

## **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, July 18, 2017

### **Members Present:**

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

### **Others Present:**

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent  
Doug Hasler, Deputy Clerk  
Jackie Dolentz, Secretary

### **Student Representatives:**

Benjamin Emmel  
Cabrilla Francis

### **Members Absent:**

Nora Sandstad  
Harry Welty

➤ Chair Kirby called the Regular School Board Meeting of July 18, 2017 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

### **M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the agenda as presented.**

Chair Kirby asked School Board members if there was any discussion on the agenda.

### **Upon a vote, the agenda was approved as presented – 5-0.**

Chair Kirby asked School Board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of June 20, 2017.

### **M-Harala, S-Oswald, to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2017 Regular School Board Meeting as presented.**

Member Loeffler-Kemp stated she was the Board member that abstained on the Reassessment of Debt Load for Duluth Public Schools Resolution and not Member Oswald.

### **Upon a vote, the minutes were approved as amended - 5-0.**

## **School and Community Recognition**

**July 2017**

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Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present Marlon Grant for recognition. Marlon is an Integration Specialist at Lincoln Park Middle School. He plays an important role in providing students the help they need to stay in school, achieve their academic goals and graduate successfully. He does this in part by: Working together with students, families and

2 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
July 18, 2017

community resources; Helping provide programming during and after school in the areas of academic support, leadership skills and cultural identity; Ensuring daily coursework completion and appropriate levels of attendance; Facilitating Family Engagement and supporting school-to-home communication. Marlon was recently recognized for his exceptional work with young people. He is the recipient of the 2017 Gary Gordon Adult Peacemaker Award from Men as Peacemakers. They presented the award during their Celebration of Peacemakers in June. According to nominators, Marlon goes above and beyond for his students, donating time and resources outside of work to ensure their success. Congratulations for this well-deserved award!

**Public Comments**

**July 2017**

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Tom Tusken, 4307 West Sixth Street, spoke on behalf of the Community Based School Equity Initiative to thank the Board for approving Member Johnston's Resolution regarding Compensatory Education funds at the June Board meeting.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**

**July 2017**

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Superintendent Gronseth stated no communications had been received.

**Superintendent's Report**

**July 2017**

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July is a busy month for our community! There are so many different events going on. No matter what your interest, there is a way to get your family involved. Research tells us that children who are actively learning in the summer retain more of their learning, and head back to school in the fall better prepared than children who are not as active. Whether it is a visit to the library, a play, a museum, or a nature trail, children are learning and that is important to their overall success. So get out there and enjoy our amazing community!

One event that is coming up that involves many of our Duluth students is the Duluth Community Schools Collaborative Hillside Youth Theatre as they present "All You Need is Bugs" It takes place on Thursday July 27th. Fundraiser: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. with the performance at 7:00 p.m. at the Lincoln Park Middle School Auditorium.

I also want to mention that a team of district leaders spent the last two days together taking a deep dive into some of our structures and processes. We have laid out a plan for further developing some of these ideas. In the coming weeks we will be bringing other teams together to get input on a process to develop a definition of equity and a statement of commitment to this work. Our hope is to develop an equity team to provide us with tools and measures to use as we develop the state and federally required plans and reports. We will continue to keep the board informed of this process and hope to make recommendations for board adoption in the fall.

3 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
July 18, 2017

Once again I would like to remind everyone that the summer meal program goes throughout the summer. Breakfast is served from 8 - 10:30 a.m. and lunch from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Lester Park, Lowell, Myers-Wilkins, Piedmont, Laura MacArthur, Stowe, Lincoln, and Denfeld. It's free for 18 and under and \$3.85 for adults who are accompanying children. You can check our website at [www.isd709.org](http://www.isd709.org) for details and menus.

Duluth East High School: Student Representative Cabrilla Francis stated the Food for Thought program was featured in a magazine article, and mentioned several students who won scholarships, advanced in sports competitions, advanced in poetry competitions. Sport camps are starting already for the upcoming school year.

Denfeld High School: Student Representative Ben Emmel stated that Denfeld is prepping for the incoming Freshman class with meetings, planning for t-shirt design (class of 2021), choosing the high school theme, and the Hunter kick off is coming up for all students during the August registration. School supply lists are out which means summer is almost over! Save the Date for Denfeld's Open House on August 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Education Committee Report**  
**July 2017**  
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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.

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Harala, to approve the Education Committee Report.**

Member Johnston withheld Items 2.B.1), 2.B.2), 2.B.4) and 2.C.  
Member Johnston asked for a separate vote on 2.B.1) and 2.B.2)

Member Johnston jointly withheld Items 2.B.1) 6300 – Wellness Policy – DELETION and 2.B.2) NEW Policy 533 – Wellness to inquire about the foods that were allowed to be sold or brought to school for fundraisers, provided by staff, etc.

Discussion was held regarding this item.

**Upon a separate vote on Items 2.B.1) and 2.B.2), the same was approved - 3-2 as follows:**

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

**Nay: Oswald, Johnston**

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.B.4) Bullying Prohibition Policy to clarify the timelines for addressing incidents and any reports that result around these incidents.

Discussion was held regarding this item.

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.C. 2017 Graduates to comment on the increased number of graduates from Denfeld High School.

**Upon a vote, the remainder of the Education Committee Report was approved – 5-0.**

**Human Resources Committee Report**

**July 2017**

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Member Harala presented the Human Resources Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each School Board member.

Member Harala presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

**Approval to Rescind Termination of Non-Tenured Certified 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 school day on June 9, 2017, unless another date is indicated below, in which case the employment of the particular teacher shall terminate on that date.

Kari Romano - Rescind

2. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Clerk of the School Board shall notify such teachers in writing before July 1, 2017, of the termination of their employment.

HR-7-17-3464

July 18, 2017

**M-Harala, S-Johnston, to approve Resolution HR-7-17-3464 – Approval to Rescind Termination of Certified Non-Tenured Certified Staff. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 5-0.**

**RESOLUTION**

**Duluth Principal's Association**

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 Duluth Principals' Association, a summary of which is in the hands of all School Board members, be approved and adopted for the periods August 1, 2017 to July 31, 2019, and August 1, 2019 to July 31, 2021, inclusive, and that the Chairperson and Clerk of the School Board be hereby authorized to execute said Agreement on behalf of the School District.

HR-7-17-3465

July 18, 2017

**M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution HR-7-17-3465 – Duluth Principal's Association.**

Discussion took place regarding this item.

**Upon a vote, the same was approved – 5-0.**

**M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the remainder of the Human Resource Committee Report. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 4-0-1 as follows:**

**Yea: Harala, Kirby, Johnston, Loeffler-Kemp,**

**Nay: None**

**Abstain: Oswald**

**Business Committee Report**

**July 2017**

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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
HOCHS	Anonymous	\$1,738.00	Misaabekong Ojibwe Language Immersion Program
Denfeld	Matthew Rannila	\$150.00	Skills USA
Denfeld	Rotary Club No 25 of Duluth	\$1,000.00	Guidance Dept Counselors
Laura MacArthur	Community members	\$702.55	Memorial for student who passed away (purchase a "Buddy Bench" for the playground)
Lester Park	Lester Park PTA	\$1,795.90	Classroom field trips/buses (up to \$100 per teacher)
Lincoln Park	Northland Foundation	\$1,000.00	Positive Perks
Ordean-East	Buckets at the door	\$1,312.00	Band
Ordean-East	Buckets at the door	\$595.75	Orchestra
Ordean-East	PG&E Company/Employee Giving - Dianna Sunsdahl	\$498.00	None
Stowe	Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance	\$500.00	Math and science support
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$9,290.20</b>	

**M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution B-7-17-3466 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 5-0.**

Member Harala presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

Authorized Bank Account Signer – June 2017

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

<b>District Building</b>	<b>Banking Institution</b>	<b>Account Number</b>	<b>Addition of Authorized Signer</b>	<b>Removal of Authorized Signer</b>
Denfeld	DTCU	XXXX2		Carolyn Graves
Homecroft	DTCU	XXXX2		Sherry Holten
Lakewood	Northshore	XXXXXXXX7		Vivian Fromberg
Laura MacArthur	Western Nat'l	XXXXXXXX2		Nathan Glockle
Lowell	DTCU	XXXX4		Gayle Hunger
Stowe	DTCU	XXXX0		Cynthia Maldonado

Resolution B-7-17-3467

July 18, 2017

**M-Harala, S-Oswald, to approve Resolution B-7-17-3467 – Authorized Bank Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 5-0.**

Member Harala presented the resolution:

### RESOLUTION

#### Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Resolution for Membership

Minnesota State High School League  
2100 Freeway Boulevard  
Brooklyn Center, MN 55430-1735  
763-560-2262 Fax: 763.569.0499 www.mshsl.org

#### 2017-2018 RESOLUTION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE MINNESOTA STATE HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

**RESOLVED**, that the Governing Board of School District Number 709, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota delegates the control, supervision and regulation of interscholastic athletic and fine arts events (referred to in MN Statutes, Section 128C.01) to the Minnesota State High School League, and so hereby certifies to the State Commissioner of Education as provided for by Minnesota Statutes.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the high school(s) listed below (name all high schools in the district):

Duluth East High School  
Denfeld High School

is/are authorized by this, the Governing Board of said school district or school to:

1.        Make new application for membership in the Minnesota State High School League;  
School Enrollment (9-12):         
**OR;**  
  X   Renew its membership in the Minnesota State High School League; and,
2. Participate in the approved interschool activities sponsored by said League and its various subdivisions.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this Governing Board hereby adopts the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of said League and all amendments thereto as the same as are published in the latest edition of the League's *Official Handbook*, on file at the office of the school district or as appears on the League's website, as the minimum standards governing participation in said League-sponsored activities, and that the administration and responsibility for determining student eligibility and for the supervision of such activities are assigned to the official representatives identified by the Governing Board.

***Signing the Resolution for Membership affirms that this Governing Board has reviewed the WHY WE PLAY training video which defines the purpose of education-based athletic and activity programs and will assist school communities in communicating a shared-common language as it relates to the value of these said programs.***

*Member schools must develop and publicize administrative procedures to address eligibility suspensions related to Code of Student Conduct violations for students participating in activity programs by member schools.*

The above Resolution was adopted by the Governing Board of this school district and is recorded in the official minutes of said Board and hereby is certified to the State Commissioner of Education as provided for by law.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk/Secretary - Local Governing Board Superintendent or Head of School

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

District Office Address, City, Zip: 215 N. 1st Ave E., Duluth, MN 55802

School Superintendent's Phone: 218-336-8752 School Superintendent's Email: william.gronseth@isd709.org

**RETURN ONE COPY TO THE MSHSL NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2017**  
Retain one copy for the school files.

8 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
July 18, 2017

**M-Harala, S-Oswald, to approve Resolution B-7-17-3468 – Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Resolution for Membership.**

Discussion took place regarding this item.

**Upon a vote, the same was approved – 5-0.**

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

Member Oswald withheld Item 4.A.2)

Member Johnston requested a separate vote on 1.A. through 1.F.

Member Johnson withheld Item 4.A.4)

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Items 4.A.2) and 6.E.

Member Johnson withheld Items 1.A. – 1.F. Financial Report to discuss why he would be voting against the Financial Report.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

**Upon a vote on Items 1.A. – 1.F., the same passed 4-1 as follows:**

**Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Oswald**

**Nay: Johnston**

Member Oswald withheld Item 4.A.2) University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) – College in the Schools (CITS) to inquire about CITS courses and their availability at each of the high schools.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 4.A.2) University of Minnesota Duluth (UMD) – College in the Schools (CITS) to ask if the Board could receive information on how many students registered and participated in this year's classes so the Board could get a better sense of enrollment numbers.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.A.4) Essentia Health Duluth Heritage Sports Center to express concern regarding the costs associated with this agreement.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 6.E. Facilities Management & Capital Project Status Report to seek clarifications and also to mention that she appreciates this report.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

**Upon a vote, the remainder of the Business Committee Report was approved – 5-0.**



**RESOLUTION**

Authorizing School Board Members' Attendance at the MSBA Summer Seminar

RESOLVED, That Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, pay costs incurred, as per District policy, for school board members to attend the MSBA Summer Seminar held in 2017.

Resolution SP-7-17-3469

July 18, 2017

**M-Harala, S-Oswald, to approve Resolution SP-7-17-3469 – Authorizing School Board Members' Attendance at the MSBA Summer Seminar. Upon a vote, the same passed – 5-0.**

**M-Oswald, S-Harala, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same passed – 5-0.**

➤ Chair Kirby adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of July 18, 2017 at 8:19 p.m.