

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 16, 2014

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives:

Paul Manning
Kobi Tremble

➤ Chair Miernicki called the regular school board meeting of September 16, 2014 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Harala, to approve the agenda as presented.

M-Miernicki, S-Seliga Punyko, to call the question. Upon a vote the same passed 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm

Nay: Johnston, Welty

M-Johnston, S-Welty, appeals the chairs decision to not allow discussion on the agenda.

Discussion took place regarding the appeal.

Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same was approved – 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm

Nay: Johnston, Welty

Chair Miernicki asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of August 19, 2014.

M-Westholm, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2014 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.

Member Westholm noted the passing of Jon Donahue.

School and Community Recognition
September 2014

Ed Crawford: Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present Deb Wagner, ISD 709 Homeless Program Coordinator, and Meg Kearns, Distributive Director for CHUM, for recognition. For over 10 years, CHUM, their community partners and the ISD 709 Homeless program have worked together to help make sure the first day of school is exciting for all students and families. They do this by ensuring backpacks and school supplies, along with other back to school resources, are available for children in need. Over 800 backpacks and supplies are provided each year through CHUM's Adopt-A-Backpack program. Donations come from community members and organizations and other CHUM partners. Since 2002, CHUM has collected at least 7,000 backpacks to children in need. Backpacks and supplies are then distributed through the ISD 709 Back to School Fair. This fair provides parents and students an opportunity to access school and community resources that assist with the start of school. We're pleased to recognize the efforts put forth by Meg Kearns at CHUM and Deb Wagner from the ISD 709 Homeless program, to help support local children and families.

Public Comments
September 2014

Linda Puglisi, 424 98th Avenue West, a Physical Education teacher at Lincoln Park Middle School, spoke to the School Board regarding the episode at the Lincoln Park pool and the need for life guards during swimming classes. She stated that although the outcome was the best possible that they need life guards to ensure the safety of the students.

Nicole Johnson, 1523 8th Avenue, parent at Lester Park and on behalf of other parents, spoke to the School Board to request an additional first grade teacher at the site to lower class sizes.

Richard Paulson, 524 West Ideal Street, spoke to the School Board to state his concern with not receiving a response to his data practices request to review the teacher's contracts.

Barb Walcome, 5314 Wyoming, spoke to the School Board regarding concerns with the sound system and the difficulties the Board Chair has had with it.. She also stated that she would like to see discussion regarding the soft costs for the facilities plan.

Marcia Stromgren, no address provided, spoke to the School Board regarding her concern with teaching to standards and not to the students and that Minnesota needs to rethink the use of testing.

Loren Martell, 623 East 7th Street, spoke to the School Board regarding his concern with how the board agenda is set.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.
September 2014

There were no communications received.

Superintendent's Report
September 2014

Superintendent Gronseth thanked Mrs. Puglisi for her service and everything she did in response to the pool incident last week. He stated that administration was already having discussions regarding adding life guards to the swim classes.

School is under way! We have had a good first two weeks of school. We still have a few staffing items to care of. We are in need of substitute/guest teachers and paraprofessionals. People who are interested in serving as subs/guest teachers or paras can visit our website and complete the online application. And I would like to add another reminder about the importance of immunizations. There are some policy changes starting this year for Kindergarten and Seventh Grade students. We want everyone to be in school, and we also want everyone to be immunized. So if your students haven't been immunized yet please do so! I also wanted to mention that our school gardens are amazing. They have really grown some amazing produce! I know that a few schools are busy planning some tastings and have students out digging in the dirt and harvesting. I'm proud of the work that has gone into all of these gardens and the lifelong skills our students are learning by being a part of it. Next week several of our schools will be participating in Harvest Fairs--most of them are on Tuesday and then their entries will be transported to the Depot for the Community-wide Harvest Fair. I am sure that will be an event that families will not want to miss!

Education Committee Report
September 2014

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

M-Westholm, S-Harala, to approve the Education Committee Report.

Member Westholm 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.

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	Organization	Author/Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
1	St. Louis County	Patricia Fleege	2014 MFIP-Innovation “Young Parent Education Project”	\$86,502	Funds from this grant award will be used to provide Adult Basic instruction to young MFIP parents. This is a partnership with the Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Community Action Duluth, and Duluth Adult Basic Education.

E-9-14-3204

September 16, 2014

M-Westholm, S-Harala, to approve Resolution E-9-14-3204 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools.

Discussion took place regarding the grant.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.A.1), 3), and 6)

Member Harala withheld Item 1.A.7)

Member Welty withheld Item 2.A.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.1) School Improvement Efforts at Laura MacArthur Elementary to note his concern with the lack of communication from administration regarding this issue. Discussion continued regarding the issue.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.3) 2013-2014 State Test Results to state his concerns with the test results at the Western schools and lack of improvement with minorities. Discussion continued regarding the issue.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.6) What I need (WIN) Advisory Program. Member Welty reviewed the program and asked the student advisors how the program is working so far. Student Advisor Tremble stated that it seems to be productive so far and added that he was speculative in the beginning but thinks it is working. Student Advisor Manning said that it is working so far but there are things that can be improved on.

Member Harala withheld Item 1.A.7) Meyers-Wilkins Community School Collaborative Presentation to note her support for the program and her appreciation for all those involved.

Member Welty withheld Item 2.A. Two new sports independent provider requests to ask for an explanation of how they work with the district.

M-Miernicki, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to table Items under 2.A.

Discussion continued regarding the items and the need to further discuss the specifics. The board

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asked administration to get more information on liability and how the programs work with the District and present it at the next Education Committee meeting.

Upon a vote to table the items, the same was approved – unanimously.

Upon a vote on the Education Committee, the same was approved – unanimously.

Human Resources Committee Report
September 2014

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

M-Welty, S-Westholm, to approve the Human Resource Committee report.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1. Staffing Report Action Items to ask for updates on the appointments. Discussion continued regarding the number of appointments. Member Johnston asked about a specific position and how it was filled.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Business Committee Report
September 2014

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

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
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 16, 2014 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 2014 payable in 2015,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board propose the ceiling for the tax levy for Independent School District No. 709 for 2014 payable 2015 at the maximum amount.

B-9-14-3205

September 16, 2014

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Harala, to approve Resolution B-9-14-3205 – Maximum Levy Certification

Discussion took place regarding the resolution.

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

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

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Harala, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee Report:

Member Welty withheld Items 1.B., 2.A.1), and 7.A.

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.A., 3.A. for discussion and 4.A.1), 2), 3) for a separate vote.

Member Seliga Punyko withheld Item 4.A.4)

Member Harala withheld Item 1.G.

Member Welty withheld Item 1.B. – Approval of Payment of Claims to request that a printed version be sent to him.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A. – Financial Report to ask for more information on specific items on the Approval of Payment of Claims.

Member Harala withheld Item 1.G. – Fund Raisers but passed.

Member Welty withheld Item 2.A.1) Bid 1235 Bakery Products to ask about the bid process. Discussion continued regarding the item.

Member Johnston withheld Item 3.A. – Policies to note that Member Welty had requested an item be added to the agenda and wanted to know why it hadn't been added.

Upon a separate vote on Items 4.A.1, 2), and 3) – Contract Items - the same was approved - unanimously.

Member Seliga Punyko withheld Item 4.A.4) – RSP & Associates, LLC Contract to note her concern with the cost. Discussion continued regarding the item.

Member Welty withheld Item 7.A. FY 14 Financial Audit to remind Mr. Hanson about a request for amortization tables for the LRFP bonds.

Upon a vote on the remainder of the Business Committee, the same was approved – 6-1 as follows:

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

Other
September 2014

Member Welty expressed his concern with the lack of response to Mr. Paulson.

Member Johnston noted his concern with the bill for the state audit and data request issues.

Member Harala welcomed back the students.

Student Advisor Manning requested that questions during the meeting be limited to items that are on the agenda.

- Chair Miernicki adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of September 16, 2014 at 9:18 p.m.