

Minutes of the Special 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, January 24, 2012

Members Present:

Mary Cameron
Art Johnston
Tom Kasper
Mike Miernicki
Judy Seliga Punyko
Ann Wasson
Bill Westholm

Others Present:

Bill Hanson, Deputy Clerk
Sue Talerico, Interim Secretary

Student Representative:

Airel Pendelton (arrived 4:39)

Others Absent:

Bill Gronseth

- **Chair Wasson called the special school board meeting of January 24, 2012 to order at 4:30 PM.**

M-Kasper, S-Johnston, presented a motion to amend the agenda by allowing Public Comment prior to reading the resolution.

Chair Wasson explained that this was an omission on the agenda and that public comment is allowed at special school board meetings.

Upon a vote the same passed – unanimously.

Public Comment

Loren Martell, 623 E. 7th Street, spoke to the school board regarding his ongoing concerns with the board and stated that Interim Superintendent Gronseth will need to acknowledge and listen to the public to be successful and have their support.

Chair Wasson stated she called meeting to determine what to do with superintendent vacancy.

Discussion took place with board members stating their opinions regarding process and options.

Member Cameron called a Point of Order to remind board members that they cannot discuss an individual's performance unless they are in executive closed session – they should be discussing process.

M-Kasper, S-Seliga Punyko, presented a motion to authorize administration to enter into contract negotiations with Bill Gronseth for a three-year term for the position of Superintendent of Schools.

Further discussion took place.

Upon a vote the same was approved 4-3 as follows:

Yea: Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Nay: Cameron, Johnston, Westholm

Chair Wasson asked Human Resources Manager Tim Sworsky to enter into contract negotiations with Bill Gronseth for a three-year term. Mr. Sworsky recommended that Bill Hanson also be involved and asked if the Chair would like to suggest three members to be a part of the negotiations. Chair Wasson stated that she would do so.

Member Johnston commented that a 4-3 vote is not very strong and suggested that the board should always try to get a consensus. Chair Wasson stated that she respects Member Johnston's opinion and reminded the board that the vote for Dr. Foster also was at 4-3, with the board then conducting an acclimation which became a unified vote.

Student Advisor Pendelton asked about items still remaining at Central High School. Bill Hanson stated that he would be happy to follow up with appropriate people and get back to her. Member Miernicki echoed that there are a number of things needed at both Denfeld and East high schools and would appreciate Bill Hanson expediting the transfers.

- **Chair Wasson adjourned the Special School Board Meeting of January 24, 2012 at 4:59 PM.**