

Minutes of the Special School Board Meeting

Of the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 held virtually via video, Duluth, Minnesota 55802, on

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

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:

Stella Schutz, East High

Chair Lofald called the Special School Board meeting of May 4, 2021 to order at 6:26 p.m.

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

Resolution Asking the Minnesota Legislature to Fully Fund Minnesota's Public Schools

Whereas, most Minnesotans want similar things for our children, including safe and supportive public schools where all students — no matter what they look like or where they come from — can thrive and succeed;

Whereas, public schools in Minnesota have faced decades of chronic underfunding. By creating a sustainable basic formula allowance with metered increases and including a permanent increase to the District's Special Education base, the Duluth Public Schools will have the local control and flexibility we need to address the unique financial challenges we face in these uncertain times;

Whereas, Minnesota students are in desperate need of more school social workers, nurses, counselors, psychologists and other support staff. By expanding the School Linked Mental Health Service Grant, the Duluth Public Schools can offer greater support to students in need of critical care coordination and provide our families and district staff mental health educational opportunities;

Whereas, too many of our littlest learners do not have access to quality Pre-K; By fully funding the expansion of school-based early education programs, the Duluth Public Schools will be empowered with the flexibility in implementation and design to best meet the needs of our littlest scholars and our community;

Whereas, we need to build culturally responsive schools that reflect the diverse students we serve so ALL students and families feel welcome and valued. By providing adequate and sustained funding to the Duluth Public Schools, we can expand and empower our Full-Service Community Schools that provide the holistic and encompassing supports for ALL our students and families through this collaborative model;

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Whereas, all educators and staff working with and for our students have earned our respect for their contribution to the care and education of our children — we strive to provide better pay, affordable health care and safe working conditions;

Be it resolved that the School Board of the Duluth Public Schools, in partnership with the Duluth Federation of Teachers, calls on the governor and Minnesota Legislature to fully fund Minnesota's public schools so our students and families can receive the opportunities and supports they deserve.

SP-5-21-3807

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M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Trnka, to approve Resolution SP-5-21-3807 Resolution Asking the Minnesota Legislature to Fully Fund Minnesota's Public Schools.

Discussion took place regarding the resolution.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously

Chair Lofald adjourned the Special School Board meeting of May 4, 2021 at 6:42 p.m.