

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, June 18, 2013

Members Present:

Mary Cameron
Art Johnston
Tom Kasper
Mike Miernicki
Judy Seliga Punyko
Ann Wasson
Bill Westholm

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives:

Erik Thibault
Katlyn Persch

➤ Chair Kasper called the regular school board meeting of June 18, 2013 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same was approved – unanimously.

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of May 21, 2013.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2013 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved unanimously.

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of May 21, 2013.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2013 Regular School Board Meeting as presented.

Member Johnston noted his concern that one of the speakers went over the three minutes allowed. He also stated that he believes his motion on page 11 should have been included in the minutes even though it wasn't seconded.

Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented - unanimously.

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of June 11, 2013.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2013 Special School Board Meeting as presented.

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Member Johnston asked if all others listed in the closed session should be listed in the minutes. Chair Kasper stated he would check on it.

Upon a vote, the same was approved unanimously.

School and Community Recognition

June 2013

The school board acknowledged/congratulated:

Laura MacArthur Principal Nathan Glockle and teacher Deborah Debolt were formally recognized at the June School Board meeting. The Minnesota Department of Education invited Nathan to travel to Washington DC in June to showcase the excellent work he and his staff have done to improve student achievement under their School Improvement Grant.

Public Comments

June 2013

Terry Dzuck, 2415 West Skyline Parkway, President of the Education MN Duluth Clerical Unit, spoke to the school board regarding her concern with the loss of clerical positions and one position being taken out of the unit and placed into another unit.

Loren Martell, 623 East 7th Street, spoke to the school board regarding his concern with the process of the red plan and reviewed issues he had with past board members.

Sharon Witherspoon, 327 North 54th Avenue West, spoke to the school board regarding her concern with the non-renewal of the contract of principal Leea Powers. She also spoke in support of the clerical position within the Office of Education Equity.

Regina Cameron – Chose not to speak.

Portia Johnson, 504 North 12th Avenue East, spoke to the school board regarding her concern with the non-renewal of the contract of principal Leea Powers.

Marcia Stromgren, no address provided, spoke to the school board regarding students and staff at Walgreens near Denfeld during lunch, and other issues related to open campuses at the high schools.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

June 2013

Superintendent Gronseth stated that no communications had been received.

Superintendent's Report

June 2013

Superintendent Gronseth congratulated the 2013 graduates and wished them well in their futures. He thanked the teachers and staff for their hard work over the past year. He spoke about the difficulties the district is facing with the budget and that the reductions made are not done lightly. He also thanked everyone involved in the Think Kids meetings for their input. Chair Kasper also noted his appreciation to the staff for their efforts.

Education Committee Report

June 2013

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

Member Cameron 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.

	Organization	Author/Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
1	Northland Foundation	Barbara Farrell	Summer Amazing Newborn Program	\$1,586	Funds from this grant award will be used to support the Duluth Early Childhood Family Education's Summer Amazing Newborn Program at St. Luke's Hospital.
2	Lloyd K. Johnson	Ron Hagland	Achievement Gap Training Support	\$1,999	Funds from this grant award will be used to bring Ronald F. Ferguson, PhD of Harvard University, to Duluth to speak to educators and

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					the community regarding the Tripod Project as part of the Duluth Public Schools' effort to provide Achievement Gap training support.
3	Northland Foundation	John Bushey	Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Experience	\$500	Funds from this grant award will be used to support a trip to the Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning for Homecroft's fourth and fifth grade Key Zone students.

E-6-13-3105

June 18, 2013

M-Cameron, S-Miernicki, to approve the Resolution E-6-13-3105 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Cameron, S-Miernicki, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report.

Member Wasson withheld Item 2.A.2.

Member Johnston withheld Items 2.A.1. and 2.A.2

M-Wasson, S-Seliga Punyko, to make an amendment to the closed campus item that in the school year of 2014-15 that we begin a modified campus allowing seniors in good standing be allowed to go off campus for lunch and the rest of it would be closed.

Discussion took place regarding the motion.

Upon a vote on the motion for the modified closed campus, the same was approved - unanimously.

Upon a vote on the remainder of the Education Committee report as presented, the same was approved - unanimously.

Human Resources Committee Report
June 2013

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

Member Johnston asked about Action Items 3. and 4. to ask about the reclassification of those positions. Harrison Dudley explained the changes to the positions.

M-Westholm, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the Human Resources Committee report for June. Upon a vote on the Human Resources Action Items withholding the resolutions, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Westholm presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N
RE: Discontinuance of Positions

WHEREAS, enrollment in the School District is declining;

WHEREAS, during the 2013-2014 school year, the District will lack a sufficient number of pupils to support all tenured teachers currently employed by the District;

WHEREAS, the School Board has found it necessary to discontinue certain positions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the following programs and positions, or portions thereof, be discontinued effective at the end of the school day on June 7, 2013, unless another date is indicated below, in which case the position shall discontinue on that date.

Business Education	0.4 FTE
Elementary	5.0 FTE
English	2.1 FTE
Family Consumer Science	0.4 FTE
Math	1.4 FTE
Music	1.7 FTE
Science	0.6 FTE
School Within a School	1.0 FTE
Social Studies	1.8 FTE
Special Services	3.9 FTE

HR-6-13-3104

June 18, 2013

M-Westholm, S-Wasson, to approve Resolution HR-6-13-3104 – Termination of Certified Discontinuance of Positions.

Discussion took place regarding the resolution.

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

Yea: Cameron, Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Member Westholm presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N
RE: Termination of Certified Tenured Staff

WHEREAS, enrollment in the School District is declining;

WHEREAS, during the 2013-2014 school year, the District will lack a sufficient number of pupils to support all tenured teachers currently employed by the District;

WHEREAS, the School Board has found it necessary to discontinue certain positions;

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

1. The Board proposes that the employment of the following tenured teachers terminate effective at the end of the school day on June 7, 2013, unless another date is indicated below, due to discontinuance of position or lack of pupils.

Delaine Brown	1.0 FTE
John Hoban	0.8 FTE
Shawn Northey	0.4 FTE
Allen Ratai	1.0 FTE
Rebecca Wise	1.0 FTE

2. The Clerk of the School Board shall notify all such teachers in writing of the proposed layoff, the grounds for the proposed layoff, and the right to request a hearing within ten (10) calendar days after receiving said notice. The Clerk shall also notify all such teachers that if they fail to request a hearing within ten (10) days, they will be deemed to have acquiesced in the Boards action.

HR-6-13-3103

June 18, 2013

M-Westholm, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve Resolution HR-6-13-3013 – Termination of Tenured Certified Staff.

Discussion took place regarding the resolution.

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

Yea: Cameron, Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Member Westholm presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N

RE: Termination of Certified Probationary (Non-Tenured) Staff

WHEREAS, during the first three years of consecutive employment all teachers in the public schools in cities of the first class are deemed to be in a probational period of employment during which period the School Board may renew, or not renew, any teachers' annual contract as the School Board shall see fit. The term "teacher" includes every person regularly employed, as a principal, or to give instruction in a classroom, or to superintend or supervise classroom instruction, or as a placement teacher and visiting teacher.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board on Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, as follows:

1. The employment contracts of the following probationary teachers shall not be renewed and their employment shall terminate at the end of the day on June 28, 2013, unless another date is indicated below, in which case the employment of the particular teacher shall terminate on that date.

Leea Power

2. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Clerk of the School Board shall notify such teachers in writing before July 1, 2013, of the termination of their employment.

HR-6-13-3102

June 18, 2013

M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution HR-6-13-3102 – Termination of Non Tenured Certified Staff.

Discussion took place regarding the resolution.

M-Johnston, S-Cameron, to make a motion to amend Resolution HR 6-13-3102 by deleting paragraphs 1 and 2 and adding the following: The School Board will convene a special committee and issue a report to the school board on the August 12 Human Resources Committee meeting. Such committee will review compliance with the existing 4000 series policies; and make recommendations for revisions and updating all the 4000 series policies. Such committee will be appointed by the Board Chair and approved by the full school board. Clerical help will be provided by the administration as needed.

Discussion took place regarding Member Johnston's proposed amendment.

Upon a vote on the proposed amendment to the resolution, the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Johnston

Nay: Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Upon a vote on the original resolution as presented, the same passed 5-2 as follows:

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Yea: Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm
Nay: Cameron, Johnston

**M-Westholm, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the Instructional Assistant – Head Start
Reclassification. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve the Food Service Site Supervisor Position. Upon a
vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Westholm read the summary conclusions for the evaluation of Leea Powers from the
June 11, 2013 closed session.

**M-Westholm, S-Seliga Punyko, to move the Human Resource Committee report for June
19, 2013, Upon a vote, the same was approved 6-1 as follows:**

Yea: Cameron, Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm
Nay: Johnston

Business Committee Report
June 2013

Member Seliga Punyko presented the Business Committee report, a copy of same being in the
hands of each school board member.

Member Seliga Punyko presented the resolution:

The resolution can be seen in it's entirety in the Business Office at Historic Old Central High.

**M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve Resolution B-6-13-3106 – MSHSL Membership
Renewal. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Seliga Punyko presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of School District No. 709, St. Louis County,
State of Minnesota, that the fiscal year 2014 budget as presented to the School Board, be adopted.

B-6-13-3107

June 18, 2013

**M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve Resolution B-6-13-3107 – Adoption of the Fiscal
Year 2014 Budget.**

Discussion took place regarding the budget.

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

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Yea: Cameron, Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm
Nay: Johnston

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee Report as presented.

Member Johnston withheld items 1.F., 4.B.2), and 6.F

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. - WADM Projections to note his concern with the drop in student numbers.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B.2) – Change Orders to note his concern with the change orders at the Eastern middle school.

Member Johnston withheld Item 6.F. – Change Orders Pertaining to the Long-range Facilities Plan to note his concern with the change orders Chair Kasper indicated his gratitude that the sidewalks at Congdon Park were included in the change orders.

Upon a vote on the remainder of the business committee report as presented, the same was approved 5-1 as follows:

Yea: Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm
Nay: Johnston

Other
June 2013

Member Johnston asked about a data request he had submitted.

➤ Chair Kasper adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of June 18, 2013 at 8:52 p.m.