

## 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, March 31, 2016

### Members Present:

Annie Harala  
Art Johnston  
David Kirby  
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp  
Alanna Oswald (via Google Hangout)  
Nora Sandstad  
Harry Welty

### Others Present:

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent  
Bill Hanson, Deputy Clerk  
Melinda Thibault, Secretary

### Student Representatives:

Spencer Fredrickson

- Chair Harala called the special school board meeting of March 31, 2016 to order at 7:02 p.m.

**M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve the agenda. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.**

- Public Comment

Bernie Burnham, DFT President, spoke to the school board to encourage the school board not to waive the policies in order to sell the Central site to allow Edison to start a high school there, and to continue moving toward the community schools model.

Marv Heikkinen, 123 Chambersburg Drive, spoke to the school board to encourage them not to waive the policies to sell the Central property to allow Edison to start a high school there.

Bill Westholm, 2908 Talmadge Circle, spoke to the school board to ask them not to waive the policies to sell the Central property to allow Edison to start a high school there.

Marcia Stromgren, no address provided, spoke to the school board to encourage them to waive the policies to allow the sale of the Central property so Edison can have a high school there.

Barb Walcome, 5314 Wyoming, spoke to the school board to ask them to suspend the policies to allow the sale of the Central property to allow Edison High School to be housed there.

Tim Davis, no address provided, spoke to the school board to encourage them to suspend the policies to allow the sale of the Central property for an Edison High School.

Alan Fink, 1632 East 1<sup>st</sup> Street, spoke to the school board to ask them to suspend the policies so Edison can open a high school on the Central property.

Dave Johnson, 602 Pecan, spoke to the school board to suspend the policies to open the door to negotiate with a potential buyer, and asked them to vote for what is best for all the children of Duluth.

Paul Goosens, Tischer Creek Duluth Building Company, spoke to the school board to ask that they suspend the policies based on facts and not fear.

Henry Banks, no address provided, spoke to the school board to ask that they uphold the policies and not sell the Central site and allow an Edison High School be built there.

Erik Rennan, 115 West Wabasha, spoke to the school board to suspend the policies and asked that the parties work together to allow the purchase of the Central site so the Edison High School can be opened there.

Shelley Thygesan, 717 North 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, spoke to the school board to note her children's experiences at both Edison and Duluth Schools, and encourage them to sell the property and allow the Edison High School to be built there.

**M-Welty, S-Johnston, to substitute the following resolution numbered B-3-16-3358 in place of resolution B-3-16-3355.**

WHEREAS, The School board of ISD 709 has received a proposal from Tischer Creek Duluth Building Co., a nonprofit entity affiliated with the Duluth Public Schools Academy, for the Central High School site.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the School Board directs the Administration and School Board to initiate negotiations with Tischer Creek Building Co. to devise for the School Board's consideration the most favorable mutual conditions for said sale including, but not limited to, provisions for enrollment caps, possible withholding of some parcels of the whole property from inclusion, potential joint usage of existing buildings and an acceptable price for the purchase.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the School Board of Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota shall place on its April 19 regular school board meeting agenda, pending a satisfactory contract for both parties, a resolution to suspend District Policies 3195 and 8120 in order to implement a sale agreement acceptable to both parties.

Discussion took place regarding Member Welty's proposed resolution.

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**M-Sandstad calls the question. Upon a vote to call the question the same passed – unanimously.**

**Upon a vote to substitute proposed resolution B-3-16-3358 for B-3-16-3355, the same the same passed 5-2 as follows:**

**Yea: Harala, Johnston, Oswald, Sandstad, Welty**  
**Nay: Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp**

**Upon a vote on the substituted resolution B-3-16-3358, the same failed 3-4 as follows:**

**Yea: Johnston, Oswald, Welty**  
**Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad**

- Chair Harala adjourned the Special School Board meeting of March 31, 2016 at 9:00 p.m.