

Minutes of the Special School Board Meeting

Of the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 held at virtually via video conference, Duluth, Minnesota 55802, on

Thursday, August 6, 2020

Members Present:

Kelly Durick Eder
David Kirby
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Jill Lofald
Paul Sandholm
Alanna Oswald
Sally Trnka

Others Present:

John Magas, Superintendent
Cathy Erickson, CFO
Melinda Thibault, Secretary

Student Representatives:

Nabiha Imtiaz

➤ Chair Lofald called the Special School Board meeting of August 6, 2020 to order at 5:04 p.m. Chair Lofald made a statement regarding holding the meeting remotely.

➤ Return to Learn Plan

Superintendent Magas reviewed additional information regarding the return to learn plan, and announced that he would be recommending a hybrid model for both elementary and secondary in the fall.

Discussion took place regarding the recommendation.

Member Lofald presented the resolution:

Resolution

Adoption of Base Learning Model for the 2020-2021 School Year and Other COVID-19 Related Matters

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 123B.09 vests the care, management, and control of independent districts in the school board; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Independent School District 709 [hereinafter the “Superintendent”] is responsible for the management of the schools, the administration of all School District policies, and is directly accountable to the School Board; and

WHEREAS, when responsibilities are not specifically prescribed nor School District policy applicable, the Superintendent shall use personal and professional judgment, subject to review by the School Board, pursuant to School District Policy 302, *Superintendent*;

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-01, which declared a peacetime emergency in Minnesota in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on July 30, 2020, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz issued Emergency Executive Order 20-82 and the Safe Learning Plan for 2020-2021 (the “Safe Learning Plan”), which set forth five Learning Models (in-person learning for all, in-person learning for

elementary students and hybrid learning for secondary students, hybrid learning for all students, hybrid learning for elementary students and distance learning for secondary students, and distance learning) and authorized all school districts in the State of Minnesota to select and implement an appropriate base Learning Model in accordance with, and subject to, the Safe Learning Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Education (“MDE”) has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on educational issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Health (“MDH”) has issued and may continue to issue written guidance for Minnesota schools on public health issues related to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent and the administration of the School District have conferred with the School Board regarding the available Learning Models, the current MDE and MDH requirements for each, and other relevant information; and

WHEREAS, based upon the collective consideration of these factors, the Superintendent has recommended to the School Board that Hybrid for Elementary and Secondary will be the base Learning Model to be implemented at the commencement of the 2020-2021 school year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 as follows:

Section 1: The Superintendent is hereby directed to implement the following base Learning Model to open the 2020-2021 school year: Hybrid learning with strict social distancing and capacity limits. Hybrid learning is used to describe classes in which some traditional face-to-face instruction has been replaced by distance learning activities. It includes limiting the overall number of people in school facilities and on transportation vehicles to 50% occupancy. Sufficient social distancing with at least 6 feet between people will be the expectation. The number of days of in-person learning is related in part to facilities capacity and the ability to transport students to school. Social distancing means fewer students on a bus and fewer students in a classroom.

Section 2: The Superintendent is hereby authorized, after consultation with the School Board Chair and notification to the School Board, to select and implement a different Learning Model for the School District or any specific school buildings without School Board action if the Superintendent reasonably believes that prompt implementation of a different Learning Model is necessary, and that constraints of time and public health considerations render it impractical to hold a School Board meeting to approve the implementation. The Learning Model selected and implemented by the Superintendent shall continue in effect unless and until the School Board, in consultation with the Superintendent and appropriate school district staff and public health officials, deems it in the best interest of the School District and its students to implement a different Learning Model.

Section 3: The Superintendent will provide regular updates to the School Board regarding the School District’s efforts to implement COVID-19 related educational and public health guidance issued by the MDE and the MDH, respectively.

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M-Durick Eder, S-Oswald, to approve Resolution SP-8-20-3752 Adoption of Base Learning Model for the 2020-2021 School Year and Other COVID-19 Related Matters.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed hybrid/hybrid model recommendation.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-1 as follows:

Yea: Durick Eder, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Lofald, Oswald, Sandholm

Nay: Trnka

M-Trnka, S-Durick Eder, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

➤ Chair Lofald adjourned the Special School Board meeting of August 6, 2020 at 9:00 p.m.