

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, November 15, 2016

Members Present:

Annie Harala
Art Johnston
David Kirby
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Alanna Oswald
Nora Sandstad
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 November 15, 2016 to order at 6:50 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Sandstad, S-Oswald, to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Upon a vote, the same 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 October 18, 2016.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2016 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

School and Community Recognition

November 2016

Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present Camille Murphy, RN and Emily Onello, MD for recognition. Camille is a licensed school nurse in the Duluth School District and was nominated for the 2014 CDC Childhood Immunization Champion Award. Dr. Onello is an assistant professor in the department of Family Medicine and Community Health at the University of MN Medical School in Duluth and a practicing physician at the Lake Superior Community Health Center. Working together, they wrote and published an immunization article in the September issue of *Minnesota Physician*. They wrote about strengthening the partnership between primary care physicians and school nurses to help improve immunization compliance and communication. Immunizations are one of the best weapons we have against a number of serious diseases. Minnesota's Immunization laws protect everyone, because high immunization levels prevent disease outbreaks. Their work is an excellent example of the power of community partnerships to help support the well-being of students. Congratulations on the publication of this important article and thanks for all the work you do to ensure our schools are healthy places to learn.

Public Comments
November 2016

Member Loeffler-Kemp read the community vision statement.

Karen Perry, address not given, spoke to the School Board regarding communication and transportation concerns.

Mark Irving, 4923 Ivanhoe Street, spoke to the School Board regarding the Many Rivers Montessori offer to purchase vacant property (Rockridge) from ISD 709.

Ron Gullicks, 4801 Norwood Street, spoke to the School Board regarding the Many Rivers Montessori offer to purchase vacant property (Rockridge) from ISD 709.

Bernie Burnham, 4130 West Fourth Street, spoke to the School Board about the 20 newly tenured teachers at ISD 709. Lincoln Park Middle School is working to improve parent/family communications with the teachers/schools.

Anne Krafthefer, 1601 East Fourth Street, spoke to the School Board about the Feeding Local Kids initiative.

Matt Pursi, 1601 East Fourth Street, spoke to the School Board about the Denfeld theatre program.

Charly Frederick (Denfeld student), 401 North 44th Avenue West, spoke to the School Board about her connection with the Denfeld theatre program.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.
November 2016

Superintendent Gronseth stated no communications had been received.

Superintendent's Report
November 2016

I want to start by addressing what I believe to be a very serious issue. Since last week's election we've seen an increase in intolerant student behavior related to race, religion, and gender identity. Intolerant language, images and behavior are unacceptable in our schools and will result in serious disciplinary measures for those involved. We encourage students and families to report any information related to these or other bullying behaviors to an adult or through the school websites reporting forms. We ask that staff and families take time to talk with students about respectful behavior and the negative consequences of intolerance to individuals, our community and nation. In the coming days and weeks, the Duluth Schools will work to reaffirm our dedication to creating safe and welcoming environments where all feel valued and

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respected. We'll be sharing additional resources with our staff and providing learning opportunities for our students. Dr. El-Kato will be spending time in both of our high schools addressing the topics of racism and micro-aggressions. He will also be holding community events on Thursday-- one at UWS during the noon hour and the other at CHUM in the evening. At a time when our country is so divided we must be vigilant, work together as a community regardless of political affiliation, and do our best to ensure that every student feels safe, welcome and supported in school. I want to thank the outpouring of support we have felt throughout the community. I also want to share how our students responded-- I am so proud of them. Earlier today Johanna posted a video on Twitter with #takebackourwalls that demonstrates how Denfeld responds to hate. Thank you again, to the students and staff who are serving as leaders as we work to mend our wounds as a community.

On another note, last Thursday we held the Annual Meeting. This was another great example of staff and students coming together to shine a light on the many amazing things happening in the Duluth Schools. There were many table displays, student music performances by Sterling Strings, The Choralaires, and the Jazz Band. There were delicious--and I mean really good-- refreshments made by our culinary students. The Denfeld and East robotics teams were on hand, and we shared the Annual Report Summary Video. This is a great tool for sharing information about our district with others. You can find the video on our website at www.isd709.org.

Finally, I want to congratulate the teachers that were recognized in a reception before the meeting. These teachers have reached tenure status with the Duluth Schools. We had a large group this year which is nice to see. Thanks again for all of your hard work!

Denfeld High: Student Representative Johanna Unden shared that Denfeld students are dealing with the post-election emotions and feelings this past week, the same as the whole country. Students are focusing on spreading positivity. Post-election conversations are taking place so students can share what they are feeling. The Boys' Soccer team did go to state this year (first time since 2004). Two swimmers went to state as well! The MN Indian Education Association Female Athlete of the Year was from Denfeld (selected from the entire state). The first musical at Denfeld in a couple of years was the Little Shop of Horrors and it had a lot of great feedback. The Fall Ball dance was just held and was a good time. Students are currently collecting food for an annual food drive via a competition between classes.

East High: Student Representative Spencer Fredrickson shared that East students have been very busy. Cinderella, held in late October, was a hit! The Robotics team is building their new robot and is off to a good season. Sports are getting under way for hockey, ski and basketball. Three cross country runners qualified for state and did very well. 800 students showed up for the Harvest dance and it was a hit! Scholarship night was recently conducted by school counselors. The post-election mood at the school has been low as well and students are working hard to support each other. Spencer read a statement from the East students.

Education Committee Report

November 2016

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

Member Loeffler-Kemp 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 organizations.

Organization	Author / Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
Northland Foundation	Tom Albright	AmeriCorps Support and Training	\$15,000	Funds from this grant award will be used to support operating costs for True North AmeriCorps programming in all nine elementary schools in ISD 709.

E-11-16-3404

November 15, 2016

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve Resolution E-11-16-3404 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report.

Member Oswald withheld Item B.3.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.B.2)

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.B.2) Full Service Community Schools Presentation to comment on the presentation and the strong programs at Myers-Wilkins. Member Johnston also commented that some of the goals of the program have not been accomplished yet and hoped that progress could be made on these goals.

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Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Oswald withheld Item B.3. Course Guides and Program Changes for 2017-18 to express concern regarding lack of access to CITS classes at Denfeld.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the remainder of the Education Committee Report was approved – unanimously.

Human Resources Committee Report
November 2016

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

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

Member Welty withheld Item 2.A.
Member Oswald withheld Item 3.A.
Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 3.A.

Member Welty withheld Item 2.A. Approval of Douglas Hasler Individual Contract to discuss the district's need for this position to provide financial guidance for the district.

Member Johnston requested a separate vote on 2.A.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, Item 2.A. Approval of Douglas Hasler Individual Contract – Chief Financial Officer and Executive Director of Business Services Contract, was approved – 5-2.

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

Member Oswald withheld Item 3.A. BMS Integration Specialist to discuss funding for the Integration Specialists and if we would be able to continue to support their work.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 3.A. BMS Integration Specialist to thank those involved in the negotiations for working in good faith.

Upon a vote, the remainder of the Human Resource Committee was approved - unanimously.

Business Committee Report
November 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
Congdon	Xin Liang	\$300.00	Art Department
Congdon	Anonymous	\$600.00	Art Department
Denfeld	Duluth Softball Club, Inc.	\$5,000.00	To promote and expand opportunities for girls fast pitch softball in the Duluth area
Denfeld	Great Denfeld AGY Class of 1965	\$4,000.00	For various teachers for various supplies
HOCHS	Northern Business Products	In kind	No
Homecroft	Wells Fargo	\$65.00	No
Homecroft	Jacob & Katherine Dryke	\$100.00	No
Homecroft	Allen Klingsporn & Pauline Russell	\$50.00	No
Homecroft	Anonymous	\$20.00	No
Laura MacArthur	McDonald's	\$531.63	No
Laura MacArthur	Network for Good	\$100.00	No
Laura MacArthur	Maurices	In-kind	No
Lester Park	Jan Pilon	In kind	No
Lester Park	Gayle Koop	\$50.00	No
Lester Park	Catherine Nachbar	\$25.00	No
Lester Park	Lori Amundson	\$50.00	No
Lester Park	Anonymous	In kind	No
Lincoln Park	Maurices	In kind	No
Myers-Wilkins	JoAnn Fabrics	\$2,000.00	No

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Myers-Wilkins	Kelly Erickson	\$500.00	Media Center
Ordean-East	Maurices	\$25.00	No
Ordean-East	PG&E Corp Foundation	\$249.00	No
Ordean-East	PG&E Corp Foundation	\$249.00	No
Ordean-East	PG&E Corp Foundation	\$249.00	No
Ordean-East	Target	\$226.70	No
Ordean-East	Ordean East PTA	\$500.00	Greenhouse
Ordean-East	Carmen K Arnold	\$100.00	Greenhouse
	Total	\$14,990.33	

B-11-16-3405

November 15, 2016

M-Sandstad, S-Johnston, to approve Resolution B-11-16-3405 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Sandstad presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
Authorized Bank Account Signer

RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that it hereby authorizes the following:

District Building	Banking Institution	Account Number	Addition of Authorized Signer	Removal of Authorized Signer
Congdon Park	North Shore	XXXXXX4030	Mikilia Carroll	Jacqueline Dolentz

Resolution B-11-16-3406

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M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve Resolution B-11-16-3406– Authorized Bank Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

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

- Member Welty withheld Item 4.A.1)
- Member Kirby withheld Item 3.A.
- Member Oswald withheld Items 3.A. and 6.F.
- Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F.
- Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 6.A.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. APU Projections to comment on enrollment numbers and projections.

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Member Kirby withheld Item 3.A. New Policy 707 – Transportation of Public School Students to ask about student loss due to having to walk in cold weather because they don't live far enough away from the school to ride the bus.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Welty withheld Item 4.A.1) School Transportation Services to discuss fuel costs and the ability to negotiate if oil prices go down. Member Welty inquired if a report could be sent to School Board members regarding transportation issues per a concern raised by a parent during the public comment section of the School Board meeting.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 6.A. Expenditure Contracts to highlight the different types of cultural learning contracts that the school district is signing and the number of ways the district is using community services to benefit staff and students.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Oswald withheld Item 6.F. Discussion regarding Many Rivers Montessori School to discuss ways to move items up on the agenda during committee meetings to accommodate the general public when they attend committee meetings.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

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

➤ Chair Harala adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of November 15, 2016 at 9:08 p.m.