

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, May 16, 2017

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives:

Benjamin Emmel
Cabrilla Francis

➤ Chair Kirby called the Regular School Board Meeting of May 16, 2017 to order at 6:39 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

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

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

Chair Kirby requested to add the MSBA School Board Self Evaluation under agenda item 12. Questions/Other.

Upon a vote, the agenda was 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 April 18, 2017.

M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2017 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Chair Kirby asked School Board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of April 18, 2017.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2017 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Chair Kirby asked School Board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of April 26, 2017.

M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2017 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

School and Community Recognition

May 2017

Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present students from our Career & Technical Education Program for recognition. Denfeld & Duluth East CTE Courses are for all students, integrated with academics in a rigorous and relevant curriculum. Students work hands-on with the material, learn life skills and may also earn college credit. Courses may also help students qualify for and earn accreditation or certification in their area of interest. Malcolm Hall is in our CTE Culinary Arts program and is a student chef at Food for Thought restaurant. He recently earned first place in his event at the Minnesota SkillsUSA Competition and will move on to national competition in Louisville, Kentucky in June. His instructor is Glenn D'Amour. Nicholas Garden, Lorien Gunsolus and Makenna Paquette are students in CTE Business, Marketing and Finance. They qualified for the Business Professionals of America 2017 State Leadership Conference and traveled to the BPA National Leadership Conference in Florida. Their advisor is Barb Struck. CTE Health Occupation students Brianna Ankrum, Liam Bohmann, Miranda Dahl, Anissa Lane, Nicola D'Angiola, Jasmine Acosta, Conor Reindl and Mason Elder were successful on many levels at the 2017 Minnesota Future Health Professionals Conference, earning top spots in several competitions and receiving recognition for service, volunteering, and participation in emergency and disaster preparedness. Several students will attend the International Leadership conference in Florida in June. Their instructor is Kim Olson. Congratulations to these outstanding students for their hard work, dedication and willingness to do what it takes to realize success!

Public Comments

May 2017

Member Harala read the Eleven Tools of Civility.

Aaron Crowell, address not provided, a representative of Duluth Parents for Healthy Playgrounds, asked the School Board to re-bid the removal and replacement of the tire mulch.

Alex Jackson, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about supporting the Lake Superior Swim Club contract.

Sandy Veery, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about supporting the Lake Superior Swim Club contract.

Henry Banks, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about comments a School Board member made at a School Board meeting.

Dave Blazevik, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about issues with Lake Superior Swim Club and asked them to scrutinize the contract before it is renewed.

3 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
May 16, 2017

Marilee Tusken, address not provided, spoke to the School Board on behalf of the Community Based School Equity Initiative Group about addressing the group's concerns in a timely manner and holding another Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss equity in the district.

Mya Halvorson, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about the duties of a school board.

Tobin Cook, address not provided, requested a meeting to discuss his concerns regarding an issue with his child's access to lunch.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

May 2017

04/28/17 A letter addressed to the School Board from the Community Based School Equity Initiative Group submitting documents related to their school equity findings and recommendations.

Superintendent's Report

May 2017

Believe it or not, we are just 16 school days away from the end of the school year! This is a busy time and there are many activities going on throughout the district such as spring concerts, plays, sporting events, and of course, graduations.

This is the time of year that we recognize educators for all that they do for our students, families, and community. There have been many ways that teachers have been recognized this month, and the Goldfine Goldstar Teacher Award Celebration is tomorrow evening. The award rotates between elementary and secondary levels; this year is an elementary year. Each school nominates a teacher for the award. During the celebration, the Principal of each site will have an opportunity to share more about the candidates. While one of the teachers will receive the \$5,000 award in recognition of all they have done, it is also an opportunity to celebrate all teachers. The event is being held at Lincoln Park Middle School this year. It will start at 7:00 p.m. The presentation will be followed by an ice cream social. It is always a great opportunity to celebrate teachers and we invite everyone to join us.

This is also a time to focus on preparations for the next school year. We're in the process of finalizing budgets and making staffing adjustments. We've begun hiring for next year so we encourage people interested in a position to watch our website for opportunities over the weeks ahead. There will be internal movements followed by external postings. We also encourage people to reach out to others who they believe would be a good fit for the Duluth Public Schools. We would especially welcome the opportunity to hire diverse staff members. There will likely be a few additional positions in the late summer or early fall as we address changing enrollment numbers after the summer.

4 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
May 16, 2017

This is the last Board meeting before the end of the school year so tonight will be the final student rep reports. They are of course welcome at the summer meetings, but they won't have quite as much to tell us about.

Denfeld High School: Student Representative Ben Emmel stated that a lot of things are happening at Denfeld as the year wraps up. ACT and AP testing have been completed and students are eager for their scores. The annual prom was a lot of fun; Spirit Week was a success with every day having a unique and interesting different dress up. End of year finals are coming soon. Key Club had its third annual blood drive. The Lip Dub is out and is truly "24 Carat Gold" based on Bruno Mars' song titled "24K Magic". The process of Denfeld becoming a full service community school continues with students touring a community school (Brooklyn Center Secondary Arts and IB World School). Spring sports and section play offs are also coming up. Students took part in a mock crash on distracted driving to promote safe driving. Everyone is invited to attend Fine Arts Night which showcases Denfeld artist and musical talents.

Duluth East High School: Student Representative Cabrilla Francis congratulated the students at East who have received awards for various activities. Spring sport sectionals are starting and the Hound Pack is working hard to help incoming freshmen feel prepared and at home at East. Club officer elections were held. A Fantastic Art show was held earlier this month with students showcasing art, poetry and singing. Several band, choir and orchestra concerts are coming up. Congratulations to the Destination Imagination (DI) team who are going to Globals in Knoxville, TN. Everyone is invited to a fundraising event at pizza Luce to help raise funds for the DI team.

Principal Gronseth continued his report:

Now it is time for the Annual Hase Family Scholarship Drawing. The Trust honors Fred Hase, who graduated from Duluth Central High School in 1915 and provides an annual scholarship for two Duluth high school graduates who are enrolling in a post-secondary school in the fall. Names of eligible students from each school are provided and two are chosen by random drawing to receive the scholarships.

The School Board Student Representatives drew the following names for the scholarships: Taylor Anderson from Denfeld and Austin Selland from East. Note: Kage Peterson will receive the scholarship from Denfeld.

To everyone who is nearing the end of the school year, we hope you have a fun summer filled with learning. I will end with a reminder that research has shown that the number one way to improve reading skills is to read, read, and read some more-- practice makes perfect! So I encourage students and families to continue reading over the summer!

Education Committee Report

May 2017

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.

Organization	Author / Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation – Duluth Public Schools Fund	Various	Misc.	\$21,299	Funds from these grants will support misc. projects and initiatives within Duluth Public Schools.
Minnesota Department of Education	Amy Starzecki	Alternative Delivery of Specialized Services (ADSIS)	\$269,500	Funds from this grant will be used to support MTSS at the elementary levels in terms of instructional materials, professional development and staffing. The grant will allow for additional academic support to enhance a student’s ability for success in the general education environment and prevent them from eventually qualifying for special education.
US Department of Education - Spurwink	Tonya Sconiers	BARR i3 Scale Up	\$15,000	Funds from this grant will be used to support <i>Same Students, Same Teachers, Better Results. Scaling-up the Validated BARR Model</i> at Denfeld High School, as part of Cohort 1 of the BARR i3 Scale Up grant.

E-5-17-3446

May 16, 2017

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve Resolution E-5-17-3446 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

6 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
May 16, 2017

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Response to American Indian Education Resolution of Concurrence and Non-concurrence 2016

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 124D.78 requires a school board to respond in writing within 60 days, in cases of non-concurrence, to each recommendation made by the American Indian Education Parent Committee and state its reasons for not implementing the recommendations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Duluth School Board submits the response to the American Indian Education Resolution of Concurrence and Non-concurrence 2016 report as attached.

E-5-17-3447

May 16, 2017

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve Resolution E-5-17-3447 – Response to American Indian Education Resolution of Concurrence and Non-concurrence 2016.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

M-Sandstad, S-Oswald, to make a change to the following: page 47, fourth “High Achievement for All” row under District Responses column. Change the very last sentence of the response to read “Additional American Indian specific trainings shall be provided.”

Upon a vote, the Resolution was approved as amended – unanimously.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously

Human Resources Committee Report

May 2017

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

M-Sandstad, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the Human Resource Committee Report.

Upon a vote, the Human Resource Committee Report was approved - unanimously.

Business Committee Report
May 2017

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
East	Historic Central Museum	\$500.00	Skills USA Culinary Competition
HOCHS	Karen O'Leary	In kind	None
Homecroft	Kathrynne Dryke	\$555.00	Field trip
Laura MacArthur	Laura MacArthur PTA	\$350.00	Foster Grandparent Program
Laura MacArthur	Community members at McTeacher night	\$65.59	None
Lincoln Park	Action For Healthy Kids	\$200.00	Healthy Kids
Lowell	Thompson, Coe, Cousins & Irons, LLP	In kind	None
Ordean-East	Daniel and Elizabeth McLaughlin	\$25.00	6th Grade field trip for River Quest
Ordean-East	Arrowhead Orthodontics, PC	\$200.00	6th Grade field JA BizTown
Ordean-East	Stacey Ann Dimberio; dba Stacy's Studio of Dance Education	\$50.00	6th Grade field trip JA BizTown
Ordean-East	DSGW Architects	\$100.00	6th Grade field trip JA BizTown
Ordean-East	Duluth-Superior Veterinary Clinics, PA; Steven Schuder, D.V.M.	\$100.00	6th Grade field trip JA BizTown
Ordean-East	The Mail Room	\$50.00	6th Grade field trip JA BizTown
Ordean-East	PG&E Corporation Foundation	\$249.00	None
Ordean-East	PG&E Corporation Foundation	\$249.00	None
Ordean-East	Camille Zelen DDS PA	\$500.00	6th Grade field trip JA BizTown
Ordean-East	Carmen K Arnold	\$200.00	6th Grade field JA BizTown
Ordean-East	James A / Stacey A Nilsson	\$35.00	6th Grade field JA BizTown
Ordean-East	Carmen K Arnold	\$200.00	Garden Club greenhouse
	Total	\$3,628.59	

M-Harala, S-Welty, to approve Resolution B-5-17-3448 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Harala presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Designation of the Superintendent as the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) SERVS Financial

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) requests that School Districts annually designate the Superintendent as the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for the MDE External User Access Recertification System (SERVS Financial). The Identified Official with Authority is responsible for assigning job duties to the appropriate School District staff and authorizing access to MDE secure systems. This annual review and designation of the Superintendent as Identified Official with Authority is in accordance with State Access Security Standard 1.0.

RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the Superintendent of Schools, be designated the legal authorized representative to serve as the 2017-2018 Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for MDE SERVS Financial for the School District.

Resolution B-5-17-3449

May 16, 2017

M-Harala, S-Welty, to approve Resolution B-5-17-3449 – Designation of the Superintendent as the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) SERVS Financial. Upon a vote, the same approved – unanimously.

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

Member Oswald withheld Items 2.A.1), 4.A.1) and 4.A.4)

Member Oswald requested a separate vote on 4.A.1)

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.F. and 4.A.3)

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 1.H.

Superintendent Gronseth withheld Item 5.C.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. APU Projections to express his concern regarding the falling enrollment numbers.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 1.H. Child Nutrition Breakfast and Lunch Meal Price Increase to mention programs that are happening around the District such as the Grab-N-Go at Lincoln Park Middle School.

9 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
May 16, 2017

Member Oswald withheld Item 2.A.1) Bid #1258 Playground Rubber Mulch Replacement to discuss updates and Memo by Dave Spooner, Facilities Manager. This memo had four options for the School Board to choose from regarding this bid.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to vote on this separately and to also reject the current Bid #1258 and accept option #2 of the memo as recommended by parents and administration. Option #2 reads as follows: “Reject bid, process change order for our consultant to re-design project to included PIP fall protection at concrete footing locations, which then alleviates the entire equipment removal and reinstallation process, utilize Flagship recreation on the State Contract to accomplish the work and have all sites done by October 1st.”

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Oswald withheld Items 4.A.1) Professional Services Agreement with RSP & Associates, LLC to state she will not support this contract and discuss her concerns with using RSP for next steps.

M-Johnston, S-Oswald to delete Phase III (Public Facilitation) from the RSP Statement of Work and complete Phase II (Boundary Analysis).

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the motion fails 3-4 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Oswald, Welty

Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve moving forward with the Boundary Analysis (Phase II) and Public Facilitation (Phase III) phases of the contract with RSP & Associates, LLC.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the motion fails 2-5 as follows:

Yay: Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp

Nay: Harala, Johnston, Oswald, Sandstad, Welty

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.A.3) PEIP Insurance Renewal to have the CFO give a brief description of the new PEIP contract and its financial impact.

Member Oswald withheld Item 4.A.4) Lake Superior Swim Club (LSCC) to express her wish that this be a successful partnership for our community.

10 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
May 16, 2017

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Superintendent Gronseth withheld Item 5.C. Sale of Property to state that a few people have reached out to the District regarding properties for sale and also that the District is exploring other options as well.

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

Questions/Other
May 2017

M-Kirby, S-Welty, that the each Board member, as well as the Superintendent, participate in the MSBA Self Evaluation Survey by June 1st, 2017.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Johnston mentioned the Denfeld Equity Group would like to come and talk to the School Board.

Member Loeffler-Kemp mentioned how much she liked starting the School Board meeting with a presentation by the debate students and to thank them.

Member Loeffler-Kemp mentioned River Quest which has been going on for 25 years with hundreds of sixth graders participating. A huge thank you to the 12 community partners that helped put this event on for our students and teachers.

M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same passed – unanimously.

➤ Chair Kirby adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of May 16, 2017 at 9:57 p.m.