

## 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, August 16, 2016

### Members Present:

Annie Harala  
Art Johnston  
David Kirby  
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp  
Alanna Oswald  
Harry Welty

### Others Present:

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent  
Bill Hanson, Deputy Clerk  
Jackie Dolentz, Secretary

### Student Representatives:

Spencer Fredrickson  
Johanna Uden

### Absent:

Nora Sandstad

➤ Chair Harala called the regular school board meeting of August 16, 2016 to order at 6:32 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

**M-Welty, S-Oswald, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same passed – 6-0.**

Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of July 19, 2016.

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Oswald, to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2016 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 6-0.**

## School and Community Recognition

August 2016

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Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present the Denfeld High School DNA Robotics Team for recognition. Welcome to team co-Captains Jamie Larson and Brianna Williams, Coach Andy Gunderson and all team members. Denfeld Nation Automation: DNA - has had an incredibly successful season. Robotics is truly in their blood. In March they took 1st Place at the Lake Superior Regional, went 14 matches undefeated and received the Engineering Inspiration Award, earning a spot at the FIRST Robotics World Championship. In their first ever appearance at the international World Championship in April, the team made semifinalist in the Galileo Division, placing 36 of 75 teams. In May, DNA took 2nd Place at the Minnesota State High School League State Robotics Championship and received the Dunwoody Award for Outstanding Engineering and Design. And, just last month, the team took 1st and 2nd Place at the Gitchi Gummi Mini-Regional and received the Helping Hands Award for Gracious Professionalism. These bright, talented students, with support from community partners,

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mentors and volunteers, are, if I may paraphrase FIRST founder Dean Kamen, "...helping to transform our culture by creating a world where science and technology are celebrated and where young people dream of becoming science and technology leaders." Congratulations on a remarkable season!

**Public Comments**  
**August 2016**  
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Member Loeffler-Kemp read the community vision statement.

Brianna Williams, address not provided, captain of Denfeld robotic team (DNA), thanked the School Board and the community for their support and recognition.

Karen Perry, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about the disparities for children of color and low income students between the East and West schools and the roles of school resource officers.

Sharon Witherspoon, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about the achievement gap for students of color and the overall school culture.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**  
**August 2016**  
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Superintendent Gronseth stated no communications had been received.

**Superintendent's Report**  
**August 2016**

This week principals, teachers and staff are participating in Tech Camp, learning how to use new technologies and social media in the educational process. Opportunities include learning more about the Fab Lab equipment at Denfeld, using Facebook and Twitter to engage, inform and interact with families, creating interactive web quests to meet multiple learning targets and much more. Part of today's training focused on the importance of sharing all the amazing work going on each day in our classrooms and in our school district. We were very fortunate to have a nationally recognized speaker, Dr. Joe Sanfelippo, share the success his school district has seen using social media to share day-to-day school activities and accomplishments and how it has helped engage families, helped parents talk with their students about what goes on in school and build a positive school and district culture. Like any organization, we have challenges to address and accomplishments to recognize - so let's talk about those challenges constructively and also make it a point to regularly identify and share our celebrations. We are still working to fill several positions for the coming year. If you know someone who works well with students and would enjoy working in a school setting as a teacher, paraprofessional, bus driver--any of the

many opportunities available, please encourage them to apply! All available positions can be found on our website. The entire application process is online. If you need help with anything or have questions, feel free to contact our Human Resources Department. Next Tuesday -- August 23rd -- CHUM and our school district are partnering to provide backpacks filled with supplies for children who need them. That event will be held here at HOCHS on the first floor. Each year hundreds of backpacks are distributed at this event. It really helps students start school feeling confident and prepared. If you want to more about it, or want to donate to the event, check the Chum website at [www.chumduluth.org](http://www.chumduluth.org). The start of school is just around the corner now and I know that some of our athletes have already started getting together in preparation for the Fall season! And we have our student reps here to share their reports:

Denfeld High: Johanna Unden shared thoughts on the upcoming school year. She also shared that Denfeld students are working together on ways to include more students of color and cultural backgrounds in school activities.

East High: Spencer Fredrickson also shared thoughts and happenings for the upcoming school year. New student orientation is starting and sports teams have started practicing for the fall. One of their goals is to get more students involved in clubs, sporting events, better grades, etc.

**Education Committee Report**  
**August 2016**  
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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.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Author / Contact</b>	<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Award Amount</b>	<b>Terms</b>
Northland Foundation	Jay Roesler	PreK-3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Transition and Alignment	\$4,000.00	Funds from this grant award will be used to support and expand PreK-3 <sup>rd</sup> grade approaches throughout the school district.

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**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve Resolution E-8-16-3389 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

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

Member Oswald withheld Item 1.B.1)  
Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A. Assistant Superintendent’s Report to comment on the cultural sharing section of the all staff workshop day in August. School Board discussion continued regarding cultural sharing.

Member Oswald withheld Item 1.B.1) 2015-16 State Test Results to comment on attendance at the EEAC committee meetings, teacher training and the upcoming use of the Clayton Jackson McGhie curriculum. School Board discussion continued regarding these items.

**Upon a vote on the remainder of the Education Committee, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**Human Resources Committee Report**  
**August 2016**  
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Member Kirby presented the Human Resources Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each school board member.

Member Kirby presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
Termination of Certified Hourly Staff

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the employment of the following hourly teachers shall terminate effective at the end of the school day on June 10, 2016, unless another date is indicated below, in which case the employment of the individual shall terminate on that date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the School Board shall notify such teachers in writing before July 1, 2016, of the termination of their employment.

Deborah Wendling – (Change in date) effective 8/24/16

Resolution HR-8-16-3387

August 16, 2016

**M-Kirby, S-Welty, to approve Resolution HR-8-16-3387 – Termination of Certified Hourly Staff. Upon a vote, the same was approved 6-0.**

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Member Kirby presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

**Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement Food Service Employees**

RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District #709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Independent School District #709 and the Food Service Employees, a summary of which is in the hands of all School Board members, be approved and adopted for the period of July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, inclusive, and that the Chairperson and Clerk of the School Board be hereby authorized to execute said Agreement on behalf of the School District.

Resolution HR-8-16-3388

August 16, 2016

**M-Kirby, S-Welty, to approve Resolution HR-8-16-3388 – Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreement Food Service Employees. Upon a vote, the same was approved 6-0.**

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

Superintendent Gronseth withheld Item 1.  
Member Oswald withheld Items 2.C. and 2.D.

Superintendent Gronseth withheld Item 1. Staffing Report Action Items to discuss the retirement of Bill Hanson to thank him for his years of service to our students and our community.

Member Oswald withheld Item 2.C. Approval of Maintenance Custodian Job Description to verify that the Civil Service Board had approved the job description and to clarify that the hiring under this new job classification would be done before the Facilities Directors retirement at the end of September. School Board discussion continued on this topic.

Member Oswald withheld Item 2.D. Approval of Additional District “Hourly/Substitute Pay Rate Sheet” wage increase to discuss wage increases above those mandated by the State of Minnesota.

**M-Oswald, S-Johnston, to increase our district hourly and substitute pay base by \$.25 per hour above the State of Minnesota minimum wage.**

Discussion took place regarding the motion to increase the hourly substitute pay \$.25 per hour above state wage minimums.

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, to call the question, passes 6-0.**

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**Upon a vote on the amendment, the same failed 3-3 as follows:**

**Yea: Oswald, Welty, Johnston**

**Nay: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Kirby**

**Upon a vote on the Human Resources Committee, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**Business Committee Report**

**August 2016**

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Chair Harala presented the Business Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each school board member.

Member Welty 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 this organization.

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>DONOR</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>RESTRICTION</b>
Denfeld	Eric & Deborah Dott	In Kind (2001 Eurovan)	None
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	

B-8-16-3390

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**M-Welty, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution B-8-16-3390 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

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Member Kirby presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
Authorized Bank Account Signer

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

<u>District Building</u>	<u>Banking Institution</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Addition of Authorized Signer</u>	<u>Removal of Authorized Signer</u>
East	Northshore Northshore DTCU	XXXXXX9 XXXXXX2 XXXXX6	Danette Seboe	Laurie Knapp
Homecroft	DTCU	XXXXX2	Amy Wolden	Cher Obst
Myers-Wilkins	DTCU	XXXXX3	Elisa Maldonado	Stephanie Heilig
Stowe	DTCU	XXXXX0	Cynthia Maldonado	Larry Udesen

Resolution B-8-16-3391

August 16, 2016

**M-Kirby, S-Oswald, to approve Resolution B-8-16-3391– Authorized Bank Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

Member Oswald presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
Broadcasting Committee Meetings

WHEREAS, the School Board desires to broadcast regularly scheduled monthly committee meetings; and,  
WHEREAS, the Board has received an estimate of the costs involved in doing so:  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Duluth Public Schools School Board directs administration to begin these broadcasts in September, 2016, or as soon as reasonably possible.

B-8-16-3392

August 16, 2016

**M-Oswald, S-Johnston, to approve Resolution B-8-16-3392 Broadcasting Committee Meetings**

Discussion took place regarding the resolution.

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Kirby, to amend the Resolution by adding ‘to be reviewed in 6 months’ at the end of the last sentence.**

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**M-Oswald, S-Johnston, to amend the amendment to state instead ‘to be reviewed at the end of the 2016-17 school year’ at the end of the last sentence.**

**Upon a vote, the amendment to the amendment was approved 6-0.**

**Upon a vote on the amended Resolution B-8-16-3392, the same passed 6-0.**

**M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report.**

Member Oswald withheld Item 2.B.1)  
Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B.1)

Member Oswald withheld Item 2.B.1) RFP #306 - Playground Rubber Removal and Reconstruction Design to discuss the ability of the vendor to provide costs estimated for combined use of materials.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Johnston 4.B.1) Change Orders to Facilities Projects – Bid #1245 to clarify that asbestos was mentioned when it is actually lead.

**Upon a vote on the remainder of the Business Committee, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**Other**  
**August 2016**  
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In anyone has questions or is interested in participating on the sub-committee for the Superintendent review, email the Board Chair.

Member Johnston inquired if any communication or summons had been received on a possible pending lawsuit. Chair Harala gave a reminder to contact administration if staff or Board members receive any summons or court documents.

Member Oswald thanked our college intern for mentoring the Denfeld robotics team. She was not able to join the team this year as she graduated last year.

Member Welty commented on the costumes damaged by recent storm at Board of Trade Building belonging to the Minnesota Ballet. Administration has been in talks with the Minnesota Ballet to offer assistance.

Chair Harala thanked the staff for the work they will be doing to get ready for the upcoming school year.

Chair Harala adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of August 16, 2016 at 9:21 p.m.