

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, August 21, 2018

Members Present:

Josh Gorham
David Kirby
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Jill Lofald
Alanna Oswald
Nora Sandstad
Sally Trnka

Others Present:

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent
Jackie Dolentz, Secretary

Student Representatives:

Maggie Carlos (Denfeld)
Finnegan White (Duluth East)

➤ Chair Kirby called the Regular School Board meeting of August 21, 2018 to order at 6:31 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

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

Chair Kirby asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of July 17, 2018.

M-Lofald, S-Sandstad, to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2018 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Chair Kirby asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of July 26, 2018.

M-Sandstad, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2018 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

School and Community Recognition

August 2018

Members of the Board, this month we're recognizing a community partnership that's bringing energy to our Duluth community and opportunity to children and families in Gary New Duluth. Joining us this evening are members of the GND Development Alliance Board:

Mark Boben
Gary Bubalo
Frank Bucar
Robert Espensen

Nathan Glockle
Kirsten Haller
Dale Lewis
Frances Morris

Ted Pavlovich
Jack Rendulich
Ryan Sather
Mary White

The Gary New Duluth (GND) neighborhoods are located in the far west portion of Duluth. More than 3,000 people live in the community, which is served by Stowe Elementary School. The GND Development Alliance is a group of citizens working to revitalize and transform the Gary New Duluth Recreation Area. They raise funds and build partnerships with businesses and organizations to make capital improvements and operate the facility. Their efforts have resulted in soccer fields, picnic areas, a dog park and other places for children, families and citizens to gather and enjoy. The Alliance looks for and secures outside support, such as a \$50,000 grant from the Minnesota Vikings and U.S. Bank. The grant is helping fund a multi-sport court with basketball and pickle ball, a community garden and skate park. The Alliance helps organize summer youth program opportunities, community events, volunteer opportunities and more. Their amazing work and their partnership with Stowe Elementary are enhancing opportunities for Duluth's children and building a strong Gary New Duluth community. Thanks for all you do!

Public Comments

August 2018

Henry Banks, North Lake Avenue, spoke to the School Board about education.

Bernie Burnham, 4130 West Fourth Street, spoke to the School Board about the upcoming levy.

Catherine Nachbar, 5118 Colorado Street, spoke to the School Board about technology and the upcoming levy.

Beth McCuskey, 4330 Krueger Road, spoke to the School Board about the upcoming levy.

Greg Jones, 1521 East Seventh Street, spoke to the School Board about the upcoming levy.

Lynn Kuehnow, no address provided, spoke to the School Board about raises for certain hourly employees.

Loren Martell, 623 East Seventh Street, spoke to the School Board about the upcoming levy.

Mary Owen, 3645 East Third Street, spoke to the School Board about the levy process.

Betty Greene, 4015 Dodge Street, spoke to the School Board about equity.

Kevin Skwira-Brown, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about the upcoming levy.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

August 2018

Superintendent Gronseth stated that no communications had been received.

Superintendent's Report

August 2018

The beginning of school is right around the corner. The first day of class is Tuesday, September 4th. If you haven't enrolled your children for school yet, please do so! A reminder to your friends and neighbors can help too. You can learn more about the enrollment process on our website or stop by your neighborhood school.

We update our systems every day and we are watching class sizes closely. We know we have a few schools where class sizes are higher than we would want and are working with school staff to decide how to best address these situations. We hope to make decisions on most of this by week's end.

Today, I, along with several other superintendents and educational leaders from the State testified at the Senate today to the E-12 Policy Committee regarding the new Special Education Funding Formula. The formula has had a negative effect on Duluth at a higher rate than anywhere else in the state. Because the base was set in a year where we had higher than usual tuition adjustments, our base revenues for special education are \$1.2 million below prior years. This lower floor effects our subsequent years. We will continue to work with the legislature to advocate for change. And now, let's hear from our student representatives:

Denfeld High School: Student Representative Maggie Carlos spoke to the School Board about upcoming activities to prepare for the start of the school year including an open house BBQ. Fall sports have also begun.

Duluth East High School: Student Representative Finn White spoke to the School Board about the ongoing activities to prepare for the start of the school year including freshman orientation and an open house. Fall sports are in full swing.

Education Committee Report

August 2018

Member Lofald presented the Education Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

Member Lofald 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 organizations.

Organization	Author / Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
Northland Foundation	Jennifer Jaros	First Year Program	\$5,000	Funds will be used to support the First Year Program. The First Year Program promotes sensitive and responsive parenting during pregnancy and throughout the first year of life.
Northland Foundation	Jay Roesler	ISD 709 PreK-3 Transition and Alignment	\$5,000	Funds will be used to underwrite the district's Pre-Kindergarten through 3rd Grade Alignment work. P-3 is a comprehensive systems strategy focused on ensuring all children develop the cognitive and social skills that establish strong foundations for future learning and that both children and their families are supported at key transition points.
Minnesota Department of Education	Katie Danielson	McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth Education Grant Opportunity	\$40,000	Funds will be used to support the Duluth Public Schools Families in Transition program. The program helps facilitate enrollment, attendance and academic success of homeless school aged children.
Northland Foundation	Ed Lewis and Alison Wood	Pathways2Teaching Co-Teacher	\$5,000	Funds will be used to partially fund FTE for a co-teacher for the new Pathways2Teaching course at Denfeld High School.

Resolution E-8-18-3577

August 21, 2018

M-Lofald, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution E-8-18-3577 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

5 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
August 21, 2018

M-Trnka, S-Sandstad, to amend Resolution E-8-18-3577 – Acceptance of Grants to the Duluth Public Schools to include a \$5,000 Northland Foundation Grant for Pathways2Teaching , which would cover expenses for one quarter at Denfeld High School, with the caveat that this \$5,000 may be refused at a later date if full financing cannot be determined.

Discussion continued regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the motion to amend Resolution E-8-18-3577 – Acceptance of Grants to the Duluth Public Schools was approved 4-3 as follows:

Yea: Kirby, Oswald, Sandstad, Trnka

Nay: Gorham, Loeffler-Kemp, Lofald

Upon a vote, Resolution E-8-18-3577 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools was approved as amended - unanimously.

M-Lofald, S-Sandstad, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report. Upon a vote, the remainder of the Education Committee Report was approved – unanimously.

Human Resources Committee Report

August 2018

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

Member Gorham presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Education Minnesota Clerical Local 692-A

RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District #709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the Collective Bargaining Agreement between Independent School District #709 and the Education Minnesota Clerical Local 692-A, a summary of which has been provided electronically to all School Board members, be approved and adopted for the period of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2021, inclusive, and that the Chairperson and Clerk of the School Board be hereby authorized to execute said Agreement on behalf of the School District.

Resolution HR-8-18-3578

August 21, 2018

M-Gorham, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution HR-8-18-3578 – Education Minnesota Clerical Local 692-A.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

RESOLUTION

Employment of a School Board Member by the District

WHEREAS, the School Board member(s) below are/will be employed by the Duluth Public Schools during their service as a School Board member; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 123B.195 Board Member’s Right to Employment requires that the member receive a majority approval by the School Board to be initially employed or to continue in employment at a meeting at which all board members are present; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 123B.195 Board Member’s right to Employment states that the employment relationship will not exceed \$8,000 in a fiscal year, excluding compensation for being a School Board member,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board authorize the employment of the following School Board members as listed, not to exceed \$8,000 in a fiscal year.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Time Frame</u>
Jill Lofald	July 2018 – June 2019
Alanna Oswald	July 2018 – June 2019

Resolution HR-8-18-3580

August 21, 2018

M-Gorham, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution HR-8-18-3580 – Employment of a School Board Member by the District. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 5-0 as follows:

Yea: Gorham, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad, Trnka

Abstain: Lofald, Oswald

M-Gorham, S-Trnka, to approve the Human Resource Committee report.

Member Gorham withheld Item 1.

Member Gorham withheld Item 1. Staffing Report Action Items for a separate vote.

Upon a vote, Item 1. Staffing Report Action Items was approved 6-0 as follows:

Yay: Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Lofald, Oswald, Sandstad, Trnka

Abstain: Gorham

Upon a vote, the remainder of the Human Resources Committee report was approved – unanimously.

Business Committee Report
August 2018

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

Member Trnka 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
District-wide	Tom O'Neill, Miners Corp	In-Kind	Staff Development Day on 8/28/18 (bananas, donuts, breakfast bars)

Resolution B-8-18-3581

August 21, 2018

M-Trnka, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution B-8-18-3581 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Trnka presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Modification of the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2018 the School Board adopted Resolution B-6-18-3564 Accepting the Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget.

WHEREAS, modifications are necessary to maintain a balanced budget.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, that the modified fiscal year 2019 budget as presented to the School Board, be adopted.

Resolution B-8-18-3582

August 21, 2018

M-Trnka, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-8-18-3582 - Modification of the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Trnka presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Relating To Renewing The General Education Revenue Of The School District And Increasing The General Education Revenue Of The School District, And Calling An Election Thereon

IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, State of Minnesota, as follows:

1. The School District's existing operating levy authority is expiring at the end of 2018. The Board hereby finds and determines that it is necessary and expedient for the School District to renew the expiring referendum revenue authorization for its general education revenue at \$371.78 per adjusted pupil unit. As provided by law, the ballot question must abbreviate the term "per adjusted pupil unit" as "per pupil." The revenue will be used to finance school operations and the property tax portion thereof will require an estimated referendum tax rate of approximately 0.03430% of the referendum market value of the School District for taxes payable in 2019, the first year it is to be levied. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. The question on the approval of renewal of this referendum revenue authorization shall be School District Ballot Question No. 1 on the School District ballot at the special election held to approve said authorization.

2. Provided that Ballot Question No. 1 is approved, the Board further determines that it is necessary and expedient for the School District to increase its general education revenue by \$575.00 per adjusted pupil unit. As provided by law, the ballot question must abbreviate the term "per adjusted pupil unit" as "per pupil." The additional revenue will be used to finance school operations and the property tax portion thereof will require an estimated referendum tax rate of approximately 0.06910% of the referendum market value of the School District for taxes payable in 2019, the first year it is to be levied. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. The question on the approval of this referendum revenue authorization is conditioned on the approval of Ballot Question No. 1 and shall be School District Ballot Question No. 2 on the school district ballot at the special election held to approve said authorization.

3. Provided that Ballot Question Nos. 1 and 2 are approved, the Board further determines that it is necessary and expedient for the School District to increase its general education revenue by \$335.00 per adjusted pupil unit. As provided by law, the ballot question must abbreviate the term "per adjusted pupil unit" as "per pupil." The additional revenue will be used to finance school operations and the property tax portion thereof will require an estimated referendum tax rate of approximately 0.04026% of the referendum market value of the School District for taxes payable in 2019, the first year it is to be levied. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten (10) years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law. The question on the approval of this referendum revenue authorization is conditioned on the approval of Ballot Question Nos. 1 and 2 and shall be School

District Ballot Question No. 3 on the school district ballot at the special election held to approve said authorization.

4. The questions of renewing the general education revenue of the School District and increasing the general education revenue of the School District shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the district at a special election, which is hereby called and directed to be held in conjunction with the state general election on Tuesday, the 6th day of November, 2018.

5. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.11, the precincts and polling places for this special election are those precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the school district which have been established by the cities or towns located in whole or in part within the school district. The voting hours at those polling places shall be the same as those for the state general election.

6. The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause written notice of said special election to be provided to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located, in whole or in part, and to the Commissioner of Education at least seventy-four (74) days before the date of said election. The notice shall specify the date of said special election and the title and language for each ballot question to be voted on at said special election. Any notice given prior to the date of the adoption of this resolution is ratified and confirmed in all respects.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said special election to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least ten (10) days before the date of said special election.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a sample ballot to be posted at the administrative offices of the school district at least four (4) days before the date of said special election and to cause two (2) sample ballots to be posted in each polling place on election day. The sample ballot shall not be printed on the same color paper as the official ballot.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of said special election to be published in the official newspaper of the district, for two (2) consecutive weeks with the last publication being at least one (1) week before the date of the election.

The notice of election so posted and published shall state each question to be submitted to the voters as set forth in the form of ballot below, and shall include information concerning each established precinct and polling place.

The clerk is hereby authorized and directed to cause a notice of the election to be mailed mail to each taxpayer in the district at least fifteen (15) but no more than thirty (30) days prior to the date of the special election. The notice shall contain the required projections and the required statement specified in Minnesota Statutes, Section 126C.17, Subdivision 9, paragraph (b). The clerk is also directed to cause a copy of this notice to be submitted to the Commissioner of Education and to the county auditor of each county in which the school district is located in whole or in part at least fifteen (15) days prior to the day of the election.

The clerk is authorized and directed to acquire and distribute such election materials and to take such other actions as may be necessary for the proper conduct of this special election and generally to cooperate with election authorities conducting the state general and other elections on that date. The clerk and members of the administration are authorized and directed to take such actions as may be necessary to coordinate this election with those other elections, including entering into agreements with appropriate municipal and county officials regarding preparation and distribution of ballots, election administration, and cost sharing.

7. The clerk is further authorized and directed to cooperate with the proper election officials to cause ballots to be prepared for use at said election in substantially the following

form, with such changes in form and instructions as may be necessary to accommodate the use of an optical scan voting system:

SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 709
DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 6, 2018

Instructions to Voters:

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s), like this:

To vote for a question, fill in the oval next to the word “Yes” on that question.
To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to the word “No” on that question.

SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION NO. 1

**RENEWAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT
REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION**

The Board of Independent School District No. 709, Duluth Public Schools, has proposed to renew its referendum revenue authorization, which is set to expire in 2018, in an amount equal to \$371.78 per pupil. The revenue would be used to fund school operations. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be effective for taxes payable in 2019 and be applicable for ten years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

YES

NO

Shall the renewal of the revenue proposed by the Board of
Independent School District No. 709 be approved?

**BY VOTING “YES” ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING TO EXTEND
AN EXISTING PROPERTY TAX REFERENDUM THAT IS SCHEDULED TO EXPIRE**

SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION NO. 2

**APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT
REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION**

The Board of Independent School District No. 709 has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$575.00 per pupil if Ballot Question No. 1 is approved. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

- YES** Provided that Ballot Question No. 1 is approved, shall the increase in revenue proposed by the Board of Independent School District No. 709 be approved?
- NO**

**BY VOTING “YES” ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A
PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION NO. 3

**APPROVAL OF SCHOOL DISTRICT
REFERENDUM REVENUE AUTHORIZATION**

The Board of Independent School District No. 709 has proposed to increase its general education revenue by \$335.00 per pupil if Ballot Question Nos. 1 and 2 are approved. The proposed referendum revenue authorization would be applicable for ten years unless otherwise revoked or reduced as provided by law.

- YES** Provided that Ballot Question Nos. 1 and 2 are approved, shall the increase in revenue proposed by the Board of Independent School District No. 709 be approved?
- NO**

**BY VOTING “YES” ON THIS BALLOT QUESTION, YOU ARE VOTING FOR A
PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

In precincts using an optical scan voting system, the ballots must be printed in black ink on white colored material, except that marks to be read by the automatic tabulating equipment may be printed on another color ink. The name of the precinct and machine-readable identification must be printed on each ballot. Voting instructions must be printed at the top of the ballot on each side that includes ballot information. The instructions must include an illustration of the proper mark to be used to indicate a vote. Lines for initials of at least two election judges must be printed on one side of the ballot so that the judges’ initials are visible when the ballots are enclosed in a secrecy sleeve.

8. If the school district will be contracting to print the ballots for this special election, the clerk is hereby authorized and directed to prepare instructions to the printer for layout of the ballot. Before a contract exceeding \$1,000 is awarded for printing ballots, the

printer shall, if requested by the election official, furnish, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 204D.04, a sufficient bond, letter of credit, or certified check acceptable to the clerk in an amount not less than \$1,000 conditioned on printing the ballots in conformity with the Minnesota election law and the instructions delivered. The clerk shall set the amount of the bond, letter of credit, or certified check in an amount equal to the value of the purchase.

9. The individuals designated as judges for the state general election shall act as election judges for this special election at the various polling places and shall conduct said election in the manner described by law. The election judges shall act as clerks of election, count the ballots cast and submit the results to the school board for canvass in the manner provided for other school district elections. The election must be canvassed between the third and tenth day following the election.

10. The School District clerk shall make all Campaign Financial Reports required to be filed with the school district under Minnesota Statutes, Section 211A.02, available on the school district's website. The clerk must post the report on the school district's website as soon as possible, but no later than thirty (30) days after the date of the receipt of the report. The school district must make a report available on the school district's website for four years from the date the report was posted to the website. The clerk must also provide the Campaign Finance and Public Disclosure Board with a link to the section of the website where reports are made available.

Resolution B-8-18-3583

August 21, 2018

M-Trnka, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-8-18-3583 - Relating To Renewing The General Education Revenue Of The School District And Increasing The General Education Revenue Of The School District, And Calling An Election.

M-Sandstad, S-Oswald, to amend Resolution B-8-18-3583 as to the third ballot question, replacing the amount of \$335 per pupil with \$375 per pupil, and directing district administration to present this ballot question as funding for an enhancement to the secondary school schedule.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the motion to amend Resolution B-8-18-3583 failed 3-4 as follows –

Yea: Oswald, Sandstad, Trnka

Nay: Gorham, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Lofald

Discussion continued regarding this item.

Upon a vote, Resolution B-8-18-3583 - Relating To Renewing The General Education Revenue Of The School District And Increasing The General Education Revenue Of The School District, And Calling An Election was approved as presented – unanimously.

13 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting
August 21, 2018

M-Trnka, S-Oswald, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report. Upon a vote, the remainder of the Business Committee report was approved – unanimously.

M-Trnka, S-Gorham, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

➤ Chair Kirby adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of August 21, 2018 at 9:24 p.m.