

## **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, January 23, 2018

### **Members Present:**

Josh Gorham  
David Kirby  
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp  
Jill Lofald  
Alanna Oswald  
Nora Sandstad  
Sally Trnka

### **Others Present:**

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent  
Doug Hasler, Deputy Clerk  
Jackie Dolentz, Secretary

### **Student Representatives:**

Maggie Carlos (Denfeld)  
Finnegan White (Duluth East)

➤ Chair Kirby called the regular school board meeting of January 23, 2018 to order at 6:33 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

### **M-Kirby, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the agenda as presented.**

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

### **M-Sandstad, S-Oswald, to move the Compensatory Education Revenue Update to before the Committee Reports. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

### **Upon a vote, the agenda was approved as amended – unanimously.**

Chair Kirby asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of December 19, 2017.

### **M-Gorham, S-Lofald, to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2017 Regular School Board Meeting as presented.**

### **Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.**

Chair Kirby asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Annual Organizational School Board Meeting of January 2, 2018.

### **M-Gorham, S-Oswald, to approve the minutes of the January 2, 2018 Annual Organizational School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**School and Community Recognition**

**January 2018**

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Members of the Board, I'd like to introduce the following people and invite them to come forward:

- Ashley Stalvig, Technology & Innovation Manager and Coordinator for Community Giving, United Piping, Incorporated;
- Craig Fellman, President, The Jamar Company;
- Scott Kyrola, President, Northland Constructors of Duluth;
- Kirk Ilenda, Business Development Manager, The Boldt Company; and
- Sandy Johnson, Manager of Member Relations & Administration, APEX.
- Mike McParlan, COO for APi Group, Inc. was unable to join us tonight.

This fall and winter our high school Construction Technology students worked with Lake Superior College to build a Duluth-area home. It's hands-on work, providing real-world experience, much of it outdoors. As temperatures dropped, conditions became unsafe. Despite the cold weather, our students didn't want to leave the work unfinished. Together, The Boldt Company, APi Group, Inc., United Piping, Inc., The Jamar Company, Northland Constructors and APEX donated essential cold weather work gear, including jackets, bibs, hats, gloves and safety glasses. With appropriate gear, the students continued their work and the donations will be used for years to come. The Construction Technology program devised a check-out system to ensure students can access the gear they need. As mentioned by APEX President and CEO Brian Hanson, our region is experiencing a shortage of young people entering the trades and many local companies have good paying positions waiting to be filled. Our Career and Technical Education programs can help connect students and their families to attractive career options in the trades. Many thanks to all of you and to your companies for your generous support of students and of this program; you are truly making a difference.

**Public Comments**

**January 2018**

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Stacey Achterhoff, 1409 East Tenth Street, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

Bernie Burnham, 4130 West Fourth Street, spoke to the School Board to welcome the new Board members and to thank the returning Board members. She also spoke about social justice at the union level, raising the standard of living for all and the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

John Krumm, 3645 East Third Street, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

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Andromeda Leigh, no address provided, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

Linda Grover, 3227 Celia Street, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

Bob Miller, 3783 Haines Road, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

Catherine Nachbar, 5118 Colorado Street, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

Lynn Goerdt, 427 Howard Gnesen, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

Sharla Gardner, 1411 East Ninth Street, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

Cruz Mendoza, 222 North Second Avenue East, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

Louise Levy, 722 North 13<sup>th</sup> Ave East, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

Rogier Gregoire, 321 Harbor Point Circle, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

Audrey Eller, 414 North First Avenue East, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

Mary Owen, 3645 East Third Street, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

Doris Malkmus, 1925 Jefferson Street, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

Kevin Skwira-Brown, no address provided, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

Stephan Witherspoon, no address provided, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

Dr. Arnie Vainio, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

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Janet Kennedy, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

Maggie Fink, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about the distribution of compensatory education funds in the district.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**  
**January 2018**

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Superintendent Gronseth stated one communication had been received:

01/12/18 - Letters addressed to the School Board from Heather Kemp's Fifth grade class thanking the School Board for funding the bussing that made their experience with the Starbase program possible.

**Superintendent's Report**  
**January 2018**

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Our thoughts are with the families in Kentucky tonight as some of their students didn't come home. ISD 709 will continue to review and enforce all security protocols to keep our students safe.

Thank you to everyone who came tonight to share their thoughts on compensatory education fund distribution. The district is deep into budget preparations for next year with many involved parties. A draft budget should be available for the March Board meeting or soon thereafter.

This week is Paraprofessional Week and I want to take a moment to celebrate their work. Paraprofessionals work in many roles to support students throughout the district; probably in more categories than people might realize. They serve in classrooms from Head Start through high school, but also serve as lifeguards, language facilitators, community liaisons, American Indian Education liaisons, technical tutors in our CTE programs, Occupational and Physical Therapy Assistants, nurses, and more. Every day paraprofessionals work closely with our students and their families to provide the support they need to thrive in school and in the community. Their work makes a difference in the lives of all of our students and they are surely seen as 'sheroes' and heroes! Thank you for all you do for our students and Happy Paraprofessionals Week. Reach out and thank our paraprofessionals!

Earlier this month Rockridge Academy, formerly Woodland Hills Academy, officially opened in its new location. Teachers and students are really happy with the new building; it is a big improvement. We are planning to host a community open house sometime in February. Watch the details which we will share through all of our usual communication channels. You won't want to miss the opportunity to visit the newly remodeled building. I also want to thank Dave Spooner, Facilities Manager, who worked with Kraus Anderson and the rest of our partners to complete this project on a very tight timeline.

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Registration time for the 2018-19 school year is here! We recently held an Open House for our Immersion Programs. It was very well attended and many families have already registered for next year. If people are interested in learning more they can visit the ISD 709 website. The number of sections offered is dependent upon how many people register so don't delay and sign up as soon as you're ready. Our middle and high school students will also be registering for classes soon and the course book is available online. I encourage everyone to look into our Career and Tech Courses and higher rigor courses. They offer our high school students great opportunities, and in most cases, college credits!

Many of our schools will be holding conferences in the coming weeks. We know that students who have families engaged in their learning process are more successful and achieve at higher levels. We encourage all families to be in communication with their child's teachers. We would also like to thank our staff for all of the time and effort that goes into preparing for conferences. The information that you share and the feedback you provide on student's progress toward their goals is vital to their ongoing success.

It is now time for our Student Representative reports. This is their first regular meeting as student school board representatives and we are excited to have them join us. As has been the practice for a few years now, the student representatives will be providing us with a monthly report on some of the events at school, and will hopefully be sharing a bit about some of the academic topics and projects they are working on at school as well. Now, here are the reports from our high school student representatives.

Duluth East High School: Student Representative Finn White introduced himself to the School Board. Students are getting back into the swing of things after finals. The recent Sweetheart dance was successful with great music and dancing. January brought the end to the hat and mitten drive with proceeds donated to Myers-Wilkins and Loaves and Fishes. The boys' hockey team is doing great, as well as the swim team with school records being set. Coming this Thursday is Night of the Arts, which is a one act play with performances by the speech team; all are welcome and invited!

Denfeld High School: Student Representative Maggie Carlos introduced herself to the School Board and thanked the Superintendent for the recent day off (snow day). January 12<sup>th</sup> was proclaimed CJ Hamm Day (or Minnesota Vikings Day) and even the most diehard Packer and Bronco fans dressed in purple to support our Minnesota team! 250 students attended Cocoa and Cram in preparations for finals with help from fellow students and teachers. Open lunch during finals was a success with students being good neighbors to the surrounding community. Senior scholarships is currently happening; good luck to Seniors! February 5<sup>th</sup> will be the orientation for the class of 2022! February 6<sup>th</sup> is the launch of the Denfeld After School Happening program, known also as DASH. This program will cover items such as personal wellness, academics, activities and athletics. DTA bus passes will be provided and classes are free! Fine Arts Night is on February 5<sup>th</sup> and will be showcasing Denfeld's music, art and theatre; everyone is invited!

**Compensatory Education Funding**

**January 2018**

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Per the motion at the approval of the agenda, Business Committee Item 5.B. Resolution B-1-18-3520 Distribution of Compensatory Education Fund be moved to the beginning of the Committee Reports. The remainder of the Business Committee report will follow.

Member Sandstad gave a brief background presentation on this resolution and the involvement of many individuals and groups.

Member Sandstad presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

**Distribution of Compensatory Education Funds**

WHEREAS, the Duluth Public Schools recognizes that to achieve the paramount community goal of increasing the preparedness, achievement and success for students who are presently underachieving, it is important that compensatory education funding be employed to meet the educational needs of these pupils. To that end, the School Board establishes the following parameters for expenditure of compensatory education revenue:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that in FY 19, each of the 13 traditional school sites (Denfeld High School, Duluth East High School, Ordean Middle School, Lincoln Park Middle school, and Elementary Schools: Congdon, Homecroft, Lakewood, Lester Park, Lowell, Laura MacArthur, Myers-Wilkins, Piedmont, and Stowe) will receive at least 80% of the compensatory education revenue generated by the students at each site.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in each of the subsequent two years, the minimum percentage of compensatory education revenue to be allocated to each of these 13 identified sites will be increased by five percent reaching 85% in FY 20 and 90% in FY21 and beyond.

Resolution B-1-18-3520

January 23, 2018

**M-Sandstad, S-Oswald, to approve Resolution B-1-18-3520 – Distribution of Compensatory Education Funds.**

Discussion took place regarding this item.

**M-Kirby, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to Postpone Definitely this Resolution until the March School Board meeting.**

Discussion took place regarding this motion.

**Upon a vote, the motion to Postpone Definitely until the March School Board meeting failed 1-6 as follows:**

**Yea: Kirby**

**Nay: Gorham, Lofald, Loeffler-Kemp, Oswald, Sandstad, Trnka**

**Upon a vote, Resolution B-1-18-3520 – Distribution of Compensatory Education Funds passed as presented – unanimously.**

**Business Committee Report**

**January 2018**

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Member Trnka presented the Business Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

Member Trnka 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 individuals and organizations.

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>DONOR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>RESTRICTION</b>
ALC	Linda Blair	In Kind	None
ALC	Scott Forbort	\$100.00	ALC holiday auction
Child Nutrition	Anonymous	\$300.00	Apply to unpaid lunch balances at middle/ high schools
Child Nutrition	Anonymous	\$200.00	Apply to unpaid lunch balances at Homecroft Elementary
Child Nutrition	Anonymous	\$25.00	Apply to unpaid lunch balances
Congdon	Tom / Bonnie Johnson	\$500.00	Destination Imagination
Denfeld	Christian Eggert Violins	In Kind	Orchestra
Denfeld	Northstar Ford	In Kind	None
Denfeld / East	Boldt Company	In Kind	Students enrolled in the Construction Program
Denfeld / East	United Piping, Inc.	In Kind	Students enrolled in the Construction Program
Denfeld / East	APi Group	In Kind	Students enrolled in the Construction Program

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Denfeld / East	The Jamar Company	In Kind	Students enrolled in the Construction Program
Denfeld / East	Northland Construction	In Kind	Students enrolled in the Construction Program
East	Essentia Health Attn: Colleen Baggs	\$100.00	Sterling Strings
East	Full Circle Sr. Living (Diamond Willow)	\$100.00	Sterling Strings
East	Lynn Wegner	\$150.00	Sterling Strings
East	McCabe Forest Products	In Kind	Forest and Outdoor Program
East	North Shore Scenic RR	\$200.00	Sterling Strings
East	Rotary Club - Harbortown	\$250.00	Sterling Strings
East	Scottish Rite	\$300.00	Sterling Strings
East	St. Anne's	\$200.00	Sterling Strings
East	Anne Whitworth / David Kirby	\$250.00	Girls' Swim Team
Laura MacArthur	Rotary Club No. 25 of Duluth	\$800.00	Prairie Fire, Jody Peck
Laura MacArthur	Rotary Club of Duluth Harbortown	\$700.00	Prairie Fire, Jody Peck
Lowell	Lowell Elementary PTA	\$2,656.06	Printer/Scanner system
Ordean-East	Bucket	\$141.00	Electric door at the garden area
Ordean-East	Bucket	\$146.00	Electric door at the garden area
Ordean-East	Buckets	\$7.00	Electric door at the garden area
Ordean-East	Buckets	\$99.00	Electric door at the garden area
Ordean-East	Daugherty Appliance	\$25.00	Robotics Club
Ordean-East	David / Stacey Stark	\$50.00	Robotics Club
Ordean-East	Dianna Sundahl / PG&E	\$498.00	Students use
Ordean-East	PG&E Employee Matching Fund	\$498.00	Student use
Ordean-East	Duluth-Superior Area Community Foundation	\$3,199.00	Polly Tracey \$1,199.00 and Nathan Norman \$2,000.00
Ordean-East	EHS class of 1960	\$2,856.15	To purchase 6 benches
Ordean-East	Gregory / Jill Hilliard	\$50.00	Robotics Club
Ordean-East	Heartwood Construction Inc	\$50.00	Robotics Club
Ordean-East	Maren / Michael Sharland	\$50.00	Robotics Club
Ordean-East	Mary Amerman	\$50.00	Robotics Clubs
Ordean-East	Minnesota Power Employees Credit Union	\$500.00	Robotics Club
Ordean-East	Nathan / Jessica Funk	\$50.00	Robotics Club
Ordean-East	Nayyer / Qasim Mujeba	\$50.00	Robotics Club
Ordean-East	River Quest	\$250.00	River Quest for Gr. 6 for 2016-17
Piedmont	Arlayne Fremling	In Kind	Large rug for a teacher's classroom



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**M-Trnka, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-1-18-3519 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Trnka presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
2018 Legislative Platform

RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the attached 2018 Duluth School District Legislative Platform be adopted.

B-1-18-3521

January 23, 2018

**M-Trnka, S-Gorham, to approve Resolution B-1-18-3521 – 2018 Legislative Platform. Upon a vote, the same passed – unanimously.**

**M-Trnka, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report. Upon a vote, the remainder of the Business committee report was approved – unanimously.**

**Human Resources Committee Report**

**January 2018**

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Member Gorham presented the Human Resources Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

**M-Gorham, S-Oswald, to approve the Human Resource Committee report. Upon a vote, the same was approved - unanimously.**

**Education Committee Report**

**January 2018**

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Member Lofald presented the Education Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

Member Lofald 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:

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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 this organization.

Organization	Author / Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
Lester Park Foundation	Nicki Seibert	Lester Park Foundation – Winter Cycle	\$1,688.67	Funds will be used to purchase misc. classroom/school supplies for Lester Park Elementary School

E-1-18-3518

January 23, 2018

**M-Lofald, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution E-1-18-3518 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**M-Lofald, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**Other**  
**January 2018**  
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**M-Oswald, S-Gorham, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

➤ Chair Kirby adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of January 23, 2018 at 9:08 p.m.