

## 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 25, 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 February 25, 2014 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

**M-Harala, S-Westholm, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Chair Miernicki asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of January 21, 2014.

**M-Westholm, S- Welty, to approve the minutes of the January 21, 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 Regular School Board Meeting of January 21, 2014.

**M-Westholm, S- Welty, to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2014 Regular 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 January 31, 2014.

**M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2014 Special Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.**

**School and Community Recognition**

**February 2014**

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Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present Kwik Trip, Incorporated - represented tonight by district leader Layne Froelich, for recognition. Kwik Trip recently presented a donation of \$10,000 dollars to ISD 709 to help fund digital fabrication laboratories, also known as "fab labs." Our district is in a two-year process to establish fab labs in Denfeld and Duluth East High Schools. These labs are being adopted by schools as platforms for project-based, hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math - STEM - education. Plans are underway to install equipment and begin training in September 2014. Students and community members would begin accessing the labs by September 2015. Many thanks to Kwik Trip for their support!

**Public Comments**

**February 2014**

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Mike Miernicki, 1415 Minneapolis, spoke to the school board regarding the passing of Charlie Bell and talked about how much he has done for the school district.

Veronica Ciurleo, 4314 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke to the school board regarding issues with student behavior on the school buses and concerns the bus drivers have with the lack of policy to manage student behavior.

Lynn Amerman Goerd, 427 Howard Gnesen Road, spoke to the school board, as a member of Clayton McGee Memorial Group, to encourage the board to support the Ojibwe Immersion program.

Gordon Jourdain, 7278 West Morris Thomas Road, spoke to the school board regarding the Ojibwe Immersion Program Proposal, and his desire to pass on his knowledge to the children.

Kyle Roskowski, 813 North 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, spoke to the school board to encourage them to support the Ojibwe Immersion Program.

Lydia Shinkle, 2916 Wicklow Street, spoke to the school board to encourage them to support the Ojibwe Immersion Program.

Loren Martell, 623 E 7<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke to the school board regarding his concern with miscommunication regarding state aid and student loses over the past seven years.

Madonna Ohse, 48 East Penton, spoke to the school board regarding the Ojibwe Immersion program and encouraged them to support the program.

**Communications, Petitions, Etc.**

**February 2014**

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There were no communications received.

**Superintendent's Report**  
**February 2014**

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-Improved graduation rates and made progress on closing the achievement gap—this didn't happen by chance. There has been a great deal of time and effort that have gone into this. Our teachers and administrators have been using specific student data along with specific interventions to help our students. We have also been partnering with many community organizations to improve student achievement and engagement. As we go forward it will be important for us to continue these partnerships. I know that if the whole community works together, we can help our students to achieve amazing things—and in the long run it makes our whole community stronger and healthier.

-Think Kids sessions are done and we are just about done organizing all of the data which will be shared and used in the budget decision making process. We will also be using the input we received regarding school enrollments as we plan to address these issues throughout the next year. There will more opportunities to be a part of those decisions as we go through the process next year.

-Curriculum—One of our goals is to fully align our curriculum with state standards. Right now only about 40% of our curriculum is fully aligned. Our current goal was to work on this over the next four years along with the district wide continuous improvement plan, however the Commissioner of Education and I both feel this is too important and needs to be done more quickly. MDE has offered their help in achieving this goal by the end of the summer. It will take a great deal of effort and time by many of our teachers and administrators to make this happen but it is an exciting endeavor. It will make a big difference to our teachers and our students. We are currently developing a timeline and plan for this work to be done and plan to share more about it during the March Education Committee meeting.

**Education Committee Report**  
**February 2014**

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

**M-Miernicki, S-Seliga Punyko, to table Item 2.A.2) Recommended Changes to the 2013-14 School Year.**

Board discussion took place regarding the issue and tabling it at this time.

**Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report:**

Member Welty withheld Item 2.A.1)  
Member Johnston withheld Item 1.B.

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Member Seliga Punyko and Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 2.A.3)  
Member Welty withheld Item 1.C.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.B. – Status Update-Duluth Public Schools Becoming an Accredited On-Line Learning Provider to note his concerns with the program and lack of student teacher contact. Discussion continued regarding the program.

Member Westholm withheld Item 2.A.1) – Scott D. Anderson Leadership Foundation Grant Item to talk about the program and indicated what a great program it is for students. Discussion regarding the program continued.

Member Welty withheld Item 1.C. – Proposed Duluth Public School Organizational Structure to state that he is in favor of the changes. Discussion continued regarding the restructure.

Member Seliga Punyko and Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 2.A.3) – Ojibwe Immersion Program Proposal to ask questions about contingencies in place if there aren't enough students or the integration funding is no longer available. Superintendent Gronseth explained that if there were a lack of students they would have to evaluate at that time, and if the funding were no longer available they would look at other funding streams or community partnerships to continue supporting the program. Discussion continued regarding the program and moving forward once approval from the board is given.

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

### **Human Resources Committee Report**

**February 2014**

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

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

### **Business Committee Report**

**February 2014**

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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**  
Pledge of Collateral

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that it hereby accepts a \$100,000 par value FHLB note maturing 12/12/2014, CUSIP number XXXXX1PC4, pledged as collateral by North Shore Bank of Commerce.

B-2-14-3161

February 25, 2014

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve Resolution B-2-14-3161 – Pledge of Collateral. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
**Joint Purchasing Agreement with the TCPN The Cooperative Purchasing Network**

Whereas, Minnesota Statute 471.59, Subdivision 1, authorizes Joint Powers Agreements Allowing subdivisions to purchase from contracts initialized by other political divisions;

Whereas, it would be to the benefit of Independent School District No. 709 to have access

to the purchase of contract items and services from current and future TCPN;

Whereas, entering into such an agreement would pose no financial impact on Independent School District No. 709;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved that the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, authorized the Director of Business Services to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement with TCPN for the purchase of contract items and services.

B-2-14-3162

February 25, 2014

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve Resolution B-2-14-3162 – Joint Purchasing Agreement with TCPN – The Cooperative Purchasing Network. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
**2014 Legislative Platform**

RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the attached 2014 Duluth School District Legislative Platform be adopted.

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**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve Resolution B-2-14-3163 – 2014 Legislative Platform. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S- Seliga Punyko, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee Report:**

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.B.

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A. – Financial Report to ask about how the report was done historically. Bill Hanson, CFO/Executive Director of Business Services explained the differences between restricted and unrestricted funds.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. – WADM Projections to ask about a document they received from Special Services to ask questions about differences in the data. Laura Frederickson, Special Services Director answered his questions. Discussion continued regarding student numbers.

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

**Other**  
**February 2014**  
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Chair Miernicki thanked Sue Talerico for providing the printed policy book.

Member Johnston asked about information on graduation rates. Ed Crawford stated that Dr. Lake will be presenting information on graduations rates at next month's meeting.

Member Harala suggested that the documentary by Students for the Future be placed on a future meeting agenda.

Members Loeffler-Kemp and Seliga Punyko will be going to the legislature on Thursday to bring the Districts platform to our representatives.

Student Representative Manning stated that he would be holding a forum for students to bring forward issues they may have or ideas to improve their schools.

Member Johnston suggested placing the school bus issue on an agenda.

Student Representative Manning thanked administration for bringing the curriculum item forward and stated he would like to be involved in future meetings.

➤ Chair Miernicki adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of February 25, 2014 at 8:45 p.m.