

Minutes of the Special 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

Friday, November 4, 2011

Members Present:

Mary Cameron
Gary Glass
Tim Grover
Art Johnston
Tom Kasper
Judy Seliga Punyko
Ann Wasson (left before voting)

Others Present:

I.V. Foster, Superintendent
Bill Hanson, Deputy Clerk
Melinda Thibault, Secretary

Chair Seliga Punyko called the special school board meeting of November 4, 2011 to order at 12:00 p.m.

Public Comment:

Joan Peterson, 3025 East 2nd Street, spoke to the board regarding her concern with board members publicly advocating for the failure of the district levy.

Bill Mittlefehldt, 31 College Street, spoke to the board regarding his concern that board members are publicly working to defeat the levy, and asked that people vote yes for the levy on all three levels.

Frank Wanner, 1135 Mississippi Avenue, President of the DFT, spoke to the board regarding his issue with a board member saying that the cuts the district has made are not real, and the need to support the levy for the future of our students.

Loren Martell, 623 East 7th Street, spoke to the board regarding his concerns with the levy and to clarify that he hopes it passes for the sake of the students.

Marcia Stromgren, 6179 Lakewood Road, spoke to the board regarding her concern with the levy and the increased taxes it will create.

Levy Discussion:

M-Glass, S-Johnston, to appoint a committee to select an independent auditor to review the Districts operating levy information for accuracy and relevancy and, if the operating levy passes, the district will prepare a detailed document of how the additional tax money raised will be spent.

Member Johnston gave a presentation stating his opinion on the accuracy of the information being put out by the District on the levy.

Discussion took place by board members regarding the information being presented by the District and the information presented by Member Johnston.

Chair Seliga Punyko called for a vote on the motion.

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Member Cameron called the question.

Member Johnston called a point of order for further discussion, and continued his discussion on the levy information.

Upon a vote to call the question the same passed 6-0.

Upon a vote on the motion, the same failed 2-4 as follows:

Yea: Glass, Johnston

Nay: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko.

Absent: Wasson

Chair Seliga Punyko adjourned the Special School Board meeting of November 4, 2011 at 1:05 p.m.