

Minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting

Of the School Board of Independent School District No. 709 held via Video Conference, Duluth, Minnesota 55802, on

Tuesday, July 21, 2020

Members Present:

Kelly Durick Eder
David Kirby
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Jill Lofald
Alanna Oswald
Paul Sandholm
Sally Trnka

Others Present:

John Magas, Superintendent
Cathy Erickson, CFO
Melinda Thibault, Secretary

Student Representatives:

Nabiha Imtiaz (East)
Phoenix Ocean (Denfeld)

- Chair Lofald called the Regular School Board meeting July 21, 2020 to order at 6:37 p.m., she read a statement outlining the remote video conference meeting process.

Due to the current federal and state emergency declarations, the Minnesota directive to residents to stay at home, and guidance about limiting person-to-person contact due to the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, this meeting of the Duluth School Board is being conducted in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 13D.021— Meetings by Telephone or Other Electronic Means.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Durick Eder, to approve the agenda. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same was approved – Unanimously.

School and Community Recognition

July 2020

This month we recognize and welcome two new members of the Duluth Public Schools district administrative team.

Welcome Anthony Bonds, our new Assistant Superintendent.

Mr. Bonds comes to Duluth from the Anniston City School District where he served as Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction. In this position he was responsible for overseeing teaching, learning and innovation and supporting, managing and evaluating principals and district office directors. His experience includes Assistant Superintendent of Teaching, Learning & Innovation for the Beloit School District, supporting programming and operations for thirteen schools including virtual learning and alternative programs.

Mr. Bonds expects to complete a Doctorate in K-12 Leadership in May 2021. He holds a Masters Degree in Administrative Leadership from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee and a Bachelors Degree in Biology and Chemistry from Morris Brown College.

We also welcome Jen Larva as our Interim Director of Curriculum and Instruction.

Ms. Larva's most recent position is Principal at Lowell Elementary, where she collaborated with the MN Department of Education Regional Centers of Excellence to develop, implement and support practice profiles in reading and mathematics. She provided leadership throughout the launch and implementation of two language immersion programs at Lowell and addressed equity through the school's continuous improvement team and use of the Tool for Educational Equity with staff and families.

She holds an Education Specialists Degree and an Advanced Graduate Certificate in Educational Administration from Saint Mary's University, MN; a Masters of Education in Educational Computing and Technology from the University of MN - Duluth and a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education/Reading Instruction from St. Cloud State University.

We're glad you're part of the Duluth Public Schools team. We look forward to working together to serve the children and families of our community.

Public Comments

July 2020

Public comments were read into the record by the Board Chair or played via voice messages (no public presence was allowed at the meeting) as follows (some spellings/names may be incomplete due to lack of information via voice messages):

The following people spoke in favor of removing the school resource officers from the schools: Voicemails; Nick Newburn, John Musick, Ciera Dastoor, Geneva Schab, Kaitlin Stingley, Colton Holder, Eliza Woods, Ruth Cabrera, Mary Calvin, Sean Hayes, Lily St. George, Sophia Revoir, Mya Halvorson, Veronica Surges, Diona Johnson, Mike Ryan, Tom Julstrom, Danny Frank, Elizabeth Spehar, Amy Hayes, Elena Bantle, Jackie Wilson, Abby Amundsen, Peggy Spehar, Pastor Denise Shear, Joan Spehar, Jack Landers, Mike Mayo, Kendra Carlson, Emails; Alex Soth, Nyah Dastoor, David Sydney, Ryan Glenn, Shana Aue, Andrea Roskoski, Rachel Mock, Tessa Mlinar, Ethan Rid, Erin Coleman, Jenna Simonson, Sara Kilbarger-Stumpff, Maari Raba, Sarah Erickson

The following people spoke in favor of keeping the school resource officers in the schools: Voicemails; Sandra Henningsgard, Dave Harju, Gail Harju, Louane Beyer, Emails; Ed Lewis, Melissa Lehr, Ryan Temple, Ted Chura, Becky McCall, Tim White, Arik Forsman, Haley Pykkonen, Cheryl & Jim Foldesi, Karen O'Leary, Penny Stauduhar, Jeanne Kilburg, Aaron Stolp, Jennifer Fabbro, Mary Dodge, Ethan Fisher, Jeannette Olson, Estini Lockwood-Sandlin, Barbra Dunder, Jim Gaylord, Catherine Nachbar

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

July 2020

Chair Lofald stated that there were no communications received.

Superintendent's Report

July 2020

Superintendent Magas reviewed his 100-day plan.

Student Representative Phoenix Ocean (Denfeld) and Student Representative Nabiha Imtiaz (East): Gave a presentation on why they feel School Resource Officers should be removed from the schools.

Chair Lofald reviewed the schedule of meetings.

Policy Committee Report

July 2020

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the Policy Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

Monthly Committee of the Whole Report

July 2020

Member Lofald presented the Monthly Committee of the Whole report which was available electronically to each school board member.

Human Resources/Finance Committee Report

July 2020

Member Trnka presented the Human Resources Committee report which was available electronically to each school board member.

Consent Agenda

July 2020

M-Trnka, S-Sandholm, to approve the Consent Agenda. Upon a vote on the consent agenda, the same was approved - Unanimously

Special Resolutions/Other Action Items

July 2020

Superintendent Magas presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

School Board Support for School Resource Officer (SRO) Contract Negotiations,
Policy and Procedure Review and Engagement Efforts

WHEREAS, the School Board of the Duluth Public Schools recognizes the timing of creating contracts does not always fall within the school board meeting schedule for approval; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of the Duluth Public Schools recognizes that policies, procedures, and contractual agreements are reviewed in an effort to reduce inequitable practices outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the School District is deeply engaged in fall planning while awaiting the Minnesota Departments of Education and Health the 2020-21 school year; and

WHEREAS, the School District has an approved budget for a contract for the 2020-21 school year for school resource officers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board directs District administration to engage with the City of Duluth Police Department to create a School Resource Officer Contract for the 2020-21 school year only and that the contract language be considered **and approved** by the School Board for deeper alignment with district philosophies and practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO BE RESOLVED that the School Board directs District administration to complete a district policy and procedures analysis, and create a prioritized and revision plan using the Equity Framework and resources.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO BE RESOLVED that the School Board directs District administration to launch dialog sessions with high school student groups to discuss issues of equity, race, and power, including a focus on the role of the School Resource Officers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO BE RESOLVED that the School Board directs District administration to assess the impacted communities' experience of, and perspective on, the SRO program and seriously consider that input for possible structural or contractual changes if future contracts are pursued.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO BE RESOLVED that the District administration will provide the School Board with regular updates as well as a mid-year report on these efforts.

Resolution SP-7-20-3751

July 21, 2020

M-Oswald, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution SP-7-20-3751 School Board Support for School Resource Officer (SRO) Contract Negotiations, Policy and Procedure Review and Engagement Efforts.

M-Trnka, S-Lofald, to amend the resolution and add into the fifth paragraph the word “approved” [that the contract language be considered and approved by the School Board.

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Discussion took place regarding the proposed amendment and the resolution.

Upon a vote on the resolution as amended, the same was approved – Unanimously

Other
July 2020

M-Trnka, S-Kirby, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Chair Lofald adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of July 21, 2020 at 10:11 p.m.