

## Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting

Of the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 held at: Denfeld High School Media Center, 401 North Forty-Fourth Avenue West, Duluth, Minnesota 55811, on

Tuesday, December 21, 2021

### Members Present:

Kelly Durick Eder  
David Kirby  
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp  
Jill Lofald  
Alanna Oswald  
Paul Sandholm  
Sally Trnka

### Others Present:

John Magas, Superintendent  
Cathy Erickson, CFO  
Patty Paquette, Secretary

### Student Representatives:

Aliyah Bartling (Denfeld)  
Stella Schutz (East)

- Chair Lofald called the Regular School Board meeting December 21, 2021 to order at 7:00 p.m.

**M-Sandholm, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

### School and Community Recognition

December 2021

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Anthony Bonds:

Board Members, this month it's my pleasure to present for recognition Duluth Preschool. Sherry Williams, Duluth Early Childhood Services Coordinator/Head Start Director, is here to accept this recognition.

In November, ISD 709 Duluth Preschool celebrated the grand opening of Nature Playscapes at three elementary schools: Myers-Wilkins, Piedmont and Laura MacArthur.

Created using grant dollars and with help from 3 Owls Outdoor Play consultants, these innovative, engaging play spaces will increase outdoor opportunities for Duluth preschool students in neighborhoods with less access to green spaces.

Playscapes are landscape features that allow kids to play creatively with natural materials such as sand, water, hills, and logs.

Grant dollars also covered outdoor gear for students - rain suits, rain boots, mittens and fleece neck gaiters.

Over 300 studies indicate that greenspace benefit the physical and mental health of the children and families who use them

Studies have found the type of play found in playscapes is more cooperative, creative, and engages more communication among students than a regular playground.

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We're proud to lift up the work of Duluth Preschool in expanding outdoor opportunities for children. Thank you for your leadership and support of Duluth students and families.

**Public Comments**  
**December 2021**

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Student Representatives Stella Schutz and Aliyah Bartling read the Eleven Tools of Civility and public comment guidelines.

Member Oswald went over Policy regarding Public Comment at a School Board Meeting.

Lee Jansen, address not provided, spoke to the School Board regarding safety in the schools (ALC/AEO, East, and Denfeld).

Johanna Cummins, 1809 N 17<sup>th</sup>, Superior, WI, spoke to the School Board regarding DPS safety and contract language.

Kate Yaple, address not provided, spoke to the School Board regarding climate change and investing in solar panels in Duluth Public Schools as a member of the Duluth Climate Club.

Leila Hoeschen Ehrbright, address not provided, spoke to the School Board regarding climate change and investing in solar panels in Duluth Public Schools as a member of the Duluth Climate Club.

Maddie Yaple, address not provided, spoke to the School Board regarding climate change and investing in solar panels in Duluth Public Schools as a member of the Duluth Climate Club.

Lily Fadziewicz, address not provided, spoke to the School Board regarding climate change and investing in solar panels in Duluth Public Schools as a member of the Duluth Climate Club.

Eliza Schuchman, address not provided, spoke to the School Board regarding climate change and investing in solar panels in Duluth Public Schools as a member of the Duluth Climate Club.

Anna Schiller, address not provided, spoke to the School Board regarding climate change and investing in solar panels in Duluth Public Schools as a member of the Duluth Climate Club.

Gwen Evans, address not provided, spoke to the School Board regarding climate change and investing in solar panels in Duluth Public Schools as a member of the Duluth Climate Club.

Abigail Froehle, address not provided, spoke to the School Board regarding climate change and investing in solar panels in Duluth Public Schools as a member of the Duluth Climate Club.

Brianna Kempf, address not provided, spoke to the School Board regarding climate change and investing in solar panels in Duluth Public Schools as a member of the Duluth Climate Club.

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Tuuli Rova, address not provided, spoke to the School Board regarding climate change and investing in solar panels in Duluth Public Schools as a member of the Duluth Climate Club.

Nelita Nelson, address not provided, spoke to the School Board regarding climate change and investing in solar panels in Duluth Public Schools as a member of the Duluth Climate Club.

Reva Pulacsek, address not provided, spoke to the School Board regarding climate change and investing in solar panels in Duluth Public Schools as a member of the Duluth Climate Club.

Callie Douville, address not provided, spoke to the School Board regarding climate change and investing in solar panels in Duluth Public Schools as a member of the Duluth Climate Club.

Ava Haugen, address not provided, spoke to the School Board regarding climate change and investing in solar panels in Duluth Public Schools as a member of the Duluth Climate Club

Nick Fadziewicz 317 N. 23<sup>rd</sup> Ave E, spoke to the School Board regarding climate change and investing in solar panels in Duluth Public Schools as a member of Duluth Climate Club.

Tanya Jackson, 4024 Jay Street, spoke to the School Board regarding climate change and investing in solar panels in Duluth Public Schools as a member of the Duluth Climate Club.

Kim Francowiak, address not provided, spoke to the School Board regarding Phase II planning for AEO/ALC.

Bill Benson, address not provided, spoke to the School Board regarding Covid precautions and Contract negotiations.

Jim Olson, 506 W 5<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke to the School Board regarding contract negotiations.

Susan Schmidt, 244 W Owatonna St, spoke to the School Board regarding Covid sick time.

Beth McCuskey, 4330 Krueger Rd, spoke to the School Board regarding community concerns around contract negotiations.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**

**December 2021**

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Chair Lofald stated that were no communications received.

**Superintendent's Report**

**December 2021**

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Student Representative Aliyah Bartling (Denfeld): Sariah Crawford was elected as the 2022 student school board representative for Denfeld. Mr. Nissen's CITS Anatomy and Physiology class did a lab practical test on skin. Girls and boys basketball have been working really hard in their tough seasons. It is a rebuilding year for both teams with their new coaching staffs. Both teams

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have been working together on a necessity drive for the less fortunate. Tonight, the boy's team is playing Hermantown so if you hear some yelling from the gym you know what it is. The girls team started a GoFundMe and (Jess Reinertsen, the coach's wife) raised \$8000 of their \$8000 goal. This money will go towards getting basketball shoes for the girls, team traveling gear, as well as any other necessities that may come about. The girl's team's slogan this year is IMPACT. It is how they are conducting their season. The Coin War has been going on. In the end, the seniors won! The Key Club coffee fundraiser will be going on soon. Ms. Wood's botany class has been doing a plant sale during lunch. Math team had their 3rd meet. NHS has been bell-ringing for the Salvation Army as a service project. Dance team bagged groceries this weekend and at their first competition they got second in both dances and beat Hermantown for first time in 3 years. The hockey team has a winning record. Pajamas and ugly sweaters are the dress up days for the week. Holiday Music Assembly went on Monday and Tuesday during 5th hour this week. Seniors have been working really hard to get scholarships done before January 7. Interviews for the Whiteside scholarship were going on for the past two weeks.

Student Representative Stella Schutz (East): Conducted elections and the junior class has elected Ailee Naus as the 2022 Student Representative. Just wrapped up Winter Week with holiday themed dress up days, donations to CHUM, and two assemblies. Sources of Strength held annual training sessions last week. Winter sports are rolling, athletes are enjoying having fans at events. Boys basketball only has definitely been the stand out with only one lost. Choir, Orchestra and Band are wrapping up their busiest season with the annual DECC Holiday concert which went really well. Finals are on the horizon. A large contention with quality and size of lunches. NHS and Key Club have developed volunteers to help clear neighborhood properties of snow. Blood Drive group next one in the spring. Classmates relatively compliant with mask wearing.

Superintendent Magas report included the following:

- Thanked the Student Reps and Member Trnka
- Recognized the School Board as a whole
- Shared Proclamation
- Upcoming Board Meetings
- District Communications Update
- Safe Learning Plan
- COVID rates – decrease is projected
- Continued Monitoring in regards to COVID
- Critical Safety Precautions

Discussion regarding where to hold School Board Meetings and the Committee of the Whole Monthly meetings.

**Monthly Committee of the Whole Report**

**December 2021**

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Anthony Bonds, Assistant Superintendent, presented the Committee of the Whole report which was available electronically to each school board member.

**Human Resources/Finance Committee Report**  
**December 2021**

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

**Policy Committee Report**  
**December 2021**

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Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the Policy Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

**Consent Agenda**  
**December 2021**

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**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Oswald, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a vote on the consent agenda as presented, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**Special Resolutions/Other Action Items**  
**December 2021**

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**RESOLUTION**

Board Member Attendance at 2022 MSBA Leadership Conference

RESOLVED, That Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, pay costs incurred, as per District policy, for school board members to attend the Minnesota School Boards Association 2022 Leadership Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 12-14, 2022.

Resolution SP-12-21-3857

December 21, 2021

**M-Trnka, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the Resolution SP-12-21-3857 – Board Member Attendance at 2022 MSBA Leadership Conference. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**RESOLUTION**

Board Member Attendance at MSBA Phase I and Phase II Orientations

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 Phase I and Phase II Orientations in December 2021 and/or January 2022.

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Resolution SP-12-21-3858

December 21, 2021

**M-Trnka, S-Sandholm, to approve the Resolution SP-12-21-3858 – Board Member Attendance at MSBA Phase I and Phase II Orientations. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**Other**  
**December 2021**  
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Member Loeffler-Kemp thanked Chair Lofald for her leadership this past year.

Member Sandholm thanked Chair Lofald and recognized Member Trnka for her service on the Board.

Superintendent Magas thank the student representatives, Member Trnka, the Board as a whole, Chair Lofald, and the executive assistants as they transition in and out of their positions.

Chair Lofald wished everyone a blessed holiday break and celebration.

**M-Trnka, S-Oswald, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

Chair Lofald adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of December 21, 2021 at 9:28 p.m.