

## Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting

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

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

### Members Present:

Kelly Durick Eder  
David Kirby  
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp  
Jill Lofald  
Alanna Oswald  
Paul Sandholm  
Sally Trnka

### Others Present:

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent  
Cathy Erickson, CFO  
Melinda Thibault, Secretary

### Student Representatives:

Nabiha Imtiaz (East)  
Phoenix Ocean (Denfeld)

➤ Chair Lofald called the Regular School Board meeting May 19, 2020 to order at 6:30 p.m., she read a statement regarding outlining the remote video conference meeting process.

Due to the current federal and state emergency declarations, the Minnesota directive to residents to stay at home, and guidance about limiting person-to-person contact due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, this meeting of the Duluth School Board is being conducted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 13D.021— Meetings by Telephone or Other Electronic Means.

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the agenda.**

**Member Loeffler-Kemp asked to add a special resolution Declaring the First Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day to the consent agenda under other resolutions. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**Member Trnka asked to add a resolution to the consent agenda under Finance Resolutions for an Amendment to Resolution B-6-19-3658 Authorizing the Sale of District Property Adjacent to Hartley Park. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Sandholm, to approve the agenda as amended with both resolutions added. Upon a vote, the same was approved – Unanimously.**

### School and Community Recognition

May 2020

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Throughout our community, state and nation, our lives have changed. Annual, traditional activities we've come to take for granted are either on hold or being done differently. Weddings, funerals, birthday parties, the opening of fishing season - all are impacted by the need to keep ourselves and each other safe.

2 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
May 19, 2020

In the face of the pandemic, we as a Board recognize and honor the Class of 2020 at Denfeld, Duluth East, the Area Learning Center and AEO.

Since schools closed in March you have been courageous and strong. This is not how you thought your senior year would end - no one did - and you have faced it with remarkable resilience and maturity.

Graduates, we celebrate your success and accomplishment. You have an entire community behind you, rooting for you, wishing you all the best as you step into your future. Graduation celebrates not months but many years of perseverance, dedication and effort. The same strength and determination that brought you here can take you anywhere you want to go. There's a whole world of possibilities waiting for you. We're excited to see what you do.

Congratulations to the Class of 2020.

**Public Comments**

**May 2020**

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Public comments were read into the record by the Board Chair (no public presence was allowed at the meeting) as follows:

Kevin Skwira-Brown, no address provided - on behalf of the Education Equity Alliance, spoke to the board regarding a campaign they launched encouraging students, families and even peers to recognize staff in all roles that are doing whatever it takes to meet the needs of our community's students and children in this time. We invite you and others to use the hashtag #applause4Duluthteachers to express that appreciation on twitter or other hashtag friendly social media, he also addressed the grading policy and the need for students to be held harmless during the distance learning period.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**

**May 2020**

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Superintendent Gronseth stated that there were no communications received.

**Superintendent's Report**

**May 2020**

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I want to begin by thanking the many people that worked to plan and implement our graduation celebrations. We know that this isn't anything like anyone expected for graduation this year, however, I think the events were special in a different way. Our staff and student leaders really did an excellent job of coordinating the events. All of these events will be brought together in a televised event. These will be shown on WDSE for all the family, friends, and the whole community to share. We will share the schedule of these showings soon. The Aerial lift bridge will also be lit in honor of our graduates and each school has a night for the bridge to don their school colors. Thank you again to all the people that made this possible and to WDSE, the City of Duluth, and other community organizations that have made this all possible.

The Goldfine Goldstar Teacher Award Celebration is an annual event we look forward to each year. It was started by Lillian and Manny Goldfine in 2007. It provides us with a fun

opportunity to celebrate the amazing work of teachers from across the district. The award rotates between elementary and secondary schools from year to year. This year we will be celebrating secondary school teachers. This year's nominees include Ed Lewis from Denfeld, Kim Olson from East (and Denfeld), Doug Antonich from Ordean-East, Katie Britton from Lincoln, Scott Forbort from ALC/AEO, and Barb Paquette from our residential sites. While all of these teachers are amazing, one teacher will be identified as this year's recipient during a live stream celebration next Wednesday, May 27th at 7p.m. You can find the link to the celebration on our website! Please join us in honoring our teachers and share the link with all your friends! It would be great to have a lot of viewers for this year's event.

It is hard to believe that we are quickly approaching the end of this school year. We have about three weeks left. Each of the schools are planning for the collection of materials and families can expect to receive information from their schools on how this will work.

We are planning for Summer Keyzone-- this will start on June 15th. The Governor's Executive Orders require us to prioritize child care services for families working in identified fields. Registration is going on now and more information can be found on our website. Availability will be limited based on our ability to have enough space for social distancing. We will be continuing our efforts to ensure the safety of everyone involved.

Each year the Fred HASE Memorial Scholarship is granted to two students-- one from Denfeld, and one from East. The scholarships are determined by random drawing-- so we have this crystal bowl donated by the family to do the drawings each year. Usually we have our student school board representatives make the drawing but tonight that isn't possible so I will be doing the drawings. Right now, the names of all of the Denfeld seniors are in the bowl--- and the winner is Jamie Burwell. I will also draw two alternate names just in case. And now I will change the names out for all of our East seniors. And the winner is Mckenna Kolasinski. And again, I will draw two alternates.

And finally, it is time to hear from our student school board representatives:

Student Representative Phoenix Ocean (Denfeld): Reported to the board that Tom Tusken was named as the new principal at Denfeld. Several students in the HOSA and Speech programs will be going on to state competitions. Graduating seniors were given yard signs and caps and gowns by staff members.

Student Representative Nabiha Imtiaz (East): Reported to the board that seniors had a drive through at East to pick up their gowns, yearbooks, etc. and that seniors were very happy with it. Remaining grades will also have a drive through to drop off books, etc. AP exams are being held. Mix 108 had a virtual prom. Students in History Day and HOSA events won awards.

Chair Lofald reviewed the schedule of meetings and asked board members if they were ok with moving forward with virtual meetings in June. Discussion took place regarding changing how the public can give comments during the remote meetings. Technology will look into some options. Chair Lofald asked about the Gold Star Awards and how they will be held.

### **Policy Committee Report**

**May 2020**

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Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the Policy Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

**Monthly Committee of the Whole Report**

**May 2020**

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Member Lofald presented the Monthly Committee of the Whole report which was available electronically to each school board member.

Gail Netland, Director of Curriculum and Instruction and principals, Beth Shermoen, Gina Kleive, Jacob Hintsala, Danette Seboe, and Adrian Norman, gave an overview of the grading documents for students during COVID-19. Discussion took place regarding the documents.

**Human Resources/Finance Committee Report**

**May 2020**

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

**Consent Agenda**

**May 2020**

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**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Trnka, to approve the Consent Agenda.**

Member Loeffler-Kemp asked to pull Resolution SP-5-20-3737 Resolution Declaring the First Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day.

Member Trnka asked to pull Resolution B-5-20-3738 Fourth amendment to Resolution B-6-19-3658 Authorizing Sale of District Property Adjacent to Hartley Park.

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION  
DECLARING THE FIRST FRIDAY IN JUNE TO BE  
NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS DAY

This resolution declares the first Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the Duluth 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, more than 100 Americans are killed by gun violence and on average there are more than 13,000 gun homicides every year; and

**WHEREAS**, Americans are 25 times more likely to die by gun homicide than people in other high-income countries; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota has hundreds of gun deaths every year; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting 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**, the pandemic facing America has drastically impacted communities and individuals sheltering in place which may result in situations where access to firearms results in increased risk in intimate partner violence gun deaths, suicide by gun and unintentional shootings;

**WHEREAS**, in January 2013, Hadiya Pendleton, a teenager who marched in the presidential inaugural parade and was tragically shot and killed just weeks later, should be now celebrating her 23rd birthday; and

**WHEREAS**, to help honor Hadiya – and the more than 100 Americans whose lives are cut short every day and the countless survivors who are injured by shootings every day – a national coalition of organizations has designated June 5, 2020, the first Friday in June, as the 6th 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 5th, the first Friday in June in 2020, to help raise awareness about gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, by wearing orange on June 5, 2020 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 5, 2020, to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. We encourage all schools to support their local communities’ efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor and value human lives.

SP-5-20-3737

May 19, 2020

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Trnka, to approve Resolution SP-5-20-3737 Resolution Declaring the First Friday in June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Day. Upon a vote, the same was approved - unanimously.**

Member Trnka presented the resolution:

## **RESOLUTION**

Fourth Amendment to Resolution B-6-19-3658  
Authorizing the Sale of District Property Adjacent to Hartley Park

WHEREAS, by Resolution B-6-19-3658, the School Board authorized the sale of the District Owned Property Adjacent to Hartley Park and authorized the School Board Chair to execute a purchase agreement for this sale; and,

WHEREAS, by Resolution B-8-19-3674, the Buyer and Seller amended the Agreement under the terms set forth in the First Amendment to Purchase Agreement.

WHEREAS, by Resolution B-12-19-3692, the Buyer and Seller amended the Agreement under the terms set forth in the Second Amendment to Purchase Agreement.

WHEREAS, by Resolution SP-3-20-3721, the Buyer and Seller amended the Agreement

6 – Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting  
May 19, 2020

under the terms set forth in the Third Amendment to Purchase Agreement.

WHEREAS, the Buyer and Seller desire to amend the Agreement under the terms set forth in the Third Amendment to Purchase Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the School Board hereby reaffirms Resolution B-6-19-3658 Authorizing the sale of the Property Adjacent to Hartley Park to include the amendments consistent with the terms considered by the Board on May 19, 2020; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the School Board authorizes the School Board Chair to execute the Amendment to Purchase Agreement, and to sign all other documents required for closing this sale transaction.

Resolution B-5-20-3738

May 19, 2020

**M-Trnka, S-Sandholm, to approve Resolution B-5-20-3738 Fourth Amendment to Resolution B-6-19-3658 Authorizing Sale of District Property Adjacent to Hartley Park. Upon a vote, the same was approved - unanimously.**

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

**Special Resolutions/Other Action Items**

**May 2020**

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None

**Other**

**May 2020**

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

Chair Lofald adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of May 19, 2020 at 9:00 p.m.