

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, April 18, 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 April 18, 2017 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Sandstad, S-Oswald, 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 March 21, 2017.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the March 21, 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 April 11, 2017.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2017 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

School and Community Recognition

April 2017

Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present Colin Willemsen, Ordean East Middle School, for recognition. Each year thousands of schools in the United States participate in the National Geographic Bee using materials prepared by the National Geographic Society. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. Schools with students in

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grades four through eight are eligible for this challenging test of geographic knowledge. Colin Willemsen competed locally at Ordean East Middle School and placed in the top 100 qualifiers out of thousands of students competing statewide. Colin travelled to Mankato State University for the Minnesota Geographic Bee and did an outstanding job, placing in the top 30%. Congratulations, Colin, you've certainly mapped out a path to success!

Public Comments
April 2017

Member Harala read the Eleven Tools of Civility.

Bernie Burnham, 4130 West Fourth Street, introduced several teachers and their students to discuss several projects and events that have been happening around the District. Angelo Florestano from Lincoln Park Middle School, and his students discussed their ancestry project. Annette Strom, Ordean East Middle School, and her students discussed the state science and engineering fair; Karla Winterfeld, Lincoln Park Middle School, and her students discussed the health fair and volunteer hours by students. John Nachtsheim, Katie Hutchison, Christi Valento, and Katie Oliver discussed the parent-teacher home visits they have been conducting and how they are going.

Heidi Morris, 215 North First Avenue East, Treasurer of Duluth Clerical Bargaining Unit, spoke to the School Board about the proposed budget cuts and proposed clerical staff reductions.

Joan Lancour, 215 North First Avenue East, President of Local Clerical Bargaining Unit 692, spoke to the School Board about the proposed budget cuts and proposed clerical staff reductions.

Bogdana Krivogorsky, 314 Minneapolis Avenue, spoke to the School Board on behalf of the Duluth Parents for Healthy Playgrounds to invite all to attend the upcoming fundraising event at Skyline Bowling Lounge.

Anne Skwira-Brown, 2702 Northridge Drive, spoke to the School Board on behalf of the Community Based School Equity Initiative about inequities within our school district.

Sherrill Yeaton, 640 Anderson Road, spoke on behalf of the Duluth Parents for Healthy Playgrounds to the School Board about the upcoming fundraising event at Skyline Bowling Lounge.

Mya Halvorson, 401 North 44th Avenue West, student at Denfeld High School, spoke to the School Board about inequities in the school district.

Marla Halvorson, Skyline Parkway, spoke to the School Board about the inequities in the school district.

Lynn Goerdt, 427 Howard Gnesen, spoke to the School Board about the inequities in the school district.

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Karen Perry, no address provided, spoke to the School Board about communication and equity concerns in the school district.

Stacy DeRoche – President of East PTSA spoke to the School Board about a collaborative job fair with Hermantown, East and Denfeld to help these students get summer employment.

Tobin Cook, no address provided, spoke to the School Board regarding lunch at his daughter's school.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

April 2017

Superintendent Gronseth stated no communications had been received.

Superintendent's Report

April 2017

For school districts across Minnesota, spring means budget planning which includes calculating projected revenues, expenses and enrollment, following legislative bills through the session and working to create a preliminary balanced budget draft for approval in June. It also includes ongoing and detailed review of budget actuals and projections, checking and double checking anticipated funding sources and expenses, looking for opportunities not only to realize efficiencies but to make investments. Last week at the Business Committee, a preliminary budget was discussed. There are several moving pieces that we will continue to monitor including the legislative session. As we learn more, we will continue to plan for, and adjust, the budget until we have a final budget in June. Coming up on Thursday of this week, the School Board will hold a Committee of the Whole meeting to hear the results of a demographic and enrollment projection study done by RSP, a company specializing in doing this work with school districts. They will also be sharing what a process could look like to consider ways to balance enrollments. That is an open meeting to the public and will take place here in the boardroom.

Tonight we've also heard from audience members regarding the distribution and use of compensatory education (also called comp ed) dollars in schools. Thank you for speaking to this topic. I know there have been several meetings with different District staff over the past weeks to share and go over this information. As part of the budget process, we have been working on restructuring how compensatory education funding is allocated, as well as other funding sources. School funding in Minnesota consists of a number of funding sources, including General Education, Integration, Vocational, Comp Ed, Title I, grants, and others. Comp Ed is allocated by the State to school districts based on the number of students receiving free and reduced price lunch. According to the Minnesota Department of Education, schools districts can use up to 50% of compensatory education funds to support student achievement district-wide. This is in recognition that all schools have students who have specific needs. In Duluth, 50% is currently allocated to managing class size district-wide to allow for more individualized attention for students. The rest is distributed to individual schools, and supports curriculum development and

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professional development. We've heard speakers asking that Comp Ed dollars generated in the District not be used to support student achievement district-wide through managing class size and other strategies. If done without securing additional funding, this would significantly increase class sizes across the district. We appreciate the discussion and welcome an opportunity to share information about school funding in Duluth. The good news is schools like Denfeld, Lincoln Park and Myers-Wilkins have access to greater funding based on need and receive more overall funding per pupil. We recognize the need to work towards increasing the level of discretionary funding for schools with higher levels of need and will work towards achieving this as a long term goal. I'd also like to highlight the work being done to develop the full-service community schools model at Denfeld, Lincoln Park and Myers-Wilkins. We are receiving support from the state to implement this model which is focused on partnerships between the school and other community resources to improve academics, health and social services, youth and community development and community engagement leads to improved student learning, stronger families and healthier communities. Part of the annual district wide budget planning process includes discussions with leadership teams at the elementary, middle and high school levels. We look forward to further conversations regarding school funding as we work through finalizing the budget process in June.

Moving on to another topic, tomorrow is ACT day for our juniors. So 11th grade students...make sure you get a good night's sleep, have a good breakfast, stay hydrated, breathe, and do the very best that you can. We also have non-junior students who will be engaging in what we have called ACTion day, working on some service learning opportunities throughout the community. This is something we have done for a few years now, and hope to increase this in the future. I'm sure our student reps are thinking about the ACT's tomorrow-- and I just want to mention that we will understand if you leave a bit early tonight to prepare for tomorrow.

Denfeld High School: Student Representative Ben Emmel stated Denfeld received the Most Creative Award at the Robotics competition. Spring sports are in full swing; Denfeld vs. East in boys' baseball. Movie night, popcorn bar, the lecture hall was full and fun was had by all! The 20 hour famine was recently completed as well as a blood drive. Operation Grace took place with over 30 students seen for dental procedures. Denfeld is having meetings regarding becoming a full service community school. MCA testing been going well with ACTs tomorrow for Juniors! Several teachers have allocated their WIN time to help prep students for the ACTs. Denfeld's 4th annual Lip Dub will be released in early May. Anna and Connor are going to State for Speech. Eleven students from a pre-calculus class took part in a competition at LSC with the Denfeld team taking first place out of four teams; Denfeld also took first, second and third place on the individual level as well. Denfeld's Spring play will be Mousetrap; all are invited. Congratulations to Ben for taking first place in this year's Trig-Star contest!

Duluth East High School: Student Representative Cabrilla Francis stated this month at East has been very busy with activities, there will be an entire school WIN for a State send off for 6 groups (Speech, Robotics, Destination Imagination, Health, Culinary Arts, History). Spring sports has kicked off with baseball, softball, tennis, and track with meets and games already taking place. East's Music/Arts acapella group went to Boston and had a 'crazy good time' and thanked the Board for the opportunity go. The Spring play for East will be "Beauty and the Beast". Hound pack leaders were chosen for the month; congratulations to Cabrilla for being

chosen! Tomorrow is ACT testing for juniors and a stay at home day for Seniors. Everyone is excited for prom which will be in less than 3 weeks!

Education Committee Report
April 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
Lester Park Foundation	Lester Park Teachers and Staff	Misc.	\$1,952.38	Funds from these grants will support misc. classroom projects and initiatives at Lester Park Elementary School.

E-4-17-3440

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M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve Resolution E-4-17-3440 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

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

Member Oswald withheld Items 1.C.1) and 2.A.2)

Member Harala withheld Item 1.B.2)

Member Sandstad withheld Items 1.A.1) and 1.A.2)

Member Sandstad withheld Item 1.A.1) Assistant Superintendent's Report to discuss school readiness for 3-4 year olds and what an incredible resource it is for both students and parents.

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Member Sandstad withheld 1.A.2) Language Immersion Program Update to discuss the possibility for a promotional video for the Immersion Program.

Member Harala withheld Item 1.B.2) Action for Healthy Kids Grant to ask for clarification on the dollar amount of grant; is it \$200 or \$2,000. It is \$2,000 and documentation will be updated.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Oswald withheld Item 1.C.1) NEW Regulation 513R – Student Promotion, Retention, and Program Design to discuss promotion versus retention. The policy discusses promotion but not retention; does this need to be addressed?

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Oswald withheld Item 2.A.2) Removal of Chinese World Language Program to clarify if option 1 or option 2 was being recommended for approval; it isn't written anywhere. Option 2 is being recommended; Board documents will be updated.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the remainder of the Education Committee Report with option 2 as the recommendation for Item 2.A.2, was approved – unanimously.

Human Resources Committee Report

April 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-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the Human Resource Committee Report.

M-Welty, S-Johnston, to add the following wording to Item 2.A. New Bylaw 213 School Board Committees as the last sentence of Section III.D. to read “This will not preclude School Board members from being active participants in negotiations.”

Discussion took place regarding this item.

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

Yay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp

Nay: Johnston, Oswald, Sandstad, Welty

Discussion continued regarding this item.

Upon a vote to add the following wording to Item 2.A New Bylaw 213 School Board Committees as the last sentence of Section III.D. to read “This will not preclude School Board members from being active participants in negotiations.”, the vote failed 3-3-1 as follows:

Yay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp
Nay: Johnston, Oswald, Welty
Abstain: Sandstad

M-Johnston, S-Welty, to remove the following wording from Item 2.A New Bylaw 213 School Board Committees Section III.D. “The Negotiations Committee shall direct administration to engage in wage negotiations and “meet and confer” meetings with employee groups.”

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the motion to delete the last sentence of Section III.D. passed – unanimously.

Upon a vote, the remainder of the Human Resource Committee Report was approved - unanimously.

Business Committee Report

April 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
Denfeld	Stanley and Janice Burns	\$50.00	Robotics
Denfeld	Barbara Bauman Pederson & Todd Pederson	\$500.00	Chicago Music Trip
Denfeld	Brenda and Kevin Rodlund	\$25.00	Student who had a house fire
Denfeld	Subaru of America	In Kind	Auto donation for educational use only (can’t be driven, resold or parted out)

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East	Timothy and Sandra Rich	\$500.00	Band
East	Kathy Bray	In Kind	Orchestra
Homecroft	Wells Fargo Matching Gifts Program	\$65.00	None
Lincoln Park	UMD Student Activities	\$73.00	AmeriCorp
Lincoln Park	Collections at Orchestra concert	\$218.00	Orchestra Dept
Myers-Wilkins	Box Tops for Education	\$529.70	None
Ordean East	Anne Whitworth	\$50.00	Swim team
	Total	\$2,010.70	

B-4-17-3442

April 18, 2017

M-Harala, S-Oswald, to approve Resolution B-4-17-3442 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Harala presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Release and Pledge of Collateral

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that it hereby releases the \$500,000 par value FNSM note, CUSIP number XXXXXXVM2, pledged as collateral by Duluth Teachers Credit Union.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, By the School Board, that it accepts the pledge collateral of a \$250,000 par value FMNT note maturing 1/25/2019, CUSIP number XXXXXXHN2 in exchange for the released collateral noted above.

Resolution B-4-17-3443

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M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution B-4-17-3443 – Release and Pledge of Collateral. Upon a vote, the same approved – unanimously.

Member Harala presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Adoption of the Considerations and Investments for the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, that the investments and adjustments for the fiscal year 2018 budget as presented to the School Board, be adopted. In addition, the School Board requests periodic updates as administration continues to finalize the listing using a framework consistent with the attached budget planning document.

Resolution B-4-17-3444

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M-Harala, S-Oswald, to approve Resolution B-4-17-3444 – Adoption of the Considerations and Investments for the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

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

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

M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee Report.

Member Oswald withheld Items 4.A.1) and 6.A.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. APU Projections to express his concern regarding the falling enrollment numbers.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Oswald withheld 4.A.1) Design Services for the Woodland Hills/Rockridge Design Project to voice her support of Woodland Hills.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Oswald withheld 6.A. Expenditure Contracts to inquire about the searches already conducted under the Interquest Canines contract.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

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

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

➤ Chair Kirby adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of April 18, 2017 at 10:00 p.m.