

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, December 18, 2012

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives

Alex Livesay
Ariel Pendelton

Members Absent:

- Chair Wasson called the regular school board meeting of December 18, 2012 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

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

Member Johnston asked to have agenda items he had previously submitted added to the agenda. Chair Wasson stated that she had responded to his request and ruled that the items will not be added to the agenda. Member Johnston appealed the decision of the chair, no second.

Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same was approved – unanimously.

Chair Wasson asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of November 20, 2012.

M-Westholm, S-Cameron, to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2012 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Bill Hanson, CFO/Executive Director of Business Services made the Truth in Taxation presentation.

Public Comments

December 2012

Chair Wasson reminded the audience to follow the civility code and that they have three minutes to speak.

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Shane Stolp, 250 McDonnell Road, spoke to the board regarding his concerns with the large class sizes and the lack of funding for classrooms.

Paul King, 1346 West Arrowhead Road, spoke to the board regarding his concern with the school board's ability to manage money and increasing taxes.

John Stromgren, 6179 Lakewood Road, spoke to the board regarding his concern with the cost of the red plan to him as a tax payer.

Loren Martell, 623 East 7th Street, spoke to the board regarding his concerns the proposed property tax increase, and concerns with the overall cost of the red plan.

Brian Ronstrom, 3860 East Superior Street, spoke to the board regarding his concern with the proposed increase in property taxes.

Richard Paulson, 524 West Ideal Street, spoke to the board regarding his concern with the tax levy and the districts overall budget.

Marcia Stromgren, No address provided, read an article to the school board regarding concerns with JCI.

Tim Carter, 6223 Petre Street, spoke to the board regarding his concern with the proposed property tax increases.

Katy Carter, 6223 Petre Street, spoke to the board regarding her concern with the proposed property tax increases.

Board discussion took place regarding the Truth in Taxation presentation.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.
December 2012

Superintendent Gronseth acknowledged the communications received.

Superintendent's Report
December 2012

- Acknowledged the passing of Vance Hopkins.
- Thanks to staff and community for their support.
- With the tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary student safety continues to be important
- Wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season

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Education Committee Report
December 2012

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

M-Kasper, S-Miernicki, to approve the Education Committee Report as presented.

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.A.2)
Member Seliga Punyko withheld Item 2.A.4)

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.A.2) – New World Languages Course Proposal to note his concern with high class sizes but that he does support the proposals.

Member Seliga Punyko withheld Item 2.A.4) – New Robotics Course Proposal to ask if the program would be provided at both high schools. Ed Crawford, Assistant Superintendent, stated that it would be.

Chair Wasson noted that the school calendar attached in the backup for item 2.A.5) was the 2012-13 calendar and not the 2013-14 calendar.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Human Resources Committee Report
December 2012

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

M-Westholm, S-Kasper, to approve the Human Resources Committee Report as presented.

Member Kasper asked for an update on the staff that has been recalled from layoff. Tim Sworsky, Human Resources Senior Manager, reviewed the certified and non-certified recalls from layoff to date.

Upon a vote on the Human Resources Report as presented, the same was approved – unanimously.

Business Committee Report
December 2012

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

Member Seliga Punyko presented the resolution:

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS FROM THE
GENERAL FUND TO THE DEBT SERVICE FUND REGARDING
FINANCING OF THE LONG-RANGE FACILITIES PLAN**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board (the “Board”) of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota (the “District”), as follows:

Section 1. A. The Board approved a Long-Range Facilities Plan, as amended (the “Facilities Plan”), which calls for renewal and remodeling of existing school facilities, additions to existing facilities and construction of new schools.

B. The District has submitted the Facilities Plan to the Minnesota Department of Education (i) for approval of the Facilities Plan; (ii) for approval of the financings for the Facilities Plan, and (iii) for review and comment on the Facilities Plan. The Commissioner of Education has approved the Facilities Plan and the financing for the Facilities Plan.

C. The District has issued six series of obligations to finance the Facilities Plan, including the \$71,170,000 Taxable Full Term Certificates of Participation, Series 2009A (Build America Bonds – Direct Pay), dated October 1, 2009 (the “Series 2009A COPs”).

D. The financing plan for the Facilities Plan anticipates canceling all or a portion of tax levies for the Series 2009A COPs each year from general fund monies derived primarily from operational savings, rebates and grants and proceeds from the sale of excess properties.

Section 2. The Board hereby authorizes, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 475.61, Subd. 3(g), the permanent transfer of funds from the General Fund (Fund 01) to the Debt Service Fund (Fund 07) in the amount of \$3,012,034.35 for the purpose of canceling a portion of the tax levy for the Series 2009A COPs for Levy Year 2012/Collection Year 2013.

Adopted this 18th day of December, 2012.

B-12-12-3059

December 18, 2012

**M-Seliga Punyko, S-Westholm, to approve Resolution B-12-12-3059 – Resolution
Authorizing Transfer of Funds from the General Fund to the Deb Service Fund Regarding
Financing of the Long-Range Facilities Plan.**

Discussion took place regarding the transfer.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-1 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Member Seliga Punyko presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
Certified Tax Levy 2012 Payable 2013

BE IT RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, to hereby set the Tax Levy for 2012 Payable 2013 at \$28,925,408.29.

B-12-12-3060

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M-Seliga Punyko, S-Westholm, to approve Resolution B-12-12-3060 – Certified Tax Levy 2012 Payable 2013.

Discussion took place regarding the tax levy.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-1 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Westholm, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee Report as presented.

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.A., 4.A.1), separate vote on 4.B.1) 3, and 4) and discussion on 6.A.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A. – Financial Report to note his concerns with the audit. Discussion took place regarding his concerns.

M-Miernicki, S-Westholm to move the question. Upon a vote the same was approved 6-1 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B1) to note his concern with the change orders.

Upon a separate vote on 4.B.1), the same was approved 6-1 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B.3) to note his concern with the change orders.

Upon a separate vote on 4.B.3), the same was approved 6-1 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Upon a separate vote on 4.B.4), the same was approved 6-1 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Member Johnston withheld Item 6.A. Expenditure Contracts to ask to vote on one contract separately. Bill Hanson, explained that it is within his authority to sign and not approved by the board. Member Johnston noted his opposition to one contract on the report.

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Upon a vote on the remainder of the business committee report as presented, the same was approved 6 – 1 as follows:

Yea: Cameron, Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm
Nay: Johnston

Special Resolutions
December 2012

Member Kasper presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Board Member Attendance at MSBA Leadership Conference

RESOLVED, That Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, pay costs incurred, as per District policy, for school board members to attend the *Minnesota School Boards Association 92nd Leadership Conference* in Minneapolis, Minnesota on January 17-18, 2013.

SP-12-12-3058

December 18, 2012

M-Kasper, S-Westholm, to approve Resolution SP-12-12-3058 – Board Member Attendance at MSBA Leadership Conference. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Other
December 2012

Chair Wasson thanked the student representatives for their service on the board and presented them with recognition plaques.

- Chair Wasson adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of December 18, 2012 at 8:53 p.m.