.1) – Quote 4101 Intrusion Detection System at Eastern Middle School (Ordean East Middle School) to ask if it is within the budget. Kerry Leider, Facilities Management Supervisor, stated that it remains within budget.

Upon a separate vote on Policy 9000, the same approved – unanimously

Upon a separate vote on 4.A.1) - Contract for Tutoring Services, the same was approved – unanimously

Upon a separate vote on 4.A.2) – Speech Partners LLC, the same was approved – unanimously

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B.1) Denfeld High School Change Orders to ask if any of the money is dependent on the pending review and comment. Kerry Leider stated it was not. Further discussion took place regarding the funding.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B.2) East High School Change Orders to ask if any of the money is dependent on the pending review and comment. Kerry Leider stated it was not. Further discussion took place regarding the funding.

Upon a separate vote on Item 4.B.3)f. Eastern Middle School Change Orders, the same was approved 6-0 with Member Cameron not at her station.

Member Johnston withheld Item 6.E. – JCI Long Range Facilities Plan Status Report to ask why he hadn't been informed of the delays at Congdon and Grant. Kerry Leider explained that it had

8-Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
December 20, 2011

been discussed with board members and that the delay is due to waiting for a response from MDE on the review and comment. Discussion continued regarding the fact that it had been discussed with board members.

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

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

Special Resolutions
December 2011

Member Grover presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

School Board Member Attendance at MSBA Leadership Conference

RESOLVED, That Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, pay costs incurred, as per District policy, for school board members to attend the *Minnesota School Boards Association 91st Annual Leadership Conference* in Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 11-13, 2012.

B-12-11-2952

December 20, 2011

M-Grover, S-Kasper, to approve Resolution B-12-11-2952 – School Board Member Attendance at MSBA Leadership Conference. Upon a vote, the same was approved -unanimously

Member Grover presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

School Board Member Attendance at MSBA Phase I and Phase II Orientations

RESOLVED, That Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, pay costs incurred, as per District policy, for newly elected school board members to attend the Minnesota School Boards Association Phase I and Phase II Orientations in December 2011 and/or January 2012.

B-12-11-2953

December 20, 2011

M-Grover, S-Kasper, to approve Resolution B-12-11-2953 – School Board Member Attendance at MSBA Phase I and Phase II Orientations. Upon a vote, the same was approved -unanimously

9-Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
December 20, 2011

Other
December 2011

Member Cameron thanked the student representatives for the service and stated that she is relying on them to help educate others on who Ruth Myers and Marge Wilkins were. She also congratulated and thanked Members Grover and Glass for their service on the board.

Member Glass made a statement regarding his service on the board.

Member Grover thanked the student representatives for their service on the board stating that they brought an important perspective to the table. He also thanked Chair Seliga Punyko for her service as Board Chair.

- Chair Seliga Punyko adjourned the regular school board meeting of December 20, 2011 at 8:41 p.m.