

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, April 22, 2014

Members Present:

Annie Harala
Art Johnston
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Mike Miernicki
Judy Seliga Punyko
Harry Welty
Bill Westholm

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives:

Kobi Tremble
Paul Manning

➤ Chair Miernicki called the regular school board meeting of April 22, 2014 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

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

M-Johnston, S-Welty, to amend the agenda to add discussion of Johnson Controls Change Orders.

Discussion took place regarding the requested addition to the agenda.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to call the question, the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Loeffler-Kemp, Seliga-Punyko

Nay: Harala, Johnston, Miernicki, Westholm, Welty

Discussion continued regarding adding the item to the agenda.

Upon a vote to add the item to the agenda the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Welty

Nay: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm

M-Johnston, S-Welty, to amend the agenda to add discussion on how school board members can add agenda items to the business committee agenda.

Discussion took place regarding adding the item. Member Johnston withdrew his motion to add the item to the agenda.

Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same was approved – unanimously.

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Chair Miernicki asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of March 18, 2014.

M-Westholm, S- Harala, to approve the minutes of the March 18, 2014 Regular School Board Meeting as presented.

Member Johnston stated that on page 4 that he did not vote on the motion to rescind the previous decision to have a modified closed campus.

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

Chair Miernicki asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of April 14, 2014.

M-Harala, S- Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2014 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.

Chair Miernicki asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of April 15, 2014.

M-Westholm, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2014 Special Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.

School and Community Recognition

April 2014

Assistant Superintendent Ed Crawford - Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present the Duluth Aviation Institute and its *Path to Aviation* program for recognition. Representing the Institute are its founder, Ms. Sandra Ettestad, and Institute Aviation Instructor Marcel LaFond. In collaboration with area school districts, the Duluth Aviation Institute provides in-class STEM education for sixth graders. The *Path to Aviation* lessons provide an opportunity for students to have a real-world educational experience designed to inspire interest in science, technology, engineering and math. The Institute partners with teachers to creatively teach these subjects as they are used in aviation. The top 15% of students who excel in the program are rewarded with a Young Eagles Flight from the Sky Harbor Airport. Through this program, the Institute has presented several ISD 709 students with the Apollo-Gilruth Continuum Award for Academic Excellence. The Institute's vision is community inspired, and enriched by the art and science of aviation. Many thanks to the Duluth Aviation Institute for their support in inspiring and educating our students.

Public Comments

April 2014

Loren Martell, 623 East 7th Street, spoke to the school board regarding his concerns with the school boards image in the community and its practices.

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Art Johnston, School Board Member, spoke to the school board regarding his concerns with change orders made to the Johnson Controls contract in regard to the Long Range Facilities Plan.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

April 2014

Chair Miernicki acknowledged communications received.

Superintendent's Report

April 2014

Superintendent Gronseth thanked Denfeld for giving him a cameo in their Lip Dub, and if you Google Denfeld Lip Dub you can see the video. -- It has been sunny and warm long enough that the snow and ice are melting—and our staff, students, and volunteers will be busy cleaning up the messes that were left behind after a long winter. Today being Earth Day, I know that we had many people in the community doing much the same. We will also be planting soon—this is really a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn more about gardening, about growing our own foods, and about healthy living. Across the nation, school gardens are taking the place of green grass—I believe the saying is grow food not lawns. While we may not be replacing our whole lawn, we are starting more gardens in our school yards. People may also notice that we are planting grasses and wildflowers in some areas as well. This helps us to reduce the amount of mowing that we do and creates more habitat for wildlife. We have been trying a few different things—some have worked better than others and we're still trying to find a balance between curb appeal and level of maintenance. If people are interested in getting involved with our school gardens, or the many projects that are going on in our schools, they can contact their neighborhood schools—they always appreciate the help of green thumbs and master gardeners!

Education Committee Report

April 2014

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

Member Harala 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
1	Delta Dental	Mary Dedeke	Service Learning Project - <i>Hunters for Health</i>	\$850	Funds from this grant award will be used to support funding a Service Learning Project at Denfeld High School – <i>Hunters for Health</i> .

E-4-14-3169

April 22, 2014

M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp to approve Resolution E-14-3169 - Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved unanimously.

M-Harala, S-Westholm, to approve the Education Committee Report:

Discussion took place regarding the presentations and informative discussions held at the committee meeting.

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

Human Resources Committee Report

April 2014

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

Discussion took place regarding postponing the vote on the teachers' contract and a possible date for a special meeting.

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

Business Committee Report

April 2014

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

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Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Approving the 2014 Central High School Redevelopment Small Area Plan Project Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, that the 2014 Central High School Redevelopment Small Area Plan Project Agreement between Independent School District #709 and the Duluth Economic Development Authority attached hereto, be approved.

B-4-14-3174

April 22, 2014

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Seliga-Punyko, to approve Resolution B-4-14-3174 – Approving the 2014 Central High School Redevelopment Small Area Plan Project Agreement.

Discussion took place regarding the resolution and the sale of the Central property.

Upon a vote, the same was approved - unanimously.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S- Westholm, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee Report:

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.F. and 2.A.1)

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. – WADM Projections to note the loss of students in the report, and suggested having an agenda item to discuss the issue of bringing students back to the District. Discussion took place regarding the issue.

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.A.1) – Bid 1232 – 2014 Roof Replacement and Masonry Restoration at Condon Park Elementary School to ask what fund will be paying for this item. Kerry Leider, Facilities Management Supervisor, explained that it was in the 10 year facilities plan and falls under alternative facilities funding.

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

Other
April 2014

Members Harala and Loeffler-Kemp attended the Pillsbury House Theater performance focusing on racial and economic equity and encouraged board members to attend next performance.

Student Representative Manning stated that he appreciated comments tonight about bringing students back through curriculum improvements. He encouraged board members to go out to the schools and attend a day or a class.

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Member Loeffler Kemp agreed that there are many opportunities for school board members to participate in at the schools. She also gave congratulations to the DI teams that are going to globals.

Member Johnston stated that not only can board members go to visit the schools but they can volunteer as well.

Student Representative Manning noted that there will be an event with the respect video coming up at the end of May and he will provide more information at the next meeting.

Member Loeffler Kemp noted that there will be a neighborhood meeting at Lester Park on April 29th at 5:30 pm.

➤ Chair Miernicki adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of April 22, 2014 at 8:17 p.m.