

## **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, November 17, 2015

### **Members Present:**

Annie Harala  
Art Johnston  
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp  
Mike Miernicki  
Judy Seliga Punyko  
Harry Welty  
Bill Westholm

### **Others Present:**

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent  
Bill Hanson, Deputy Clerk  
Melinda Thibault, Secretary

### **Student Representatives:**

Jude Goossens  
Thomas Olafson

➤ Chair Seliga Punyko called the regular school board meeting of November 17, 2015 to order at 6:34 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

**M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same passed – unanimously.**

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of October 20, 2015.

**M-Westholm, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2015 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.**

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of October 26, 2015.

**M-Westholm, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2015 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.**

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of November 10, 2015.

**M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2015 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.**

**School and Community Recognition**

**November 2015**

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Amy Starzecki: Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present Coach Dave Wicker for recognition. Dave served as head coach for the Duluth East Cross Country teams for nearly twenty years. He led the girls to back to back state championships in 1997 and 98, and the boys to runner up in 2000, among other accomplishments. His career includes Head Coach for Denfeld Cross Country from 1987 to 1996 and assistant coach and head coach for Denfeld and Duluth East Track & Field where, under his guidance, individual athletes and teams realized success. Dave also coached Women's Cross Country and Men's & Women's Track at the College of St. Scholastica. Through the years, Dave helped his student athletes improve their skills, develop character and gain confidence. He built an authentic connection and in doing so supported students in learning new skills and life lessons. In recognition of his decades of service to the sport and to the student athletes, Dave was inducted into the Minnesota Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame in August. Congratulations to Coach Dave Wicker and many thanks for your dedication and leadership!

**Public Comments**

**November 2015**

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Member Loeffler-Kemp read the community vision statement.

Loren Martell, 623 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke to the school board regarding his respect for Member Westholm and the high regard held for him in the community.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**

**November 2015**

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Superintendent Gronseth stated there had been no communications received.

**Superintendent's Report**

**November 2015**

**Sam Simmons, Historical and Generational Trauma (1 of 3 part series)**

We had about 110 people meet with Sam Simmons on Nov 12 and 200+ (65 were ISD 709 staff) during the evening. It was the beginning of an understanding of trauma, development, generational and historical trauma, and compassionate accountability. "Thanks!" to all of you who played a role in encouraging staff and each other to participate. A special thank you to the team of planners who put the first of three days together (Edye, William, Patty, Mike, Tom, Brenda, Susan, Chris, Angela, Todd, Tanya, Sumair, Katie, and Nick).

**Update on my growth professional plan**

- Met with approximately 50 board members, staff and students as part of a structured interviews
- Weekly classrooms visits: I have conducted the following walkthroughs with principals in Oct/Nov.
  - Lincoln, Piedmont, Lakewood, Laura Mac, Denfeld, Lester Park
  - Observed 50+ classrooms thus far

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Professional Learning Communities

- Much of my time this fall has been supporting principals to provide instructional leadership to improve PLC work
- The PLC work is an important strategy for teachers to collaborate to develop assessments
- Formative assessments provide real time data for teachers to adjust day to day instruction and provides updates on their progress toward grade level standards

Professional growth plans for teachers and principals

- I have been working with teacher leaders and principals to work towards implementing the new teacher evaluation software, Teachscape.
- As of Friday, I will have met with every principal to go over a principal growth plans.
- Both processes are to be in compliance with teacher and principal evaluation legislation.

Annual ISD 709 Meeting

- Starts at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday at Denfeld
- Many different schools and programs will be sharing their information that evening.

Tommy Olafson – Denfeld High, the food drive is underway, last week they held their annual blood drive, two Jr. Rotarian programs underway now, the school play Leaving Iowa is gearing up, a motivational speaker spoke to student body, some fall sports teams are headed to state, and colleges are looking for applications and scholarships are being applied for.

Jude Goosens – East High, thanked Superintendent Gronseth for coming to speak at path to peace, it is the end of East for Peace month, students held a book drive for K-4 level books that will ship to Botswana where a library will be built, the blood drive was big success and the Adams Family musical was huge success, there are also some fall sports teams headed to state.

**Education Committee Report**

**November 2015**

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Member Harala presented the Education Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each school board member.

Member Harala 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 these various organizations.

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	Organization	Author/Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
1	Northland Foundation	Amy Starzecki	MDE & MESPA 2015-16 PreK-3 <sup>RD</sup> Grade Leadership Series Funding Support	\$1,000	Funds from this grant award will be used to support travel expenses for team members attending the 2015-16 PreK-3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Leadership Series.
2	Southern St. Louis County Family Services Collaborative	Pam Rees	Early Childhood Mental Health & Staff Training in Circles of Security	\$19,688	Funds from this grant award will be used to support Circles of Security training for Early Childhood staff.
3	Northland Foundation	Annette Petersmeyer	KIDS PLUS Youth in Philanthropy	\$600.00	Funds from this grant award will be used support the Helping Animals and Youth Project at Woodland Hills.
4	Ordean Foundation	Deidre Quinlan	Habitat Teen Parent Collaborative	\$40,000	Funds from this grant award will be used to support the Habitat Teen Parent Collaborative.
5	Northland Foundation	Victoria Sundell	ECSE/ECFE Parent Support Group: Parent Talk	\$1,010	Funds from this grant award will be used to support the <i>Parent Talk</i> ECSE/ECFE Parent Support Group.

E-11-15-3310

November 17, 2015

**M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution E-11-15-3310 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

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

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.3)  
Student Advisor Olafson withheld Item 2.G.  
Member Johnston wanted to make a general comment  
Member Loeffler Kemp withheld Item 1.A.2)  
Student Advisor Goosens withheld Item 2.E.

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 1.A.2)-MN PreK-3 Leadership Series Presentation to note that early childhood education is very important and she appreciated the presentation.

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Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.3) – Spanish Immersion Program to ask if bringing in additional students from outside the attendance area could affect the Title I funding for Lowell. Mike Cary, Curriculum Director, stated that it is a realistic possibility but the amount of funding they receive is relatively low.

Jude Goossens withheld Item 2.E. - Addition of Aerospace Physics Course to ask if it would be offered for college credit. Mike Cary stated that it would be for Lake Superior College only and would not be transferable.

Tom Olafson withheld Item 2.G. - Addition of Fab Lab III to note his concern that there will be very few participants with only one section being offered. Mike Cary explained why there was only one section offered this year. Member Seliga Punyko asked about students at East being able to participate. Member Welty asked about opening up Fab Lab I to additional students in second semester. Discussion continued regarding scheduling the Fab Labs.

Member Johnston asked that when the new school board is seated that they consider broadcasting or recording the committee meetings.

**Upon a vote on the remainder of the Education Committee, the same was approved – unanimously.**

### **Human Resources Committee Report**

**November 2015**

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Member Miernicki presented the Human Resources Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each school board member.

**M-Miernicki, S-Harala, to approve the remainder of the Human Resource Committee report.**

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.A. – Approval of Hourly Substitute Pay Rate Sheet to state that he didn't receive the pay rate sheet until just now. Tim Sworsky, Senior Human Resources Manager, stated that it had been sent out in their packets and it was discussed at the committee meeting. Discussion continued regarding the pay rate sheet.

**Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

### **Business Committee Report**

**November 2015**

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Member Westholm presented the Business Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each school board member.

Member Westholm 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 various organizations.

<b>Donations</b>			
<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>DONOR</b>	<b>RESTRICTION (If any)</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Stowe	St. Margaret Mary Church	Gift Cards-kids Back pack prog	1,375.00
District Wide	Carolyn Zanho	45 Hand Knit Mittens	In Kind
District Wide	Carolyn Zanho	8 Hand Knit Hats	In Kind
Denfeld High	Irving Community Club	Softball Program	1,000.00
Denfeld High	Albert Bray	Robotics	250.00
Denfeld High	Nathan's Millers Roofing	Cheer Team	100.00
Denfeld High	West Duluth American Legion	Robotics	250.00
Denfeld High	Eighth District Sons of America	Robotics	250.00
Denfeld High	Susan L. Coen State Farm Agency	Robotics	250.00
Denfeld High	Shane and Terri Kuhlmeier	Criterion Newspaper	50.00
Music Programs	Mary and Ron Johnson	Three band instruments	In Kind
Lincoln Park	Century Link	\$900/Supplies for Student Needs	900.00
Homecroft	Maurices	None	40.00
Lester Park	Maurices	donation in lieu of fund rasier	55.00
Lester Park	Jered/Melinda Granley	donation in lieu of fund raiser	25.00
Lester Park	Amy Swing/Colleen Kelly	2 cks each for \$20	40.00
Lester Park	K/A Lussier	donation in lieu of fund rasier	40.00
Lester Park	Patrick/Patricia Earley	donation in lieu of fund rasier	50.00
Lester Park	Matthew/Karen Hanka	donation in lieu of fund rasier	25.00
Lester Park	Shawn Amundson	donation in lieu of fund rasier	25.00
Lester Park	Timothy Traynor/Sarah Ziring	donation in lieu of fund raiser	50.00
Lester Park	Daniel/Elizabeth McLaughlin	2 cks each for \$20	40.00
Lester Park	Steve/Margaret Sutherland	donation in lieu of fund rasier	50.00
Lester Park	Jonathan/Gayle Koop	donation in lieu of fund rasier	50.00
Lester Park	Dylan/Katherine Mills	donation in lieu of fund rasier	25.00

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Lester Park	Brent/Kayla Keigley	donation in lieu of fund rasier	25.00
Lester Park	Friday Properties Mgmt LLC	donation in lieu of fund rasier	35.00
Lester Park	Andrew/Jacqueline Weyrauch	donation in lieu of fund rasier	10.00
Lester Park	PTA	Chrome Books	4,117.50
Lester Park	PTA	Shelving for Media Center	281.56
Lester Park	Emiliy/Ted Cash	donation in lieu of fund rasier	50.00
Lester Park	Curtis/Beth Cash	donation in lieu of fund rasier	150.00
Lester Park	Gretchen Cash	donation in lieu of fund rasier	250.00
District Wide	Josh Goram/St. Louis County Safe Routes to School Program	4,000 Clip on Flash Light Strobes for Elementary Students	In Kind
		TOTAL	9,859.06

B-11-15-3312

November 17, 2015

**M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution B-11-15-3312 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**M-Westholm, S-Welty, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report.**

Member Miernicki withheld 1.F.

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld 6.D.

Member Johnston withheld 3.A., B., C., D. for discussion and a separate vote as a block

Member Miernicki withheld Item 1.F. – APU/(WADM) Projections to discuss the history of student enrollments and the trend of declining population and enrollment. Discussion continued regarding the item.

Member Johnston withheld section 3. Policies and Regulations to propose a revision to policy 212 School Board Member Development/and Travel/Expense Reimbursement. Discussion continued regarding the proposed revisions to the policy.

**M-Harala, S-Miernicki, to call the question.**

Member Johnston made a point of order that he had been cut out of the discussion. Chair Seliga Punyko ruled to vote on calling the question.

**Upon a vote to call the question, the same failed 4-3 as follows:**

**Yea: Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm**

**Nay: Harala, Johnston, Welty**

Member Johnston stated he would save the rest of his comments for later discussion.

**Upon a separate vote on Items 3.A, B., C., and D. and E. the same was approved - 6-1 as follows:**

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**Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Welty, Westholm**  
**Nay: Johnston**

**Upon a vote on the remainder of the Business Committee, the same was approved 6-1 as follows:**

**Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Welty, Westholm**  
**Nay: Johnston**

**Special Resolutions**

**November 2015**

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Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

**Board Member Attendance at 2016 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 2016 Leadership Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 13-15, 2016.

SP-11-15-3313

November 17, 2015

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Harala, to approve Resolution B-11-15-3313 – Board Member Attendance at 2016 MSBA Leadership Conference. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**Other**

**November 2015**

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Member Johnston asked about current board members being able to attend the MSBA new board member trainings again.

Chair Seliga Punyko adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of November 17, 2015 at 8:40 p.m.