

## 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, September 22, 2015

### Members Present:

Art Johnston  
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp  
Mike Miernicki  
Judy Seliga Punyko  
Harry Welty  
Bill Westholm

### Others Present:

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

### Student Representatives:

Jude Goossens

### Members Absent:

Annie Harala

### Others Absent:

Thomas Olafson

➤ Chair Seliga Punyko called the regular school board meeting of September 22, 2015 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

**M-Miernicki, S-Welty, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same passed – 6-0.**

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of August 18, 2015.

**M-Miernicki, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2015 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 6-0.**

### **School and Community Recognition** **September 2015**

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Amy Starzecki: Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present representatives from the Denfeld Link Crew and the Duluth East Hound Pack for recognition. With us tonight from Denfeld are (TBA) and from Duluth East - Kristin Warmanen, Becca Moen, Anna Karas and Jack Miles. We know the transition from middle school to high school is a critical time for students. One way to help make that transition a smooth one is through the work of groups like the Denfeld Link Crew and Duluth East Hound Pack. These student leaders are trained to support incoming ninth grade students and ensure they get off to a good start in high school. They help orient ninth graders to the school, inform them of activities and opportunities, make introductions and assist in many different ways, making them feel at home. They help build a feeling of connectedness, serving as role models and mentors and important information resources. The work of our Link Crew and Hound Pack students contributes greatly to the success and well-being of our newest high schoolers. Many thanks to these outstanding student leaders and advisers for helping our incoming ninth graders experience a positive and productive start to the school year.

**Public Comments**  
**September 2015**

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Member Loeffler-Kemp read the community vision statement.

Aaron Crowell, 5802 Glenwood Street, spoke to the board on behalf of Duluth Parents for Healthy Playgrounds requesting that tire mulch be removed from the playgrounds in the District.

Marcia Stromgren, no address provided, spoke to the school board regarding her concerns with the costs associated with a collaborative area being constructed on the third floor of HOCHS.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**  
**September 2015**

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Superintendent Gronseth recognized the communications received.

**Superintendent's Report**  
**September 2015**

We often talk about the importance of partnerships and community support for our schools. We're fortunate to live and work in a community where the education of children is an important priority. --Today Maurice's held their "Best Day Ever" event. Employees from Maurices travelled all over the city, giving back to the community -- and that included visiting schools and providing supplies. I know our schools are very appreciative of this program.

--This month second grade students at Myers-Wilkins Elementary received a great surprise - free Duluth Pack backpacks, courtesy of a generous and anonymous donor. The backpacks are built to last a lifetime - I'd love to see pictures of these students years from now, using those backpacks as they start their first day at college.

--The Minnesota Supreme Court will soon be visiting Duluth. They will be at Denfeld where students from all over the region will be able to hear live oral arguments from a real court case. There is an opportunity for the community to spend some time with the Supreme Court Judges as well

-- UMD will be serving as host for a community dinner. Tickets are available for purchase on the UMD website for \$15.

--You may remember hearing about our partnership with a school in Dalian, China-- on this coming Monday, students from Dalian will be arriving. They will be attending school and living with host families for about three weeks. We are looking forward to their visit! We are also beginning to plan for our students trip to Dalian next Spring. In addition to the visiting Chinese students, we are also hosting students from Germany! Programs like these provide our students with a global perspective. Interacting and getting to know people from another culture opens a whole new world of possibilities for students.

--Our student reps have been back in school for a few weeks now so I'm looking forward to hearing about some of the happenings at our schools. I know Tommy is at a big soccer game against Hermantown tonight--so Jude, it's up to you!

Jude Gooseens – East High, everyone is getting back into the groove of school, they had a carnival at the end of the first week, fall sports are in full swing, and he reviewed upcoming events at East.

**Education Committee Report**  
**September 2015**

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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 various organizations.

	Organization	Author/Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
1	Northland Foundation	Jay Roesler	ISD 709 Early Childhood- Kindergarten Transition and Alignment	\$4,000	Funds from this grant award will be used to support Duluth Public Schools student transition and alignment from early child to kindergarten.

E-9-15-3297

September 22, 2015

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution E-9-15-3297 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

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

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.3)

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.A.2) and 1.A.4)

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.2) High School Course/Program Offerings for the 2015-16 School Year to note his concerns with some areas at Denfeld and some disparities between East and Denfeld. Discussion continued regarding the issue.

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.3) 2015 ACT Assessment Results to ask for additional information on participation and results. Discussion continued regarding the data.

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Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.4) Multiple Ratings and Focus Ratings to note disparities between schools and the achievement gap. Discussion continued regarding the results.

**Upon a vote on the remainder of the Education Committee, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**Human Resources Committee Report**  
**September 2015**

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

Item 2.A. Placeholder for Individual Contracts was pulled.

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

Member Johnston withheld Item 3. – Approval of New Policy 4180 Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers – Second Reading to note that he would not support it.

**Upon a vote on the Human Resources Committee report, the same was approved – 5-1 as follows:**

**Yea: Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Welty, Westholm**

**Nay: Johnston**

**Business Committee Report**  
**September 2015**

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

Member Westholm presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Authorizing a Joint Powers Agreement with the  
State of Minnesota/Perpich Center for Arts Education

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, that the Joint Powers Agreement between the State of Minnesota/Perpich Center for Arts Education and the ISD 709 Ordean East Middle School attached hereto is hereby approved.

SEE ATTACHED

B-9-15-3298

September 22, 2015

**M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution B-9-15-3298 – Entering into a Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Minnesota/Perpich Center for Arts Education. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

Member Westholm presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N  
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:

<u>District Building</u>	<u>Banking Institution</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Addition of Authorized Signer</u>	<u>Removal of Authorized Signer</u>
Congdon	Northshore	XXXXXXX0	Jacqueline Dolentz	
Lakewood	Northshore	XXXXXXX7	Darren Sheldon Erica Wittmers-Graves	Phyllis Makila
Lowell	DTCU	XXXXX4	Jennifer Larva	
Piedmont	DTCU	XXXXX4	Beth Shermoen	

B-9-15-3299

September 22, 2015

**M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve B-9-15-3299 – Authorized Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

Member Westholm Presented the Resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N  
Maximum Levy Certification

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, will hold a regular school board meeting on December 15, 2015 at 6:30 PM the Board Room of the Historic Old Central High School, and will receive input from the public on the proposed certified levy for 2015 payable in 2016,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board propose the ceiling for the tax levy for Independent School District No. 709 for 2015 payable 2016 at the maximum amount.

B-9-15-3300

September 22, 2015

**M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution B-9-15-3300 – Maximum Levy Certification.**

Discussion took place regarding the levy certification.

**Upon a vote, the same was approved – 5-1 as follows:**

**Yea: Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Welty, Westholm**  
**Nay: Johnston**

Member Westholm 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 various organizations.

SCHOOL	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME/ORG.	RESTRICTION	AMOUNT
Denfeld		Walmart	Vizio Flat Screen/Fab Lab	In Kind
Lester Park		Lester Park PTA	None	1,310.00
			TOTAL	1,310.00

B-9-15-3301

September 22, 2015

**M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution B-9-15-3301 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report.**

Member Johnston withheld 1.A.

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 6.A.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A. – Financial Report to note his concerns with attorney fees.

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 6.A. – Expenditure Contracts to note some of the contracts are for staff training.

**Upon a vote on the remainder of the Business Committee, the same was approved 5-1 as follows:**

**Yea: Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Welty, Westholm**

**Nay: Johnston**

**Other**  
**September 2015**

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Chair Seliga Punyko adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of September 22, 2015 at 8:17 p.m.