

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, April 23, 2013

Members Present:

Mary Cameron
Tom Kasper
Mike Miernicki
Judy Seliga Punyko
Ann Wasson
Bill Westholm

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives:

Erik Thibault
Katlyn Persch

Members Absent:

Art Johnston

➤ Chair Kasper called the regular school board meeting of April 23, 2013 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. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same was approved – 6-0.

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of March 19, 2013.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Westholm, to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2013 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of March 19, 2013.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Westholm, to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2013 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved 6-0.

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of April 2, 2013.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Westholm, to approve the minutes of the April 2, 2013 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of April 15, 2013.

M-Westholm, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2013 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

School and Community Recognition

April 2013

The school board acknowledged/congratulated:

- Clairia Poirier, Kelly Popham and Christine Karas have been named 2013 National Merit Scholarship Finalists. The National Merit Scholarship program is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. High School students enter the program by taking the Preliminary STA/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. This test screens roughly 1.5 million entrants each year. Students must have an outstanding academic record and be endorsed and recommended by a high school official.
- Christine Karas is a member of the Daredevils Robotics team, she's on her way to St. Louis for the World Championships this evening or she would be here.

Public Comments

April 2013

Lynn Amerman Goerdts and Bob Grytdahl, of the Clayton, Jackson, McGhie Memorial Group, spoke to the school board regarding education equity issues and shared the policy goals that their group has created. They reminded board members of the need to invest time and energy and to partner with local groups to achieve education equity.

Michael Chelseth, 4511 Jay Street, spoke to the school board regarding his concern that the zero hour be maintained in order for students take additional classes.

Loren Martell, 623 East 7th, spoke to the school board regarding his concern with articles published in the newspaper misleading the public about the District's budget issues.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

April 2013

Superintendent Gronseth stated that no communications had been received.

Superintendent's Report

April 2013

Superintendent Gronseth thanked everyone for their understanding and cooperation with the snow days in recent weeks.

He also stated that he is thankful for the quality teachers in the District and the way we treat each other in the classroom and the workplace.

Education Committee Report
April 2013

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

Member Cameron presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N
VALUES, BELIEFS, VISION AND MISSION
COMMUNITY VISION FOR INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 709

WHEREAS, Through the Think Kids initiative, people across Duluth, MN were invited to participate in a community-wide conversation about education;

WHEREAS, Nearly 2,000 citizens from all walks of life took part – community and business leaders, neighbors, groups and organizations, parents, teachers, students and more – through over 60 meetings, online surveys and other communication venues, sharing their thoughts about what’s going well, what could be improved, what needs to be done now, and what should be done in the future;

WHEREAS, Common themes have been identified throughout the Think Kids conversations that represent our values, beliefs and priorities for the future;

WHEREAS, Overall, our community values schools where educational excellence and a supportive environment provide each student with the skills and experiences they need in order to learn, grow and be successful, and Duluthians recognize that strong schools are key to the success of our community;

WHEREAS, The final vision document, along with priorities identified through Think Kids, will be used to create a District-wide continuous-improvement plan, which will be used to guide the development of individual school improvement plans;

WHEREAS, The Purpose of Independent School District 709 is to provide a quality education that prepares all students for successful lives as global citizens in the home, community and workplace.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the shared values, beliefs, vision, and priorities identified by the community and captured in the draft vision document, with the above Purpose of ISD 709, be adopted as the Values, Beliefs, Vision and Mission for ISD 709.

Resolution E-04-13-3086

April 23, 2013

M-Cameron, S-Wasson, to approve the Resolution E-4-13-3086 – Purpose of ISD 709 and Draft Community Vision Document for Think Kids: Values, Beliefs, Vision and Mission for ISD 709. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

Member Cameron 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	Lloyd K. Johnson Foundation	Bill Gronseth	Youth Success Teams/AmeriCorps Support Project	\$10,000	Funds from this grant award will be used to help support having AmeriCorps in the Duluth Public Schools.

E-4-13-3085

April 23, 2013

M-Cameron, S-Wasson, to approve the Resolution E-4-13-3085 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

M-Cameron, S-Westholm, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report as presented.

Board members discussed the closed campus item and clarified that it was for information only at this point.

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

Human Resources Committee Report

April 2013

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

M-Westholm, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the Human Resources Committee Report as presented. Upon a vote on the Human Resources Report as presented, the same was approved – 6-0.

Business Committee Report

April 2013

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

Member Seliga Punyko presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Approval of the Master Plan for Duluth's Memorial Park near Laura MacArthur School

WHEREAS, the Duluth School Board approved by Resolution B-11-10-2832 a Resolution approving the Joint Powers Agreement between the City of Duluth and Independent School District #709 relating to Laura MacArthur School and Memorial Park, and subsequently executed such Joint Powers Agreement; and

WHEREAS, The Joint Powers Agreement requires the written approval of the Memorial Park and Laura MacArthur School Master Joint Use Plan, and such Plan shall be reviewed by the City and School District every five years; and

WHEREAS, The City has completed a Mini-Master Planning Process for the Memorial Park lands and has requested the Memorial Park Master Plan created by that process be approved as the Memorial Park and Laura MacArthur School Master Joint Use Plan specifically relating to the City owned Memorial Park lands only; and

WHEREAS, the portion of the Memorial Park and Laura MacArthur School Master Joint Use Plan relating to the School District owned property will be reviewed and updated at a later date;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The School Board of Independent School District #709 hereby approves the December 2012 Memorial Park Master Plan as the Memorial Park and Laura MacArthur School Master Joint Use Plan relating to the City owned Memorial Park.

B-4-13-3088

April 23, 2013

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve Resolution B-4-13-3088 – Approval of the Master Plan for Duluth's Memorial Park Near Laura MacArthur School. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Westholm, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee Report as presented.

Member Miernicki asked about the savings in energy report that had been provided to board members. Kerry Leider, Facilities Management Supervisor, stated that the District expects to the projected energy savings.

Erik Thibault asked if there would be follow-up to the vending machine issue. Bill Hanson, Director of Business Services, stated that there would be a request for bid sent out for water machines and that administration expects more information to come to the board in May.

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Member Westholm asked about the Key Zone contracts and if the program had been run before. It was clarified that the programs existed prior and that this is the first year that the programs have been combined with the YMCA.

Upon a vote on the remainder of the business committee report as presented, the same was approved 6-0.

Other
April 2013

Chair Kasper asked for an update regarding the planning commission's decision not to rezone the Rockridge property. Discussion took place regarding the property, rezoning, and options the District has.

Student Advisor Thibault noted his concern that some sophomore students have been told they can't take zero hour classes next year. Superintendent Gronseth stated that administration would work to get the confusion on the issue straightened out.

➤ Chair Kasper adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of April 23, 2013 at 7:31 p.m.