

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

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

Members Present:

David Kirby
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Jill Lofald
Alanna Oswald
Nora Sandstad

Others Present:

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent
Cathy Erickson, CFO
Melinda Thibault, Secretary

Members Absent:

Sally Trnka

- Chair Loeffler-Kemp called the Special School Board meeting of September 17, 2019 to order at 8:16 p.m.

School Board Vacancy:

Chair Loeffler-Kemp reviewed the process to date and the items that still need to be decided.

Discussion took place regarding:

- Ask five questions, with each board member asking one
- Develop a scoring rubric
- Use the tool for equity
- Use suggested questions that have been submitted by community groups
- Ask 6 questions so each member has one
- Need to decide how much time the interviews will be
- Limit answers to 3 minutes
- Give out questions ahead of time
- Positives and negatives of using a rubric
- Develop a process for feedback from the community
- How much total time for interview
 - 30 minutes, 20 minutes
- Introductions, mingle period
 - Have name cards for each person

It was agreed that the time allowed for each interview would be 20 minutes and five questions with Member Oswald operating the timer.

Questions Proposed:

- Describe a time you made a difficult decision? Why did you make it and how did you handle the outcome? (Lofald)
- What role do you think teachers play in the decision making process at the site and district level? (Kirby)
 - After discussion changed to: What do you think are the most important issues facing classroom teachers in our district? (Kirby)
- What is your experience advancing equity and inclusion? (Sandstad)
- What do you believe is your role on the school board member in advocating for underserved communities in ISD 709? (Oswald)
 - After discussion changed to: What do you believe is your role on the school board in advocating for any community?
- What experience or experiences have you had in advocating for or working with communities of color and/or underserved communities? (Loeffler-Kemp)
- What do you believe is your role on the school board in advocating for any particular community? (Sandstad)
- What are your best hopes for the future of this school district and how would your aspirations help our students? (Lofald)
- What do you see as the board's roles or responsibilities? (Loeffler-Kemp)
- How can you work with current board members as a team, how do you handle disagreements? (Loeffler-Kemp)
- What financial skills and experience do you bring to the table? (Sandstad)
- What is your understanding of our current school finances and what do you think we can do to improve our budgets? (Oswald)
- One of the primary roles of the school board deals with finance and financial decision making, how will you approach learning more about school finances? (Loeffler-Kemp)
- What is a big opportunity for improvement that you want to work on as a school board member identifying some sort of solution oriented idea, what ideas do they have, what do they identify as a big opportunity for the district and how would they work on that? (Sandstad)
- What aren't we doing enough of in the district and what would you be willing to see us do less of in order to do that? (Lofald)
- Given our current funding limitations what opportunities do you see for the district?

Final Questions:

1. Describe a time you made a difficult decision? Why did you make it, and how did you handle the outcome?
2. What do you think are the most important issues facing classroom teachers in our district?
3. What is your experience advancing equity and inclusion?
4. What do you believe is your role on the school board in advocating for any community?
5. Given our current funding limitations what opportunities do you see for the district?

Other decisions made:

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- Make up name cards for applicants
- Each member will ask one question in a round robin method
- The order of interviews will be determined by drawing names from a hat
- Meeting will start at 5:45 with interviews starting at 6:00 PM
- Interviews will be 20 minutes
- Member Oswald will time the interviews

Nominating/Voting

- Following the interviews board members will rank all of the candidates to determine the top four candidates
 - Deputy Clerk Erickson will collect the rankings and tally the votes
- Nominations will be opened for board members to nominate their top candidate
 - Discussion will take place regarding the candidates
- Board members will vote on each nomination in the order the nominations were taken until one candidate receives 4 votes
 - Voting will be by ballot – signed by the board member
 - Deputy Clerk Erickson will collect the ballots and tally the results
 - If voting results in a tie the lowest vote getter(s) will be dropped until there are 2 candidates left
 - If after 2 votes there is a tie between the final two candidates the board members will discuss the candidates and decide whether they want to take another vote or wait until the next board meeting

M-Lofald, S-Sandstad, to adjourn the meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved 5-0.

Chair Loeffler-Kemp adjourned the Special School Board meeting of September 17, 2019 at 10:32 p.m.