

## **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 26, 2019

### **Members Present:**

Josh Gorham  
David Kirby  
Jill Lofald  
Alanna Oswald  
Nora Sandstad  
Sally Trnka

### **Others Present:**

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent  
Cathy Erickson, CFO  
Jackie Dolentz, Secretary

### **Student Representatives:**

Emma Natale (Denfeld)  
Vanessa Farrell (East)

### **Absent:**

Rosie Loeffler-Kemp

➤ Vice Chair Lofald called the Regular School Board meeting of February 26, 2019 to order at 6:40 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

**M-Sandstad, S-Trnka, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote, the agenda was approved as presented – 6-0.**

Vice Chair Lofald asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of January 22, 2019.

**M-Sandstad, S-Oswald, to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2019 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

Vice Chair Lofald asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of February 11, 2019.

**M-Sandstad, S-Kirby, to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2019 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

## **School and Community Recognition** **February 2019**

Members of the Board, I'm pleased and honored to introduce Ms. Sharon Shuck. As educators, we often talk about and encourage lifelong learning. That is, to pursue knowledge and growth throughout one's life. Ms. Shuck is an inspiring example. She's an alumnus of Central High School, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College, and dedicated much of her life to a career in the medical field. After retiring she studied home repair through community education classes and courses at Home Depot. She used those skills as a volunteer, helping people repair their homes after Hurricane Katrina. She wanted to write about her experiences and took courses to

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hone her skills through community education and the Adult Learning Center. She also joined two writing groups. The confidence and support she received ultimately helped Ms. Shuck make the decision to write a book called "Blood Memories and Unbroken Spirit." This spring her book is being published through Dovetail Press. Ms. Shuck's story and her accomplishments have been featured recently in the Duluth News Tribune and in The Woman Today Magazine. In the articles, Ms. Shuck says, "I want to be a Native storyteller, to share with the next generation stories not to be forgotten; to put the memories, thoughts, feelings, and emotion in writing." Ms. Shuck, congratulations, we can't wait to read your book. And thank you for inspiring us all to be lifelong learners.

**Public Comments**  
**February 2019**  
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Member Trnka read the Eleven Tools of Civility.

Bernie Burnham, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about the Early Career Leadership Fellow group and the creation of a new group to encourage participation of members of color. Ms. Burnham brought with her two of the three candidates for Minnesota Teacher of the Year.

Jane Juten, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about what the process of being nominated for Teacher of the Year has meant to her.

Kristin Bergerson, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about what the process of being nominated for Teacher of the Year has meant to her.

Kevin Skwira-Brown, address not provided, spoke on behalf of the Community Based School Equity Initiative regarding the school budget process.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**  
**February 2019**  
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Superintendent Gronseth stated that there was one communication received:

1/22/19 - Letter from several teachers making a formal complaint regarding the administration's process in removing To Kill a Mockingbird and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn from the curriculum and selecting new novels for grades nine and eleven.

**Superintendent's Report**  
**February 2019**

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Last week while we were on winter break, it was School Board Week. I want to take a moment to recognize our school board and all they do for our schools and our community. We are fortunate to have school board members who are focused on the education of our community's young people. There are many facets to being a school board member of a district with 14 schools, 6 residential and treatment centers, thousands of students and over 1,200 employees. We know how much time and effort all of you put into preparing for monthly discussions and we appreciate your dedication to the Duluth Public Schools; Happy School Board Week!

Last week was also St. Louis County and Duluth Days at the Capitol. Hundreds of people from Duluth had the opportunity to advocate for our community with State Legislators. We had a strong presence as a school district. Over the course of two days we met with about 25 legislators! We currently have two bills in the House with twin bills in the Senate. Our lobbyists have been instrumental in helping us so far this session. In addition to setting up the many meetings we have had so far, they continue to advocate for the school district, and keep us in the loop regarding educational matters in the legislature.

Today our 10th grade students spent time learning about a variety of career options at Construct Tomorrow. It is an amazing collaborative event held at the DECC; students have a chance to learn about careers they may have never even considered. These are good paying jobs and are in high demand. There was also an event this evening at the DECC for families to learn more about these opportunities as well. We want to thank all the staff that worked on this event and our industry partners for their work in making this annual event available to our students.

Next week is Paraprofessional Week. Our paraprofessionals are an important part of our team providing so many supportive services to our students and their families. We appreciate everything they do every day! I'm hoping that many people will make an effort to show their appreciation next week. Now, let's hear about what is going on in our high schools.

Vanessa Farrell, Student Representative from Duluth East, spoke about activities happening at Duluth East including winter break, snow days, hockey, alpine skiing, swimming and the upcoming jazz band concert.

Emma Natale, Student Representative from Denfeld, spoke about activities happening at Denfeld such as winter break, snow days, and the success of the alpine ski, swim, math, and robotics teams.

**Education Committee Report**  
**February 2019**  
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Member Oswald presented the Education Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

Member Oswald 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
Education Minnesota Foundation for Excellence in Teaching and Learning	Rebecca Gamache	Magnificent Magnets	\$2,458	Funds will be used to STEM materials (magnet board and accessories) for the Magnificent Magnets project at Lowell Preschool.

Resolution E-2-19-3628

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**M-Oswald, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution E-2-19-3628 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**M-Oswald, S-Trnka, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report.**

Member Sandstad withheld Items 2.A.6) and 2.A.7)

Member Sandstad requested a separate vote on Items 2.A.6) and 2.A.7).

**Under a separate vote for Item 2.A.6) 5085 - School Discipline Policy – Deletion and Item 2.A.7) New Policy 506 – Student Discipline, the same failed 0-6 as follows:**

**Yea: None**

**Nay: Gorham, Kirby, Lofald, Oswald, Sandstad, Trnka**

**Upon a vote, the remainder of the Education Committee Report was approved – 6-0.**

**Human Resources Committee Report**  
**February 2019**

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

**M-Kirby, S-Gorham, to approve the Human Resource Committee report. Upon a vote, the Human Resources Committee report was approved – 6-0.**

**Business Committee Report**  
**February 2019**

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

Member Oswald 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	COMMENTS
Denfeld	Larry & Sharyn Danielson	\$50.00	Softball	
Denfeld	Fred T. Friedman	\$100.00	Softball	
Denfeld	William C. Hoch, Jr. Donor Advised Fund of the St. Paul Foundation	\$1,000.00	Softball	
East	Paul and Vikki Buckley	\$25.00	Choralaires	
East	Bruce and Margaret Bates	\$25.00	Choralaires	
East	Karen and Jonathan Sande	\$200.00	Choralaires	Sacred Heart Benefits concert

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East	Gramercy Park Cooperative	\$150.00	Choralaies	
East	North Shore Scenic Railroad	\$150.00	Choralaies	
East	Pier B Resort	\$200.00	Choralaies	
East	Hermantown Community Church	\$150.00	Choralaies	
East	Rotary Club of Duluth Harbortown MN USA, Inc	\$250.00	Choralaies	
East	The Duluth Congregational Church	\$288.00	Choralaies	
East	City of Duluth	\$200.00	Choralaies	
East	Greater Downtown Council	\$50.00	Choralaies	
East	Maurices	\$1,250.00	None	
Headstart	Jane Killough	\$50.00	None	
Laura MacArthur	Asbury United Methodist Church	In Kind	None	Hats, mittens and socks for students
Laura MacArthur	Lula Schlangen	In Kind	None	Winter gear for students
Laura MacArthur	High Tech Kids	\$650.00	Lego Robotics	
Laura MacArthur	David and Kelly Bolgrien	\$50.00	Teachers and students	
Laura MacArthur	Northland Foundation	\$500.00	Lego Robotics team	
Laura MacArthur	Arrowhead Library System	\$250.00	Media - STEM Robot Station kits	Mini-grant for STEM supplies
Laura MacArthur	H&R Block	In Kind	Student use	School supplies
Lincoln Park	Iriving Community Assn	\$2,100.00	Art Club	Art Club Field Trip to Mpls; and hotel cost from a Professional Development trip to Washington DC last summer (2018)
Lincoln Park	Essentia Health	\$500.00	Healthy Kids Activity Acct	
Lowell	Harbor City String Band	In Kind	None	The Harbor City String Band donated two days of their time with our Lowell students demonstrating and teaching their talents of music and folk dance
Lowell	Susette and Scott Taylor	In Kind	None	3 sets of "Goodnight Stories for Rebel Girls" books to our library.

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Lowell	Lake Superior Water Color Society	\$300.00	Art Program	For art supplies
Myers-Wilkins	Kellner Williams Classic Realty NW	In Kind	None	Hats and mittens for students

Resolution B-2-19-3629

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**M-Oswald, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-2-19-3629 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

Member Oswald presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

**Release and Pledge of Collateral**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that it hereby releases the \$250,000 par value FHLMC note, CUSIP number XXXXXXHN2, pledged as collateral by Harbor Pointe Credit Union.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, By the School Board, that it accepts the pledge collateral of a \$250,000 par value FHLB note maturing 3/29/2019, CUSIP number XXXXXXN27 in exchange for the released collateral noted above.

Resolution B-2-19-3630

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**M-Oswald, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-2-19-3630 – Release and Pledge of Collateral. Upon a vote, the same was approved - 6-0.**

**M-Oswald, S-Sandstad, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report.**

Member Sandstad withheld Item 3.A.

Member Sandstad withheld Item 3.A. New Policy 307 – Conflict of Interest and Fiduciary Duty to verify if this policy directly prohibits nepotism.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

**M-Sandstad, S-Trnka, to Definitely Postpone Item 3.A. New Policy 307 – Conflict of Interest and Fiduciary Duty to the March 2019 Board meeting.**

Discussion took place regarding this item.

**Upon a vote, the motion to Definitely Postpone Item 3.A. New Policy 307 – Conflict of Interest and Fiduciary Duty to the March 2019 Board meeting was approved 6-0 as follows:**

**Yay: Gorham, Kirby, Lofald, Oswald, Sandstad, Trnka**

**Nay: None**

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**Upon a vote, the remainder of the Business Committee report was approved – 6-0.**

**Other**  
**February 2019**  
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**M-Sandstad, S-Oswald, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

➤ Vice Chair Lofald adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of February 26, 2019 at 7:48 p.m.