

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, March 20, 2012

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives

Alex Livesay

- Chair Wasson called the regular school board meeting of March 20, 2012 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

The Nettleton World Beat Drummers performed for the school board.

Chair Wasson asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the special school board meeting of February 28, 2012.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Kasper, to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2012 Special School Board Meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Chair Wasson asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of February 28, 2012.

Member Johnston noted that on page five, second to the last paragraph Item 2.A.2, it should read the Mr. Leider stated that the budget from the proposed June 27th budget includes the increased cost.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Kasper, to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2012 Regular School Board Meeting as corrected. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Chair Wasson asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 6, 2012.

M-Kasper, S-Westholm, to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2012 Special Meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

M- Kasper, S-Cameron, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Public Comments

March 2012

Chair Wasson reminded the audience to follow the civility code and that they have three minutes to speak.

Terri Akervik, Music Specialist for the District, spoke to the board regarding the World Beat Drummers performance and thanked the board members for their support of the arts programs.

Pat Kendall and Nick Lansing, 3630 East 4th Street, of the Duluth for Education group, spoke to the board to ask the board to support promoting a levy referendum for the ballot this fall.

Alison Aune, 5409 London Road, spoke to the board to ask the board to keep the arts in the schools and spoke about her concern with the proposed elimination of the elementary specialists.

Sara Strother, 822 Baylis Street, spoke to the board regarding the importance of arts in the schools.

Anita Stech, 2420 East 6th Street, Speak Your Peace Program, spoke to the board urging them to vote yes to accept the Nine Tools of Civility.

Alan Netland, 1414 Boulevard Place, part of the Duluth for Education Levy Committee, spoke to the board regarding the need to pass a levy in the fall.

Loren Martell, 623 East 7th Street, spoke to the board regarding his belief that the school board has to rebuild trust with the community.

Joe and Kathy Thibault, 5131 Oakley Street, spoke to the board regarding their concerns with the need to keep cutting the budget and the need to pass a levy.

Marcia Stromgren, No address provided, spoke to the board regarding her concern with the increased costs in the review and comment for Congdon and Myers Wilkins Elementary Schools, concerns about budget cuts, water on Piedmonts gym floor, and copper siding on the new Lincoln Middle School.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

March 2012

Superintendent Gronseth stated that no communications have been received.

Superintendent's Report

March 2012

Superintendent Gronseth thanked the World Beat Drummers for their performance and all those involved with that group.

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- Kindergarten Roundup is in progress in our schools, and the dates are on the District website.
- Commissioner Brenda Cassellius will be in town meeting with administration and holding a public meeting at 3:30 pm, on Thursday, March 22nd, at Denfeld High School for a listening tour.
- Superintendent Gronseth continues to meet with groups within the city and looks forward to continue those meetings and the feedback he has received on how to support education in Duluth.
- Superintendent Gronseth has asked District Administrators to go out to the schools and spend time in a classroom to help gain knowledge of how things work in the schools and classrooms.

Education Committee Report

March 2012

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

Member Kasper 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	Perpich Center for Arts Education	Susan Mackert, Executive Director, Perpich Center for Arts Education/Ed Crawford	Perpich Center for Arts Education Grant	\$135,000	Funds from this grant award will be used to support the Duluth Public Schools becoming a regional site that will provide arts education and professional development experiences not only to Duluth Public Schools staff, but also to staff in some of our surrounding school districts.

2	Flint Hills Resources	Kris Teberg	2012 Flint Hills Resources Science Matters Camp-In Grant	All costs associated 2012 Flint Hills Resources Science Matters Camp-In that all fourth and fifth grade Lakewood Elementary students will participate in.	Funds from this grant award will cover the costs associated with an overnight field trip that Lakewood Elementary fourth grade students will participate in (transportation, meals, tours, lodging, and a live theater production, etc.)
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Resolution E-3-12-2984

March 20, 2012

M-Kasper, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution E-3-12-2984 - Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote taken, the same was approved –unanimously.

M-Kasper, S-Miernicki, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Human Resources Committee Report

March 2012

Member Westholm presented the Human Resources Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each school board member. Member Westholm noted that the action items for the approval of the Paraprofessional and Food Service contracts are being removed and will be brought back at the next regular meeting.

M-Westholm, S-Kasper, to approve the Mental Health Practitioner Substitute new hourly rate of \$12.00 hour.

Member Johnston asked what the rate was prior to this. Tim Sworks, Human Resources Certified Manager, explained that it is a new rate.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Westholm, S-Kasper, to approve the remainder of the Human Resources Committee Report as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Business Committee Report

March 2012

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

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M-Seliga Punyko, S-Kasper, to approve the Business Committee Report, withholding the resolutions, as presented.

Member Johnston withheld Items 3.A.1), 4.B.2), 4.B.4), 6.D. and 6.F.

Member Johnston withheld Item 3.A.1) – Policy 3085 to request a separate vote and an amendment.

M-Johnston, S-Cameron, to offer the following amendment to the last paragraph - School Board Members and other participants in executive closed session meetings shall follow all applicable provisions of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and the Minnesota Open Meeting Law.

Member Johnston explained why he wanted the wording added. Member Cameron asked that the reference to the open meeting law be removed from his motion. Member Johnston explained why he referenced that law. Member Johnston offered to remove the Open Meeting Law reference from the motion.

Upon a vote on the amended motion, the same failed 1 - 6 as follows:

Yea: Johnston

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

M-Johnston, S-Kasper, to add the verbiage back in that a stenographer shall make a record of all proceedings.

Discussion took place on the proposed amendment.

Upon a vote on the proposed amendment the same failed 1-6 as follows:

Yea: Johnston

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

M-Miernicki, S-Seliga Punyko, to call the question.

Member Johnston appealed calling the question. Chair Wasson overruled his appeal. Member Johnston appealed Chair Wassons ruling.

Upon a vote to uphold the Chairs ruling and call the question, the same passed 6-1 as follows:

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

Nay: Johnston

Upon a vote on Policy 8095 as presented, the same passed 6-1 as follows:

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

Nay: Johnston

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Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B.2) – Eastern Middle School (Ordean East Middle School) to note his concern with the amount of change orders and to ask if it is within the budget. Kerry Leider, Facilities Management Supervisor, stated that the change orders are reflected in the JCI Cost Status Report and noted that the report shows where the budget is for this project. Member Johnston stated that this change order is part of the budget that is at the MN Department of Education for approval as part of the review and comment. Kerry Leider stated that it is not part of the review and comment currently at the department.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B.4)a. – Lincoln Park Middle School change order to ask if it was an increase of scope of work for and if it was in the original design. Mr Leider explained that it is not the actual change order it is a request to proceed, and that it wasn't in prior bid packages but was part of the project. Member Johnston asked if it is within the budget and Mr. Leider stated it is.

Upon a vote on the business committee report as presented, withholding the resolutions, the same was approved – 6-1 as follows:

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

Member Seliga Punyko presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Joint Powers Collaborative Agreement with the City of Duluth

WHEREAS, in December 2008, the Duluth School Board approved Resolution #B-12-08-2581- Resolution of Intent Between the City of Duluth and Independent School District #709 Relating to the Establishment and Operation of Jointly Used Facilities and Services for the Citizens of Duluth; and

WHEREAS, Independent School District #709 and the City of Duluth have been working since 2008 to define terms of a Joint Powers Collaborative Agreement that will permit the two entities to collaborate and coordinate in the provision of social, educational, vocational, neighborhood and recreational services (“Programs”) and joint use facilities (“Facilities”) to members of the community in order to eliminate duplication of effort and maximize the effectiveness of the services provided; and

WHEREAS, the collaboration on Programs and joint use of Facilities will be implemented over a period of years and will be memorialized in Joint Powers Collaborative - Specific Purpose Agreements outlining the parties specific rights and obligations, which will be considered addendums to this master Joint Powers Collaborative Agreement; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, that the Joint Powers Collaborative Agreement, as presented at the March 12, 2012 Business Committee Meeting and attached hereto is hereby approved.

B-3-12-2986

March 20, 2012

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Kasper, to approve Resolution B-3-12-2986 – Joint Powers Collaborative Agreement with the City of Duluth. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

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Member Seliga Punyko presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Adoption of the Considerations and Investments for the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, that the attached considerations and investments for the fiscal year 2013 budget as presented to the School Board, be adopted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, that the School Board directs Administration to continue working with any effected bargaining units to resolve those items that require contractual agreement.

B-3-12-2987

March 20, 2012

M-Seliga-Punyko, S-Westholm, to approve Resolution B-3-12-2986 – Adoption of the Considerations and Investments for the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget.

Superintendent Gronseth reviewed the changes that were made to the list since they had last reviewed it.

Board discussion took place regarding the proposed budget considerations and investments including:

- Splitting up technology upgrades between school years
- Lobbyist Services and Costs
- Transfers from General Fund to Debt Service Fund
- Putting available funds back into classrooms/staffing ratios
- The need to pass an operating referendum in the fall

M-Johnston, to amend the resolution - be it resolved that the board will rescind Resolution B-12-11-2955 that will free up 4.5 million dollars. Fails due to lack of a second.

Chair Wasson stated that the money from that transfer has already been earmarked and could not be spent again. Mr. Hanson explained that those funds do not affect next years budget. Student Advisor Livesay stated that the District needs to pass a levy referendum in the fall, and that if the public knew where the money would be used it might gain more support. Member Johnston voiced his concern that no one would second his motion to rescind the transfer. Member Miernicki indicated that it would be a moot point because the payments are already in motion. Mr. Hanson stated that they could choose not to transfer those funds in future years but that would affect the tax impact.

Upon a vote on the original resolution as presented, the same was approved 6-1 as follows:

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

Nay: Johnston

Special Resolutions

March 2012

Member Cameron presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

School Board Reaffirmation
Accepting the Nine Tools of Civility

WHEREAS, in June 2010, the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 reaffirmed their acceptance of the *Nine Tools of Civility*; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Independent School District No. 709 continue to place a high value on respect and civility in their lives and they understand that these characteristics are essential to any healthy community; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 supports opportunities for civil discourse and discussion in the community and within the School District; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 addresses sometimes controversial issues about which people often feel passionately – which at times leads to uncivil behavior; and

WHEREAS, an atmosphere of incivility and disrespect can have a damaging effect on the proceedings, on the quality of debate, and on the practice of democracy itself.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 continues to recognize the *Nine Tools of Civility* that will provide increased opportunities for civil discourse in order to find positive resolutions to the issues that face our community. These Tools include:

1. Pay attention
2. Listen
3. Be inclusive
4. Don't gossip
5. Show respect
6. Be agreeable
7. Apologize
8. Give constructive criticism
9. Take responsibility

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 shall continue to promote the use and adherence of the *Nine Tools of Civility* in conducting the business of the School Board.

Resolution B-3-12-2985

March 20, 2012

M-Cameron, S-Kasper, to approve resolution B-3-12-2985 – School Board Reaffirmation – Accepting the Nine Tools of Civility.

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M-Johnston, to amend the resolution to - add a number ten that states follow laws, our bylaws and policies. Fails due to second.

Upon a vote on the resolution as presented, the same was approved – unanimously.

Other
March 2012

- Chair Wasson adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of March 20, 2012 at 8:34 p.m.