

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, May 18, 2010

Members Present:

Mary Cameron
Gary Glass
Tim Grover
Art Johnston
Tom Kasper
Judy Seliga Punyko
Ann Wasson

Others Present:

Keith Dixon, Superintendent
Bill Hanson, Deputy Clerk
Melinda Thibault, Secretary

Student Representatives:

Maia Dalager
Peter Witzig
Jon Peterson

Chair Grover called the regular school board meeting of May 18, 2010 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

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

Member Glass stated that he wanted to give prior notice for four agenda items he had previously asked to have on the agenda. Chair Grover asked him to submit them in writing.

Member Johnston stated that he had asked to add the correspondence items on the agenda for discussion. Chair Grover stated that it has not been the practice of the school board and the policy is on the agenda for first reading to bring it into alignment with current practices.

M-Johnston, S-Glass, to add correspondence received to the agenda for discussion as noted in Bylaw 9020.

School Board discussion took place on the request to add discussion of correspondence to the agenda.

Upon a vote the same failed 3-4 as follows:

Yea: Glass, Johnston, Kasper

Nay: Cameron, Grover, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

M-Johnston, S-Glass, to add discussion on the pending EAW lawsuit and hiring of an attorney to the agenda.

Member Grover ruled the motion out of order stating that the board should not discuss the pending lawsuit out of closed session. Member Johnston appealed Chair Grover's ruling.

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Upon a vote on Chair Grover's ruling that the motion is out of order the same was approved 6-1 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Glass, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Nay: Johnston

Member Johnston gave previous notice that he would like discussion of the pending lawsuit and hiring of an attorney at a future board meeting.

Upon a vote on the agenda as presented the same was approved 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Nay: Glass Johnston

Chair Grover asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the special school board meeting of April 20, 2010.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Cameron, to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2010 special school board meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Chair Grover asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the regular school board meeting of April 20, 2010.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Cameron, to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2010 regular school board meeting.

Secretary Thibault noted that all three student representatives should have been listed in attendance.

Member Johnston indicated that his requests for corrections to the minutes were listed out of order. Secretary Thibault asked if the content was correct and Member Johnston acknowledged that it was. Chair Grover stated that the minutes are not a transcript but are a record of what happened – No change to minutes.

Member Johnston indicated that he had noted that the resolutions were out of order but that the correction request wasn't listed. Upon review of the minutes the correction to the order of the resolutions was listed and were corrected in the minutes.

Member Johnston noted corrections to his amendment to Policy 9075 that the public should be notified one week in advance not three days as listed and that the last sentence should not be included in his amendment.

Upon a vote, the same was approved as corrected. – unanimously.

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Chair Grover asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the special school board meeting of May 4, 2010.

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Cameron, to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2010 special school board meeting.

Member Johnston indicated that there wasn't a second listed on his motion to censure the Chair, and that there was no vote taken on his motion. Member Glass indicated he had seconded the motion.

Upon a vote, the same was approved as corrected. – unanimously.

Public Comments

May 2010

David Gaskell, 3402 Vernon Street, spoke to the board regarding his concern with property acquisitions in his neighborhood and his concern with being paid a fair amount for his property.

Sam Seering, 5330 Oakley Street, Students For the Future, spoke to the board to give an update on upcoming events and the groups desire to help pass an operating levy increase in the fall.

Loren Martell, 623 East Seventh Street, spoke to the board regarding his concern with the handling of public communications to the board.

Sharon Witherspoon, 327 – 54th Avenue West, spoke to the board regarding her concern with the achievement gap in the district and her support for the integration specialists being hired to help work on closing that gap. She also asked board members to be civil with each other.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

May 2010

Superintendent Dixon acknowledged the communications received.

Superintendent's Report

May 2010

Congratulations to the following:

- Michelle Hobbs, Denfeld HS, was named Minnesota's Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year! Woodland Middle School students did well at the Minnesota State History Day competition. Kevin Hendrickson, Maggie Campbell, Meghan Friske, Alyssa Diaz, Cole Selland, Kelcy Huston, Erin Bates, Matthew Thibodeau, Liam Scott, and Lauren Johnson. Earning Honorable Mention Medals: Meghan Friske, Kelcy Huston, Erin Bates. Earning a State Staff Creativity Award Ribbon: Cole Selland.

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- Secondary Technical Center students Max Fye, Brittany Smith, Ryan Biggs, and Kiefer Olson competed in the State FFA Forestry competition in St. Paul. Their Duluth FFA team earned 12th place out of 40 teams and the team received a gold ribbon!!
- Denfeld Senior Stacie Krause placed 3rd in the 2010 Congressional Art Competition sponsored by the U.S. House of Representatives.
- For the second year in a row, Alia Malhas Gribbon, Woodland Middle School, is the recipient, of the Duluth-Superior Symphony Orchestra's Hester Memorial Scholarship Award.
- Megan Lazzaro, Morgan Park Middle School, was recognized as 1st place winner in the middle level division of the Capitol Art Show in celebration of Youth Art Month 2010
- Several members of the Duluth Speech Team advance to the State Speech Tournament this weekend. This team operates as a Duluth Team during the invitational season and competes as separate high schools at the Section 7AA MSHSL tournament: **Denfeld:** Brian Johnson - in the event of Serious Prose - this will be Brian's 4th appearance at the state meet, Laura Halvorsen - in Serious Drama, Dan Krueger - in Serious Drama, Hanna Durfee - in Poetry, Jack DeMars in Poetry, Haley Robinson - in Original Oratory, Hailey Woolverton -Extemp. Reading, Denfeld Speech Team placed 3rd in Section 7AA - there are 14 schools in Section 7AA, **East:** Samuel Seering in Discussion, Ryan Gallagher in Original Oratory, Anna Menzel in Serious Prose, Matt Uttermark in Great Speeches, Nate Olson in Humor, Emma VanVactor-Lee in Serious Prose, East Speech Team placed 4th in the Section 7AA out of the 14 Section 7AA schools, **Both teams are coached by:** Head Coach - Jill Lofald - Speech and Theater teacher at Denfeld Asst Coach - John Bergum - Social Studies teacher at Denfeld

Jackie Magnuson, Walt Hautala, and Bob Meeks from the MSBA presented Kai Fei with a MSBA Scholarship.

Karl Wasson of Wells Fargo oversaw the drawing for the Hase Family Scholarship, to be awarded to a Central High School student. A \$3,500.00 non renewable scholarship was awarded to Jacob Jaus.

Member Johnston requested that the board discuss the public correspondence issue. Chair Grover ruled him out of order. Member Johnston gave previous notice that he would like public communications added to the agenda at the next meeting.

Education Committee Report
May 2010

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

Member Seliga Punyko 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.	National Science Teacher's Association	Elizabeth Kersting-Peterson, First Grade Teacher at Lincoln Park Elementary School	Citizen Scientist – Biology Buddies – Great Lakes Worm Watch	\$2,426	Funds from this grant award will be used to support a partnership with a UMD graduate student who will be working with Lincoln's first grade students on the Citizen Scientist – Biology Buddies – Great Lakes Worm Watch.
2.	Duluth Superior Community Foundation	Various	2010 Duluth Public Schools Endowment Fund Grants	\$15,160	The Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation's Duluth Public Schools Endowment Committee received eighteen (18) grant requests totaling \$27,814.66 and has approved funding for thirteen (13) of these requests for the 2010-11 school year totaling \$15,160. Funds from these grant awards will provide supplemental funding to enrich the academic, cultural,

					athletic, and overall experiences of Duluth Public Schools students and staff.
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Resolution E-5-10-2754

May 18, 2010

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Wasson, to approve Resolution E-5-10-2754 - Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote taken, the same was approved - unanimously.

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

Member Kasper withheld Item 1.B. – Update on Woodland Middle School’s Response to Recent Crisis Management Issues and thanked Gina Klive for coming forward to discuss the issue. He asked to see a report on past bomb threats district wide and how the district has handled them.

Upon a vote taken on the remainder of the Education Committee as presented - the same was approved – unanimously.

Human Resources Committee Report

May 2010

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

M-Cameron, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the Human Resources Committee report as presented.

Member Cameron presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

RE: Termination of Certified Hourly Staff

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the employment of the following hourly teachers shall terminate effective at the end of the school day on June 11, 2010, unless another date is indicated below, in which case the employment of the individual shall terminate on that date.

Dalager Sherry
Docauer Randall
Frank Angie – 06/10/10
Hill Elaine

Irvine Mary
Kelley Carol – 06/10/10
Larson Beatrice – 06/10/10
Mell Carol

Miller Paige
Pavlich Marilyn – 05/21/10
Persons Andrew
Pufall Janet – 05/21/10

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Rud Jay
Schafter Patricia

Swedberg Judith
VanDruten James

Walker Luke
Winterfield Robert

HR-5-10-2755

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M-Cameron, S-Wasson, to approve Resolution HR-5-10-2755-Termination of Certified Hourly Staff. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Cameron presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N

RE: Termination of Certified Long-Term Substitutes

WHEREAS, the School Board desires to provide notice that long-term substitute teaching positions terminate on the date specified in the individual substitute teacher's contract or at the conclusion of the school year, whichever is earlier;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the employment of all long-term substitute teachers, including those listed below, shall terminate effective at the end of the school day on June 11, 2010, unless another date is indicated below, or on the date specified in the individual substitute teacher's contract, whichever is earlier.

Grimm Jason

Holecck Dean

Lindbo Sarah

HR-5-10-2756

May 18, 2010

M-Cameron, S-Wasson, to approve Resolution HR-5-10-2756-Termination of Certified Long Term Substitutes. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously

Member Cameron presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N

RE: Termination of Certified Probationary (Non-Tenured) Staff

WHEREAS, during the first three years of consecutive employment all teachers in the public schools in cities of the first class are deemed to be in a probational period of employment during which period the School Board may renew, or not renew, any teachers' annual contract as the School Board shall see fit; and that the District will lack a sufficient number of pupils to support all non tenured teachers currently employed by the District.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board on Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, as follows:

1. The employment contracts of the following probationary teachers shall not be renewed and their employment shall terminate at the end of the school day on June 11, 2010, unless another date is indicated below, in which case the employment of the particular teacher shall terminate on that date.

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Anderson Jessica – 06/18/10
Antonich Brenda
Bowen Heidi
Campbell Gregg – 04/30/10
Cronin Vicki
Everett David
Farleigh Jean
Harbson Alan
Hess Valerie

Jordon Charles
Lindstrom Heather
Meyer Michael – 06/18/10
Nemec Nicole
Nord Ryan
Palen Peter – 06/30/10
Peterson Jon
Puttkammer Lana

Savre Jamie – 06/18/10
Scanlon-Olson Melissa
Schminski Lori
Seglem Daniel
Smith Hamilton
Stein Eve
Wangerin Clarissa – 08/05/10

HR-5-10-2757

May 18, 2010

M-Cameron, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve Resolution HR-5-10-2757-Termination of Certified Probationary Staff. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Cameron presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
RE: PERA Phased Retirement Options

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature passed legislation in 2009 that allows Coordinated and Basic Public Employee Retirement Association members age 62 and over the option to begin receiving without formally resigning, and

WHEREAS, the decision to make Phased Retirement available to members is strictly up to the employer, and

WHEREAS, participants must agree to substantially reduce the hours that they work and meet other requirements for eligibility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board agrees to offer a Phased Retirement Option to eligible PERA employees consistent with the requirements noted within Minnesota statutes, and directs the District's Administration to review and approve such agreements for eligible employees.

HR-5-10-2758

May 18, 2010

M-Cameron, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve Resolution HR-5-10-2758-PERA Phased Retirement Options. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Upon a vote to approve the remainder of the Human Resources Committee report as presented, the same was approved – unanimously.

Business Committee Report

May 2010

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

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M-Wasson, S-Seliga Punyko, to approve the Business Committee report, withholding the resolutions, as presented.

Member Glass withheld Items 3.1.B., 3A.1) and 3.A.2)

Member Johnston withheld Items 4.B., 7.A., 2.A.3), and 2.A.4), and requested separate votes on items 3.A.1), 3.A.2), and 4.B.1)

Member Glass withheld Item 1.B. – Approval of Payment of Claims to note payments to JCI and noted that he did get information requested but feels it’s not complete. Superintendent Dixon stated that they had been given complete information that is available to the District. Board discussion continued on the report. Chair Grover suggested that if members have additional information requests to submit them in writing.

Member Johnston noted Bid 1187 Fire Extinguisher Service and asked why such a small contract was brought to the board. Kerry Leider, Facilities Management Supervisor, explained that many of these items have the potential to exceed the authority of administration to sign.

Member Glass and Member Johnston withheld Item 3.A.1) – Policy 9075– Agenda for Regular Meetings to note their concern with the changes being made. Board discussion continued on the policy changes and the need to review all policies.

M-Johnston, S-Glass, to add “two weeks prior to the agenda setting session” to the policy.

Discussion continued on the agenda setting process and the need to bring the policy into align with procedure.

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

Yea: Glass, Johnston

Nay: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

M-Johnston, S-Glass, to have the policy state “prior to the agenda setting session to be held the first Tuesday of each month”. Upon a vote the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Glass Johnston

Nay: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Upon a vote to approve the policy changes as submitted for the second reading, the same was approved 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson

Nay: Glass Johnston

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Member Glass and Member Johnston withheld Item 3.A.3) Bylaw 9020 - Standing Committees to express their concern with the changes to the policy specifically on how communications are handled. Board discussion continued regarding the changes and public communications.

Upon a separate vote taken on Policy 9020- Standing Committees, the same was approved 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson
Nay: Glass, Johnston

Upon a separate vote taken on item 4.B.1) – Eastern High School LFFP – Earthwork and Site Demolition, the same was approved 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Grover, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson
Nay: Glass, Johnston

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

Yea: Cameron, Grover, Johnston, Kasper, Seliga Punyko, Wasson
Nay: Glass

Other
May 2010

Member Kasper asked about the scholarship awarded earlier and how it would be handled in the future with Central High School closing. Superintendent Dixon stated that they are working on how it will be handled next year.

Chair Grover adjourned the regular school board meeting of May 18, 2010 at 9:18 p.m.