

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, February 27, 2018

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives:

Maggie Carlos (Denfeld)
Finnegan White (Duluth East)

➤ Chair Kirby called the regular school board meeting of February 27, 2018 to order at 6:34 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Sandstad, to approve the agenda as presented.

Chair Kirby asked school board members if there was any discussion on the agenda.

M-Kirby, S-Gorham, to move the informational item “Board Strategic Retreat” on the Human Resources Committee agenda to the Other HR Action Items. Upon a vote, the same was approved as amended – unanimously.

Chair Kirby asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of January 23, 2018.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Trnka, to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2018 Regular School Board Meeting.

M-Sandstad, S-Oswald, to amend Resolution B-1-18-3520 to clarify as a group the final wording of the Resolution. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Upon a vote, the meeting minutes of the January 23, 2018 Regular School Board meeting were approved as amended – unanimously.

Chair Kirby asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of February 12, 2018.

M-Gorham, S-Lofald, to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2018 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

School and Community Recognition

February 2018

Members of the Board, I'd like to introduce Darcy Motschenbacher and ask her to come forward for recognition. The Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals recently presented Darcy with their 2018 Office Professional of the Year Award. The Award recognizes the critical support she provides to Duluth East administrators, students, families and staff. According to MASSP, all speak in glowing terms regarding Darcy's skill sets and a common theme emerges: "We would be lost without her!" She's known for her patience, problem solving strategies and organizational strengths. Several people talked about her ability to provide individual support even when her schedule was overflowing. *"There was a day my world seemed to be falling apart one morning as I ran through the office to meet a deadline" shared a staff member. "By the end of that afternoon Darcy had tracked me down to make sure I was alright - that is simply amazing given the number of people she supports every day."* A student summed up Darcy's profile, saying; *"You can see the positive influence she has on students all the time. She is kind and devoted, even during chaotic times. She is a ray of sunshine on our darkest day!"* Darcy, thank you for the support you provide our students, families, staff and administrators every day. Congratulations on this well-deserved award!

Public Comments

February 2018

Member Loeffler-Kemp read the Community Vision and Priorities for the Duluth Schools.

Andrea Sas, Kingston Street, spoke to the School Board about her positive experiences with CTE program and Skills USA program at Duluth East.

Bernie Burnhan, 4130 West Fourth Street, spoke to the School Board about the colleagues of color event recently organized by William Howes.

Kellie Mulliner, 5300 Glenwood Street, and her students, spoke to the School Board about the recent StarBase event they participated in.

Anne Krafthefer, 5300 Glenwood Street, and her students, spoke to the School Board about the recent StarBase event they participated in.

Emily Glomski, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about the DFT Early Career Leadership Fellows.

Sheila Shusterich, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about the DFT Education Minnesota Teacher of the Year Award.

Elisabeth Kersting-Peterson, spoke to the School Board about how honored she was to be nominated for MN State Teacher of the Year Award.

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Cindy Upton, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about how honored she was to be nominated for MN State Teacher of the Year Award.

Holly Bowen-Bailey, address not provided, about how honored she was to be nominated for MN State Teacher of the Year Award.

Autumn Zierman, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about the nationwide walkouts that are occurring in regards to gun control.

Anne Skwira-Brown, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about school equity.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.
February 2018

Superintendent Gronseth stated the following communications had been received:

2-15-18 - Letter addressed to Duluth School Board from Mike Jaros regarding his concerns with administrative costs, referendums, and teaching Community Education classes.

2-21-18 – Note addressed to Board of Education from Molly Gollinger regarding her concern with the removal of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and To Kill a Mockingbird from the required reading list.

2-21-18 – Letter addressed to Duluth Minnesota Public School Board from Emily Matteson and her AP/Composition Class regarding their concern with the removal of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn and To Kill a Mockingbird from the required reading list.

Superintendent's Report
February 2018

The terrible tragedy that took place in Florida earlier this month is resulting in a national conversation around school safety. Please know that the security of our students and staff is of utmost importance. We have a safety leadership team that meets monthly to review school procedures and ensure drills and evacuations are practiced regularly throughout the school year per district and state guidelines. Annually, the safety leadership team reviews emergency procedures to ensure current research and best practices are included in our school procedures. The team has been working to redesign classroom guides for teachers to include more information as well as incorporate more language to assist students and staff in protecting themselves during lockdowns. School and district administration will continue to review district procedures to ensure our students and staff are safe. We ask students, families, and community members to alert us if they hear of any potential dangers that could be coming our way. If you see or hear something, say something. It's everyone's job to keep our schools safe.

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Newly released information from the Minnesota Department of Education shows progress in increasing the 4-year, on-time graduation rate for Duluth Public Schools. We'll have more detailed information at the March Education Committee meeting, here are some highlights:

- Denfeld High School's graduation rate increased from 73.86 to 80.36
- Duluth East's 92.94 graduation rate outperforms the state average of 82.68
- Graduation rates for the following groups increased: American Indian, Asian, Special Education, Free/Reduced Lunch and no student groups decreased
- The district's overall 4-year, on-time graduation rate increased from 75.13 in to 76.04

While this is good news, there is much work yet to do to ensure all students have an opportunity to be successful and graduate on time. We appreciate everything being done to help students graduate on time! The work we're doing to use data and collaboration to identify what each student needs and providing that support will continue.

Congratulations to Holly Bowen-Bailey, Ordean East Middle School - she's been selected as one of 43 semi-finalists for 2018 Minnesota Teacher of the Year! A panel of community leaders will select about 10 finalists in late March and announce the 2018 MN Teacher of the Year in May.

Today all 10th grade students attended the Construct Tomorrow Event at the DECC. It was a great hands-on opportunity for students to learn more about careers in the trades. They were setting tiles, laying bricks, pounding nails, walking on beams, and trying a variety of virtual reality activities like welding and operating a front-end loader. The community is also invited to an open house this evening at the DECC to learn more about the trades. We want to thank all of our district staff and community partners who make this annual event a reality!

Rockridge Academy Open House is coming up next Wednesday March 7 from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. The community is invited to tour the facility and learn more about Rockridge Academy Programs. I think everyone will be pleased with the remodeling and updating that has been done.

Regarding the budget process, we have been working with district staff, principals, and our quality steering groups to continue our work on creating a balanced budget proposal. There is a School Board Committee of the Whole meeting coming up next week where we will discuss our progress and begin presenting some of the recommendations for reductions and investments.

Think Kids meetings are just around the corner. It has been five years since the first series of Think Kids meetings. Over 2,000 people provided input through those meetings and we were able to come together and define our values and beliefs about education in our community. We developed priorities and goals, we have made progress on these goals and it is time to come together again to reflect on our progress, and to revisit our priorities moving forward. There will be Think Kids Community Conversations, but also opportunities to provide input in other ways, such as online surveys, emails, regular mail, phone calls are all possible ways to share your perspective. We encourage everyone to be a part of the conversation, because all of our kids are

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counting on us to provide the education they need to be successful in school, and the wider community.

Duluth East High School: Student Representative Finn White spoke to the School Board about the 8th grade open house held at Duluth East with a mini-club fair so the incoming students could see the activities available. Amnesty International put on their “Jamnesty” event where various performances were given and an opportunity to sign petitions in support of human rights around the globe. Singing Valentines were available for purchase with proceeds going to charity. The girls’ Nordic ski team, along with individuals from the alpine team, qualified to participate at the State meets. The swim team had a relay team qualify for state. Several students qualified as finalists for the National Merit Scholarship competition. The boys’ hockey team is in the section finals for the chance to go to state. Several groups from East will be participating in the Regional National History Day competition.

Denfeld High School: Student Representative Maggie Carlos spoke to the School Board about the recent Olympic-themed spirit week which included togas, jerseys and a scavenger hunt. All was a great success. The Athletic Court King and Queen were crowned. Three students went to the Harvard speech tournament and all placed in the top 30 out of 280 competitors. Solid Gold just finished with a 14% increase in scores and was great fun. The Sweetheart dance was a great success. Over 400 Class of 2022 students and parents took part in orientation and enjoyed cookies and ice cream. Alpha Andy was just introduced by the Robotics Team and is named in honor of Coach Andy. Good luck to them at their competition in Grand Forks. The boys’ basketball team is on an eight game winning streak!

Education Committee Report
February 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 this organization.

Organization	Author / Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
Pachel Foundation	Matthew Pursi	Denfeld High School Theater – Projector	\$4,000	Funds will be used to purchase and install a permanent projector system at Denfeld High School

E-2-18-3524

February 27, 2018

M-Lofald, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution E-2-18-3524 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

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

Member Oswald withheld Item B.3.

Member Oswald withheld Item B.3. Secondary Schedule Task Force Update to inquire as to the changes being made, and to voice her concern that the public may not understand the changes and advocated for several methods of communication to help explain any changes.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

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

Human Resources Committee Report

February 2018

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

Member Gorham presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Paraprofessional 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 Paraprofessional Employees, a summary of which has been distributed to all School Board members, be approved and adopted for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020, 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-2-18-3523

February 27, 2018

**M-Gorham, S-Oswald, to approve Resolution HR-2-18-3523 – Paraprofessional Employees.
Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Gorham presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

National Conference of Firemen and Oilers
District of Local 32BJ, SEIU (NCFO District) CHAPTER 956

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 National Conference of Firemen and Oilers District of Local 32BJ, SEIU (NCFO District) CHAPTER 956, a summary of which has been distributed to all School Board members, be approved and adopted for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020, 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-2-18- 3522

February 27, 2018

**M-Gorham, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution HR-2-18-3522 – National Conference of Firemen and Oilers District of Local 32BJ, SEIU (NCFO District) CHAPTER 956.
Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

M-Kirby, S-Sandstad, to move that the ISD709 School Board and Superintendent participate in a school board retreat including a self-evaluation process for the purpose of assessing the effectiveness as a Board taken as a whole, and not to evaluate individual board members. This evaluation will be conducted with the assistance of the MSBA, and will consist both of a written assessment of the Board's effectiveness by each Board member, as well as an in-service discussion of the overall results of these assessments and any other issues which may be brought forward. The retreat/discussion will be facilitated by MSBA staff on April 26, 2018, from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at a site to be determined and is open to the public.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the same passed – unanimously.

M-Gorham, S-Trnka, to approve the Human Resource Committee report.

Member Oswald withheld Item 1.

Member Oswald withheld Item 1 – Staffing Report Action Items – to inquire about the decrease of one of the teachers.

Upon a vote, the remainder of the Human Resources Committee report was approved - unanimously.

Business Committee Report
February 2018

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

Member Trnka 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
Child Nutrition	Anonymous	\$185.00	Myers-Wilkins unpaid lunch balances
Denfeld	Duluth Elks Lodge	\$300.00	Orchestra
Denfeld	Matthew & Stephanie Reese	\$200.00	Choir
Denfeld	Daniel Holm	\$50.00	Orchestra
Denfeld	William C. Hoch, Jr. Donor Advised Fund of the Saint Paul Foundation	\$1,500.00	Denfeld fast pitch softball team
Denfeld	NorthStar Ford Auto	In Kind	Career and Technical Education (2005 Ford Explorer)
Denfeld	Denfeld Executive Association	\$9,211.40	Auditorium AV equipment
District-wide	Essentia Health Attn: Emily Anderson	In Kind	None
East	Duluth Congregational Church	\$301.00	Choraliers
East	Grandma's Marathon	\$200.00	Orchestra
Laura MacArthur	David & Kelly Bolgrien	\$100.00	Melissa Scanlon-Olson for yoga classes
Laura MacArthur	Irving Community Assn.	\$500.00	Melissa Scanlon-Olson for yoga classes
Lincoln Park	Whole Foods Co Op	In Kind	Family night/health fair
Lincoln Park	Stewarts	\$50.00	Family night/health fair
Lincoln Park	Grandma's Restaurant	\$50.00	Family night/health fair
Lincoln Park	Scott Consulting Partners	\$100.00	Parent Teacher Home Visit
Myers-Wilkins	Thomas Albright	\$150.00	Equipment for gym
Myers-Wilkins	Michael D. Akervik	\$1,766.13	For World Beat Drumming Group

M-Trnka, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution B-2-18-3527 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Trnka, S-Lofald, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report.

Member Oswald withheld Item 6.A.
Member Gorham withheld Item 4.A.2)
Loeffler Kemp withheld Item 2.B.1)

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 2.B.1) RFP #306 – Professional Auditing Services to voice her appreciation the comments and perspective provided by the discussion on this RFP at the Business Committee meeting and to voice her support for a five year commitment.

Member Gorham withheld Item 4.A.2) - Greg Follmer Commercial Real Estate Commercial Realty Listing Contract to inquire if we are in compliance with any relevant state laws in regards to utilizing this professional service.

Discussion was held regarding this item.

Member Oswald withheld Item 6.A. - Expenditure Contracts to inquire if we knew enrollment numbers in regards to a class being offered.

Discussion was held regarding this item.

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

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

Authorizing School Board Members' Attendance at the
Duluth and St. Louis County Days at the Capitol

RESOLVED, That Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, pay costs incurred, as per District policy, for school board members to attend the Duluth and St. Louis County Days at the Capitol event held in 2018.

SP-2-18-3528

February 27, 2018

M-Kirby, S-Gorham, to approve Resolution SP-2-18-3528 – Authorizing School Board Members' Attendance at the Duluth and St. Louis County Days at the Capitol. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Oswald, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

➤ Chair Kirby adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of February 27, 2018 at 8:19 p.m.