

## **Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting**

Of the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 held at Historic Old Central High School, 215 North First Avenue East, Duluth, Minnesota 55802, on

Tuesday, October 20, 2020

### **Members Present:**

Kelly Durick Eder  
David Kirby  
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp  
Jill Lofald  
Alanna Oswald  
Paul Sandholm  
Sally Trnka

### **Others Present:**

John Magas, Superintendent  
Cathy Erickson, CFO  
Melinda Thibault, Secretary

### **Student Representatives:**

Nabiha Imtiaz (East)  
Phoenix Ocean (Denfeld)

➤ Chair Lofald called the Regular School Board meeting October 20, 2020 to order at 6:36 p.m.

**M-Oswald, S-Durick Eder, to approve the agenda.**

**M-Lofald, S-Durick Eder, to move public comment to the end of the meeting, following adjournment where a pre-recorded video will play with all the public comments being read into the record.**

Discussion took place regarding the proposed amendment.

**Upon a vote, the same was approved 6-1 as follows:**

**Yea: Durick Eder, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Lofald, Oswald, Sandholm**

**Nay: Trnka**

**M-Trnka, S-Oswald, to add Resolution SP-10-20-3765 – Designation of Identified Official with Authority for MDE External User Access Recertification System. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**Upon a vote on the agenda as amended, the same was approved 6-1 as follows:**

**Yea: Durick Eder, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Lofald, Oswald, Sandholm**

**Nay: Trnka**

**School and Community Recognition**  
**October 2020**

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Anthony Bonds:

Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to introduce Crystal Diehl, RN and Joe Schingen for recognition.

Ms. Diehl is our District Lead Nurse and COVID Contact.

- In this critical role, she helps ensure safety protocols are shared, established and followed in our schools, from cleaning to handwashing to social distancing.
- She works in partnership with the Minnesota and St. Louis County Departments of Health, helping our district understand changing and evolving guidance.
- When lab-confirmed cases of COVID are reported, Ms. Diehl works tirelessly to assist with contact tracing, notification and communication.
- Being a school nurse is not easy, and COVID-19 brought an entirely new set of challenges to the position.
- Ms. Diehl has risen to the challenges and gone above and beyond in helping our school district navigate the pandemic.

Thank you, Ms. Diehl, for your heroic efforts on behalf of the safety and well-being of our students, staff and community.

Mr. Schingen is the Digital Learning Coordinator for our district.

- Distance learning is one strategy in helping prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- This fall, Mr. Schingen took on the enormous challenge of helping our school district transition to an entirely new and more robust distance learning model.
- The work included launching two new online learning platforms, SeeSaw and Canvas.
- Mr. Schingen used his years of experience with Academic Excellence Online High School to provide tools and staff development for teachers.
- He provided information and training for students and families as they transitioned to the new model.
- Mr. Schingen generously shares his wealth of knowledge and continues to help all of us grow in our use of digital learning platforms.

Thank you, Mr. Schingen, for all you do to support our students, teachers and families.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**  
**October 2020**

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Chair Lofald stated that there were no communications received.

**Superintendent's Report**  
**October 2020**

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Superintendent Magas gave an update on the return to learn planning and discussion took place regarding the update.

Student Representative Phoenix Ocean (Denfeld): Reported that the boys soccer team has moved on to the section finals games to be played against Princeton this week. A member of the boys soccer team was named a candidate for the Class A, Mr. Soccer, Minnesota. The girls soccer team had an overall successful season, and Isaac Fink won all his cross country season races and placed ninth at sectionals. Denfeld held several FAFSA fill out sessions to help students and families fill out their paperwork for college preparation. Some music groups have begun in person rehearsals following distancing protocols. The math team and music listening contest groups will also start practicing next week. Some activities are successfully finding ways to participate in a not ideal situation. She added that the staff and students who put so much dedication into the well-being of our schools and community are very appreciated.

Student Representative Nabiha Imtiaz (East): Reported that the Executive Board has been busy planning fun activities, and are excited for East for Peace month, and producing newsreels to keep students informed on school events and news. The theatre department is performing their play The Drowning Girls, which will be live streamed to a screen in the East parking lot where it can be viewed as a drive-in movie. Girls swimming will be at sections this Saturday, both girls and boys cross country teams qualified for state this year, and girls tennis won the section championship.

Chair Lofald reviewed the schedule of meetings.

**Policy Committee Report**  
**October 2020**

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Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the Policy Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

**Monthly Committee of the Whole Report**  
**October 2020**

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

**Human Resources/Finance Committee Report**

**October 2020**  
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Member Trnka presented the Human Resources Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

**Consent Agenda**  
**October 2020**  
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**M-Trnka, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the Consent Agenda. Upon a vote on the Consent Agenda, the same was approved – Unanimously.**

**Special Resolutions/Other Action Items**  
**October 2020**  
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Member Lofald presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

Designation of Identified Official with Authority for the MDE External User Access  
Recertification System

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) requires that school districts annually designate an Identified Official with Authority to comply with State Access Control Security Standard 1.0 which states that all user access rights to Minnesota state systems must be reviewed and recertified at least annually. The Identified Official with Authority will assign job duties and authorize external user's access to MDE secure systems for their local education agency (LEA).

RESOLVED, The Superintendent recommends the Board authorize Melinda Thibault to act as the Identified Official with Authority (IOwA) for Duluth Public School District 0709-01.

Resolution SP-10-20-3765

October 20, 2020

**M-Oswald, S-Durick Eder, to approve Resolution SP-10-20-3765 - Designation of Identified Official with Authority for the MDE External User Access Recertification System. Upon a vote, the same was approved – Unanimously.**

**Other**  
**October 2020**  
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**M-Trnka, S-Durick Eder, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimately.**

Chair Lofald adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of October 20, 2020 at 9:28 p.m.

**Public Comments**  
**October 2020**

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Public comments were read into the record by the board members or played via voice messages (no public presence was allowed at the meeting) as follows (some spellings/names may be incomplete due to lack of information via voice messages):

The following people spoke regarding their thoughts and concerns related to the return to learn plan including; requests for more in person learning, concerns with the distance learning plan, not enough live learning/contact opportunities, the need for more synchronous learning, and concerns with lower than expected child care numbers keeping secondary students in distance learning:

Bart Martinson, Leslie & Jessee Sauve, Casey Brock, Sarah Burt, Kristy Erickson, Michelle Dinehart, Kasey Brock, Holly Taylor, Kristin Kartch, Ruth Jimenez, Jena Ogston, Jon Svobodny, Ryan Saburn, Heidi Guenther, Shannon Anderson, Tracie Smith, Dave Shea, Russell Saburn, Pat & Angela O'Connell, Dave Chura, Wendy Burke, Venessa Osborne, Patricia Moe, Tim LeGarde, Leah Saburn, Colleen Holliday, Christi Sorvik, Evelyn Christiansen, Stephanie Wollack, Kelly Goetzman, Jeff Goetzman, Lisa Maciver, Ann Hoeksma, Taran Dimberio, Angel Brown, Jim Toolman, Michael Latterell, Lori Bushey, Britten Skoglund, Michael Maki, Marla Halvorson, Norm Maciver, Stacey Dimberio, Heather McGrew, Kelly Spenningsby, Amy Kranig, Amy Pozniak

The following people spoke asking the board not to cancel or delay the athletics/activities programs citing needs for student contact, and mental health concerns:

Amy Fossum, Nathaniel Burke , Kari Bulthuis, Angela Stocke, Melissa Latimore, Rhett Bonner, Tiffany Schubitzke, David & Kathanne Thompson, John & Samantha Pykkonen, Angela Lahti, Dean & Leslie Anderson, Jennifer Critchley Lapcinski, Kathy & Jack Horner, Damien & Jodi Paulson, Patty Beech-Dziuk, Amy Carlson, Son Smith, Carol Duncan, Dave Shea, Kristin Kartch, Ruth Jimenez, Heidi Guenther, Laura LaFontaine, Pat & Angela O'Connell, Todd Kuusito, Wendy Burke, Will Hoeksema, Kelly Goetzman, Mandy Juenemann, Kelly Spenningsby, Marina Udd, Cursta Dimberio, Angel Brown, Emily Vos, Jodi & Darrin Nelson, William Weinkauff, Stacey Dimberio, Rebecca Hudoba, Connery Wiecks, Craig Ankrum, Nancy Janzig, Jim Vos, Chris Sward

The following people spoke in support of cancelling athletics/activities if the numbers support it:

Sean Mcgee, Kimberly Lakhan

Mehgan Blair spoke to support removing the school resource officers from the schools and to request the district use the education equity framework when reviewing the contract.

Chris Vold spoke in support of the AEO/ALC/ABE programs housed in Historic Old Central High and asked to consider those programs when looking at relocating.