

## 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, June 18, 2019

### Members Present:

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

### Others Present:

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

### Student Representatives:

Emma Natale (Denfeld)  
Vanessa Farrell (East)

### Members Absent:

Nora Sandstad

➤ Chair Loeffler-Kemp called the Regular School Board meeting of June 18, 2019 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

**M-Lofald, S-Kirby, to approve the agenda as presented.**

**M-Gorham, S-Kirby, to amend the Business Committee agenda to include the Skyward contract. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**Upon a vote, the agenda was approved as amended – 6-0.**

Chair Loeffler-Kemp asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of May 21, 2019.

**M-Gorham, S-Trnka, to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2019 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

Chair Loeffler-Kemp asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of May 30, 2019.

**M-Lofald, S-Gorham, to approve the minutes of the May 30, 2019 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

## School and Community Recognition

June 2019

Members of the Board, this month we're recognizing the work of the Duluth Public Schools Endowment Fund. From the Board of Trustees for the Fund, please welcome Ken Schoen, Chairperson. We invite educators who have written and received grants to come

forward. The Duluth Public Schools Endowment Fund was established in 1984 to gain greater visibility and support for our schools by supporting innovative and creative educational projects. Guided by an independent board of civic and business leaders, the Fund reviews proposals and recommends grant awards ranging from \$500 to \$2,000. Over the years, the Fund has awarded grants to over 300 educators and enriched our classrooms with over a half-million dollars in grants. The Fund is managed independently through the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation. Assets continue to grow through generous gifts from local businesses, organizations and individuals. We appreciate the work of the Board of Trustees and the Foundation in supporting the Fund. We especially honor and recognize the work of our teachers, principals and specialists in creating innovative classroom projects, applying for the grants and implementing these projects. All of you play an important role in enriching educational opportunities for Duluth students. Thank you for your dedication and support.

**Public Comments**

**June 2019**

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Member Gorham read the Eleven Tools of Civility.

There was no public comment.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**

**June 2019**

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Superintendent Gronseth stated that no communications had been received.

**Superintendent's Report**

**June 2019**

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Congratulations again to all of our graduates. As a group they have earned millions of dollars in scholarships. It is always exciting to hear about their next steps such as what school they are going to, or about joining the military or apprenticeship or what career path they want to follow. We wish them well as they continue their journeys.

Summer Meals are available during the summer at these locations:

June 11 - August 23, 2019 (No service July 4)

- Breakfast: 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

ISD 709 Summer Meal Locations:

- Myers-Wilkins Elementary, 1027 N 8th Avenue East
- Piedmont Elementary, 2827 Chambersburg Avenue
- Laura MacArthur Elementary, 720 North Central Avenue
- Lincoln Park Middle School, 3215 West 3rd Street

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- Stowe Elementary, 715 - 101st Avenue West
- Opening June 17: Lowell Elementary, 2000 Rice Lake Road

This summer, as always, we encourage our students to be active. Get outside, participate in the many of the community events and programs, and to read, read, read. Research has shown time and time again that reading over the summer helps students to maintain their skills.

This weekend is Grandma's marathon and we have many students and employees volunteering at the various activities that surround the marathon.

And now for the summer reports from our student representatives:

Vanessa Farrell, Student Representative from Duluth East, reported to the Board that students finished up the school year with finals and graduation. Good luck to the rowing team!

Emma Natale, Student Representative from Denfeld, reported to the Board that students wrapped up the school year with finals and graduation. Congratulations to all the scholarship winners! Even though school is out for the summer, captains' practices have started already. Congratulations to the Boys' baseball team which finished first in their conference and are heading to state.

**Education Committee Report**

**June 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.

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| <b>Organization</b>   | <b>Author / Contact</b>                              | <b>Project Title</b>  | <b>Award Amount</b> | <b>Terms</b>   |
|---|--|---|---------------------|--|
| DSACF –<br>Scott D.<br>Anderson<br>Leadership<br>Foundation<br>Fund                   | Duluth<br>Public<br>Schools                          | Scott Anderson<br>Leadership<br>Forum   | \$18,430            | Funds will be used to support the annual, week-long Scott Anderson Leadership Forum.   |
| Minnesota<br>Department of<br>Education   | Duluth<br>Public<br>Schools                          | School Safety<br>Grant – Denfeld<br>High School                                       | \$61,566            | Funds will be used to support upgrades to access controls, hardware and communication systems at Denfeld High School.            |
| Minnesota<br>Department of<br>Education   | Duluth<br>Public<br>Schools                          | School Safety<br>Grant –<br>Rockridge<br>Academy                                      | \$9,415             | Funds will be used to support upgrades to access controls, hardware and communication systems at Rockridge Academy.              |
| Minnesota<br>Council of<br>Teachers of<br>Mathematics                                 | Tanya<br>Jackson,<br>Ordean East<br>Middle<br>School | Sphero:<br>Imbedding<br>Computer<br>Science<br>Principles into<br>Science and<br>Math | \$1,500             | Funds will be used toward the purchase a set of Sphero Programmable Spheres with protective cases for Ordean East Middle School. |
| Rotary Club of<br>Duluth<br>Harbortown<br>Minnesota<br>USA, Inc.                      | Patrick<br>Moore                                     | Duluth Area<br>Learning Center<br>– Virtual<br>Reality<br>(VR) Set                    | \$1,000             | Funds will be used to purchase a virtual reality (VR) set for Health class at the Area Learning Center.                          |
| Education<br>Minnesota<br>Foundation for<br>Excellence in<br>Teaching and<br>Learning | Tanya<br>Jackson,<br>Ordean East<br>Middle<br>School | Sphero:<br>Imbedding<br>Computer<br>Science<br>Principles into<br>Science and<br>Math | \$3,000             | Funds will be used toward the purchase a set of Sphero Programmable Spheres with protective cases for Ordean East Middle School. |

|                             |  |   |       |  |
|-----------------------------|--|---|-------|--|
| Northwoods Women in Science | Tanya Jackson & Tim Churchill, Ordean East Middle School | Sphero: Imbedding Computer Science Principles into Science and Math | \$333 | Funds will be used toward the purchase a set of Sphero Programmable Spheres with protective cases for Ordean East Middle School. |
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Resolution E-6-19-3659

June 18, 2019

**M-Lofald, S-Trnka, to approve Resolution E-6-19-3659 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

**M-Lofald, S-Gorham, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report.**

Chair Loeffler-Kemp withheld 2.B.1)

Chair Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 2.B.1) REVISED Policy 6120 – Musical Instruments to comment that instrument rental fees haven’t been raised and costs to rent an instrument are still low.

**Upon a vote, the remainder of the Education Committee Report was approved – 6-0.**

**Human Resources Committee Report**

**June 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 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.

Thomas Albright  
Sarah Andrews (0.3 FTE)  
Joseph Florestano (0.9 FTE)  
Jennifer Fuchs – 6/14/19  
Ashley Hoppe – 7/18/19

Addie Smith – 6/14/19  
Jessica Stejskal  
Sara Vallie (0.8 FTE)  
Matthew Wade

2. 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-6-19-3652

June 18, 2019

**M-Kirby, S-Oswald, to approve Resolution HR-6-19-3652 – Termination of Certified Probationary (Non-Tenured) Staff. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

Member Kirby presented the resolution:

### RESOLUTION

#### Termination of Certified Tenured Staff

WHEREAS, enrollment in the School District is declining;  
WHEREAS, during the 2019-20 school year, the District will lack a sufficient number of pupils to support all tenured teachers currently employed by the District;

WHEREAS, the School Board has found it necessary to discontinue certain positions;  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, as follows:

1. The Board proposes that the employment of the following tenured teachers terminate effective at the end of the school day on June 7, 2019, unless another date is indicated below, due to discontinuance of position or lack of pupils.

Clare Chopp (0.1 FTE)

Thomas Spehar (0.5 FTE)

2. The Clerk of the School Board shall notify all such teachers in writing of the proposed layoff, the grounds for the proposed layoff, and the right to request a hearing within ten (10) calendar days after receiving said notice. The Clerk shall also notify all such teachers that if they fail to request a hearing within ten (10) days, they will be deemed to have acquiesced in the Board's action.

Resolution HR-6-19-3651

June 18, 2019

**M-Kirby, S-Oswald, to approve Resolution HR-6-19-3651 – Termination of Certified Tenured Staff.**

Discussion took place regarding this item.

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

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

**Business Committee Report**

**June 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,

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.

| <b>SCHOOL</b>        | <b>DONOR</b>                      | <b>AMOUNT</b> | <b>RESTRICTION</b>             | <b>COMMENTS</b>                                |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Area Learning Center | Narcotics Anonymous               | \$60.00       | ALC Students                   | April and May Donation for use of gym          |
| Child Nutrition      | Anonymous                         | \$2,209.00    | Unpaid Piedmont lunch balances | Donor wishes to remain anonymous               |
| Congdon              | Congdon Park PTA                  | \$15,265.00   | Cafeteria tables               |  |
| Denfeld              | Gwendolyn Z. Rouleau              | \$100.00      | Softball                       |  |
| Denfeld              | Charles and Valerie Gunderson     | \$100.00      | Softball                       |  |
| Denfeld              | Wayne and Renee Gunderson         | \$200.00      | Mock Crash                     |  |
| Denfeld              | David and Laura Schauer           | \$150.00      | Softball                       |  |
| Denfeld              | Timothy and Alexis Myhre          | \$50.00       | Softball                       |  |
| District             | Duluth East Youth Football League | In Kind       | Grant Field                    | 12x12 storage shed to be placed at Grant Field |

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| East            | Orthopaedic Associates of Duluth, P.A.     | \$500.00   | Nordic Ski                |  |
| Homecroft       | Your Cause from Wells Fargo                | \$30.00    | None                      |  |
| Laura MacArthur | H & R Block                                | \$580.00   | None                      |  |
| Lester Park     | PTA  | \$1,000.00 | Smart Room decals         | Cover half of the cost   |
| Lester Park     | Foundation                                 | \$500.00   | Smart Room decals         | Cover one quarter of the cost  |
| Lester Park     | Foundation                                 | \$3,600.00 | None                      |  |
| Lincoln Park    | Greg and Sheila Fox                        | In Kind    | Band                      | Instrument donation  |
| Lincoln Park    | Teresa Zupanich                            | In Kind    | None                      | Mind Storm Lego Robot  |
| Lowell          | St. Lawrence Church<br>Attn: Steve Gilbert | In Kind    | None                      | 1000+ disposable paper bingo boards for PBIS Bingo Event             |
| Ordean-East     | Anne B Whitworth & David J Kirby           | \$50.00    | OEMS Swim Team            |  |
| Ordean-East     | G A Marsman                                | \$50.00    | 6th grade Science speaker |  |
| Ordean-East     | Anonymous                                  | \$55       | Drama Club                | Buckets used at the door to collect donations                        |
| Ordean-East     | Anonymous                                  | \$1,003.70 | Orchestra                 | Buckets used at the door to collect donations                        |
| Ordean-East     | Anonymous                                  | \$256.00   | Drama Club                | Buckets at the door  |
| Ordean-East     | Carmen K. Arnold                           | \$200.00   | Garden Club               |  |
| Ordean-East     | Anonymous                                  | \$164.00   | Garden Club               | Bucket at the door to the garden                                     |
| Ordean-East     | Ordean East PTA                            | \$1,081.44 | Little Theater - computer |  |
| Ordean-East     | AMFA Educational Trust                     | \$2,000.00 | Industrial Ed - Tools     |  |
| Ordean-East     | Anonymous                                  | \$967.16   | Band                      | Buckets used to collect donations at the doors before Winter Concert |
| Ordean-East     | Ordean East PTA                            | \$500.00   | Orchestra                 |  |
| Ordean-East     | Anonymous                                  | \$624.00   | Orchestra supplies        | Buckets used to collect donation at the doors before Winter Concert  |
| Ordean-East     | Anonymous                                  | \$189.21   | Orchestra supplies        | Bucket used to collect donations at the doors before Fall Concert    |
| Ordean-East     | Anonymous                                  | \$189.20   | Choir supplies            | Buckets were used to collect donation at the doors for Fall Concert  |

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|                             |   |            |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|---|------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Ordean-East                 | Anonymous                                 | \$1,403.62 | Choir trips / supplies      | Buckets were used for collecting donations at the door before Spring Concert   |
| Ordean-East                 | Anonymous                                 | \$1,777.32 | Choir - trips expenses      | Buckets were used to collect donations at the door before Winter Concert   |
| Ordean-East                 | Lester Park PTA                           | \$100.00   | Robotics Club               | For supplies   |
| Ordean-East                 | Gregory C / Jill M Hilliard               | \$50.00    | Robotics Club               |  |
| Ordean-East                 | Daniel / Elizabeth McLaughlin             | \$60.00    | Robotics Club               |  |
| Ordean-East                 | Christopher Wiberg, Patricia Serra-Wiberg | \$50.00    | Robotics Club               |  |
| Ordean-East                 | MN Power Employees Credit Union           | \$1,275.00 | Robotics Club               |  |
| Ordean-East                 | Paul L Kovach                             | \$50.00    | Robotics Club               |  |
| Ordean-East                 | Rachel Mason                              | \$50.00    | Robotics Club               |  |
| Ordean-East                 | Autism Association                        | \$1,000.00 | Cindy Rourke                | Special Education supplies   |
| Ordean-East                 | Autism Association                        | \$200.00   | Stephanie Jaspersen-Aagenes | Special Education supplies   |
| Special Services Department | Linda Kalweit                             | In Kind    | None                        | 1. Brother Laserwriter black and white printer<br>2. Xerox Bluetooth Printer for printing documents on the Titan Oto Acoustic Emission (OAE) device<br>3. Interacoustics PA5 handheld Audiometer |
| Stowe                       | Box Tops for Education                    | \$315.60   | Teacher accounts            |  |
| Stowe                       | United Protestant Church                  | In Kind    | None                        | Socks, gloves, hats, scarves   |
| Stowe                       | Patrick and Lewy Smith                    | In Kind    | Classroom use               | School supplies  |
| Stowe                       | Vintage Acres Residents                   | In Kind    | None                        | Group of residents gave school supplies, kleenex, ziploc bags, glue, etc.  |
| Stowe                       | Anonymous                                 | In Kind    | None                        | We received 48 pair of children's gloves through Amazon  |
| Stowe                       | Box Tops for Education                    | \$163.70   | Teacher accounts            |  |

**M-Trnka, S-Lofald, to approve Resolution B-6-19-3653 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

Member Trnka presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
Authorized 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> |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| East High School         | Northshore Northshore DTCU | XXXXXX9<br>XXXXXX2<br>XXXXX6 | Barbara Switzer                      |                                     |

Resolution B-6-19-3654

June 18, 2019

**M-Trnka, S-Lofald, to approve Resolution B-6-19-3654 – Authorized Bank Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

Member Trnka presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
Release and Pledge of Collateral (FNMA Note)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that it hereby releases the \$500,000 par value FNMA note, CUSIP number XXXXXXEB7, pledged as collateral by Harbor Pointe Credit Union.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, By the School Board, that it accepts the pledge collateral of a \$500,000 par value FNMA note maturing 2/26/2024, CUSIP number XXXXXXXXA0 in exchange for the released collateral noted above.

Resolution B-6-19-3655

June 18, 2019

**M-Trnka, S-Kirby, to approve Resolution B-6-19-3655 – Release and Pledge of Collateral (FNMA Note). Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

Member Trnka presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

Release and Pledge of Collateral (FHLB Note)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that it hereby releases the \$250,000 par value FHLB note, CUSIP number XXXXXXN27, pledged as collateral by Harbor Pointe Credit Union.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, By the School Board, that it accepts the pledge collateral of a \$250,000 par value FHLB note maturing 3/11/2022, CUSIP number XXXXXXW78 in exchange for the released collateral noted above.

Resolution B-6-19-3656

June 18, 2019

**M-Trnka, S-Gorham, to approve Resolution B-6-19-3656 – Release and Pledge of Collateral (FHLB Note). Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

Member Trnka presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

Adoption of Fiscal Year 2020 Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, that the fiscal year 2020 budget as presented to the School Board, be adopted.

Resolution B-6-19-3657

June 18, 2019

**M-Trnka, S-Gorham, to approve Resolution B-6-19-3657 – Adoption of Fiscal Year 2020 Budget.**

Discussion took place regarding this item.

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

Member Trnka presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

Authorizing the Sale of District Owned Property Adjacent to Hartley Park

WHEREAS, the School District owns undeveloped property adjacent to Hartley Park legally described as:

Lots One (1) through Eleven (11), Block One (1);

Lots One (1) through Six (6), Block Two (2);

All of Block Three (3);

all in HARTLEY HILLS FOURTH ADDITION, St. Louis County, Minnesota, and depicted on Exhibit A to this Resolution (the “Property”); and  
WHEREAS, the School District has no current, or anticipated use for the Property; and  
WHEREAS, District Administration has entered into discussions in closed sessions regarding the potential sale of the Property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the School Board of ISD 709, Duluth, Minnesota, hereby authorizes the sale of the Property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the School Board authorizes District Administration to negotiate a purchase agreement for the sale of the Property adjacent to Hartley Park and authorizes the School Board Chair to execute the purchase agreement and all other documents required for closing and to convey the Property.

Resolution B-6-19-3658

June 18, 2019

**M-Trnka, S-Lofald, to approve Resolution B-6-19-3658 – Authorizing the Sale of District Owned Property Adjacent to Hartley Park. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

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

Chair Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 7.I.

Chair Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item I – Legislative Update to comment on how fortunate the District was to have two Lobbyists. They coordinated and attended many meetings on behalf of the District and provided many opportunities for our staff to meet with individuals at the Capitol.

**Upon a vote, the remainder of the Business Committee report was approved – 6-0.**

**Other**  
**June 2019**

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Chair Loeffler-Kemp mentioned that Adelle Whitefoot is now the Education reporter for the Duluth News Tribune.

Chair Loeffler-Kemp thanked her School board colleagues for attending all the end of year events; it is a busy time with a lot going on.

**M-Gorham, S-Lofald, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

➤ Chair Loeffler-Kemp adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of June 18, 2019 at 7:33 p.m.