

## 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, March 22, 2016

### Members Present:

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

### Others Present:

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

### Student Representatives:

Spencer Fredrickson  
Johanna Unden

➤ Chair Harala called the regular school board meeting of March 22, 2016 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

**M-Welty, S-Sandstad, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same passed – unanimously.**

The Denfeld High School orchestra performed for the school board. Chair Harala thanked the students for coming to perform for the board.

Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of February 23, 2016.

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2016 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.**

Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of February 23, 2016.

**M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2016 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.**

Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of March 15, 2016.

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Kirby, to approve the minutes of the March 15, 2016 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.**

Chair Harala noted that they had discussed the parameters of the sale of the Central High School site and that they are looking at having a public meeting regarding the possible sale to Tischer Creek Building Company.

**School and Community Recognition**

**March 2016**

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Amy Starzecki: Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present Logan Griggs for recognition. Logan is a student at Lincoln Park Middle School. Logan won the Multi-Regional State Spelling Bee by correctly spelled "durezza" (do REZ uh) in the 24th round, earning a trip to Washington, DC to compete in the National Spelling Bee. State coordinator Susan Ward said this about Logan: "Logan will undoubtedly be an excellent representative of our state at the National Bee. He faced extremely difficult words with poise. I'm confident that he will do well and thoroughly enjoy the national experience." Logan says his interest in music and Global Studies may have helped him spell some of the most challenging words. He plays viola in orchestra, participates in Knowledge Bowl and is largely responsible for publication of the school newspaper. Congratulations, Logan, and best wishes as you head for the National Spelling Bee in May!

**Public Comments**

**March 2016**

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Member Loeffler-Kemp read the community vision statement.

Teri Akervik, Music Specialist for the District, spoke to the School Board regarding Music in Our Schools month, the successes of the different music programs, and thanked Clare Chopp, the Music Director at Denfeld, for their performance.

Bernie Bernham, President of Teachers Union, introduced Caroline Sorenson and Holly Bowen-Bailey, who will be talking about the great things going on in the schools.

Caroline Sorenson, a teacher at Laura MacArthur, spoke to the school board regarding a group of first graders and their work tying science and physical education together.

Holly Bowen-Bailey, the middle school swim coach, spoke to the school board regarding the great things going on in middle school athletics.

Paul Goosens, representing Tischer Creek Building Company, DPSA/Edison, spoke to the school board regarding their proposal for the purchase of the Central High School site.

David Johnson, 602 Pecan, spoke to the school board regarding his support for the proposed sale of the Central High property to Tischer Creek Building Company.

Marcia Stromgren, no address provided, spoke to the school board regarding her support for the proposed sale of the Central high property to Tischer Creek Building Company.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**

**March 2016**

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Superintendent Gronseth acknowledged the communications received.

**Superintendent's Report**

**March 2016**

Superintendent Gronseth thanked the Denfeld Orchestra for their performance. It is music in our schools month and there are a lot of opportunities for students to participate in choir, band and orchestra. There will be an investment in the expansion of specialist time at the elementary level, which will allow for more opportunities for students. The Think Kids meetings are wrapping up and many people took the opportunity to be involved. We are now working on gathering all the feedback data from the meetings, online surveys, etc. and will share that information on the district website and will use the data to aid in future planning as well.

Denfeld: Johanna Uden – the annual lip dub filming is taking place, the robotics team took first place at worlds and won its first engineering robotics award for design, the executive board hosted the spring fling dance, juniors took part in the Construct for Tomorrow job fair held at the DECC, students are gearing up for testing including the MCA's and ACT, and she noted that students are enjoying the WIN program.

East: Spencer Fredrickson – the new lacrosse team Duluth Wolf Pack comprised of Denfeld and East students has registered with the MSHSL, track and baseball have started practice, and golf is still waiting to get out on the course, knowledge bowl is going to participate in upcoming tournaments and several BPA students are heading to nationals. East hosted tech night last night, they participated in the job fair Construct tomorrow, and green week is coming up with environmental programming. Students wrote letters to legislators regarding their concern with student mental health issues, and students are gearing up for MCA and ACT testing.

**Education Committee Report**

**March 2016**

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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 various organizations.

Organization	Author/ Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
Minnesota School Social Workers Association	Callie DeVriendt, School Social Worker	Social Skills Anger Management Training Program	\$750.00	Funds from this grant will be used to implement PBIS initiatives at Lincoln Park Middle School which aim to provide students with early interventions targeting social skills and anger management for at-risk youth in effort to prevent suspensions and give alternatives to suspension in hope to prevent further defiance, aggression, abusive language and avoidance from occurring.

E-3-16-3346

March 22, 2016

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution E-3-16-3346 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Oswald withheld Item 2.B.3) Achievement and Integration FY17 Budget to note her concerns with the achievement gap and her hopes that things will improve in the future. Discussion continued regarding the issue.

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report. Upon a vote on the remainder of the Education Committee, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**Human Resources Committee Report**

**March 2016**

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

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

**Business Committee Report**

**March 2016**

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

Member Sandstad 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 various organizations.

<b>School</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last Name/Org.</b>	<b>Restriction</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Congdon Park		Target - Take Charge of Education	None	1,734.35
Congdon Park		Box Tops for Education	None	743.90
Congdon Park		Hawk Ridge Observatory	Grade 5 Hawk Ridge	140.00
Congdon Park		Mount Royal Pines III	Grade 3 Field Trip	93.74
Congdon Park		Congdon Park PTA	Grade 2 Field Trip	600.00
Congdon Park		Congdon Park PTA	Grade 5 Field Trip	48.92
Congdon Park		Congdon Park PTA	Grade 5 Field Trip	400.97
Congdon Park		Congdon Park PTA	Kindergarten Field Trip	600.00
Congdon Park		Congdon Park Foundation	Grade 1 Field Trip	430.00
Congdon Park		Congdon Park Foundation	Grade 2 Field Trip	505.00
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,296.88</b>

B-3-16-3347

March 22, 2016

**M-Sandstad, S-Kirby, to approve Resolution B-3-16-3347 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

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Member Sandstad presented the resolution

R E S O L U T I O N

Adoption of the Considerations and Investments for the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, that the investments and adjustments for the fiscal year 2017 budget as presented to the School Board, be adopted. In addition, the School Board requests periodic updates as administration continues to finalize the listing using a framework consistent with the attached budget planning document.

See Attachment

B-3-16-3348

March 22, 2016

**M-Sandstad, S-Kirby, to approve Resolution B-3-16-3348 – Adoption of the Considerations and Investments for the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget.**

Discussion took place regarding the budget considerations and investments and the need for more discussion and alternative ideas.

**Upon a vote, the same was approved 5-2 as follows:**

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

**Nay: Johnston, Oswald**

Member Sandstad presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N

Support for Homecroft 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, Homecroft School students, parents, staff, and community members wish to begin the process of establishing the Homecroft 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 Homecroft School Forest and outdoor classroom comprising: approximately 0.89 acres described as Lot 566 Homecroft Park in Section 34, Township 51, Range 14; and

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.

B-3-16-3349

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**M-Sandstad, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution B-3-16-3349 – Support for Homecroft School Forest Designation. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Sandstad presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION  
Ten-Year Capital Facilities Plan – 2016 Update

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, that the Ten-Year Capital Facilities Plan – 2016 Update, is approved.

See attachment

B-3-16-3350

March 22, 2016

**M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve Resolution B-3-16-3350 – Approving Updated 10-Year Capital Maintenance and Repair Plan.**

Member Oswald stated there is a need for more public input regarding spending money on the Historic Old Central High property. Discussion continued regarding the issue and the funding source and limitations for use of those funds.

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

Member Sandstad presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION  
Approving the Sale and Transfer of Real Property to Mary L. Larson

WHEREAS, the School Board by Resolution B-12-15-3322 authorized the sale of a portion of the Rockridge School property; and

WHEREAS, the title review relating to that sale has identified a condition of title where a garage structure has been located on District property; and

WHEREAS, to remove potential title objection by, Charles E. Erickson and Katie E. Beeman as part of the District's sale of real property to them, they have agreed to an amended purchase agreement excluding the land more specifically described on Exhibit A; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the School Board hereby authorizes the sale and transfer of property described on Exhibit A, to Mary L. Larson of 4853 Glendale Street, Duluth , MN 55804 (Buyer) for the amount of \$1 (One Dollar); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the School Board authorizes District Administration to work with legal counsel to draft the necessary and appropriate deeds and any other documents to accomplish these transactions and authorizes the School Board Chair Person to execute said documents where the cost of recording will be paid by Mary L. Larson.

See attachment

B-3-16-3351

March 22, 2016

**M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve Resolution B-3-16-3351 – Approving the Sale and Transfer of Real Property to Mary L. Larson. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Sandstad presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Granting Easements to the City of Duluth for Utility Purposes near Denfeld High School

WHEREAS, the City of Duluth intends to construct a greenhouse near Denfeld High School requiring the vacation of a public alley which supports access to the Denfeld school site, and

WHEREAS, the School Board by Resolution B-2-16-3345 accepted real property from the City of Duluth to allow ISD #709 to maintain and preserve driveway and road access for Denfeld High School due to the vacation of the public alley; and

WHEREAS, the City of Duluth has requested an easement on District property relating to the City of Duluth's existing utilities located in the vacated West 4th Street; and

WHEREAS, the District wishes the City to have these easements and to maintain the utilities as City infrastructure, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 hereby grants the dedication of the utility easements near Denfeld High School to the City of Duluth as identified in the Easement Agreement and as depicted on Exhibits A,B, and C attached hereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the School Board hereby authorizes the School Board Chair to execute the final Easement Agreement with the City of Duluth upon transfer of the subject property conditioned above.

See attachment

B-3-16-3352

March 22, 2016

**M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve Resolution B-3-16-3352 – Granting Easements to the City of Duluth for Utility Purposes near Denfeld High School. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**M-Sandstad, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report.**

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F

Member Oswald withheld Item 4.A.1)

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. APU/(WADM) Projections to note his concerns with the loss of students.

Member Oswald withheld Item 4.A.1) – School Resource Officers-City of Duluth to ask questions about the term “other” under performance and the ability to increase or decrease the number of officers. Discussion continued regarding the contract.



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

**Special Resolutions**  
**March 2016**

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Member Kirby presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**

**Authorizing School Board Members' Attendance at the Minnesota School Boards Association Workshops & Duluth and St. Louis County Days at the Capitol**

RESOLVED, That Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, pay costs incurred, as per District policy, for school board members to attend the Minnesota School Boards Association Phase I - IV Orientation Workshops and the Duluth and St. Louis County Days at the Capitol event held in 2016.

Resolution SP-3-16-3354

March 22, 2016

Discussion took place regarding board members attending these workshops again.

**M-Kirby, S-Welty, to approve Resolution SP-3-16-3354 – Authorizing School Board Members' Attendance at the Minnesota School Boards Association Workshops & Duluth and St. Louis County Days at the Capitol Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**Other**  
**March 2016**

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Superintendent Gronseth acknowledged the upcoming retirement of Sue Talerico in the Superintendent's Office.

Chair Harala adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of March 22, 2016 at 8:40 p.m.