

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

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

Bill Gronseth, Interim Superintendent
Bill Hanson, Deputy Clerk
Sue Talerico, Interim Secretary

- **Chair Wasson called the special school board meeting of February 2, 2012 to order at 4:30 PM.**

Public Comment - None

Legislative Platform Discussion / Recommendations

Ron Soberg provided information related to the State budget, Legislature, and forecasting reports related to the State and Duluth District. Mr. Soberg further presented recommendations related to the 2012 Legislative Platform for the District.

Chair Wasson asked board members if they had any questions or comments for Mr. Soberg.

Member Seliga Punyko asked if all day kindergarten should be included. Mr. Soberg indicated that the item could be added if the School Board so wished.

Chair Wasson thanked Mr. Soberg for the information and for continuing to be the board's voice at the State Legislature.

Further discussion took place.

Member Kasper presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION **2012 Legislative Platform**

RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the attached 2012 Duluth School District Legislative Platform be adopted.

B-2-12-2973

February 2, 2012

M-Kasper, S-Miernicki, to approve the Resolution B-2-12-2973 – 2012 Legislative Platform.

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Member Seliga Punyko asked if all day kindergarten should be added to the District's legislative platform.

Board discussion took place regarding all-day kindergarten. Member Johnston asked if there is anything in the Legislature that bans all day Kindergarten. Mr. Soberg stated that there is not, however, there is not sufficient funding to make all-day kindergarten fully funded and explained that pupil weighting was increased a few years ago, but just by .1 for an increase to only .6 pupil unit, whether the District offers full or half-day kindergarten.

Member Johnston stated that he would support the motion, however, believed that the topic of this meeting could have taken place at a regular school board meeting. Chair Wasson explained the special meeting was needed due to Mr. Soberg's timeline with the legislative session.

M-Seliga Punkyo, S-Kasper, to add 1.0 Funding for All Day Kindergarten to the District's Legislative Platform. Upon a vote on the motion, the same is approved – unanimously.

Upon a vote on the resolution, the same was approved – unanimously.

- **Chair Wasson adjourned the Special School Board Meeting of February 2, 2012 at 5:03 PM.**