

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, February 26, 2013

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives

Katlyn Persch
Erik Thibault

- Chair Kasper called the regular school board meeting of February 26, 2013 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Cameron, to approve the agenda as presented

Member Johnston stated that he had submitted four agenda items that weren't on the agenda and wanted them added without a vote. Chair Kasper denied his request. He appealed the decision of the chair and Chair Kasper denied his appeal.

Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same was approved – 6-1 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Miernicki, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of January 22, 2013.

Member Johnston noted his concern with his motions not being included in the minutes. Discussion took place and it was clarified that his motions were not seconded and therefore not recorded.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2013 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Public Comments

February 2013

Richard Paulson, 524 West Ideal Street, spoke to the school board regarding his concern with negotiations and past contract approvals and the costs associated with those contract approvals.

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Loren Martell, 623 East 7th Street, spoke to the school board regarding his concern with past acts of the school board.

Marcia Stromgren, 6179 Lakewood Road, spoke to the school board regarding her concerns with students leaving the district.

Art Johnston, 37 N 93rd Ave. W., spoke to the board regarding his concerns with questions he has asked that have not been answered, and submitted a data request to the Board Chair and the Superintendent.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.
February 2013

Superintendent Gronseth stated that no communications had been received.

Superintendent's Report
February 2013

Superintendent Gronseth introduced the student advisors - Erik Thibault and Katlyn Persch.

Superintendent Gronseth gave an overview of conference he attended regarding graduation rates.

Anne Krafthefer has been appointment by Governor Mark Dayton to the Minnesota Board of Teaching. Anne teaches fifth grade at Lester Park Elementary and has been with ISD 709 since 1991.

Education Committee Report
February 2013

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

Member Cameron presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
Support for Duluth East High 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, East High School students, parents, staff, and community members wish to begin the process of establishing the Duluth East High School Forest;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of Independent *School District 709* supports the establishment of the Duluth East High School Forest and outdoor classroom comprising: approximately 7.70 acres, described as: SW ¼ SW ¼ Section 7, Township

50 North, Range 13 West in St. Louis County. From the southwest corner of Section 7, proceed Easterly 89°32'15", 329.33 feet to the Point of beginning, the southwest corner of the school forest. Thence Easterly 89°32'15", 360.78 feet to the edge of utility ROW, thence Northeasterly 59°19'12", 794.83 feet, thence Northerly 00°30'33", 30.0 feet along 40th Avenue East, thence Southwesterly 239°04'52", 532.48 feet, thence Westerly 286°50'52", 289.5 feet, thence Northerly 347°55'49", 238.75 feet, thence North-northwesterly 329°17'42", 224.87 feet thence North-northeasterly 007°03'58", 507.22 feet to the edge of Superior Street. Thence West-southwesterly 252°36'37", 219.72 feet along Superior Street to the northwest corner of the parcel along Superior Street. Thence Southerly 180°10'52", 1122.42 feet along the property line to the point of beginning; and

FURTHER RESOLVED that Board of Independent *School District 709* supports enrollment of said school forest in Minnesota DNR School Forest Program for educational purposes.

E-2-13-3075

February 26, 2013

M-Cameron, S-Johnston, to approve Resolution E-2-13-3075 – East High School Forest Designation. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Cameron 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	Northland Foundation – Minnesota Power KIDS PLUS Youth in Philanthropy	Peter Spooner	Healthier Futures Project	\$300	Funds will be used to support Unity's <i>Healthier Futures Project</i> , which is aimed at creating attractive and functional spaces for physical activity and life skills and providing curriculum that stresses life-long fitness and wellness practices for all current and future Unity students.
2	Minnesota	Tonya	Federal –	\$20,000	Funds will be used

	Organization	Author/Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
	Department of Education	Sconiers	Alternatives-to-Suspension Cohort 2 Grant		to explore alternative school disciplinary practices that maintain school safety while ensuring academic engagement and success for all students.

E-2-13-3074

February 26, 2013

M-Cameron, S-Johnston, to approve Resolution E-2-13-3074 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Cameron, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report as presented.

Member Wasson withheld Item 2.A.2) – Office of Education Equity Proposed Budget for 2013-14 to note her concern with approving the budget before the state has approved their funding, but that she will support it. Superintendent Gronseth explained that the recommendation from MDE was to proceed with the approval, and that everyone is aware that it could change.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Human Resources Committee Report
February 2013

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

M-Westholm, S-Cameron, to approve the New Deli Operator Position. Upon a vote on the Human Resources Report as presented, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Miernicki, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the Superintendents Annual Review. Upon a vote on the Human Resources Report as presented, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Westholm, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the Human Resources Committee Report as presented. Upon a vote on the remainder of the Human Resources Report as presented, the same was approved – unanimously.

Business Committee Report

February 2013

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

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve the Business Committee Report as presented.

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.F., 1.G. and 1.H. for a separate vote, 2.B.1), 4.B., 6.A. and F.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. – WADM Projections to note his concerns with the numbers.

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.B.1). – RFP 296 Professional Auditing Services to ask if it includes an audit of the Long Range Plan. Bill Hanson, CFO/Executive Director of Business Services explained that it would not directly audit the Long Range Plan.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B. - Change Orders to note his concerns with the change orders. Discussion took place regarding the Combi-Oven item.

Member Johnston withheld Item 6.A. – Expenditure Contracts to ask for a separate vote on a particular contract within the report. It was explained that there is no vote on informational items.

Member Johnston withheld Item 6.F. – Change Orders Pertaining to the Long-range Facilities Plan to note his concerns with the change orders.

Upon a separate vote on item 1.G. – Fundraisers, the same was approved – unanimously.

Upon a separate vote on item 1.H. – Investments in School Children, the same was approved – unanimously.

Upon a vote on the remainder of the business committee report as presented, the same was approved 6 – 1 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Kasper, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Other

February 2013

➤ Chair Kasper adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of February 26, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.