

Minutes of the Special 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

Monday, December 19, 2011

Members Present:

Mary Cameron
Gary Glass
Tim Grover
Art Johnston
Tom Kasper
Judy Seliga Punyko
Ann Wasson

Others Present:

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

- Chair Seliga Punyko called the special school board meeting of December 19, 2011 to order at 8:00 p.m.

Member Wasson presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION Executive (Closed) Session

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Minnesota Open Meeting Law, Minn. Stat. 13D.05 subd.2(b) allowing a closed session for preliminary consideration of allegations or charges against an individual subject to its authority.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the School Board shall meet in Executive (Closed) Session on Monday, December 19, 2011 at approximately 8:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Room of Historic Old Central High School for the purpose of preliminary consideration of allegations or charges against an employee.

Resolution B-12-11-2959

December 19, 2011

M-Wasson, S-Kasper, to approve the Resolution B-12-11-2959 - Executive Closed Session.

Member Glass asked for an explanation of what constitutes an emergency. Chair Seliga Punyko stated it was called as an emergency by legal counsel.

Upon a vote the same passed 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Nay: Glass, Johnston

- *The board recessed into closed session at 8:04 p.m.*
- *The board reconvened at 9:32 p.m.*

Member Cameron presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
Administrative Leave and Investigation

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, has received allegations regarding Superintendent Dr. I.V. Foster, and

WHEREAS, the School Board wishes to fully investigate those allegations against Dr. Foster.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that:

1. The School Board hereby authorizes an investigation into the allegations and concerns involving Superintendent Dr. I.V. Foster, with the investigation to be conducted by the law firm of Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney, P.A.
2. The School Board hereby places Dr. Foster on paid administrative leave, effective immediately, pending the completion and consideration of the investigation.
3. The Board Chair is hereby authorized to sign and deliver a letter to Dr. Foster enclosing a copy of this resolution, and notifying him that he is being placed on administrative leave and that an investigation will be conducted.
4. The School Board hereby designates William Gronseth to serve in the capacity of superintendent for the duration of the administrative leave of I.V. Foster.

Resolution B-12-11-2960

December 19, 2011

M-Cameron, S-Grover, to approve the Resolution B-12-11-2960 – Administrative Leave and Investigation. Upon a vote the same was approved – 5-0 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Grover, Johnston, Kasper, Seliga Punyko

Abstain: Glass, Johnston

- Chair Seliga Punyko adjourned the Special School Board meeting of December 19, 2011 at 9:32 p.m.