

## **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, October 15, 2013

### **Members Present:**

Mary Cameron  
Art Johnston  
Tom Kasper  
Mike Miernicki  
Ann Wasson  
Bill Westholm

### **Others Present:**

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

### **Student Representatives:**

Erik Thibault  
Katlyn Persch

### **Members Absent:**

Judy Seliga Punyko

➤ Chair Kasper called the regular school board meeting of October 15, 2013 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

**M-Wasson, S-Westholm, 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 September 24, 2013.

**M-Westholm, S-Wasson, to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2013 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as corrected – 6-0.**

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of October 7, 2013.

**M-Westholm, S-Wasson, to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2013 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 6-0.**

## **School and Community Recognition** **October 2013**

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The school board acknowledged/congratulated several individuals who played a key role in organizing Piedmont Elementary's recent Set Your Student Up for Success event. Those recognized include Becky Gerdes, Principal; Tim Doyle, Piedmont PTA President; Deb Montgomery, Community Liaison; Jenna Gust, KEY ZONE; Greg Jackson, Building Engineer; Jean Engebretson, WITC Cosmetology Instructor; Fae Shunk, Monitor and Office Assistant and Justin Chumick. The evening was created to work toward proactively raising the academic and behavioral standards for students in the Piedmont and Lincoln Park communities. It also focused on the many community organizations available to provide for good health, positive well-being and increased academic success.

**Public Comments**

**October 2013**

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Loren Martell, 623 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke to the board regarding the tax impact of the levies and how the money will be used.

Marcia Stromgren, No address provided, spoke to the board regarding bullying issues in the district and the retirement funding.

Annie Harala, 1129 North 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, spoke to the board to state that she took part in the walk to school event at Lincoln Park and encouraged the board to continue those types of positive events within the district.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**

**October 2013**

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Superintendent Gronseth stated that no communications had been received.

**Superintendent's Report**

**October 2013**

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Superintendent Gronseth spoke regarding the recent death of an East High School student stating that death of a young person is never easy and it's even more difficult when they take their own life. It can be difficult to understand and there are often many variables involved. He thanked the Duluth Police Department, the faculty of East High School and members of the community who helped support the family, staff and students through this difficult time.

Events held this past month included the National Walk to School Day events held at Congdon, East, and Lincoln Park Middle School. I walked to school with Lincoln students, joined by our mayor, Don Ness—it was a fun event and the staff and students seemed to enjoy the walk.

He encouraged everyone to learn more about the levy questions that will be on the November ballot and stated that you can visit our website for more information.

**Education Committee Report**

**October 2013**

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

Member Cameron 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	Minnesota State Colleges & Universities/US Department of Education	Jim Arndt	Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Allocation	\$466,896.77 (\$154,638.56 for Secondary Schools/\$312,258.21 for Post-Secondary Schools)	Funds from this award will be used to support Career and Technical Programs and courses.

E-10-13-3136

October 15, 2013

**M-Cameron, S-Wasson, to approve the Resolution E-10-13-3136 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**M-Cameron, S-Westholm, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report.**

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.1)

Member Johnston withheld item 1.A.1) – 2013 MMR Results to congratulate Laura MacArthur for the great improvements they made and his concerns with other areas of the results. Discussion took place regarding the results.

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

**Human Resources Committee Report**

**October 2013**

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

**M-Westholm, S-Wasson, to approve the Human Resource Committee report. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**Business Committee Report**  
**October 2013**

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

Member Wasson presented the resolution:

**R E S O L U T I O N**  
**Authorized Student Activity Bank Account Signer**

RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that it hereby authorizes the following:

<u>District Building</u>	<u>Banking Institution</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Addition of Authorized Signer</u>	<u>Removal of Authorized Signer</u>
Merritt Creek	DTCU	XXXX0	Kathryn Sislo	
Woodland Hills	DTCU	XXXX1	Kathryn Sislo	
East High	Northshore Northshore DTCU	XXXXXXX2 XXXXXXX9 XXXXX6		Sandra Gustafson
Headstart	DTCU	XXXX0	Barbara Farrell Sharie Blevins	Deborah Youngblom

B-10-13-3138

October 15, 2013

**M-Wasson, S-Westholm, to approve Resolution B-10-13-3138 –Authorized Student Activity Bank Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**M-Wasson, S-Westholm, to approve the Business Committee Report withholding the resolutions:**

Member Johnston withheld 1.F. for discussion, 1.G. & H. 2.A.1), 2), & 3) for a separate vote, and 4.B. for discussion.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. – WADM Projections to note his concern with the enrollment projections.

**Upon a separate vote on 1.G. Fund Raisers, the same was approved – 6-0.**

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**Upon a separate vote on Item 1.H. Investments in School Children, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**Upon a separate vote on Item 4.A. Contracts, the same was approved – 6-0.**

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B. Change Orders to note his concern with them.

**Upon a vote on the remainder of the Business Committee, the same was approved – 5-1 as follows:**

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

**Nay: Johnston**

**Other**  
**October 2013**

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➤ Chair Kasper adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of October 15, 2013 at 7:15 p.m.