

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 21, 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 March 21, 2017 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

Thank you to the Denfeld Jazz Band for their beautiful performances at the School Board meeting. The Band played prior to the meeting and again during the meeting.

M-Sandstad, 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 same was approved as presented – unanimously.

Chair Kirby asked School Board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of February 28, 2017.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Sandstad, to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2017 Regular School Board Meeting as presented.

Upon a vote, the minutes of the February 28, 2017 Regular School Board Meeting were approved as presented - unanimously.

Chair Kirby asked School Board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of March 7, 2017.

M-Welty, S-Harala, to approve the minutes of the March 7, 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 Special School Board Meeting of March 13, 2017.

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M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2017 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

School and Community Recognition
March 2017

Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present Zakarias Howes, Matt Johnston and their coach Tim White for recognition. Mr. White is unable to join us this evening. Matt and Zakarias are members of the Denfeld CyberPatriot Team. CyberPatriot is a National Youth Cyber Education Program organized by the Air Force Association. Its purpose is to inspire students toward careers in cyber security or other science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines critical to our nation's future. The competition puts teams of high school and middle school students in the position of newly hired IT professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company. In the rounds of competition, teams are given a set of virtual images that represent operating systems. They're tasked with finding cyber security vulnerabilities within the images and hardening the system while maintaining critical services in a six hour period. Denfeld's CyberPatriot team placed 1st in the Minnesota Open Division Silver Tier state round of the nation's premier youth cyber defense competition. Congratulations Zakarias, Matt and Coach White!

Public Comments
March 2017

Member Harala read the community vision statement and read the Eleven Tools of Civility.

Terri Akervik, address not provided, is the music specialist for the District who spoke to the School Board regarding Music in Schools Month and Youth Art Month (students have art shown at the Miller Hill Mall).

Bernie Burnham, 4130 West Fourth Street, spoke to the School Board about Music in Schools Month and brought several music teachers from the District to introduce themselves and share. Staff will be wearing red t-shirts which state "We Make Public Education Great" on Wednesdays to support public education; the public is encouraged to wear red as well.

Maria Puglisi, 401 North 44th Avenue West, is a Denfeld alumni and spoke to the School Board about class inequality at Denfeld. Maria was a considered a senior grade level student at UWS by her sophomore year due to credits she had received while a student at Denfeld High School.

Karen Perry, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about letters she has received from parents of children from Lincoln Park Middle School regarding students who are not being supported by teachers.

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Jessica Durbin, 3516 East Third Street, spoke to the School Board about the large class sizes at Congdon Park Elementary School and the importance of the Gifted and Talented Education (GATE) program.

Anne Skwira-Brown, 2702 Northridge, spoke to the School Board about the community based equity initiative and school equality.

Sara McCourtney, 3630 Crescent View Avenue, spoke to the School Board about large class sizes at Congdon Park Elementary School and to look at open enrollment to help control the number of students at Congdon.

Josh LeHigh, 401 North 44th Avenue West, spoke to the School Board about the connection between jazz music and compassion and empathy. One of Mr. LeHigh's jazz band students also addressed the School Board about her love of music and how participation in jazz band has positively impacted her life.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

March 2017

Superintendent Gronseth stated no communications had been received.

Superintendent's Report

March 2017

Thanks again to the Denfeld Jazz Band for performing before and during the Board meeting tonight. We are fortunate to have strong programs in the Arts at all levels. We know that the Arts are an important part of a well-rounded education and that these experiences help students to be more successful across the board. The Arts are also being celebrated at the Miller Hill Mall this week! There is an impressive Art Show of student work just outside the Barnes and Noble store. Last night they held an opening reception and it was very well attended. Thank you to all the students who created the artwork, and to the staff who planned the event and set up the displays. We appreciate your efforts! Earlier this month we had the opportunity to meet with our local legislators to discuss proposed budgets and legislation. We appreciate the opportunity to meet with them, and their focus on education. We encourage everyone to reach out to legislators, not just locally, but across the state to advocate for our public schools. Coming up next week is the Duluth Chamber's Duluth and St. Louis County Days at the Capitol and this is another great opportunity to advocate for our community and our schools. There will be a group of staff, students, and School Board members attending, meeting with legislators, and providing a voice for our schools at the Capitol. The same conversations are going on at the national level and I know our federal legislators from Minnesota are working hard to support our public schools. Again we encourage everyone to learn as much as they can, and add your voices to the conversation. Speaking of being involved, the City-wide PTSA group is being re-invigorated.

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There was a meeting held last week and it sounds like there are some exciting plans being put together to bring people together from all across the District to share ideas, advocate for students and schools, and to generally support education. There will be more information coming out about this soon. People can check with the PTSA groups in their schools to learn more. I also want to remind people of the fundraising efforts of Parents for Healthy Playgrounds. There are matching funds being made available by the Miller Memorial Fund for the first \$30,000 raised. Visit the website Generosity.com and search for Duluth projects to find the link. If everyone gives a little, it adds up to a lot! <https://www.generosity.com/education-fundraising/replace-the-tire-mulch-at-duluth-public-schools--2>. Now it is time to hear from our Student Representatives:

Duluth East High School: Student Representative Cabrilla Francis stated this month at East has been very busy with activities, spring sports and spring clubs that have started such as track and field, the Hound Pack, baseball and cheerleading tryouts, boys' tennis, lacrosse and golf. The sophomores were able to participate in two fields trips. Through the Student Forum, \$400 was raised and donated to CHUM by paying \$2 to wear a hat at school. The music and drama programs are preparing for the Beauty and the Beast Spring Play. Seven choir students participated in the 7AA Vocal Large Group Contest in Hibbing. Students are celebrating red and gray week with lunch activities such as riddles on tables, and a raffle for \$25 Amazon gift card. There will be a Clue Night at the school with QRC codes all over the school. Film club is holding a film festival. The plant science class has begun tapping Maple trees around the school campus, three business students are going to State and the Robotics team is going to Worlds in Iowa.

Denfeld High School: Student Representative Ben Emmel stated Denfeld received the Most Creative Award at the Robotics competition. The school recently had band and choir concerts which were well attended. The jazz band played at the UMD Jazz Festival. The last dance show of the year was very successful. Winter sports are wrapping up and spring sports are starting. Several students participated in a focus group regarding the possibility of Denfeld becoming a community school. Coming attractions include a movie and popcorn bar for the Freshman and filming the lip dub with Bruno Mars' 24K Gold as the song. March has been culture month at Denfeld with each week celebrating a different culture. The 20 hour famine will be held in the Denfeld gym where students will not eat, work on community projects and sleep in the gym.

Education Committee Report

March 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
Minnesota Department of Health	Kelly Piette	Asthma Friendly Schools Mini-Grant Program	\$1,500	Funds from this grant will support event(s) for students or student and parents to learn about asthma and asthma self-management.

E-3-17-3435

March 21, 2017

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Harala, to approve Resolution E-3-17-3435 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

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

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.3)

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.A.1)

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.3) 2015-16 Graduation Data and Check and Connect Program Update to discuss the testing changes that have evolved over time.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.A.1) Resolution of Concurrence and Non-Concurrence 2016-17 to review the non-concurrence items and to review graduation rates for Native Americans.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

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

Human Resources Committee Report

March 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.

Member Oswald withheld Item 2.

Member Welty withheld Item 2.

Member Oswald withheld Item 2. Other Action Items to mention that some the policies slated for deletion are actually bylaws and not policies; the Board needs decide what to do with them.

Member Welty withheld Item 2. Other Action Items to discuss bylaws and the process for changing or deleting them.

Superintendent Gronseth had a question about the staffing report to clarify if an employee was actually a resignation or a retirement; it was listed incorrectly on the report and will be corrected.

Discussion took place regarding the policies.

Upon a vote, the same was approved - unanimously.

Business Committee Report

March 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.

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SCHOOL	DONOR	AMOUNT	RESTRICTION
Denfeld	Maurices	\$1,250.00	General Fund, All Night Grad Party, Yearbook, Soar Program, Art Dept.
Denfeld	AMFA Educational Trust	\$500.00	Robotics
Denfeld	Mary Roses	\$40.00	Robotics
Denfeld	Diane Larson	\$20.00	Robotics
Denfeld	The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Inc/IEEE Arrowhead Section 400100	\$500.00	Robotics
East	Maurices	\$1,250.00	No
Homecroft	Duluth Teachers Credit Union	\$164.00	Kindergarten Field Trip
Homecroft	Wells Fargo Community Support Campaign	\$65.00	No
Homecroft	Homecroft PTA	\$535.00	Wolf Ridge trip
Homecroft	Hermantown Federal Credit Union	\$200.00	Field Trips
Laura MacArthur	Denfeld Exec Board	In kind	Students
Laura MacArthur	Carolyn Zanko	In kind	No
Lincoln Park	Irving Community Assn.	\$2,000.00	Pawsitive Perks
Ordean-East	2017 Winter Concert bucket pass	\$460.00	Orchestra
Ordean-East	2017 Winter Concert bucket pass	\$1,110.27	Band
	Total	\$8,094.27	

B-3-17-3437

March 21, 2017

M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution B-3-17-3437 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Harala presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Authorized Bank Account Signer – March 2017

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
Merritt Creek Academy	DTCU	XXXX0	Lisa Jarvela	Kathryn Sislo
Woodland Hills	DTCU	XXXX1	Lisa Jarvela	Kathryn Sislo

Resolution B-3-17-3438

March 21, 2017

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M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-3-17-3438 – Authorized Bank Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Harala presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
Release of Collateral

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that it hereby releases the \$100,000 par value FHLB note, CUSIP number XXXXXXCV7 pledged as collateral by North Shore Bank of Commerce.

Resolution B-3-17-3439

March 21, 2017

M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-3-17-3439 – Release of Collateral. Upon a vote, the same approved – unanimously.

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

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Items 6.A. and 6.E.

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.B. and 6.F.

Member Welty withheld Item 3.A.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A. Financial Report to discuss his concern regarding the dollar amounts paid to attorneys.

Member Welty withheld Item 3.A. Policy 6030 Renumbering to 250 School Board Member Compensation to verify that the Board is not currently seeking different compensation but just changing the years in which it would be reviewed.

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 6.A. Expenditure Contracts to note the number of contracts that were geared towards cultural sharing.

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 6.E. Facilities Management & Capital Project Status Report to state her appreciation for this report and the updates on the Rubber Mulch project and to point out the Energy Star Rating achieved by the Duluth East High School.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Johnston withheld Item 6.F. Lake Superior Swim Club Contract to have the CFO restate the update on this contract.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

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

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Questions/Other
March 2017

Member Johnston inquired how donations are made to the school; the Finance Manager described the process.

Member Welty stated he looks forward to discussing the canine detection contract.

Member Welty stated he would appreciate any information that could be provided to the Board should there be a leadership change at the District.

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

➤ Chair Kirby adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of March 21, 2017 at 9:02 p.m.