

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, January 17, 2017

Members Present:

Annie Harala
Art Johnston
David Kirby
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Alanna Oswald
Nora Sandstad
Harry Welty

Others Present:

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent
Doug Hasler, Deputy Clerk
Jackie Dolentz, Secretary

Student Representatives:

Benjamin Emmel
Cabrilla Francis

➤ Chair Kirby called the regular school board meeting of January 17, 2017 to order at 6:36 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Welty, S-Sandstad, to approve the agenda as presented.

Chair Kirby stated there would be no Truth in Taxation Presentation, item #7 on the agenda, as this was from last month's agenda.

Chair Kirby asked school board members if there was any discussion on the agenda.

Upon a vote, the same was approved as amended – unanimously.

Chair Kirby asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of December 20, 2016.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Sandstad, to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2016 Regular School Board Meeting as presented.

Chair Kirby stated a name had been misspelled in the Public Comment section: Agatha Pachavinsky is spelled Pokrzywinski.

Upon a vote, the December 20, 2016 Regular School Board Meeting minutes were approved as amended– unanimously.

Chair Kirby asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of January 3, 2017.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2017 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

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Chair Kirby asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Annual Organizational School Board Meeting of January 3, 2017.

M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve the minutes of the January 3, 2017 Annual Organizational 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 January 10, 2017.

M-Sandstad, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2017 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

School and Community Recognition

January 2017

In a sermon titled “Three Dimensions of a Complete Life,” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, “*Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?*” Throughout the school year and especially during the holiday season, students do so much to help support people in need. The list is long and ranges from camping out to raise funds for homeless youth, collecting gifts for families and children, bringing cheer to patients in hospitals and gathering donations for the local food pantry to visiting senior citizens, volunteering to help with community events and supporting their fellow classmates in difficult times and much more. Tonight we’re recognizing two student groups who recently dedicated time and effort to helping others. Denfeld’s Student Exec Board helped collect and deliver about two tons (five carloads) of non-perishable food items for donation to CHUM. Duluth East’s Student Forum made blankets to donate to those in need. Thanks to you and the groups you represent for providing a shining example of service to others.

Public Comments

January 2017

Member Harala read the community vision statement.

Bernie Burnham, 4130 West Fourth Street, spoke to the School Board about the many great current happenings to celebrate in the school district and introduced teachers and students from Lester Park taking part in the Reading Buddy program.

Pat Isbell, 5011 Kingston Street, spoke to the School Board about the positive impact of the Reading Buddy Program at Lester Park Elementary School. She brought several pairs of buddies to speak to the Board about what impact the program has had on them.

Kristen Klos-Maki, no address provided, spoke to the School Board about nature-based schools and the tire mulch replacement project.

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Daris Nordby, 225 North First Avenue West, spoke to the School Board about school transportation

Karen Perry, no address provided, spoke to the School Board about school transportation.

Avesa Rockwell, 1314 East Sixth Street, spoke to the School Board about the tire mulch project.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

January 2017

Superintendent Gronseth stated no communications had been received.

Superintendent's Report

January 2017

As you know, yesterday was Martin Luther King Day. Over the last few days there have been many events throughout the community, the state, and the nation honoring Dr. King and his work. Over 250 people attended the Annual Community Breakfast in Duluth, and through a simulcast provided by Minneapolis, which hosts a similar event, we had an opportunity to hear an address from author and civil rights activist Myrlie Evers-Williams. Ms. Evers-Williams is 83 years old and was the wife of civil rights activist Medgar Evers. She spoke of her experiences and her life working with her husband. She spoke of the passion and the drive it took to have their voices heard and how hard and tiring it can be. Her message to us is to not give up, and to not be discouraged. She believes that there are too many people focused on the negatives--we need to focus on building each up so that we can build up the entire community. She reminded us of Martin Luther King's words, "I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear." Powerful words. Many thanks to everyone who helped organize and provide these opportunities. Our Annual Steps to the Future Pow Wow at Myers-Wilkins Elementary is coming up on Wednesday, January 25th, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. This is always a wonderful event where many people come together learn about career possibilities, share a feast and dance together. The Career and Higher Education Fair begins at 4:30 p.m., an invocation at 5 p.m., Feast at 5:15 p.m. and the Grand March begins at 6:00 p.m. I also want to remind everyone that next week marks the end of the semester; no school for students on Friday, the 27th, to allow teachers to prepare records for the semester. The second semester begins on Monday, January 30th. A note about winter in Duluth, Minnesota; I am pretty sure everyone is aware that it can get pretty cold and snowy! But as the saying goes, there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad gear! It is important that all of our students have the clothing they need to stay warm; jackets, boots, hats, mittens, scarves, whatever it takes! I want to encourage families who may not have the resources to provide warm clothes to contact someone at school; a teacher, social worker, the principal, the secretary, anyone, and they will be able to help you find whatever it is that a child needs. It's one of the best things about our community; people are very willing to help each other. And finally, I want to welcome and introduce our new Student Representatives to the School Board. Please welcome Ben Emmel from Denfeld and Cabrilla Francis from East. As

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our last representatives have, Ben & Cabrilla will provide us with an update from the schools during the Superintendent Report. That being said, let's hear from our Student Representatives.

Denfeld High School: Student Representative Ben Emmel introduced himself to the School Board and talked about dress up days during Spirit Week at Denfeld before the holiday break and the Jazz band touring of schools in the area. Denfeld's men's basketball team beat East for the first time since 1998! However, the East hockey team beat Denfeld. The Key Club held their second annual blood drive and over 250 students took part in an event to study for finals. Students collected over two tons of food for CHUM!

Duluth East High School: Student Representative Cabrilla Francis introduced herself to the School Board and told the School board about a successful blood drive at East. There was a successful finals study event for the freshman group. Girls' basketball team just had their first win. The Student Forum had a very successful blanket drive where the students made the blankets.

Education Committee Report
January 2017

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the Education Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each School Board member.

Member Loeffler-Kemp 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
Ann Bancroft Foundation	Kevin Chederquist and Roxane Simenson	Dare to Dream - Denfeld High School FAB Lab	6 x \$500 = \$3,000	Funds from these grant awards will be used to cover the cost of all materials, supplies and personal equipment for 6 female Engineering and Design students to weld after school.

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Minnesota Department of Education	Tom Albright and Tonya Sconiers	Full Service Community Schools – Denfeld High School	\$19,950	Funds from this grant will support efforts at Denfeld High School to create a Full Service Community School Plan which will identify physical, emotional, and mental health needs of students and families, as well as potential resources and partnerships to address needs.
Minnesota Department of Education	Jennifer Eddy	Full Service Community Schools – Myers-Wilkins Elementary School	\$66,632	Funds from this grant will support Full Service Community School programming implementation by covering site coordinator salaries for the Myers Wilkins Community School Collaborative.

E-1-17-3424

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M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve Resolution E-1-17-3424 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report.

Member Harala withheld Item 1.A.3)

Member Oswald withheld Item 1.B.3)

Member Johnston withheld Items 2.A. and 2.B.

Member Harala withheld Item 1.A.3) Gender Identity and Gender Expression Presentation to comment on how we need to honor our students and that our students should always feel safe in school.

M-Johnson, S-Welty, to remove nine of the most vile words on the Gender Identity and Gender Expression training PowerPoint on page 14 (words 1, 7, 8, 14, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 30).

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the motion to remove nine of the most vile words on page 14, failed 1-6 as follows:

Yea: Johnston

Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Oswald, Sandstad, Welty

M-Oswald, S-Welty, this Board recommends that staff remove the “In one school year” slide (#14) from future printed presentations but continue to include the slide within their presentations for effectiveness with people that attend their training.

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Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the motion to remove the slide from printed materials, but continue to use in training presentations passed 4-3 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Kirby, Oswald, Welty
Nay: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

Member Oswald withheld Item 1.B.3) Minnesota Department of Education Full Service Community Schools Grant – Myers-Wilkins Elementary to ensure the employment status of the person hired would meet grant requirements.

Member Johnston withheld Items 2.A. Presentation Items Requiring Approval and 2.B. Policies, to mention the good work being done for health and wellness and the classes being taught in the District, but to also express some concerns regarding the updated Wellness Policy.

Upon a vote, the remainder of the Education Committee Report was approved – unanimously.

Human Resources Committee Report

January 2017

Member Sandstad presented the Human Resources Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each School Board member.

M-Sandstad, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the Human Resource Committee report.

Member Oswald withheld Item 1.
Member Johnston withheld Item 2.A.

Member Oswald withheld Item 1. Staffing Report Action Items to inquire about duplicate names on the report.

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.A. New Policy 302 - Superintendent to thank the Board for the work they did on this policy together.

Upon a vote, the Human Resource Committee Report was approved - unanimously.

Business Committee Report

January 2017

Member Harala presented the Business Committee report, a copy of same being in the hands of each School Board member.

Member Harala 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 organizations.

SCHOOL	DONOR	AMOUNT	RESTRICTION
Area Learning Center	Pat Shelton Agency	\$100.00	None
Denfeld	Altec Hiline	\$400.00	None
Denfeld	Ann Bancroft Foundation	\$3,000.00	Fab Lab
Denfeld	Duluth Amatuer Youth Basketball Association	\$408.00	Boys Basketball
East	Joan K. Rich	\$500.00	Choir
East	David Johnson & Mary Phillip c/o of Sandrine Hutchins	\$500.00	Food For Thought Restaurant
East	Glen Avon Women's Assoc.	\$100.00	Sterling Strings Orchestra
East	AARP	\$100.00	Sterling Strings Orchestra
East	Elsie Davis	\$120.00	Sterling Strings Orchestra
East	North Shore Railroad	\$200.00	Sterling Strings Orchestra
East	Scottish Rite	\$300.00	Sterling Strings Orchestra
East	Saint Ann's Home	\$200.00	Sterling Strings Orchestra
East	Rotary Club-Harbortown	\$250.00	Sterling Strings Orchestra
HOCHS	EPA Attn: Deb Taylor	In kind	Science classes
Homecroft	Upper Lakes Foods	\$50.00	Wolf Ridge
Laura MacArthur	Autism Association of Northern MN	\$350.00	Melissa Scanlon-Olson
Laura MacArthur	Autism Association of Northern MN	\$152.65	Joan Plante
Laura MacArthur	Autism Association of Northern MN	\$400.00	Steph Twardowski
Lester Park	Maren Kostrzewski	In kind	For one of the students who couldn't afford a new coat
Lester Park	Kevin Simch	In kind	School
Lincoln Park	Lincoln Park Business Group	\$350.00	Pawsative Perks
Lincoln Park	Kiwanis Club of Spirit Valley	\$180.00	Newspapers for Classrooms
Ordean-East	James N Mohn or Heather A Muster	\$1,000.00	Gr 6 Biz Town; mental health programs; and teacher professional development
Ordean-East	Dianna Sunsdahl / PG&E Corp Foundation Matching Gifts	\$249.00	None

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Ordean-East	Dianna Sunsdahl / PG&E Corp Foundation Matching Gifts	\$249.00	None
Ordean-East	Minnesota Power Employees Credit Union	\$1,000.00	Robotics
Ordean-East	East High School	\$1,500.00	Robotics
Ordean-East	Public	\$361.25	Band and Orchestra
Ordean-East	Public	\$1,638.24	Choir
Stowe	Mix 108	In kind	None
Stowe	PTA	\$1,500.00	Wolf Ridge trip for 5th grade
Stowe	Maurices	In kind	None
Stowe	Asbury United Methodist Church	In kind	None
Stowe	Ladies of American Legion Auxiliary Post 71	\$150.00	None
Stowe	Ladies of American Legion Auxiliary Post 71	In kind	None
Stowe	Essentia Health Safe Kids	In kind	None
	Total	\$15,308.14	

B-1-17-3427

January 17, 2017

M-Harala, S-Oswald, to approve Resolution B-1-17-3427 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Harala presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Authorized Bank Account Signer – December 2016

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

District Building	Banking Institution	Account Number	Addition of Authorized Signer	Removal of Authorized Signer
Lester Park School	DTCU	XXXX7	Tracy Thompson	Tracy Packingham
Lakewood School	Northshore	XXXXXX7	Vivian Fromberg	Vivian Medlin
Lincoln Park School	Park State Bank	XXXXXX0 XXXXXX5 XXXXXX9 XXXXXX5	Susan Archambeau Bridge	Susan Cora

Resolution B-1-17-3428

January 17, 2017

M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-1-17-3428 – Authorized Bank Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Harala presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
Selection of District's Legal Counsel

RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the following firms have been selected as legal counsel for the District.

Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A.
302 West Superior Street, Suite 700
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 722-0861

Dryer, Storaasli, Knutson & Pommerville
202 West Superior Street, Suite 200
Duluth, MN 55802
(218) 249-0608

Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney
730 Second Avenue South, Suite 300
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 339-0600

Rupp, Anderson, Squires & Waldspurger, P.A.
330 South Seventh Street, Suite 2800
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612. 436.4300 (office)
612.436.4340 (fax)

RESOLVED, that the authorized contact persons for the District are as follows:

Chair of the School Board
Superintendent of Schools
Executive Assistant to Superintendent
Assistant Superintendent
CFO/Executive Director of Business Services
Executive Assistant to the CFO/Executive Director of Business Services
Director of Special Education
Manager of Facilities
Finance Manager
Senior Human Resources Manager
Human Resources Manager for Non-Certified Staff
Human Resources Benefits Coordinator

Resolution B-1-17-3419

January 17, 2017

This item was tabled at the Annual Organization Meeting on January 3, 2017, and will remain tabled until a motion is made to un-table it for discussion and vote.

M-Harala, S-Sandstad to approve the remainder of the Business Committee Report.

Member Oswald withheld Item 5.D. Playground Fall Protection Project

Member Oswald withheld Item 5.D. Playground Fall Protection Project to discuss possible legislation regarding rubber mulch, funding for this project, and timing of the replacement of the rubber mulch at the schools.

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Discussion took place regarding this item.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Kirby, to proceed forward with the engineered wood fiber bid to replace the rubber mulch and ask Administration to do a bid for one year and then up to 3 year multi-year bid with the Board to decide the timing of it and which sites after we hear back on the bids.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

M-Welty, S-Oswald, to amend the motion to state “while mitigating costs of the bids with the help of parent volunteers subject to proper supervision and indemnification, and that the Board make the final decision to proceed after reviewing the submitted bids”.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Harala to call the question.

Upon a vote to call the questions, the same passed 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad, Welty

Nay: Johnston, Oswald

Upon a vote, the amendment to the motion failed 3-4 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Oswald, Welty

Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

Discussion continued on the motion by Member Loeffler-Kemp to proceed forward with the engineered wood fiber bid for one year and multi-year bids.

M-Welty, S- Sandstad, to amend the motion to limit playground resurfacing to the elementary schools.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Sandstad to call the question.

Upon a vote to call the question, the same passed 6-1 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Oswald, Sandstad, Welty

Nay: Johnston

Upon a vote on the amendment to limit playground resurfacing to elementary schools only, the same passed – unanimously.

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M-Sandstad, S-Johnston, to amend the motion to limit the playground resurfacing to elementary schools only and to add the ‘add alternate’ option for the middle schools.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Harala to call the question. Upon a vote to call the questions, the same failed 4-3 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

Nay: Johnston, Oswald, Welty

Discussion continued on this item.

Upon a vote on the amendment to add wording regarding the add alternate for middle schools, the same passed - unanimously.

M-Oswald, S-Johnston, to amend the motion to eliminate option 2 so rubber mulch removal and replacement would occur at all sites by the beginning of the next school year.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote to remove option 2, the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Oswald, Johnston

Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad, Welty

Upon a vote on the original motion as amended, of which the wording is now as follows: "Vote to proceed with bids for removing rubber mulch to replace with engineered wood fiber mulch on elementary playgrounds with an add alternate of middle schools with option 1 to remove and replace all sites by school year 2017-2018; or option 2, remove and replace sites over a three year period; sites to be determined. Board will decide upon bids at upcoming discussion at a future board meeting to ensure this happens in a timely manner." The motion passed – unanimously.

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

M-Sandstad, S-Oswald, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same passed – unanimously.

➤ Chair Kirby adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of January 2017, 2016 at 10:34 p.m.