

## **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, 2019

### **Members Present:**

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

### **Others Present:**

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent  
Cathy Erickson, CFO  
Jackie Dolentz, Secretary

### **Student Representatives:**

Emma Natale (Denfeld)  
Vanessa Farrell (East)

A special thank you to the Pathways2Teaching students who displayed their posters before the Board meeting.

➤ Chair Loeffler-Kemp called the Regular School Board meeting of May 21, 2019 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

**M-Sandstad, S-Lofald, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Chair Loeffler-Kemp asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of April 23, 2019.

**M-Sandstad, S-Kirby, to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2019 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

## **School and Community Recognition** **May 2019**

Members of the Board, I'm pleased to introduce Brenda Vathauer, Principal, and the Lincoln Park Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team. The TRIO Talent Search program at The College of St. Scholastica serves students in grades 6-12. They recently presented the Lincoln Park Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Team with their Friend of TRIO Award. Here are some excerpts from the presentation:

- “Many believe that 6th grade is too young to begin encouraging students to think about their educational plans after high school. That is not the case for the 6th grade Team at Lincoln Park Middle School.”
- “This student-centered, dedicated group of teachers understands that early exposure to future possibilities can create excitement and self-confidence, and they share our belief that higher education can be within reach for all students.”

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- “This team has not only given class time for recruiting campaigns and career workshops, but they have also consistently excused students for group meetings and college campus visits.”
- “Some of these teachers have been supporting the efforts of Talent Search for the entire 20+ years of its existence at Lincoln Park and have helped us guide over 800 TRIO students through 6th grade.”
- “Talent Search has been extremely fortunate to have such a fun, patient and passionate group of professionals working beside us.”

Congratulations to this talented, dedicated team and thank you for all you do to support student success!

**Public Comments**

**May 2019**

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Member Gorham read the Eleven Tools of Civility.

Bernie Burnham, 4130 West Fourth Street, spoke to the School Board about Pathways2Teaching, Wear Orange on June 7<sup>th</sup> to raise awareness about gun violence, recent retirement celebration, and office elections for the DFT. Bernie spoke of her new role with Education Minnesota as the Vice President Elect. Congratulations to Ethan Fisher who will be the new DFT President.

Beth LaVigne, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about the Pathways2Teaching program partnership between the Duluth Public Schools and the College of St. Scholastica.

Alison Wood, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about the Pathways2Teaching program partnership between the Duluth Public Schools and the College of St. Scholastica.

Greg Jones and Peter Froehlingsdorf, 301 North Fortieth Avenue East, spoke to the School Board about some amazing things going on with the East Theater Program.

Doris Malkus, 1122 West Fifth Street, spoke to the School Board about the hiring of a new Superintendent.

Sarah Mikesell, 412 Hastings Drive, spoke to the School Board about gun violence awareness and prevention.

Jessica Olson, 1624 East Eighth Street, spoke to the School Board about the FY20 budget.

Joan Peterson, 133 Summit Street, spoke to the School Board about gun violence awareness and prevention.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**

**May 2019**

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Superintendent Gronseth stated that no communications had been received.

**Superintendent's Report**

**May 2019**

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Thank you to the students from our Pathways to Teaching class. Your research projects are impressive! We enjoyed hearing about the class, your work with Elementary students, and what you learned throughout the year. Thank you to all the staff that supported the development of this class. I'm happy to hear there are quite a few students interested in the class for next year!

The Legislature has continued to make progress towards completing their budget. The base formula agreement at this point is a two percent and two percent increase over the next biennium. The details will be worked out in a special session scheduled for Thursday. We are thankful for our local legislators who have been very helpful throughout this session and we ask that people reach out to them to thank them but also to encourage them to include specific language for the Duluth Schools in the final bill. The Special Education Formula that was implemented in 2016 has had negative effects on our budgets and we continue to ask the legislature to address this issue.

Regarding our own budget, we have continued to work with building principals to develop the budget. Principals have been working with their Continuous Improvement Teams to determine the needs of their buildings and how to best meet those needs. We have a Committee of the Whole Meeting scheduled for June 4th for a presentation on the budget. It will be discussed again during the regularly scheduled Business Committee on June 11<sup>th</sup> before the June 18<sup>th</sup> Regular School Board Meeting.

June is Gun Violence Awareness Month. Our country experiences far too many deaths due to gun violence. The ASK campaign encourages families to ask questions before allowing your child to play at someone else's house; ask if there are guns in the house. If there are, ask how they are stored. If you're not comfortable with the answer, invite the other child to play at your house. There will be an event at City Hall on May 31st at 4:00 p.m. where the mayor and I and others will speak on the topic of preventing gun violence.

There are just 11 days of school left; Seniors have a few less as graduations will be held the first week of June. Again this year our students have earned millions of dollars in scholarships. We are proud of all they have accomplished and wish them well on their continued educational journeys.

Speaking of scholarships, each year in May the HASE Family Scholarship is awarded to a randomly selected student from Denfeld and from East. All the students names are entered into a

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drawing and tonight our recipients will be chosen. We will also draw the names of alternates if for some reason a student chooses not to accept the scholarship for continuing education. The awards this year are for \$2,125 each. Congratulations to Audrey Przybyl (Denfeld) and Sophia Kapsner (East).

We hope everyone has a great finish to the school year! And now for reports from our student representatives:

Vanessa Farrell, Student Representative from Duluth East, spoke about the many sports, clubs and activities happening at Duluth East.

Emma Natale, Student Representative from Denfeld, spoke about the many sports, clubs and activities happening at Denfeld.

**Education Committee Report**  
**May 2019**  
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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
DSACF – Esperanza Fund	Phillip Thouin, Area Learning Center	Duluth Area Learning Center Environmental Program	\$2,525	Funds will be used to support experiential, place-based learning to under-served, at-risk students through field experiences to local nature reserves, parks, and organizations.

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Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Pam Bowe, Child Nutrition	FY 2019 AGRI Program Dairy Cooler Grant	\$4,500	Funds will be used to purchase dairy coolers at Lakewood, Lowell and Stowe Elementary Schools.
Jeffers Foundation	Nathan Glockle, Stowe Elementary School	School Garden Grant	\$500	Funds will be used to implement a school garden project at Stowe Elementary School.

Resolution E-5-19-3645

May 21, 2019

**M-Lofald, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution E-5-19-3645 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Lofald presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

Response to American Indian Education Resolution of Concurrence and Non-concurrence 2018

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 124D.78 requires a school board to respond in writing within 60 days, in cases of non-concurrence, to each recommendation made by the American Indian Education Parent Committee and state its reasons for not implementing the recommendations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Duluth School Board submits the response to the American Indian Education Resolution of Concurrence and Non-concurrence 2018 report as attached.

Resolution E-5-19-3646

May 21, 2019

**M-Lofald, S-Kirby, to approve Resolution E-5-19-3646 – Response to American Indian Education Resolution of Concurrence and Non-concurrence 2018.**

Discussion took place regarding this item.

**Upon a vote, the same was approved 4-3 as follows:**

**Yea: Gorham, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Lofald**

**Nay: Oswald, Sandstad, Trnka**

**M-Lofald, S-Trnka, 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**

**May 2019**

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

Member Kirby presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

**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, 2019, unless another date is indicated below, in which case the employment of the individual shall terminate on that date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the School Board shall notify such teachers in writing before July 1, 2019, of the termination of their employment.

Mary Backstrom  
Amy Broadmoore  
Cameron Herrity

Jeanne Rodberg  
Samantha Wolfe

Resolution HR-5-19-3643

May 21, 2019

**M-Kirby, S-Trnka, to approve Resolution HR-5-19-3643 – Termination of Certified Hourly Staff. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Kirby presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

**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 of 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, 2019, unless another date is indicated below, in which case the employment of the particular teacher shall terminate on that date.

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Cassandra Schick  
Robyn Valdizon

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Clerk of the School Board shall notify such teachers in writing before July 1, 2019, of the termination of their employment.

Resolution HR-5-19-3644

May 21, 2019

**M-Kirby, S-Lofald, to approve Resolution HR-5-19-3644 – Termination of Certified Probationary (Non-Tenured) Staff. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Kirby presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

Authorizing School Board Members' Attendance at the MSBA Superintendent Search Workshop

RESOLVED, That Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, pay costs incurred, as per District policy, for school board members to attend the MSBA Superintendent Search Workshop in Duluth, MN, date to be determined.

Resolution HR-5-19-3647

May 21, 2019

**M-Kirby, S-Oswald, to approve Resolution HR-5-19-3647 – Authorizing School Board Members' Attendance at the MSBA Superintendent Search Workshop.**

Discussion took place regarding this item.

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

**M-Kirby, S-Oswald, to approve the Human Resource Committee report. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**Business Committee Report**

**May 2019**

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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,

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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	COMMENTS
East	Va Bene Cafe	\$500.00	Boys Tennis	
East	Orthopaedic Associates of Duluth, P.A.	\$500.00	Alpine Ski	
East	Gregory Eiffert	\$500.00	Choir	
East	St Angela Merici Church	\$500.00	Choir	
Headstart	Jane Killough	\$50.00	No	April donation
Headstart	Jane Killough	\$50.00	No	May donation
Laura MacArthur	West Duluth American Legion Post NO. 71	\$200.00	5th grade Wolf Ridge Field Trip	
Lincoln Park	Kiwanis Club of Friendly Duluth	\$1,000.00	Art	
SPED/DAPE /PT	Jenny and Paul Davis	In Kind	Special Services	Adapted Rifton Tricycle- size medium with loop handle and back rest

Resolution B-5-19-3648

May 21, 2019

**M-Trnka, S-Lofald, to approve Resolution B-5-19-3648 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Trnka presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

**Support for Stowe Elementary School Forest Designation**

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District 709 recognizes that a School Forest would have a positive impact on students, teachers, parents, and the community where students would learn a variety of subjects and have a place that enhances an appreciation of natural resources and heightens community pride and involvement; and

WHEREAS, Stowe Elementary School students, parents, staff, and community members wish to begin the process of establishing the Stowe School Forest as depicted on Exhibit A attached hereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the School Board of Independent School District 709 supports the establishment of the Stowe School Forest and outdoor classroom



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comprising of approximately 17 acres in the SW ¼ of Section 3, Township 48, Range 15 described as:

- Block 62 Lots 1-8
- Block 63 Lots 1-4
- Block 64 Lots 1-11
- Block 65 Lots 1-22 within Home Park Division
- Block 57 Lots 1-13
- Block 63 Lots 1-24
- Block 64 Lots 1-28
- Block 70 Lots 1-24
- Block 71 Lots 1-28 within Gary Central Division

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Board of Independent School District 709 supports enrollment of said school forest in the Minnesota DNR School Forest Program for educational purposes.

Resolution B-5-19-3649

May 21, 2019

**M-Trnka, S-Gorham, to approve Resolution B-5-19-3649 – Support for Stowe Elementary School Forest Designation.**

Discussion took place regarding this item.

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

**M-Trnka, S-Oswald, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report.**

Member Oswald withheld Item 6.A.

Member Oswald withheld Item 6.A. Expenditure Contracts to clarify the start time of the Area Learning Center graduation ceremony.

**Upon a vote, the remainder of the Business Committee report was approved – unanimously.**

**Special Resolutions**

**May 2019**

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Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

Declaring the First Friday in June to be National Gun Violence  
Awareness Day in the Duluth Public Schools

This resolution declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Duluth Public School District to honor and remember all victims and survivors of gun violence and to declare that we as a country must do more to reduce gun violence.

WHEREAS, every day, 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are nearly 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

WHEREAS, Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed with guns than people in other high-income developed countries; and

WHEREAS, protecting the public safety in the communities they serve is a high priority of the School District; and

WHEREAS, support for the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens goes hand-in-hand with responsible gun ownership; and

WHEREAS, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in President Obama's second inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later, should be now celebrating her 22nd birthday; and

WHEREAS, to help honor Hadiya – and the 100 Americans whose lives are cut short and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day – a national coalition of organizations has designated June 7, 2019, the first Friday in June, as the 5th National Gun Violence Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, the idea was inspired by a group of Hadiya's friends, who asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange; they chose this color because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods and orange is a color that symbolizes the value of human life; and

WHEREAS, anyone can join this campaign by pledging to Wear Orange on June 7th, the first Friday in June in 2019, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

WHEREAS, by wearing orange on June 7, 2019 Americans will raise awareness about gun violence and honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, we renew our commitment to reduce gun violence and pledge to do all we can to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, and encourage responsible gun ownership to help keep our children safe.

Now, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Duluth School Board declares the first Friday in June, June 7, 2019, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Duluth Public Schools. We encourage all schools to support their local communities' efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence.

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**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution SP-5-19-3650 – Declaring the First Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Duluth Public Schools.**

Discussion took place regarding this item.

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

**Other**  
**May 2019**  
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Chair Loeffler-Kemp reminded everyone about the upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting on FY20 Budget review which will be on June 4<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. And, on Thursday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, the Early Childhood celebration will take place at Clyde Iron to support the ECFE programs.

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

➤ Chair Loeffler-Kemp adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of May 21, 2019 at 8:43 p.m.