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, February 28, 2017

Members Present:
Annie Harala
Art Johnston
David Kirby
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Alanna Oswald
Nora Sandstad

Harry Welty

Others Present:
Bill Gronseth, Superintendent
Doug Hasler, Deputy Clerk
Jackie Dolentz, Secretary

Student Representatives:

Benjamin Emmel
Cabrilla Francis

➤ Chair Kirby called the Regular School Board Meeting of February 28, 2017 to order at 6:32 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

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

Chair Kirby asked School Board members if there was any discussion on the agenda.

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 Regular School Board Meeting of January 17, 2017.

M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2017 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Chair Kirby asked School Board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of February 15, 2017.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Sandstad, to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2017 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

School and Community Recognition February 2017

Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present students taking part in a special after school welding program at Denfeld High School. February is Career and Technical Education Month. Career and technical education, or CTE, helps prepare students for high-wage, high-demand careers. CTE covers many fields, including health care, information technology, advanced manufacturing, hospitality management and more. As part of our CTE program,

Denfeld received six Dare to Dream grants from the Ann Bancroft Foundation. The Foundation strives to inspire, build confidence and offer tools that will allow a young woman to go after her dreams and feel supported along the way. The \$3,000 in grant funds provides an opportunity for six female Engineering and Design students to learn how to weld. The grant covers costs for materials, supplies and personal equipment to allow these students to weld after school. We commend these young women for their interest and drive and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

Public Comments February 2017

Member Harala read the community vision statement.

Bernie Burnham, 4130 West Fourth Street, spoke to the School Board about the Community School concept after a visit to Austin, TX, and to highlight the great things being accomplished in our District.

Emily Glomski, 3rd grade teacher and one her students, Hunter, 720 North Central Avenue, spoke to the School Board about 3rd grade civic engagement. Hunter talked about the letter his class wrote to Senator Eric Simonson about how seat belts are needed on school buses. Senator Simonson agreed, visited the classroom and is the chief sponsor of a bill regarding school bus seat belts as a direct result of their letter.

Dave Halver and Paul Manoppor, Lincoln Park Middle School, 3215 West Third Street, spoke to the School Board about the teacher mentorship program at Lincoln Park and thanked the School Board for their support of this program.

Hamilton Smith, teacher at East, 301 North 40th Avenue East, spoke to the School Board about the MN State High School Clay Target League (trap shooting league) and the trap shooting clubs that have started at Denfeld and East High Schools. Every year in Minnesota, these clubs annually compete against each other with over 250 schools and 8,000 kids participating over a 9 day period. He would like to see this become an official sport at the Duluth Public Schools that would qualify for paid stipends.

Nyasha Spears, 628 Ridgewood Road, spoke to the School Board to encourage the reinstatement of the 7th hour at the Duluth Public Schools.

Anne Skwira-Brown, 2702 Northridge Drive, spoke to the School Board to encourage the reinstatement of the 7th hour at the Duluth Public Schools and school equity.

Shawna Mullen, 1527 East Sixth Street, spoke to the School Board to support the Wellness Policy.

Melissa Meyer, 126 North 19th Avenue West, spoke to the School Board to support the Wellness Policy.

Scott Pilate, 2919 Greysolon, spoke to the School Board about the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) and the equity of this program across the schools in the District. He encouraged the application to the Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instruction Services (ADSIS) Program through the Minnesota Department of Education for matching funds.

Betsy Schwartz, 2921 East Superior Street, spoke to the School Board to encourage the reinstatement of the 7th hour at the Duluth Public Schools.

David Sperl, 422 Ridgewood Road, spoke to the School Board to encourage the reinstatement of the 7th hour at the Duluth Public Schools.

Sarah McCourtney, 3630 Crescent View Avenue, spoke to the School Board to encourage the reinstatement of the 7th hour at the Duluth Public Schools and to voice her support of the Wellness Policy.

Carrie Ryan, 232 Garden Street, spoke to the School Board to encourage the reinstatement of the 7th hour at the Duluth Public Schools.

Jeff VanStraaten, 3625 East Third Street, spoke to the School Board to encourage the reinstatement of the 7th hour at the Duluth Public Schools.

Angela Qson, 1411 North Eighth Avenue East, spoke to the School Board to encourage the reinstatement of the 7th hour at the Duluth Public Schools.

Amery Robinson, 421 North 36th Avenue East, spoke to the School Board about his concern regarding the class sizes at Congdon Park Elementary School.

Marcia Stromgren, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about her concern regarding decreasing enrollment at the Duluth Public Schools.

Karen Perry, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about children of color in the Duluth Public Schools.

Communications, Petitions, Etc. February 2017

Superintendent Gronseth stated he received a letter addressed to Duluth Public School Board Members from Richard A. Nelson of Oceanside, CA expressing his concern with the renewal of the superintendent's contract in light of his interest in other school districts.

Superintendent's Report February 2017

Last week the Minnesota Department of Education released last year's 4 year, on-time graduation rates. Results for all Minnesota schools, including Duluth, are available through the MDE website. Overall graduation rates range from East at 94%, Denfeld at 76% and the Area Learning Center at 30% and we continue to see up and down fluctuations from year to year. What we're working toward is steady increases year-to-year for all students and especially for students who are experiencing an achievement gap. It is good to see the graduation rate at Denfeld go up this year and I'd like to commend the Area Learning Center for the work they're doing. They've doubled their graduation rate in recent years. Looking at the 5 year graduation rate their percentage is 81% and the 6 year graduation rate it's 80%. The ALC serves students from Duluth and the surrounding area, these are young people who come to us with individual challenges and through the ALC they're able to do some credit recovery work and graduate. Much of the work we're doing is focused on reducing the achievement gap and increasing graduation rates. That includes implementing a multi-tiered system of support for our students, professional learning communities which encourage staff to work together to address the needs of every student, and gaining a better understanding of how culture and climate are presenting in our classrooms and schools. Strategies specific to increasing graduation rates include expansion of high school career and technical education programs; SOAR/CORE 9th grade dropout prevention programs at Denfeld and Duluth East; and Check & Connect, a program funded by the Minnesota Department of Education and geared toward supporting black and American Indian students receiving special education services.

Also this week, the President rescinded the Dear Colleague letter regarding the rights of students who are transgender. As educators, it is our responsibility to ensure all students – including young people who identify as GLBTQ – can attend our schools and receive a great education in an environment free from discrimination. We strive to treat all students with respect and equity and to validate the rights of all students to a safe and welcoming environment. We work with students who identify as transgender to provide support and will continue to do so. We train staff in strategies to help create safe and supportive environments for students and will continue to do so. As an organization, we've included community input in creating policies and practices to comply with Minnesota's Safe and Supportive Schools Act and Federal harassment laws. We will continue to seek guidance from the Minnesota Department of Education, the Minnesota School Boards Association and the Minnesota State High School League in an ongoing effort to create safe, supportive environments for all students.

Finally, students at Laura MacArthur Elementary are working with Prairie Fire Children's Theatre on a production of the Wizard of Oz! This is an opportunity made possible through a grant. I know they are having a great time and learning a lot. The show is coming up this weekend: Friday, March 3 @ 7:00 P.M. or Saturday, March 4 @ 1:00 P.M. in the Denfeld High School Auditorium. Adults \$5, Children \$1

Now it is time to hear from our student reps:

Denfeld High School: Student Representative Ben Emmel stated the 8th grade orientation was recently held, National Honor Society members volunteered at the Domiano Center and the German students traveled to the zoo and gave animal presentations in German. Denfeld has two Freshmen that will be participating in State Honors Orchestra. Winter Spirit Week included dress up days, and the crowning of the King and Queen of Athletics. CJ Hamm, Denfeld alumni and Minnesota Viking football player, came back to Denfeld to help with a fundraiser for a Denfeld student in need. The Sweetheart dance, themed "A Night in Venice", had over 300 students attend. Fourteen students attended the Annual Toothpick Competition at UMD which was put on by the American Society of Engineering. The Denfeld toothpick bridge held over 77 pounds! However, the winning team's bridge held over 200 pounds!

Duluth East High School: Student Representative Cabrilla Francis stated the Social Justice Club created a new club called "Diamonds and Pearls". This new female only club will meet during lunch periods for mentoring-big sister program. The Social Justice Club also held a Black History Month presentation at Lincoln Park Middle School and sponsored the 13th Amendment movie shown at Zeitgeist. Denfeld German students also traveled to the zoo and gave animal presentations in German. Nine students were named All State Musicians from the band, orchestra and choir. Over 100 skiers from the cross country and Nordic teams are going to the Section competition and the boys swim team is also going to Sections. The Sweetheart dance was a huge deal and a great success!

Education Committee Report February 2017 ****

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 this organization.

Organization	Author / Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
Minnesota Department of Education	Ron Lake	Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS)	\$19,777	Funds from this grant will support further implementation of SW-PBIS through the MDE Cohort process.

E-2-17-3429 February 28, 2017

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Harala, to approve Resolution E-2-17-3429 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

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

Member Oswald withheld Items 1.A.4) and 1.A.5)

Member Harala withheld Item 1.A.5)

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.3)

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.3) 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant and K.E.Y. Zone Presentation to mention how nice it is to have students attend these meetings and the wonderful student representatives on the School Board.

Member Oswald withheld Item 1.A.4) Career Technical Education (CTE) Program Update to discuss the visit at Denfeld with Senator Franklin and how inspired she was by the Senator's engagement with the students and the success of the Robotics Clubs at both Denfeld and East.

Member Harala withheld Item 1.A.5) Process for Reviewing Secondary Schedule Options to thank Dr. Cary and the staff leadership team for moving forward with this; this is a big project.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Oswald withheld Item 1.A.5) Process for Reviewing Secondary Schedule Options to advocate for the 7 hour period day.

M-Oswald, S-Johnston, that we as a Board set it as a priority to implement a 7 period day at some secondary level to start next school year with or without the WIN period, without zero hour.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

M-Welty, S-Johnston, to amend by substitution the motion with the following resolution: be it resolved that ISD 709 financially enhance the academic offerings at our Western secondary schools next year for the sake of improving equity with the intention of moving to a 7th period day or an equivalent alternative.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the substitution to the motion failed 1-6 as follows:

Yea: Welty

Nay: Harala, Johnston, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Oswald, Sandstad

Discussion continued on the original motion by Member Oswald.

Member Harala to call the question. Upon a vote to call the question, the same passed 6-1 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Oswald, Sandstad, Welty

Nay: Johnston

Upon a vote of the original motion by Member Oswald, the same failed to 3-4 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Oswald, Welty

Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

<u>Upon a vote, the remainder of the Education Committee Report was approved – unanimously.</u>

Human Resources Committee Report February 2017

Member Sandstad presented the Human Resources Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each School Board member.

M-Sandstad, S-Harala, to approve the Human Resource Committee report. Upon a vote, the same was approved - unanimously.

Business Committee Report February 2017

Member Harala presented the Business Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each School Board member.

Member Harala 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 organizations.

SCHOOL	DONOR	AMOUNT	RESTRICTION	
Area Learning				
Center	Essentia Health Surgical Services	\$250.00	No	
Congdon	Wendy's	In kind	No	
Denfeld	Northland Foundation	\$500.00	Robotics	
Denfeld	Swain Cross-Country Inc.	\$850.00	Cross Country	
Denfeld	The Bon Ton Stores Inc./Younkers	\$439.81	Key Club	
Denfeld	William C. Hoch Jr. Fund	\$1,000.00	Softball Equipment/ road trips	
Denfeld	Aaron Gelineau	\$40.00	Skills USA Program	
Denfeld	Saint Ann's Home	\$50.00	Choir Music Trip Donation	
Denfeld	Faith Haven Incorporated	\$100.00	Choir Chicago Trip	
Denfeld	Donald Syring III	\$150.00	Choir Chicago Trip	
Denfeld	Carol Anderson	\$100.00	Choir Chicago Trip	
Denfeld	Elim Lutheran Church Women	\$200.00	Choir Chicago Trip	
Denfeld	City of Duluth	\$250.00	Choir Chicago Trip	
East	Hermantown Community Church	\$150.00	Choralaires	
East	Greater Downtown Council	\$50.00	Choralaires	
East	Boys & Girls Clubs of the Northland	\$120.00	Choralaires	
East	Lakeview Covenant Church	\$175.00	Choralaires	
East	McGolrick General Assembly	\$200.00	Choralaires	
East	AAUW-Duluth Branch, Dorthy Anway	\$100.00	Choralaires	
HOCHS				
Curriculum	Carolyn Zanko	In Kind	Laura MacArthur	
HOCHS				
Curriculum CTE	Robert Morris	In Kind	Automotive program	

HOCHS Supt					
Office	Scott Consulting Partners, LLC	\$100.00	Teacher Home Visit Program		
	Midwest Coin Concepts of				
Homecroft	Wisconsin, Inc.	\$463.50	Wolf Ridge		
Homecroft	Timothy & Michelle Balthazor	\$45.50	Wolf Ridge		
Homecroft	William/Anne Leino	\$20.00	Wolf Ridge		
Homecroft	Steven/Kim Elliott	\$100.00	Wolf Ridge		
Homecroft	Joseph/Erin Warner	\$20.00	Wolf Ridge		
Laura MacArthur	Rotary Club No. 25 of Duluth	\$900.00	Mrs. Peck - Prairie Fire Theater		
Laura MacArthur	Rotary Club of Duluth Harbortown	\$750.00	Mrs. Peck - Prairie Fire Theater		
			Allison Hoffbauer-supplies for		
Laura MacArthur	Autism Association of Northern MN	\$300.00	special needs children		
	Community members at McTeacher				
Laura MacArthur	The state of the s		FAC shirts		
Laura MacArthur	Duluth Grill	\$500.00	Mrs. Peck - Prairie Fire Theater		
Laura MacArthur	David & Kelly Bolgrien	\$100.00	Family Engagement		
Laura MacArthur	Irving Community Association	\$1,500.00	Mrs. Peck - Prairie Fire Theatre		
Lester Park	Osmundson Family	\$20.00	No		
Lester Park	Shannon Stroschein	\$20.00	No		
Lester Park	Forsell Family	\$25.00	No		
Lincoln Park	Super One	\$25.00	Health Fair		
Lincoln Park	Anytime Fitness	\$200.00	Health Fair		
Lincoln Park	Target	\$25.00	Health Fair		
Lincoln Park	Stewarts Bike and Sports	\$25.00	Health Fair		
Lincoln Park	Kwik Trip	\$25.00	Health Fair		
Lincoln Park	McDonalds	In kind	Health Fair		
Lincoln Park	k Taco Johns		Health Fair		
Lincoln Park	Sammy's	In kind	Health Fair		
Lincoln Park			Health Fair		
Lincoln Park	Dominos	In kind	Health Fair		
Lincoln Park	Chipotle	In kind	Health Fair		
Lincoln Park	Skyline	\$85.00	Health Fair		
Lincoln Park	Marcus Theatres	In kind	Health Fair		
Lincoln Park	Grandma's Restaurant Company	\$50.00	Health Fair		
Lincoln Park	Super One Foods	\$25.00	Health Fair		
Lincoln Park	ı ı		Health Fair		
Lincoln Park			Health Fair		
Lincoln Park	Olive Garden	\$514.24	Health Fair/Family Fun Night		
	TOTAL \$10,761.89				

B-2-17-3431 February 28, 2017

M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-2-17-3431 — Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved — unanimously.

Member Harala presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Authorized Bank Account Signer - February 2017

RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that it hereby authorizes the following:

District	Banking	Account	Addition of	Removal of
Building	Institution	Number	Authorized Signer	Authorized Signer
HOCHS	DTCU	XXX23	Douglas Hasler	William Hanson

Resolution B-2-17-3432

February 28, 2017

M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-2-17-3432 — Authorized Bank Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved — unanimously.

Member Harala presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Selection of District's Legal Counsel

RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the following firms have been selected as legal counsel for the District.

Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A. 302 West Superior Street, Suite 700 Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 722-0861

Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney 730 Second Avenue South, Suite 300 Minneapolis, MN 55402 (612) 339-0600 Dryer, Storaasli, Knutson & Pommerville 202 West Superior Street, Suite 200 Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 249-0608

Rupp, Anderson, Squires & Waldspurger, P.A. 330 South Seventh Street, Suite 2800 Minneapolis, MN 55402 612. 436.4300 (office) 612.436.4340 (fax)

RESOLVED, that the authorized contact persons for the District are as follows:

Chair of the School Board
Superintendent of Schools
Executive Assistant to Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent
CFO/Executive Director of Business
Services
Executive Assistant to the CFO/Executive

Director of Business Services

Director of Special Education

Manager of Facilities Finance Manager

Senior Human Resources Manager Human Resources Manager for Non-

Certified Staff

Human Resources Benefits Coordinator

Resolution B-2-17-3419

February 28, 2017

M-Harala, S-Kirby, to bring the Selection of the District's Legal Counsel Resolution back to the table for discussion.

Discussion took place on this topic.

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

Yay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Oswald, Sandstad,

Nay: Johnston, Welty

M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution B-2-17-3419 — Selection of District's Legal Counsel.

Note: the next three motions are listed in the order they were addressed at this meeting (which is in reverse order from the Organizational Meeting on January 3, 2017).

M-Welty, S-Sandstad, to amend his motion to terminate the contract with Rupp, Anderson, Squires & Waldspurger, P.A. with the exception of ongoing cases that they are representing us until the conclusion of those particular cases.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the motion to terminate the contract with Rupp, Anderson, Squires & Waldspurger, P.A with the exception of ongoing cases that they are representing us in until the conclusion of those particular cases failed 3-4 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Oswald, Welty

Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

M-Welty, S-Sandstad, to amend Member Johnston's motion to delete only the firm of Rupp, Anderson, Squires & Waldspurger, P.A.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

<u>Upon a vote, the motion to amend Member Johnston's motion to delete only the firm of Rupp, Anderson, Squires & Waldspurger, P.A failed 3-4 as follows:</u>

Yea: Johnston, Oswald, Welty

Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

M-Johnston, S-Welty, to amend the resolution by deleting the later two firms; Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney and deleting Rupp, Anderson, Squires & Waldspurger, P.A.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

<u>Upon a vote, the motion to amend the resolution by deleting the later two firms; Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney and deleting Rupp, Anderson, Squires & Waldspurger, P.A failed 2-4 as follows:</u>

Yea: Johnston, Oswald

Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

Abstain: Welty

M-Johnston, S-Kirby, to update the contact list for the school district by deleting from the approved contact list "Chair of the School Board" and replacing with "The School Board".

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Sandstad to call the question. Upon a vote, the call to the question failed 4-3 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

Nay: Johnston, Oswald, Welty

Discussion continued on this topic.

Member Sandstad to call the question. Upon a vote, the call to the question passed 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad, Welty

Nay: Johnston, Oswald

<u>Upon a vote, the motion to update the contact list for the school district by deleting "Chair of the School Board" and replacing with "The School Board" failed 3-4 as follows:</u>

Yea: Johnston, Oswald, Weltv

Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

<u>Upon a vote to approve the original Resolution B-2-17-3419 – Selection of District's Legal</u> Counsel, the same passed 4-3 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

Nay: Johnston, Oswald, Welty

M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee Report. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Oswald presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Authorizing School Board Members' Attendance At the Duluth and St. Louis County Days at the Capitol

RESOLVED, That Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, pay costs incurred, as per District policy, for school board members to attend the Duluth and St. Louis County Days at the Capitol event held in 2017.

Resolution SP-2-17-3433

February 28, 2017

M-Oswald, S-Harala, to approve Resolution SP-2-17-3433 – Authorizing School Board Members' Attendance at the Duluth and St. Louis County Days at the Capitol. Upon a vote, the same passed – unanimously.

Questions/Other February 2017

Member Johnston inquired about the February MASA School Finance Election meeting regarding the passing of school operating levies.

M-Harala, S-Oswald, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same passed – unanimously.

➤ Chair Kirby adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of February 28, 2017 at 10:35 p.m.