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, December 19, 2017

Harry Welty

Members Present:Others Present:Annie HaralaBill Gronseth, SuperintendentArt JohnstonDoug Hasler, Deputy ClerkDavid KirbyJackie Dolentz, SecretaryRosie Loeffler-KempStudent Representatives:Alanna OswaldStudent Representatives:Nora SandstadBenjamin Emmel

Cabrilla Francis

➤ Chair Kirby called the regular school board meeting of December 19, 2017 to order at 6:31 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve the agenda as presented.

Chair Kirby asked school board members if there was any discussion on the agenda.

M-Welty, S-Oswald, to add to the Business Committee agenda a discussion on mid-year Budget Reductions and Considerations for FY18. Upon a vote, the same passed – unanimously.

Upon a vote, the amended agenda was approved – unanimously.

Chair Kirby asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of November 21, 2017.

M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2017 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Chair Kirby asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of November 28, 2017.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2017 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

School and Community Recognition

December 2017

Members of the Board, I'm pleased to present Edye Howes for recognition. Edye is coordinator for our Department of American Indian Education. Under her leadership, the Department has helped develop the Misaabekong Ojibwe Language Immersion program at Lowell Elementary and supported Misaabekong Curriculum retreats. The Department helped organize American Indian Day at Ordean East Middle School and partnered with Myers-Wilkins and Piedmont Elementary Schools to host pow-wows for students, staff and families. Her department partnered with Denfeld High School to host a Community Round Dance, and worked to provide Ojibwe shoulder bag and history activities for all students at Lester Park, Stowe, Lincoln Park Middle School, Lowell and Myers-Wilkins. These are only a few of the many ways Edye Howes is leading her Department within the Duluth Public Schools. We were very pleased to hear that the Minnesota Indian Education Association presented Edye with their 2017 Administrator of the Year Award at their annual conference this fall. The Award recognizes her leadership, her work in the American Indian Education Community, the reflection of American Indian culture in her life and work and her many achievements. Edye, thank you for all you do to educate, teach and inspire young Duluth learners – and all of us – every day. Congratulations.

Truth In Taxation Presentation December 2017 ****

The Truth in Taxation Presentation was given by Doug Hasler, Chief Financial Officer/ Executive Director of Business Services.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Public Comments December 2017 ****

Bernie Burnham, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about being proud to work for the District, the budget problems the District is facing and thanked the outgoing School Board members.

Dennis Frazier, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about union contract negotiations and the budget.

Ann Wasson, address not provided, spoke to the School Board to thank the outgoing board members and welcome to the incoming board members.

Maddy Wegener, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about a project that would improve the functionality and safety of East Ninth Street so the District's students could walk or bike to school safely.

Robin Davidson, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about educational inequity and the distribution of compensatory education funds in the District.

Marcia Stromgren, address not provided, spoke to the School Board to thank the outgoing Board members.

Barb Walcome, address not provided, spoke to the School Board to thank the outgoing Board members.

Beth Kersting-Peterson, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about the District's finances.

Communications, Petitions, Etc. December 2017

Superintendent Gronseth stated one communication had been received:

06/12/17 – A letter addressed to the School Board from Tom Johns expressing his concern with property tax and property value increases.

Superintendent's Report December 2017 ****

There have been programs and events going on all over the district and there are a few more left in the coming days for our students to show what they have learned in their classes. It is always exciting for them to have people to come and watch them and to participate in the shows. We really appreciate all the efforts that go into these events; teaching the kids, setting up chairs, cleaning up afterwards and making sure the students are creating art to display. When you go to the programs and see the art on the walls, if you really look at what they have created, you will see they are demonstrating the standards they have learned in art. So, take a closer look.

I want to thank the Boldt Company, United Piping, APi Group, The Jamar Company and Northland Construction, our CTE partners, who donated winter construction gear to our construction program. They have been diligently working on building a house with our partners at Lake Superior College.

I also want to talk about the budget and the process we have gone through. We have had considerable budget concerns to address and I have really been heartened by the collaboration, conversations, and ideas that have been shared by the many groups that have come together. While we have been doing this, there have been several items that we have been considering. We have been working to develop them all at once. Because we are on a short timeline, things got a little messy, for lack of better words, because we were trying to develop a bunch of ideas all at once. Some came forward as great ideas and we pursued them; and others not so much. The leave of absence idea (LOA) was certainly one that came up in a many of our meetings and

in a number of settings. We pursued it. When the form went out, a number of really great questions came up. We realized there were a lot of different variables at play and we really didn't have time to work through all of them due to our tight timeline. We did let the LOA idea go as one of the options but we have continued to work on a plan that the board will hear tonight as it was added to the Business Committee.

This is the final meeting for our student school board representatives. It has been a wonderful year with them so we will have them give their final report. We also have parting gifts for them to remember their time on the board. Now let's hear from our student reps one last time:

Duluth East High School: Student Representative Cabrilla Francis shared that the Student Forum made holiday cards for teachers and learned about how to complete financial aid forms for colleges. It is holiday week with themed dress days and free hot chocolate giveaway. All the winter sports and activities are under way. East has a student going to state for debate and the holiday concert was a success. Thank you to the School Board for the opportunity to serve.

Denfeld High School: Student Representative Ben Emmel wished a happy holiday season to everyone. Winter sports and activities are underway. The Link Crew had a movie night for Freshman and watched Home Alone with popcorn and had great fun. Several clubs are in the holiday spirit and have adopted families for the holidays. The food drives raised 1500 pounds for CHUM. The National Honor Society (NHS) volunteered at the Domiano Center for the first three weekends in December. Key Club held a hygiene drive with a competition between classes to raise items for students in need. The choir went caroling throughout the community, and students had a toy drive which was successful. Student Government, Key Club and NHS members decorated the school with holiday posters and colors. A mini holiday spirit week is underway with dress up days at school. Students are looking forward to holiday break. Thanks to staff at Denfeld and the School Board for opportunity to serve.

The Superintendent presented the Student Representatives with certificates and a small gift to thank them for their service.

Education Committee Report December 2017 ****

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 organizations.

Organization	Author / Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
Arrowhead Manufacturers & Fabricators Association Educational Trust	Kevin Cherquist	Duluth Engineering Design – Welding Rod Oven	\$200.00	Funds will be used to a rod oven for the welding program at Denfeld High School.
Arrowhead Manufacturers & Fabricators Association Educational Trust	Bradley Vieths	Duluth Engineering Design – All Girl Welding Program	\$1,500.00	Funds will be used to purchase helmets, gloves and welding jackets for the All Girls afterschool welding program.

E-12-17-3497 December 19, 2017

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution E-12-17-3497 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

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

Human Resources Committee Report December 2017

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

Member Sandstad presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Non-Certified Business Division Administrators' Association

RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the Collective Bargaining Agreements between Independent School District 709 and the Non-Certified Business Division Administrators' Association, a summary of which is in the hands of all School Board members, be approved and adopted for the period of July 1, 2017

to June 30, 2020 inclusive, and that the Chairperson and Clerk of the School Board be hereby authorized to execute said Agreement on behalf of the School District.

Resolution HR-12-17-3496

December 19, 2017

M-Sandstad, S-Oswald, to approve Resolution HR-12-17-3496 – Non-Certified Business Division Administrators' Association.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Sandstad, S-Harala, to approve the Human Resource Committee report. Upon a vote, the remainder of the Human Resource Committee was approved - unanimously.

Business Committee Report December 2017

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

Budget Reductions Considerations for FY 18 discussion took place (addition to the Business Committee agenda made at beginning of school board meeting).

M-Harala, S-Welty, to approve the FY 18 reductions as presented and to direct Administration to work alongside the board, unions, and community leaders to balance the FY19 budget.

Discussion took place regarding his item.

Upon a vote, the same was approved 6-0-1 as follows:

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

Abstain: Johnston

M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to Postpone Definitely the six policies and procedures on this agenda until the February 2018 Regular School Board meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Harala 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.

SCHOOL	DONOR	AMOUNT	RESTRICTION
ALC	Duluth Federations of Teachers	\$50.00	Holiday auction gifts
ALC, Laura			
MacArthur,	Carolyn Zanko	In Kind	None
Piedmont & Stowe			
Denfeld	Joe Westerberg	\$125.00	Girls Basketball
Denfeld	Joe Westerberg	\$125.00	Boys Basketball
Denfeld	Jerry Zanko	In Kind	Orchestra
Denfeld	Jerry Zanko	In Kind	Orchestra
Denfeld & East	ACME Tools Duluth	In Kind	None
	C/O Troy Kirsch	III KIIIQ	
East	World Block, Inc	\$300.00	Yearbook
East	Cirrus Design Group	\$1,000.00	None
Laura MacArthur	Laura and Dustin DeSanto	In Kind	Children with special needs
Myers-Wilkins	Thomas Albright	\$150.00	Gym equipment
Myers-Wilkins	Theresa and Mike Akervik	\$300.00	Office guest chairs
Stowe	Asbury United Methodist Church	In Kind	None
Stowe	The North Shore Estates	In Kind	None
Stowe	Bethany Community Church	In Kind	None
Stowe	Parent Group	\$1,500.00	5th grade Wolf Ridge trip
Stowe	Advantage Emblem & Screen	\$400.00	Hurricane Fund Puerto Rico
	Printing		
Stowe	Stowe Foundation	\$1,000.00	5th grade Wolf Ridge trip
Stowe	Parent Group	\$800.00	5th grade transportation
Stowe	Parent Group	\$1,100.00	Classroom use
	Total	\$6,850.00	

B-12-17-3502 December 19, 2017

M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-12-17-3502 — Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved — unanimously.

Member Harala presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Certified Tax Levy 2017 Payable 2018

BE IT RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, to hereby set the Tax Levy for 2017 Payable 2018 at \$31,697,855.86.

Resolution B-12-17-3503

December 19, 2017

M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-12-17-3503 — Certified Tax Levy 2017 Payable 2018. Upon a vote, the same was approved — unanimously.

Member Harala presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Establishing Combined Polling Places for Multiple Precincts and Designating Hours During Which the Polling Places Will Remain Open for Voting For School District Elections Not Held on the Day of a Statewide Election

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, State of Minnesota, as follows:

- 1. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.11, the precincts and polling places for school district elections are those precincts or parts of precincts located within the boundaries of the school district which have been established by the cities or towns located in whole or in part within the school district. The board hereby confirms those precincts and polling places so established by those municipalities.
- 2. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.11, the board may establish a combined polling place for several precincts for school district elections not held on the day of a statewide election. Each combined polling place must be a polling place that has been designated by a county or municipality. The following combined polling places are established to serve the precincts specified for all school district special and general elections not held on the same day as a statewide election:

Combined Polling Places (District #1): Lakeview Covenant Church

(City of Duluth, Precinct #5) 1001 Jean Duluth Road Duluth, MN 55804

Rice Lake City Hall

(City of Rice Lake, 4 Townships, Unorgs 2 & 23)

4107 Beyer Road Duluth, MN 55803

"These combined polling places serve all territory in Independent School District No. 709 located in the City of Duluth (Precincts 1, 2, 4-7), City of Rice Lake, Gnesen Township, Lakewood Township, Normanna Township, North Star Township, Unorg Township 2 and Unorg Township 23 located in St. Louis County, Minnesota."

Combined Polling Place (District #2): Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth

(City of Duluth, Precinct 12) 835 West College Street Duluth, MN 55811

"This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District No. 709 located in the City of Duluth (Precincts 3, 8-14) located in St. Louis County, Minnesota."

Combined Polling Place (District #3): Duluth Heights Community Club

(City of Duluth, Precinct #22) 33 West Mulberry Street Duluth, MN 55811

"This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District No. 709 located in the City of Duluth (Precincts 15-20, 22-25) located in St. Louis County, Minnesota."

Combined Polling Place (District #4): Asbury United Methodist Church

(City of Duluth, Precinct #32)

6822 Grand Avenue Duluth, MN 55807

"This combined polling place serves all territory in Independent School District No. 709 located in the City of Duluth (Precincts 21, 26-30, 32-34) located in St. Louis County, Minnesota."

Combined Polling Places (District At-Large): Use combined polling places for Districts 1-4

- 3. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 205A.09, the polling places will remain open for voting for school district elections not held on the same day as a statewide election between the hours of 7:00 o'clock a.m. and 8:00 o'clock p.m.
- 4. The clerk is directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the county auditors of each of the counties in which the school district is located, in whole or in part, within thirty (30) days after its adoption.
- 5. As required by Minnesota Statutes, Section 204B.16, Subdivision 1a, the clerk is hereby authorized and directed to give written notice of new polling place locations to each affected household with at least one registered voter in the school district whose school district polling place location has been changed. The notice must be a non-forwardable notice mailed at least

twenty-five (25) days before the date of the first election to which it will apply. A notice that is returned as undeliverable must be forwarded immediately to the appropriate county auditor, who shall change the registrant's status to "challenged" in the statewide registration system.

B-12-17-3504 December 19, 2017

M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-12-17-3504 — Establishing Combined Polling Places for Multiple Precincts and Designating Hours During Which the Polling Places Will Remain Open for Voting For School District Elections Not Held on the Day of a Statewide Election.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

M-Oswald, S-Welty, to Postpone Definitely this resolution until the January 2018 School Board meeting. Upon a vote, the same passed – unanimously.

Update: At the January Board Agenda Setting meeting, it was decided that this resolution would not be addressed.

Member Harala presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Reopen Rockridge Building

BE IT RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, to hereby reopen the vacant Rockridge building, located at 4849 Ivanhoe Street, by January 3, 2018.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Rockridge building will now house the Woodland Hills Academy, which will be renamed "Rockridge Academy".

Resolution B-12-17-3505

December 19, 2017

M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution B-12-17-3505 — Reopen Rockridge Building. Upon a vote, the same was approved — unanimously.

M-Harala, S-Welty, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.1)

Member Johnston requested a separate vote on Items 1.A. - 1.G.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.1) Financial Report final audit to discuss the final audit results.

Upon a vote on Items 1.A. – 1.G. Financial Report, the same passed 6-1 as follows:

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

Nay: Johnston

Upon a vote, the remainder of the Business committee report was approved – unanimously.

Special Resolutions December 2017

Member Sandstad presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Authorizing New School Board Members' Attendance at the Minnesota School Boards Association Phase I and II Orientation Workshops

RESOLVED, That Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, pay costs incurred, as per District policy, for new school board members to attend the Minnesota School Boards Association Phase I and II Orientation Workshops held in December 2017 and January 2018.

Resolution SP-12-17-3498

December 19, 2017

<u>M-Sandstad, S-Oswald, to approve Resolution SP-12-17-3498 – Authorizing New School Board Members' Attendance at the Minnesota School Boards Association Phase I and II Orientation Workshops.</u>

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Harala presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Board Member Attendance at 2018 MSBA Leadership Conference

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 2018 Leadership Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 10-12, 2018.

Resolution SP-12-17-3499

December 19, 2017

<u>M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution SP-12-17-3499 – Board Member Attendance at 2018 MSBA Leadership Conference.</u>

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Fully Fund Special Education Services (Minnesota)

WHEREAS, local boards of education place a very high priority on ensuring that ALL students receive high quality special education programs and instruction; and

WHEREAS, in 1975 Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (P.L. 94-142) now known as The Individuals with Disabilities Act IDEA to: improve access to education for children with disabilities by guaranteeing a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment; assure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected; assist States and school systems to provide for the education of all children with disabilities; and to assess and assure the effectiveness of efforts to educate all children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, when IDEA became law in 1975, the federal government promised to fund 40 percent of the additional cost of educating children with disabilities; and yet the federal government has failed to adequately fund the mandated programs and services arising under IDEA, never providing more than 15 percent of the additional cost; and

WHEREAS, sufficient federal funding for IDEA would significantly enhance the ability of local school systems to provide an excellent education for all students; and

WHEREAS, the special education cross-subsidy continues to be a major obstacle for Minnesota School Districts to grapple with, due to the growing number of students receiving special education, more specialized services and rising costs associated with those services and inadequate funding; and

WHEREAS, the state special education funding system has not kept pace with the rising cost of mandated services and supports for students with special needs; and,

WHEREAS, the cross-subsidy for school districts for FY2016 is \$679\$ million; a 5.6 percent increase from FY2015; and

WHEREAS, between rising need and insufficient state and federal aid, the amount of funding school districts as a whole in Minnesota will be forced to pay for special education costs will reach an average of \$815 per student in FY17;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we urge the Governor and Legislature to strenuously advocate for significant increases in federal special education funding and meaningful special education reforms at the federal and state levels; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that there is an urgency for the Minnesota Legislature to convene a task force to work on special education funding, specifically with a focus on the impacts of the new special education funding formulas, the projected cross-subsidy and recommendations with a timeline to eliminate the cross-subsidy.

SP-12-17-3500 December 19, 2017

<u>M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve Resolution SP-12-17-3500 – Fully Fund Special Education Services (Minnesota).</u>

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Fully Fund Special Education Services (Federal)

WHEREAS, local boards of education place a very high priority on ensuring that ALL students receive high quality special education programs and instruction; and

WHEREAS, in 1975 Congress enacted the Education for All Handicapped Children Act (P.L. 94-142) now known as The Individuals with Disabilities Act IDEA to: improve access to education for children with disabilities by guaranteeing a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment; assure that the rights of children with disabilities and their parents are protected; assist States and school systems to provide for the education of all children with disabilities; and to assess and assure the effectiveness of efforts to educate all children with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, when IDEA became law in 1975, the federal government promised to fund 40 percent of the additional cost of educating children with disabilities; and yet the federal government has failed to adequately fund the mandated programs and services arising under IDEA, never providing more than 15 percent of the additional cost; and

WHEREAS, sufficient federal funding for IDEA would significantly enhance the ability of local school systems to provide an excellent education for all students; and

WHEREAS, the special education cross-subsidy continues to be a major obstacle for Minnesota School Districts to grapple with, due to the growing number of students receiving special education, more specialized services and rising costs associated with those services and inadequate funding; and

WHEREAS, the state special education funding system has not kept pace with the rising cost of mandated services and supports for students with special needs; and,

WHEREAS, the cross-subsidy for Minnesota school districts for FY2016 is \$679 million; a 5.6 percent increase from FY2015; and

WHEREAS, between rising need and insufficient state and federal aid, the amount of funding school districts as a whole in Minnesota will be forced to pay for special education costs will reach an average of \$815 per student in FY17;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we urge the President and Legislature to strenuously advocate for significant increases in federal special education funding and meaningful special education reforms at the federal and state levels; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the State of Minnesota calls upon the Congress of the United States to pass appropriate legislation in order to increase funding for federal special education mandates to meet the urgent financial special education needs of our cities and towns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Senate cause a copy of this resolution to be delivered to all United States Representatives and Senators representing Minnesota in the Congress of the United States.

SP-12-17-3501 December 19, 2017

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Harala, to approve Resolution SP-12-17-3501 — Fully Fund Special Education Services (Federal). Upon a vote, the same was approved — unanimously.

Other December 2017

Departing School Board members Harala, Johnston and Welty received gifts and a warm thank you for their service to the Duluth Public Schools.

<u>M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.</u>

➤ Chair Kirby adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of December 19, 2017 at 10:07 p.m.