

## 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, December 17, 2019

### Members Present:

Kelly Durick Eder  
David Kirby  
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp  
Jill Lofald  
Alanna Oswald  
Nora Sandstad  
Sally Trnka

### Others Present:

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent  
Cathy Erickson, CFO  
Jackie Dolentz, Secretary

### Student Representatives:

Vanessa Farrell (East)  
Emma Natale (Denfeld)

➤ Chair Loeffler-Kemp called the Regular School Board meeting of December 17, 2019 to order at 6:31 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

**M-Trnka, S-Durick Eder, to approve the agenda. Upon a vote to approve the agenda as presented, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Chair Loeffler-Kemp asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of November 19, 2019.

**M-Kirby, S-Lofald, to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2019 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Chair Loeffler-Kemp asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special Closed School Board Meeting of December 9, 2019.

**M-Lofald, S-Kirby, to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2019 Special Closed School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

The School Board recognized Member Sandstad for her years of service on the School Board; tonight's meeting will be her last. Thank you Member Sandstad!

### School and Community Recognition December 2019

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Jeff Horton: Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to introduce Jamie De La Cruz for recognition. Ms. De La Cruz is a member of the Oneida Nation in Wisconsin. She is an American Indian Home/School Liaison for our American Indian Education Program. Home/School liaisons work to enhance communication between schools and families. They help families navigate school processes and help school personnel better understand cultural and

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linguistic differences that may affect students. For her work, the Minnesota Indian Education Association presented Ms. De La Cruz with the 2019 K-12 Counselor/Liaison of the Year Award. This prestigious Award was presented during the MIEA's 35th Annual Conference in November. The Award recognizes leadership, work in the American Indian Education Community, reflection of American Indian culture in life/work and other achievements. Ms. De La Cruz, you are truly making a difference in the lives of students. Congratulations on receiving this award and thank you for all you do to support education in Duluth.

**Truth In Taxation Presentation**

December 2019

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The Truth in Taxation Presentation was given by Cathy Erickson, Chief Financial Officer, Executive Director of Business Services.

The public was given an opportunity to ask questions.

**Public Comments**

December 2019

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Student Representatives Natale and Farrell read the Community Vision and Priorities for Duluth's Schools and the Eleven Tools of Civility.

Ethan Fisher, no address provided, spoke to the School Board about music concerts.

Nicole Jensen, no address provided, spoke to the School Board about the PBIS framework at Lincoln Park Middle School.

Betty Greene, 4015 Dodge Street, spoke to the School Board about the Boundary Study process.

Kevin Skwira-Brown, no address provided, spoke to the School Board about the Boundary Study process and the hiring process of building principals.

Loren Martell, 623 East Seventh Street, read a brief passage from the book he has been writing.

Audrey Devine Eller, 414 North Tenth Avenue East, spoke to the School Board about the Boundary Study process.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**

December 2019

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Chair Loeffler-Kemp stated that there were no communications received.

**Superintendent's Report**  
**December 2019**

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There are only 3 days until winter break! I am sure I don't have to remind students that there is no school from December 23-Jan 1. We will be back in session on January 2, 2020.

I have a few thank you comments to share tonight. First, we have had record snowfall so far this year and our facilities crews have been hard at work moving mountains of snow. We appreciate all of your efforts!

I would also like to thank the many people involved with the special programs at all of our schools over the past few weeks. Our students' talents are showcased with music, singing, art work, and more. I know it takes a lot of work behind the scenes to make all of this happen. Our music teachers, art teachers, facilities crews for setting it all up and cleaning up afterwards, staff and volunteer parents for keeping everything running smoothly, and the community for attending. All of these programs are a great way for our communities to come together to celebrate our students.

Thank you to those who continue to provide feedback on the boundary study scenarios and the process. We are sharing what has been provided with Cooperative Strategies, the company leading this process. Next month we will continue the process with more opportunities to provide input through public meetings and on-line surveys. We will continue to add information to the website as the process continues.

A while back while I was visiting a school I overheard a student wish another student a "Merry Christmas!" The response was, "Thanks, and I wish you a Happy Hanukah!" Oh, ya, thanks!" It wasn't an uncomfortable exchange; it was sincere. It was an exchange that demonstrated their understanding and acceptance of each other. It was a recognition that their cultures, beliefs, and traditions were different. They honored each other by respectfully sharing their own greetings.

This time of year means a lot of different things to different people. Whatever it means to you and your family, I hope it is filled with joy and that it is exactly what you are hoping it will be.

Before we have our students share their final reports as representatives to the school board, I would like to thank them for a wonderful year. We have enjoyed your reports and your input over the last year. We have a small token of our appreciation for each of you.

Vanessa Farrell, Student Representative from Duluth East, reported to the Board the highlight of the November month was the week-long Thanksgiving break due to the snow storm. This week is winter week and gets all the students involved in an assembly, skating parties, dress-up days, boys basketball game (undefeated), and a holiday concert at the DECC. The Executive Board is putting on a backpack drive for supplies for students in need. A recent Animal Allies drive resulted in over 200 items collected and donated!

Emily Natale, Student Representative from Duluth Denfeld, reported to the Board the snow days were the highlight of the month! Other activities included a holiday concert and student government hosting an adopt-a-family to help collect items to give to an anonymous family in

need. A separate toy drive is also being held to collect toys to help families in need. The Key Club held a school-wide coin wars to collect as many coins as possible. These coins are donated to a local non-profit. Holiday movie night is coming up for Freshman. Pep assembly will ring the students into break. Thank you for the opportunity to serve on the Board.

**Education Committee Report**  
**December 2019**

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Member Lofald presented the Education Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

Member Lofald presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

Designation of Identified Official with Authority for the MDE External  
User Access Recertification System

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) requires that school districts annually designate an Identified Official with Authority to comply with State Access Control Security Standard 1.0 which states that all user access rights to Minnesota state systems must be reviewed and recertified at least annually. The Identified Official with Authority will assign job duties and authorize external user's access to MDE secure systems for their local education agency (LEA).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Superintendent recommends the Board authorize Sheryl Williams to act as the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for the Head Start Organization, Duluth Head Start 7010-84.

Resolution E-12-19-3691

December 17, 2019

**M-Lofald, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution E-12-19-3691 – Designation of Identified Official with Authority for the MDE External User Access Recertification System. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Lofald 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 grant from said organization 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.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Author/Contact</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Terms</b>
Minnesota Agriculture in the Classroom (MAITC) Foundation	Leah McNeil	Clock Tower Catering Project	\$400	Funds will be used toward the purchase of chafing dishes for the Clock Tower Catering project.
Class of 55/Steve Anderson Greater Denfeld Foundation Fund	Various	Various – Class of 55/Steve Anderson Greater Denfeld Foundation Fund Applications	\$10,000	Funds will be used to support various projects and initiatives at Denfeld High School.
Autism Association of Northern MN/Autism Walk Northland	Amy Samuel	Lester Park Elementary Level 3 ASD	\$800	Funds will be used to purchase the Pro ED Environmental Print Reading Program for Level 3 ASD students at Lester Park Elementary.

E-12-19-3693

December 17, 2019

**M-Lofald, S-Trnka, to approve Resolution E-12-19-3693 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**M-Lofald, S-Durick Eder, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report. Upon a vote, the remainder of the Education Committee Report was approved – unanimously.**

**Human Resources Committee Report**  
**December 2019**

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Member Kirby presented the Human Resources Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

**M-Kirby, S-Trnka, to approve the Human Resource Committee report.**

Member Sandstad withheld Item 2.A.

Member Sandstad withheld Item 2.A. New Policy 426 – Nepotism in Employment to voice her support of this policy.

Discussion took place on this item.

**Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**Business Committee Report**  
**December 2019**

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Member Trnka presented the Business Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

Member Trnka 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 individuals and organizations.

SCHOOL	DONOR	AMOUNT	RESTRICTION	COMMENTS
Congdon	Messina Property Management	\$100.00	Unpaid lunch balances	
Curriculum	Carolyn and Jerry Zanko	In Kind	None	72 pair of knitted mittens, 24 hats, 3 quilts distributed to Laura Mac, Denfeld, Myers, Lincoln Park
District	Michelle Emme	In Kind	Music Program	Donation of West Coast Strings: Dario Giovanni Violin (See invoice from Christian Eggert Violin dated 4/20/15)
Homecroft	Wells Fargo Your Cause	\$30.00	None	
Lester Park	University of MN	\$2,500.00	None	For participation in The Good Behavior Game study
Lester Park	Ms. Gloria Brunette	\$30.00	Unpaid lunch balances	
Lowell	Jeanne LeMay	In Kind	None	Donated several bottles that can be handcrafted to be used for Social, Emotional Learning.
Lowell	Van Loon Family	In Kind	None	They donated a HUGE box of shoes, cleats, boots, etc to be used in the Lowell Kid's Closet.

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Myers-Wilkins	Helen Gruba	\$20.00	Books for Kids literacy project	
Myers-Wilkins	Shirley Pommerville	\$200.00	Books for Kids literacy project	
Myers-Wilkins	Barbara Fischer	\$300.00	Books for Kids literacy project	
Myers-Wilkins	St. Lukes	\$500.00	Books for Kids literacy project	
Myers-Wilkins	Altrusa Int'l - Duluth	\$200.00	Books for Kids literacy project	
Myers-Wilkins	Rev. John and Sally Maki	\$30.00	Books for Kids literacy project	
Ordean-East	Ordean East PTA	\$384.62	Scholastic Scope magazine	
Ordean-East	Ordean-East PTA	\$37.28	Mesh bags for lunchtime from Gopher	
Stowe	Paul and Susan Bachinski	In Kind	Stowe Play Scape	Aluminum fishing boat used for a sandbox in the playscape
Stowe	Minnesota Power Employees Credit Union	\$500.00	Wolf Ridge trip	Wolf Ridge scholarships
Stowe	Unknown	\$466.00	Wolf Ridge trip	Anonymous donations
Stowe	Anonymous	\$400.00	Wolf Ridge scholarships	Anonymous donations
Stowe	Stowe Parent Group	\$1,400.00	Teachers for supplies	
Stowe	Stowe Parent Group	\$1,000.00	Wolf Ridge trip	

B-12-19-3694

December 17, 2019

**M-Trnka, S-Lofald, to approve Resolution B-12-19-3694 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Trnka presented the resolution:

**R E S O L U T I O N**  
**Certified Tax Levy 2019 Payable 2020**

BE IT RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, to hereby set the Tax Levy for 2019 Payable 2020 at \$40,089,645.79.

Resolution B-12-19-3695

December 17, 2019

**M-Trnka, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-12-19-3695 – Certified Tax Levy 2019 Payable 2020. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

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**M-Trnka, S-Oswald, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report.**

Member Sandstad withheld Item 4.C.  
Member Trnka withheld Item 5.A.2)

Member Sandstad withheld item 4.C. Revise Bylaw 203.2 Order of the Regular School Board Meeting Bylaw to ask clarifying questions on the organization of the consent agenda and to ask that emails sent to the Board be included as communications to the School Board in addition the communications received in the mail.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Trnka withheld Item 5.A.2) Essentia Health Sponsorship Agreement to ask about the effective date, the recognition statements and how funds will be split between the two high schools.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

**Upon a vote, the remainder of the Business Committee report was approved – unanimously.**

**Special Resolutions**

**December 2019**

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Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

Board Member Attendance at 2020 MSBA Leadership Conference

RESOLVED, That Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, pay costs incurred, as per District policy, for school board members to attend the Minnesota School Boards Association 2020 Leadership Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 15-17, 2020.

SP-12-19-3696

December 17, 2019

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Lofald, to approve the Resolution SP-12-19-3696 Board Member Attendance at 2020 MSBA Leadership Conference. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**



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Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

Authorizing School Board Members' Attendance at the Minnesota School Boards  
Association Phase I, II and IV Orientation Workshops

RESOLVED, That Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota,  
pay costs incurred, as per District policy, for new school board members to attend the  
Minnesota School Boards Association Phase I, II, and IV Orientation Workshops held in  
January 2020.

SP-12-19-3697

December 17, 2019

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Trnka, to approve the Resolution SP-12-19-3697 Board Member  
Attendance MSBA Phase I, II, and IV Orientation Workshops. Upon a vote, the same was  
approved – unanimously.**

**Other**  
**December 2019**

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Member Lofald discussed the committee meetings this month and if that format was kept, that  
the Board have the opportunity to discuss the committees as all the Board members cannot attend  
in the true committee format.

Member Trnka mentioned that the items brought up by Member Lofald should be on the Board  
retreat agenda. Member Trnka thanked Superintendent Gronseth for a great year and to the  
Student School Board Representatives for their time on the Board. Thank you also to Member  
Sandstad for her four years of service on the School Board and welcome to new Board Member  
Paul Sandholm.

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

Chair Loeffler-Kemp adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of December 17, 2019 at  
8:38 p.m.