

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, May 21, 2013

Members Present:

Art Johnston
Tom Kasper
Mike Miernicki
Judy Seliga Punyko
Ann Wasson
Bill Westholm

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives:

Erik Thibault
Katlyn Persch

Members Absent:

Mary Cameron

➤ Chair Kasper called the regular school board meeting of May 21, 2013 to order at 6:31 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Wasson, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same was approved – 6-0.

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of April 23, 2013.

M-Wasson, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2013 Regular School Board Meeting as presented.

Member Johnston noted his concern with the statement from administration that they expect the energy savings to exceed projections.

Upon a vote, the same was approved 6-0.

School and Community Recognition

May 2013

The school board acknowledged/congratulated:

This month Carol Hubert, Lester Park Elementary, received the 2013 Goldfine Gold Star Teacher Award. Andy Goldfine made the announcement at a reception in Duluth and presented Ms. Hubert with a trophy and a \$5,000 dollar check. Ms. Hubert was among nine elementary school teachers nominated for this award, which honors inspirational teachers for their dedication, skills and hard work.

Public Comments

May 2013

Alan Netland, 1414 Boulevard Place, spoke to the board to encourage them to pursue going out for an operating levy this fall.

Mike Tusken, 2030 North Arlington, spoke to the board, on behalf of the Duluth Police Department, to encourage them to close the campuses at the high schools citing student safety, neighborhood complaints, and juvenile crime rates as some reasons to close the campuses.

Tom Albright, 510 North 42nd Avenue West, spoke to the board to encourage them to pursue an operating levy this fall.

Marcia Stromgren, no address provided, spoke to the board regarding her concerns with the possible operating levy this fall, the temperature of the auditorium at East and kids smoking in the neighborhoods.

Laura Nitsche, no address provided, spoke to the board regarding her concerns with the impact of students smoking in the East High School neighborhood.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

May 2013

Superintendent Gronseth stated that no communications had been received.

Superintendent's Report

May 2013

Superintendent Gronseth announced that East High School was named as one of the top 25 high schools in the state of Minnesota. He congratulated the upcoming graduates at Denfeld and East High Schools.

The drawing for the Fred Hase scholarship was held and Lee King – East High School and Katie Albertson – Denfeld High School were the recipients.

Education Committee Report

May 2013

Member Johnston (in Member Cameron's absence) presented the Education Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each school board member.

Member Johnston 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.

	Organization	Author/Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
1	Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation – Scott D. Anderson Leadership Foundation Fund	Rory Johnson	Scott Anderson Leadership Forum – Year XI	\$25,490	Funds from this grant award will be used to support the Eleventh Annual Scott Anderson Leadership Forum this summer.
2	Northland Foundation	Ronald Hagland	Educators Impacting Student Achievement	\$3,000	Funds from this grant award will be used to bring Ronald F. Ferguson, PhD of Harvard University to Duluth to speak to educators and the community regarding the Tripod Project as part of the Duluth Public Schools’ effort to provide Achievement Gap training support.
3	Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation – Duluth Public Schools Endowment Fund	Various	Various	\$12,723	Funds from these thirteen grant awards will be used to provide supplemental funding to enrich the academic, cultural, athletic, and overall experiences of Duluth Public

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					Schools students and staff. See the attached spreadsheet with additional details.
4	MSHSL Foundation	Shawn Roed	MSHSL Foundation Grant	\$2,220	Funds from this grant award will be used to support East High School's Captain's Leadership Program, which is a course that will take leaders from being elected team captains to effective team captains when leading their teams.
5	Flint Hills	Jim Olson	Flint Hills Grant	All expenses associated with field trip	Funds from this grant award will finance a field trip for Nettleton's fourth grade students traveling to the State Capitol and Minnesota Zoo.

E-5-13-3095

May 21, 2013

M-Johnston, S-Miernicki, to approve the Resolution E-5-13-3095 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

M-Johnston, S-Miernicki, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report withholding the closed campus item for a separate vote. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

Discussion took place regarding the closed campus agenda item.

M-Kasper, S-Seliga Punyko, to table the item at this time for additional discussion at a future board meeting. Upon a vote, the same passed 5-1 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm
Nay: Miernicki

Human Resources Committee Report
May 2013

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

Member Westholm presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
RE: Termination of Certified Hourly Staff

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the employment of the following hourly teachers shall terminate effective at the end of the school day on June 7, 2013, unless another date is indicated below, in which case the employment of the individual shall terminate on that date.

Patricia Bennett	Linnea Lebens (8/30/13)
Valerie Bolen (8/15/13)	Karen McCormick
Randall Docauer (8/15/13)	Carol Mell
Barbara Durst (8/2/13)	Nora Packerham
Sandra Erickson	Rebecca Phaengkhouane
Angie Frank (8/2/13)	Jeanne Rodberg
Jody Greniger (8/2/13)	Jay Rud (8/2/13)
Beverly Grindahl	Patricia Schafter
Jenna Gust	John Schmidt
Benjamin Hanson	Charles Smith
Elaine Hill (8/2/13)	Robert Turner
Joan Krogh	Michael Zeman (6/28/13)

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the School Board shall notify such teachers in writing before July 1, 2013, of the termination of their employment.

HR-5-13-3091

May 21, 2013

M-Westholm, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve Resolution HR-5-13-3091 – Termination of Certified Hourly Staff.

Discussion took place regarding the resolution and end of the year procedures.

Upon a vote, the same was approved 5-1 as follows:

Yea: Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Member Westholm presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N

RE: Termination of Certified Probationary (Non-Tenured) Staff

WHEREAS, during the first three years of consecutive employment all teachers in the public schools in cities of the first class are deemed to be in a probational period of employment during which period the School Board may renew, or not renew, any teachers' annual contract as the School Board shall see fit. The term "teacher" includes every person regularly employed, as a principal, or to give instruction in a classroom, or to superintend or supervise classroom instruction, or as a placement teacher and visiting teacher.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board on Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, as follows:

1. The employment contracts of the following probationary teachers shall not be renewed and their employment shall terminate at the end of the school day on June 7, 2013, unless another date is indicated below, in which case the employment of the particular teacher shall terminate on that date.

Heather Anderson
Kevin Anderson
Amanda Borling (06/14/2013)
Alicia Cleary
Susan Denio
Meghan Ehnes
Erin Haney
Jason Heilig
Brian Jungman

Cassie Letourneau
Sarah Lindahl
Rhett McDonald
Kellie Mulliner
Allison Norgard
Jennifer Pederson
Miki Gustafson-Peters
Christine Ridgewell
Howard Zmudy

2. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the Clerk of the School Board shall notify such teachers in writing before July 1, 2013, of the termination of their employment.

HR-5-13-3092

May 21, 2013

M-Westholm, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve Resolution HR-5-13-3092 – Termination of Non-Tenured Certified Staff.

Discussion took place regarding the resolution and the process.

Upon a vote, the same was approved 5-1 as follows:

Yea: Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Member Westholm presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

RE: Termination of Certified Long-Term Substitutes

WHEREAS, the School Board desires to provide notice that long-term substitute teaching positions terminate on the date specified in the individual substitute teacher's contract or at the conclusion of the school year, whichever is earlier;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the employment of all long-term substitute teachers, including those listed below, shall terminate effective at the end of the school day on June 7, 2013, unless another date is indicated below, or on the date specified in the individual substitute teacher's contract, whichever is earlier.

Emily Brian (0.8 FTE)
Sarah Burris
Deann Dahl (0.5 FTE)
Megan Engelsgerd
Charles Heltunen
Anne Hiti (0.5 FTE)
Bridget Ideker (0.65 FTE)

Megan Johnson
Jo Jones
Maggie Muller
Nicole Sederberg
William Tormondsen
Anna Travaglione

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the School Board shall so notify such teachers in writing before July 1, 2013.

HR-5-13-3093

May 21, 2013

M-Westholm, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve Resolution HR-5-13-3093 – Termination of Certified Long-Term Substitutes.

Discussion took place regarding the resolution and processes.

Upon a vote, the same was approved 5-1 as follows:

Yea: Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

M-Westholm, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the Hourly Substitute Pay Rate Sheet. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

M-Westholm, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the Human Resources Committee Report as presented. Upon a vote on the Human Resources Report as presented, the same was approved – 6-0.

Business Committee Report

May 2013

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

Member Seliga Punyko presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Of Support for the Property Zoning Change for Northwood Children's Services

WHEREAS, Northwood Children's Services owns property requiring rezoning to bring it into compliance to allow construction of a building at this location; and

WHEREAS, Independent School District #709 owns adjoining property, for which rezoning the City requires the consent of property owners within 100 feet of the property requested to be rezoned;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The School Board of Independent School District #709 hereby acknowledges support for the rezoning of this property and authorizes the School Board Chair to sign the petition on behalf of the District to allow the zoning change to take place.

B-5-13-3094

May 21, 2013

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve Resolution B-5-13-3094 – Support for the Property Zoning Change for Northwood Children's Services. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

Member Seliga Punyko presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Resolution for the Classification of Fund Balances

WHEREAS, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") has adopted GASB Statement 54, a standard for governmental fund balance reporting and governmental fund type definitions that became effective in governmental fiscal years starting after June 15, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the governing board of Duluth Public Schools passed Resolution B-6-11-2901 For the Classification of Fund Balances dated June 21, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the governing board of Duluth Public Schools has adhered to the reporting requirements as set forth by GASB Statement 54; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Duluth Public Schools in accordance with the provisions of GASB 54 commits a portion of its June 30, 2013, General Fund Balance forward for fiscal year 2013-2014 as follows:

Severance – represents amounts owed to retirees in future periods who have retired as of June 30, 2013.

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B-5-13-3097

May 21, 2013

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve Resolution B-5-13-3097 – Classification of Fund Balances. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

Member Seliga Punyko presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Indicating the Intent to Move Forward with an Operating Levy Referendum in November, 2013

WHEREAS additional funds are needed to realize the mission and community vision for the Duluth Public Schools, and

WHEREAS the current operating levy for Duluth is below the state average, and

WHEREAS the current operating levy for our district is \$365.60 per pupil unit, and

WHEREAS additional funds are needed to create and maintain quality programs.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board hereby intends to take future action to place an operating levy referendum on the November, 2013, ballot.

B-5-13-3096

May 21, 2013

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve Resolution B-5-13-3096 – Indicating the Intent to Move Forward with an Operating Levy Referendum in November, 2013.

M-Johnston, S-Miernicki, to amend the resolution by deleting the final paragraph and replacing it with Be it resolved that the School Board renew the existing \$365.60 per pupil operating levy. Therefore the question of renewing the general education revenue of the district shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the district on November 11, 2013 between the hours of 7 am and 8 pm. Then have the normal boiler plate items and finish it off with the clerk is hereby authorized to prepare a sample ballot that complies with all applicable election rules.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed amendment.

Upon a vote on the proposed amendment, the same failed 1-5 as follows:

Yea: Johnston

Nay: Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Discussion took place on the original resolution.

Upon a vote upon the original resolution, the same passed 5-1 as follows:

Yea: Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Abstain: Johnston

Member Seliga Punyko presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
Resolution Affirming the Date for the School District Primary Election
and the School Board Member Candidate Filing Period

The Duluth city council has passed the following:

WHEREAS, Chapter 281 of the Laws of Minnesota, 1973, provides that the Duluth city council establish the date for the municipal primary election which, in addition to municipal elections, includes school board elections; and

WHEREAS, on November 25, 1974, the Duluth city council passed a resolution establishing the first Tuesday after the second Monday in September as the date for the municipal primary election; and

WHEREAS, the municipal and school board primary elections has been held on the first Tuesday after the second Monday in September since 1975; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, the state legislature passed a law changing the date of the primaries to the second Tuesday in August; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 legislation did not include any provision which would supersede, repeal or amend the 1973 special law, and the city of Duluth continues to be able to set its own date for the municipal and school board primary elections; and

WHEREAS, the 2013 legislature is considering changing the date of the primary election from the second Tuesday in August to sometime in June, which may cause voter confusion and decrease voter turnout.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT BE RESOLVED, that the Duluth city council hereby re-affirms tha the date for the municipal and school board primary election be the first Tuesday after the second Monday in September.

As a result, the school district primary election (if needed) will be held on September 10, 2013, and the school board member candidate filing period will be July 2 through July 16, 2013.

B-5-13-3098

May 21, 2013

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve Resolution B-5-13-3098 – Affirming the Date for the School District Primary Election and the School Board Member Candidate Filing Period. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee Report as presented.

Member Johnston withheld items 1.F., 3.A.1), 4.A.1), 6.F., and 6.B.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. WADM Projections to note his concern with the drop in student numbers.

Upon a separate vote on Item 3.A.1) – Policy 3136 – Travel In-District, In-State, and Out-of-State, the same was approved 6-0.

Upon a separate vote on Item 3.B.1) – Regulation 4036R Drug and Alcohol Testing, the same was approved 6-0.

Upon a separate vote on Item 4.A.1) – Duluth Heritage Sports Center Addendum, the same was approved 6-0.

Member Johnston withheld Item 6.F. – Change Orders Pertaining to the Long-range Facilities Plan to note his concern with the change orders and that they shouldn't be brought forward.

Member Johnston withheld Item 7.B. – Adoption of 2014 Budget to ask that discussion continue on the budget. Superintendent Gronseth stated that there would be additional discussion now that the legislature has adjourned.

Upon a vote on the remainder of the business committee report as presented, the same was approved 5-1 as follows:

Yea: Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Special Resolution

May 2013

Member Miernicki Presented the resolution

**RESOLUTION
CLOSING NETTLETON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

Whereas, a public hearing was held on May 6, 2013 on the proposed closing of Nettleton Elementary School;

Whereas, during this hearing, people wishing to give testimony for and against the proposed closing were heard, and such testimony was considered by the School Board;

Whereas, published notice of this hearing was given in compliance with Minnesota Statutes Section 123B.51, subdivision 5.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 as follows:

1. The attached Findings and Conclusions regarding the closing of Nettleton Elementary School are hereby adopted.
2. The closing of Nettleton Elementary School is necessary and practicable.
3. Nettleton Elementary School is closed effective at the end of the 2012-13 school year.
4. At this time, the School Board does not take any action with respect to the possible sale of Nettleton Elementary School building or property.

B-5-13-3100

May 21, 2013

M- Miernicki, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve Resolution B-5-13-3100 – Closing Nettleton

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Elementary School.

Discussion took place regarding the resolution.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – 5-1 as follows:

Yea: Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Member Miernicki presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION
CLOSING WOODLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Whereas, a public hearing was held on May 6, 2013 on the proposed closing of Woodland Middle School;

Whereas, during this hearing, people wishing to give testimony for and against the proposed closing were heard, and such testimony was considered by the School Board;

Whereas, published notice of this hearing was given in compliance with Minnesota Statutes Section 123B.51, subdivision 5.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 as follows:

1. The attached Findings and Conclusions regarding the closing of Woodland Middle School are hereby adopted.
2. The closing of Woodland Middle School is necessary and practicable.
3. Woodland Middle School is closed effective at the end of the 2012-13 school year.
4. At this time, the School Board does not take any additional action with respect to the sale of Woodland Middle School building or property.

B-5-13-3101

May 21, 2013

M-Miernicki, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve Resolution B-5-13-3101 – Closing Woodland Middle School.

Discussion took place regarding the resolution

Upon a vote, the same was approved – 5-1 as follows:

Yea: Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

**Other
May 2013**

➤ Chair Kasper adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of May 21, 2013 at 8:45 p.m.