

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, October 17, 2017

Members Present:

Annie Harala
Art Johnston
David Kirby
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Alanna Oswald
Nora Sandstad
Harry Welty

Others Present:

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent
Doug Hasler, Deputy Clerk
Jackie Dolentz, Secretary

Student Representatives:

Benjamin Emmel
Cabrilla Francis

➤ Chair Kirby called the Regular School Board Meeting of October 17, 2017 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

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

Chair Kirby asked School Board members if there was any discussion on the agenda.

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

Chair Kirby asked School Board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of September 14, 2017.

M-Sandstad, S-Oswald, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2017 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the minutes were approved as presented - unanimously.

Chair Kirby asked School Board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of September 19, 2017.

M-Sandstad, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2017 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the minutes were approved as presented - unanimously.

School and Community Recognition

October 2017

Members of the Board, I'm pleased to present students from the Culinary Arts program and student run restaurant Food For Thought and their instructor, Chef Glenn D'Amour. Each year,

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the Head of the Lakes United Way organizes a chili cook-off to help raise funds to support community programs. The Cook-off draws over 1,500 chili lovers and over 40 chilies. Area chefs vie for bragging rights while the public joins the fun by sampling and voting for their favorite. Students in ISD 709's Culinary Arts program and their instructor, Chef D'Amour, created a Black Bean and Chipotle Chili for this year's competition. The dish featured fresh tomatoes and onions from the Duluth East School Garden. Students served the chili to hundreds of people at the event. At the end of the evening, their entry took 1st Place in the Amateur Division and they received the 2017 People's Choice Award. Overall, a great experience for our students and great exposure for the ISD 709 Career and Technical Education program, congratulations!

Public Comments
October 2017

Kevin Skwira-Brown, address not provided, on behalf of the Community Based School Equity Initiative, spoke to the School board about Compensatory Education funding and the budget process.

Bernie Burnham, address not provided, updated the School Board on recent DFT activities, including a trip to Milwaukee to attend the Community Schools Institute. The mentor/ mentee program is up and running again this year with 40+ pairs. The one-to-one conversations will occur again this year. Breakfast with Bernie continues and parent teacher conferences are occurring as we speak.

Melissa Meyer, address not provided, spoke to the School Board about student behavior issues at her daughter's school that are not being addressed.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.
October 2017

Superintendent Gronseth stated no communications had been received.

Superintendent's Report
October 2017

October is Anti-Bullying Month. While bullying is something we work on year-round, this month we have an even greater focus on the importance of creating safe and welcoming environments. Bullying is a personal, emotional topic; one that we all have a connection to. I think most people could share a story either as a victim, a witness, or their own bullying behaviors sometime in their lives. Thanks to staff and community involvement, we have one of the strongest anti-bullying policies in Minnesota. We know that education is of the utmost of importance to making a difference. We need to be sure that staff, students, and families have the knowledge and skills they need to prevent, identify, and respond to bullying. There are resources

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listed on our website along with an on-line bullying report form. We encourage anyone experiencing or witnessing bullying to make a report. All of us working together can make a difference. Social media is an important topic with direct links to bullying. Please take time to discuss and monitor online behaviors with your children. Everyone deserves to feel safe and welcome in our classrooms, our schools, and our community.

Another event that happened earlier this month was Walk to School Day to focus on healthy active lifestyles; several of our schools encouraged students and families to walk to school. Some of our schools had remote drop-offs so even students who usually ride the bus got to participate in this event by walking at least part of the way to school.

Last week was also the “Great Apple Crunch”, an event that encouraged healthy eating, specifically apples. Our Food Service Department worked with local partners to arrange for all students to receive apples during lunch last Thursday. I understand all of the apples were from Bayfield, Wisconsin. You can check out #GreatAppleCrunch on Twitter for examples from all over the country.

Many of the schools had conferences over the past two weeks. I know some are in progress as we speak. We want to thank all the staff for their efforts in preparing for conferences. The end of the grading period for middle and high schools is just around the corner on November 3rd.

In addition to our usual site visits, Assistant Superintendent Starzecki and I have been having meetings with staff in all the schools sharing information about some of our big projects this year. It is part of a larger plan to increase communication directly with staff in the buildings and to receive feedback on our plans moving forward. We look forward to continuing these meetings as we make our way through the district over the next few weeks.

I want to remind everyone that this is a short week for students. This Thursday and Friday is the annual Minnesota Education Association conference held in the Twin Cities. I understand we have many teachers traveling down for the conference. It is also a weekend that many colleges host family visits and I am sure there will be many families heading in all directions on college visits. This can be a very exciting time and we wish them safe travels. Finally, on to our student reports:

Denfeld High School: Student Representative Ben Emmel thanked the School Board for their two days off this week due to MEA conferences. The volleyball team is doing well and the football team had their first victory of the season. The girls’ swim team and boys’ soccer team are also doing great. The annual dodge ball contest was successful. Sixty-six juniors and seniors were inducted in the National Honor Society. The students of Denfeld would also like to thank the Subaru Corporation for donating over 1,500 books. Jonathan Thunder and the art students will be creating a mural for the American Indian Education department. Homecoming Spirit week was the last week of September with most students participating in Spirit Days. \$600 was raised for the Special Education department through coin wars. Thanks to the Duluth Fire Department for helping with the annual bonfire which was another hit. Save the date for High School Musical from 11/2 – 11/4/17 @ 7pm and on Sunday @ 2pm!

East High School: Student Representative Cabrilla Francis told the School Board that the soccer team did well this year. Welcome to the new students inducted into the National Honor Society and the Duluth East Hall of Fame. Students hosted 20 German foreign exchange students. The Cooking Class celebrated winning their category of the Chili Cook Off. Food For Thought restaurant opens this month on 10/24/17! Homecoming week was great and the East for Peace held their peace walk. The Annual Clothes Pin Compliments has started. There have been several meetings regarding increasing mental health awareness. The Link Crew has begun meeting with Freshmen on “Fun Fridays” and the Walk/Ride Your Bike to School day was a great success.

Education Committee Report
October 2017

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the Education Committee Report, a copy of same being in the hands of each School Board member.

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 grant from said organization in accordance with the terms set forth herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Duluth Public Schools wishes to extend its grateful appreciation to this organization.

Organization	Author/ Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
Hospitality MN Educational Foundation	Bradley Vieths	Duluth Culinary & Hospitality Program	\$5,000.00	Funds will be used to purchase industry-based Prostart curriculum.

Resolution E-10-17-3485

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M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve Resolution E-10-17-3485 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Sandstad, to approve the Education Committee Report.

Member Oswald withheld Item 1.B.2)

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Member Oswald Withheld Item 1.B.2) 2017-18 Class size and Course Offerings Update to mention some elementary large class sizes and the differences between class offerings between East and Denfeld.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

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

Human Resources Committee Report
October 2017

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

M-Sandstad, S-Oswald, to approve the Human Resource Committee Report.

Member Johnston withheld Item 3.A. Minnesota Minimum Wage Increase
Member Harala requested a separate vote on Item 1. Staffing Report Action Items

M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to request a separate vote on Item.1 Staffing Report Action Items.

Discussion was held regarding this item.

Upon a vote, Item 1. Staffing Report Action Items was approved 6-0-1, as follows:

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

Nay: None

Abstain: Harala

Member Johnston withheld 3.A. Minnesota Minimum Wage Increase to state he favored raising the district's minimum wage more than the state's minimum wage.

Upon a vote, the remainder of the Human Resources report was approved – unanimously.

Business Committee Report
October 2017

Member Harala presented the Business Committee Report, a copy of same being in the hands of each School Board member.

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 organizations.

SCHOOL	DONOR	AMOUNT	RESTRICTION
Denfeld	Tim Utt	\$840.00	Softball
HOCHS	Advantage Emblem	\$200.00	None
	Totals	\$1,040.00	

B-10-17-3486

October 17, 2017

M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-10-17-3486 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Harala presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Transition to Paperless Process Using BoardBook

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, currently utilizes a paper process and BoardBook as an electronic format, for Board related materials; and

WHEREAS, becoming paperless will reduce the use of paper and the cost associated with the Board packets while increasing functionality and efficiency for Board members, district staff and the public;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that administration will move forward with the necessary steps for the School Board to begin a paperless process on January 1, 2018.

Resolution B-10-17-3487

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M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to approve Resolution B-10-17-3487 – Transition to Paperless Process Using BoardBook.

M-Johnston, S-Welty, to Postpone Indefinitely this resolution.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

M-Sandstad, to call the question which passed unanimously.

Upon a vote, the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Welty

Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Oswald, Sandstad

M-Welty, S-Johnston, to amend Resolution B-10-17-3487 by adding the following to the end of the resolution: “This paperless processes continuance will be contingent upon a demonstration that all current paper documents available to the public are just as easily accessible to the public in this new electronic format”.

M-Johnston, S-Oswald, to delete the motion by Member Welty and substitute the following at the end of the original resolution: “School Board members will have the option to continue to receive the current paper process”.

Discussion took place regarding Member Johnston’s motion.

Upon a vote, the motion to delete the motion by Member Welty and substitute the following at the end of the original resolution: “School Board members will have the option to continue to receive the current paper process” failed 3-4 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Oswald, Welty

Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

M - Sandstad, to call the question regarding Member Welty’s motion failed 4-3 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

Nay: Johnston, Oswald, Welty

Discussion took place regarding Member Welty’s motion.

Upon a vote on Member Welty’s motion to amend Resolution B-10-17-3487 by adding the following to the end of the resolution: “This paperless processes continuance will be contingent upon a demonstration that all current paper documents available to the public are just as easily accessible to the public in this new electronic format”, the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Welty

Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Oswald, Sandstad

Discussion took place regarding the original resolution.

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Upon a vote on Resolution B-10-17-3487 as presented, the same passed 4-3 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

Nay: Johnston, Oswald, Welty

M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee Report.

Member Johnston withheld Items 4.A.1) and 4.B.1) to request a separate vote.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B.1) Final Change Order #1 – Bid 1259 – Stowe Elementary Playground Improvements – A Plus Landscaping to thank everyone for getting the playground completed and open for the public.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.A.1) K.E.Y. Zone – YMCA for a separate vote but did not make comment. Member Sandstad commended the partnership between the YMCA and the District and mentioned how great it was for kids to just be kids, enjoy the outdoors and benefit from the enrichment provided by the program.

Upon a vote on Items 4.A.1) and 4.B.1), the same passed – unanimously.

Upon a vote, the remainder of the Business Committee Report was approved 6-1 as follows:

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

Nay: Johnston

Other
October 2017

Member Sandstad requested an update on the playground completion which was due by October 15th. Mr. Spooner stated Lowell and Myers-Wilkins were not yet completed. All playgrounds will be completed by Friday, October 27th with punch lists items remaining for completion.

Member Sandstad thanked Facilities for all their hard work to keep the playground project on task and on time. Mr. Spooner stated that 61 of the last 105 we days received over 17+ inches of rain which made the playground project incredibly difficult for all involved.

Member Loeffler-Kemp stated her appreciation and importance of the parent-teacher conferences.

M-Harala, S-Sandstad, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same passed – unanimously.

➤ Chair Kirby adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of October 17, 2017 at 8:43 p.m.