

## 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, March 19, 2013

### Members Present:

Mary Cameron  
Tom Kasper  
Mike Miernicki  
Art Johnston  
Judy Seliga Punyko  
Bill Westholm

### Others Present:

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

### Student Representatives

Erik Thibault

### Members Absent:

Ann Wasson

- Chair Kasper called the regular school board meeting of March 19, 2013 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

The Denfeld Little Mob and Solid Gold groups performed for the school board prior to the meeting and at the start of the meeting.

**M-Seliga Punyko, S-Westholm, 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 February 26, 2013.

**M-Seliga Punyko, S-Westholm, to approve the minutes of the February 26, 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 February 26, 2013.

Member Johnston stated that he had made a point of order that wasn't included in the minutes, and noted his concern with his motions not being included in the minutes. Discussion took place and it was noted that his motions were not seconded and therefore not recorded. He also stated that there were several other mistakes on page five that he would submit later. Chair Kasper stated that his concerns had been noted.

**M-Seliga Punyko, S-Westholm, to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2013 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 5-1 as follows:**

**Yea: Cameron, Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm**

**Nay: Johnston**

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Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of March 11, 2013.

**M-Seliga Punyko, S-Westholm, to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2013 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**Public Comments**  
**March 2013**

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Terry Akervik, Music Curriculum Specialist, spoke to the school board regarding Music in Our Schools Month and upcoming events taking place.

Jane Rudd, 2733 Northridge Drive, spoke to the school board regarding her concern with the cuts to the music programs at all grade levels.

Zane Kaiser, a student at Denfeld, 236 West Winona Street, spoke to the school board regarding the possible loss of zero hour and alternative music programs.

Leslie Churchill, no address provided, spoke to the school board regarding her concerns with the effect the six period day, at the middle level, is having on the music programs.

Megan Rudd, 2733 Northridge Drive, spoke to the school board regarding how music has helped her in her student career and her concerns with the loss of music programs in the schools due to the loss of zero hour and the six period day at the middle schools.

Andrew Martin, 5612 Columbia Street, spoke to the school board regarding his concern with the loss of music programs in the schools due to the loss of zero hour and the six period day at the middle schools.

Carl Soderberg, 312 North 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue West, spoke to the school board regarding how music has helped his daughter in school and his concern with the possible loss of music programs in the schools.

Cris Stolen, a student at Denfeld, 3310 Commonwealth Avenue, spoke to the school board regarding how music has helped him in school and his concerns with the loss of music programs due to cutting the zero hour.

Laura Warren, 2222 Woodland Avenue, spoke to the school board regarding her concern with the possible loss of music and art programs due to the cut of zero hour.

Henry Helgen, 5422 Wyoming Street, spoke to the school board regarding his concern with the possible loss of music programs due to the loss of zero hour and middle school programming.

Sandy Bacon, 2502 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke to the school board regarding the upcoming meeting regarding construction at Condon Park Elementary and asked board members not to choose recreational space over safety and handicap accessibility issues.

Sue VanOss, 2427 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, spoke to the school board regarding her concern with choices

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being put forward for construction at Congdon Park, and not to choose recreational space over safety and handicap accessibility.

Kim Wood, 2408 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, spoke to the school board to ask that they move forward with the limited use design elevator and other accessibility items at Congdon Park Elementary School.

Tom Ruther, 5114 Oakley, spoke to the school board regarding his concern with the future use of the Rockridge Elementary property, and the pending land use change.

Mary Larson, 4853 Glendale, spoke to the school board regarding her concern with the future use of the Rockridge Elementary property.

Brian Medred, 4906 Glendale, spoke to the school board regarding his concern with the possible future use of the Rockridge Elementary property and the possible loss of green space.

Barb Soder, 5025 Glendale, spoke to the school board regarding her concern with the future use of the Rockridge Elementary School site.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**

**March 2013**

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Superintendent Gronseth stated that no communications had been received.

**Superintendent's Report**

**March 2013**

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Superintendent Gronseth thanked all the speakers and performers for attending. He stated that the board would support the limited use elevator at Congdon Park, that the elimination of the zero hour has not been decided and it is an ongoing discussion.

Superintendent Gronseth Congratulated/acknowledged:

- **St. Louis/Carlton County Pheasants Forever representatives** - Chapter President Phil Storsteen and Youth Director David Lood presented a check for \$18,670 to be applied toward the purchase of land for a project called Habitat for Homecroft. This project focuses on establishing an outdoor classroom adjacent to Homecroft Elementary School, where school and community youth will receive hands-on learning about wildlife ecology, conservation and biology within a natural environment.
- Really proud of the Denfeld and East Robotics Teams. Through a partnership with the Duluth News Tribune, East's team produced a special insert about the regional robotics competition, they did a great job.
- Also proud of the Denfeld and East Hockey teams, great job.
- East Hockey fans conduct at State Tournament
- Congratulations to Kevin Smalley, Denfeld and Mike Randolph, Duluth East. They were named John Mariucci Award winners as state high school boys hockey coach of the year

in Class A and AA, respectively, as chosen by the Minnesota Hockey Coaches Association. Denfeld's Bryan Lent was named Class A assistant coach of the year.

- We were pleased to welcome Minnesota's Education Commissioner Brenda Casselius to Duluth earlier this month. She came to hear about special education in Duluth and to talk about the Governor's proposal to reduce the impact of unfunded state and federal mandates on public schools.
- Nearly 2,000 people have participated in the Think Kids conversation through community, parent and staff meetings, online surveys and other communication venues, sharing their ideas for the future of our public schools. Those results are being used to help create a common educational vision for ISD 709. A draft vision document, along with detail from the community conversations, will be available to the public for review and comment beginning the week of March 25 at [duluth.k12.mn.us](http://duluth.k12.mn.us). A final document is expected to be presented next month. The final vision document will be used to guide decision-making and influence school and district continuous improvement plans.
- **Cassie Mahlberg, Denfeld High School:** Cassie was selected for the 2013 Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Award. She will go on to compete with other youth on the state and national level.
- **-Kirsi Kuutti, captain of the Duluth East Daredevils Robotics Team.** Kirsi is a recipient of the Minnesota Aspirations for Women in Computing Award for High School Students. The award was presented by Advance IT Minnesota.

### **Education Committee Report**

**March 2013**

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

**M-Cameron, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the Education Committee Report as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 5-0 (with Member Cameron absent from voting).**

### **Human Resources Committee Report**

**March 2013**

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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**

**March 2013**

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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:

R E S O L U T I O N  
Designation of Depository and Acceptance of Collateral

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes and at the request of the financial institution, the National Bank of Commerce wishes to be a designated depository of District funds.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, By the School Board of Duluth Public Schools, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that National Bank of Commerce shall be a depository of the funds of this School District for up to one year period commencing January 1, 2013, and said bank shall be required to deposit for said district collateral securities, if required by Minnesota statutes, subject to approval by the School Board, and kept in trust.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Treasurer, Clerk, and/or Director of Business Services shall be authorized to arrange for the exchange, release, or placing of collateral, provide that in all instances such exchange, releases, or placing of additional collateral shall be approved by the school board and all new collateral shall be placed in trust.

B-3-13-3079

March 19, 2013

**M-Seliga Punyko, S-Cameron, to approve Resolution B-3-13-3079 Designation of Depository and Acceptance of Collateral. Upon a vote the same was approved 6-0.**

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

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.F., 1.G. and 1.H. for a separate vote, 4.B., 6.A. and F, and 6.H.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. – WADM Projections to note his concerns with the numbers, and the budget issues facing the district. Discussion continued regarding enrollment numbers.

**Upon a separate vote on item 1.G. – Fundraisers, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**Upon a separate vote on item 1.H. – Investments in School Children, the same was approved – 6-0.**

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B. - Change Orders to note his concerns with the change orders.

Member Johnston withheld Item 6.A. – Expenditure Contracts to state that he supports this item but will vote against the entire report.

Member Johnston withheld Item 6.F. – Change Orders Pertaining to the Long-range Facilities Plan to note his concerns with the change orders.

Member Johnston withheld Item 6.H. – Actuarial Presentation to ask what the cost was. Jody

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LeBlanc, Finance Manager, stated he would get the cost to him but he thought it was under \$9,000.00. He also noted concern with the district being solvent in the future.

**Upon a vote on the remainder of the business committee report as presented, the same was approved 5 – 1 as follows:**

**Yea: Cameron, Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm**  
**Nay: Johnston**

**Special Resolutions**  
**March 2013**

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Member Miernicki presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
**Board Member Attendance at the MSBA 2013 Joint Legislative 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 2013 Joint Legislative Conference* in St. Paul, Minnesota, on March 20-21, 2013.

SP-3-13-3078

March 19, 2013

**M-Miernicki, S-Westholm, to approve Resolution SP-3-13-3078 – Board Member Attendance at the MSBA 2013 Joint Legislative Conference, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**Other**  
**March 2013**

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Student Advisor Erik Thibault asked Superintendent Gronseth if zero hour is available to incoming freshmen and the Superintendent said yes it is. He also noted concerns brought forward regarding the loss of the vending machines at the high schools. Mr. Gronseth stated that administration is working on plans regarding bringing back a water vending machine but the others were taken out relative to the wellness policy, he added that the issue could always be discussed. Member Miernicki asked to put the issue on the business agenda for discussion.

➤ Chair Kasper adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of March 19, 2013 at 8:29 p.m.