

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, October 16, 2018

Members Present:

Josh Gorham
David Kirby
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Jill Lofald
Alanna Oswald
Nora Sandstad

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives:

Maggie Carlos (Denfeld)

Members Absent:

Sally Trnka

➤ Chair Kirby called the Regular School Board meeting of October 16, 2018 to order at 6:32 p.m.

M-Kirby, S-Sandstad, to appoint Cathy Erickson, as Deputy Clerk. Upon a vote, the same was approved - 6-0.

The pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Gorham, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote, the agenda was approved as presented – 6-0.

Chair Kirby asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of September 18, 2018.

M-Sandstad, S-Oswald, to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2018 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

Chair Kirby asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of September 18, 2018.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Gorham, to approve the minutes of the September 18, 2018 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

School and Community Recognition October 2018

Members of the Board, this month we're recognizing the employees of our Special Education Department. Please welcome Jason Crane, Director of Special Education. The Minnesota

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Department of Education reviews public school special education systems throughout the state. MDE reviewed our district in 2017-18 and it required a lot of work on the part of our Special Education Department staff to get ready. Over the course of the year, nearly every month was filled with requirements and deadlines our team worked together to complete. They include, but were not limited to:

- Record and File Review
- Building and Staff Summary
- Special Education Director Interview Total Special Education System Plan Review
- Restrictive Procedures Plan Review
- And Special Education Monitoring Online Interviews

All of that work paid off. We were notified by MDE that our Special Education department passed the audit with No Findings. The letter from MDE states, quote, “The administration and special education staff are commended for their commitment to providing compliant services to children with disabilities and their families. The Division of Compliance and Assistance appreciates the efforts that resulted in this exemplary outcome.” Congratulations to Jason Crane, Director, and the employees in our Special Education Department, we appreciate all you do.

Public Comments
October 2018

Member Oswald read the Community Vision and Priorities for Duluth’s Schools and the Eleven Tools of Civility.

Kevin Skwira-Brown, no address provided, spoke to the School Board about the Community Based School Equity Initiative.

Bernie Burnham, no address provided, spoke to the School Board to thank you for supporting and attending the “Breakfast with Bernie” events, door knocking for the upcoming education levy referendum, and introduced the Executive Director of the Duluth Community Schools Collaborative.

Tonya Kjerland, address not provided, the new Executive Director of the Duluth Community Schools Collaborative, introduced herself to the Board.

Jesse Frischmann, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about being a new teacher in the District (Myers-Wilkins).

Tyler Henkels, address not provided, a teacher at Lincoln Park Middle School, spoke to the School Board about feedback he received from parents at the recent parent teacher conferences.

Loren Martell, 623 East Seventh Street, spoke to the School Board about the upcoming levy.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

October 2018

Superintendent Gronseth stated that no communications had been received.

Superintendent's Report

October 2018

To start tonight I want to welcome Cathy Erickson, our new CFO to her very first School Board meeting. We are excited to have Ms. Erickson with us.

The election is just 21 days away! We have been visiting all of our schools, PTSA groups, community leaders and organizations to share information about the referendum. There have been two mailings that have gone out to everyone in the district, and another will be going out soon. There will also be informational pieces coming out through our local media and through social media as well. The majority of these mailings and postings are required by law, but help everyone to learn more about the referendum questions. As a reminder, there are three referendum questions being considered. The three questions are linked and require that voters answer all three questions.

The first question is for a renewal of our current referendum. Since 2013, the referendum has supported 16-18 full-time teachers, curriculum updates including the Wonders Reading Curriculum, and strategies to close the achievement gap such as the implementation of our multi-tiered systems of support and professional learning communities. Again question 1 is a renewal and does not result in a tax increase.

The second question addresses class size, something that every group we've talked to has listed as their top priority. Question 2 is an increase of \$575 per pupil to add an additional 25 teachers, allows for specific interventions at specific sites to address student needs, and ensures long-term financial stability for the district. Question 2 is an increase of \$8.64 per month for the average household in Duluth.

Question 3 supports classroom technology. Although it may feel as though the Long Range Facilities Plan just happened, it is actually celebrating a decade since the first projects. The technology that was implemented at that time is still in place in most cases. This technology is fading quickly (I'm not sure how many of us have cell phones or laptops that we were using 10 years ago!). Passing question 3 would allow us to update our smart boards and other technologies, ensure that every student and staff have access to a device, provide professional development and ongoing support for our teachers and tech staff. It also allows us to upgrade our infrastructure such as increasing from 1 GIG of bandwidth to 10 GIG. Question 3 is an additional increase of \$5.03 for the average household.

When the costs for this referendum were calculated, we looked at average expenses over the course of the referendum, costing less in the beginning and more at the end. If people have

further questions or would like to see what their estimated taxes would be for each question, they can visit our website at www.ISD709.org and visit the Levy page. You can enter your parcel number and see what the tax impact would be for your property. We encourage everyone to get out and vote on November 6, or before, because I know early voting is more popular than ever before!

As I am sure everyone has noticed, winter seems to be visiting early this year. We have already had snow and ice coverage a few times this year. We met today with regional superintendents to start our yearly conversations about severe weather preparedness. So, I am hopeful that it won't be anytime soon, but should we have school cancellations people should be aware that we do report closures or two-hour late starts through the local media, Infinite Campus, our automated dialer system and through our social media accounts. We do try to make decisions as early as possible but as the experts tell us, Duluth weather is not always predictable!

Student Representative Maggie Carlos spoke to the School Board about activities happening at Denfeld such as Homecoming, Hunter Pride, great attendance at sporting events, hall decorating, Pathways 2 Teaching class, career and college-ready month, scholarship night, and FAFSA night. Everyone is invited to the play, "Anything Goes", which will be November 1-4, 2018.

Education Committee Report

October 2018

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

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 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 organizations.

Organization	Author / Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
Northland Foundation	Jacob Hintsala	Preventure Lincoln Collaborative	\$20,000	Funds will be used to support funds will be used to support the Preventure Lincoln Collaborative, a school-based intervention aimed at reducing adolescent drug and alcohol use in high-risk teenagers.
Boston Scientific – High Tech Kids	Calvin Harris	FIRST LEGO League Team	\$650	Fund will be used to support a FIRST LEGO League Robotics Team at Laura MacArthur Elementary School.

Resolution E-10-18-3591

October 16, 2018

M-Lofald, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution E-10-18-3591 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

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

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

Member Oswald withheld Item 1.C.1) North Star Accountability System Presentation – Part 2, to discuss expectations for students.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Oswald withheld Item 2.B.1) Extended Trip Request – Montgomery, AL, to verify the dates of the trip.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

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

Human Resources Committee Report

October 2018

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

M-Gorham, S-Oswald, to approve the Human Resource Committee report. Upon a vote, the Human Resources Committee report was approved – 6-0.

Business Committee Report
October 2018

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

Member Gorham 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
Congdon	Xin Liang	\$100.00	Art dept.
Congdon	Anne Collins	\$80.00	Battle of the Books
District-wide	Surgical Services Charity Committee	\$250.00	Outstanding hot lunch balances (no school specified)
East	Minnesota Vikings	\$800.00	Football
East	Corrina Halstead	\$250.00	Drama dept.
East	Deanna Bennett	\$500.00	Drama dept.
East	Gerald Martin	In Kind	Art dept.
Laura MacArthur	Duluth Public School Fund Endowment Grants	\$4,619.00	
Lester Park	Vicki Simich	In Kind	Lester Park students
Lester Park	Emily High & Health Partners Employees	In Kind	None
Lester Park	Gayle and Jonathan Koop	\$200.00	None
Lowell	Lowell PTA Families	In Kind	None
Lowell	Adventure Club/Positive Energy Outdoors	In Kind	None
Lowell	Cub Foods and community	In Kind	None
Lowell	Lowell PTA/Sarah Pugliese	\$50.00	None
Lowell	Maurices	In Kind	None
Lowell	Cub Foods and Community	In Kind	None

Resolution B-10-18-3592

October 16, 2018

M-Gorham, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution B-10-18-3592 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

Member Gorham presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
Authorized Bank Account Signer – October 2018

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

District Building	Banking Institution	Account Number	Addition of Authorized Signer	Removal of Authorized Signer
ISD 709	MN Liquid Asset Fd	XXXXX3	Catherine Erickson	--
ISD 709	MN Trust	XXXX8	Catherine Erickson	--
ISD 709	Piper Jaffray	XXXXXXXX5	Catherine Erickson	--
ISD 709	MBS	XXXXX9	Catherine Erickson	--
ISD 709	US Bank	XXXXXXXX6	Catherine Erickson	--
ISD 709	Harbor Pointe Credit Union	XXX23	Catherine Erickson	--

Resolution B-10-18-3593

October 16, 2018

M-Gorham, S-Lofald, to approve Resolution B-10-18-3593 – Authorized Bank Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

M-Gorham, S-Sandstad, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report. Upon a vote, the remainder of the Business Committee report was approved – 6-0.

Other
October 2018

M-Kirby, S-Oswald, in accordance with ISD 709 Policy 213 – School Board Committees Bylaw, the School Board Chair appoint an ad hoc committee and designate the Chair thereof, to review the current organizational structure of the ISD 709 School Board. This review should include, but not be limited to, the standing committee design and function and agenda setting procedures. Furthermore, the ad hoc committee will follow all the procedures for school board committees as outlined in Policy 213, which includes open meetings. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

M-Oswald, S-Sandstad, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

➤ Chair Kirby adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of October 16, 2018 at 7:41 p.m.