

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 20, 2016

Members Present:

Annie Harala
Art Johnston
David Kirby
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Alanna Oswald
Nora Sandstad
Harry Welty

Others Present:

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent
Doug Hasler, Deputy Clerk
Jackie Dolentz, Secretary

Student Representatives:

Spencer Fredrickson
Johanna Uden

➤ Chair Harala called the regular school board meeting of December 2016, 2016 to order at 6:31 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve the agenda as presented.

Chair Harala asked school board members if there was any discussion on the agenda.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of November 15, 2016.

M-Sandstad, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2016 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of November 28, 2016.

M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the November 28, 2016 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of November 29, 2016.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Sandstad, to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2016 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

School and Community Recognition
December 2016

Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present Conor Reindl and Jada Guthrie for recognition. They're taking part in our school district's Career and Technical Education Health Occupations program, providing hands-on experience, opportunities to earn college credit in high school and prepare for a career in healthcare. This fall, Jada and Conor, along with other students from Denfeld and Duluth East, attended a MN State Health Occupations Students of America, or "HOSA" conference. The mission of HOSA is to enhance the delivery of compassionate, quality health care by providing opportunities for knowledge, skill and leadership development of all health science education students. Conor and Jada have been elected to serve as officers for the Minnesota HOSA organization. Conor will serve as Vice President for Minnesota HOSA. Jada will serve as Vice President for the North Region. Congratulations to Jada and Conor and best wishes as they assume these important leadership positions.

Truth In Taxation Presentation

The Truth in Taxation Presentation was given by Doug Hasler, CFO/Executive Director of Business Services.

Public Comments
December 2016

Member Loeffler-Kemp read the community vision statement.

Bernie Burnham, 4130 West Fourth Street, spoke to the School Board about the many great current happenings to celebrate in the school district.

Agatha Pachavinsky, no address given, spoke to the School Board about how great the Duluth East Drama Club is and how much it has taught her.

Pearl Elliott, no address given, spoke on how much she appreciated the Duluth East Drama Club and how much she has learned from the types of programs they have presented.

Copper Petermeier, address not provided, wanted to express how much the Duluth East Drama Club has helped him develop as a person and how grateful he is for it.

Al Chepelnik, no address given, recognized the Teacher of the Year committee members and invited everyone to attend the DFT Teachers of the Year reception on January 10, 2017 in the Media Center at Denfeld High School. The Teachers of the Year are Annette Petersmeyer and Sheila Shusterich.

Annette Petersmeyer, no address given, shared information about her work at Woodland Hills Academy and read statements from her students.

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Henry Banks, no address given, thanked the School Board for the resources and support provided for the visit of Dr. Mahmoud El Kati in November, 2016, and to voice some concerns regarding Dr. Mahmoud El Kati's visit.

Carlyle Eckart, 105 South 54th Ave E, spoke to the School Board about an incident that occurred at Ordean East Middle School.

Lynn Goerdt, 427 Howard Gnesen, thanked the Board members that recently met with some of her social work students, and to discuss the availability of College in the School (CITS) courses at both East and Denfeld.

Tim Jezierski, 1949 Highway 2, spoke to the School Board about an incident that occurred at Ordean East Middle School.

Henry Helgen, 5422 Wyoming Street, spoke to the School Board about the changing regulations that may negatively affect the CITS programs and to inquire what the District was going to do to address these changes.

Tim Doyle, no address given, spoke to the School Board about his concerns regarding the education of the students at schools in the West section of the District.

Diane Fitzgerald, no address given, spoke to the School Board about her concerns regarding student equity and access to Honors and CITS courses.

Jennifer Wellnitz, no address given, spoke to the School Board about her concerns regarding the at-risk students at Denfeld and their access to Honors and CITS courses.

Geri Saari, no address given, spoke to the School Board about her concerns regarding student equity and access to Honors and CITS courses.

Jane Rudd, 2733 Northridge Drive, spoke to the School Board about her concerns regarding student equity and access to Honors and CITS courses.

Marina Udd, 1002 Timberline, spoke to the School Board about her concerns regarding student equity and access to Honors and CITS courses.

Marla Halvorson, 1126 West Skyline, spoke to the School Board about her concerns regarding student equity and access to Honors and CITS courses.

Juhl Halvorson, 1126 West Skyline, spoke to the School Board about his concerns regarding student equity and access to Honors and CITS courses.

Tom Tusken, no address given, spoke to the School Board about his concerns regarding student equity and access to Honors and CITS courses.

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Anne Skwira-Brown, 2702 Northridge Drive, spoke to the School Board about her concerns regarding student equity and access to Honors and CITS courses.

Marcia Stromgren, no address given, spoke to the School Board about the renewal of the Superintendent's contract.

Sharon Witherspoon, no address given, spoke to the School Board about her concerns regarding student equity and access to Honors and CITS courses.

Audrey Tusken, 401 North 44th Avenue West, spoke to the School Board about her concerns regarding student equity and access to Honors and CITS courses.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

December 2016

Superintendent Gronseth stated no communications had been received.

Superintendent's Report

December 2016

December is always a busy month in our schools. There have been many programs and events all across the district. There have been thousands of people who have come to watch students share their talents through music, dance, artwork, and many other ways. It has been wonderful to see so many people coming together to support our students. I recently heard a staff member say that sometimes our differences can pull us apart--but sharing our cultures can bring us back together. This is so true; we have all seen that over the last month, a rich sharing of cultures that bridges differences and creates a stronger foundation of understanding for the future. I know that it takes a lot of work to put on these events and I want to thank the many people that make it all possible. Your work is greatly appreciated. We have started texting! If parents would like to receive information from the district via text, they should login to Infinite Campus and select the options they prefer. Please be aware, however, that not all messages will come in the form of a text. This is something we are just starting-- and will plan to use more in the future as more people get signed up. December is also the month that we say farewell to our current student representatives to the school board. So Johanna and Spencer, thank you for your service to the school board. Your monthly reports and your input have really made a difference. In recognition of all you have done we would like to present you with a certificate and a small token of appreciation. Let's give them a hand everyone! I also want to take an opportunity to speak from the heart this evening. As educators we spend our days changing lives-- it can be awe inspiring and it can also be very difficult work. The issues are complex and there are rarely easy fixes. We have some unique challenges in our community. Some of them new, and others have been challenges for a long time such as the differences between the Eastern and Western corridors of Duluth. While there is a mix of students and families in both corridors, there are differences in the student populations. Schools with higher populations of students who receive free and reduced price lunch receive additional funding through Title I and Compensatory

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Education. The district also receives additional funding through Achievement & Integration because we have a school that is racially identifiable. These funds provide added supports and lower classes for schools that qualify. The district has also made additional investments with the newly opened Design Center at Denfeld being a perfect example. The work we are doing around creating full-service community schools at Lincoln and Denfeld modeled after the success we have seen at Myers-Wilkins. The changes that have been made to have one course book and the work to increase the opportunities our students have. Our teachers and principals are looking at things differently too, they are using their professional learning communities to change what instruction looks like in our classrooms. We know that student engagement is of the utmost of importance if we are going to make a difference in the lives of every student every day. But still, none of these things are the perfect answer. None of these things will solve every challenge; in fact it is just a start. If we are serious as a community about really making changes to equalize opportunities for students and families, then we need to look at things more holistically. We need to talk about housing, about access to food, medical, dental and mental health services, we need to talk about transportation. There are many things coming together for our community right now. The city, county, DEDA, the school district, and other partners have all been working to build stronger partnerships because we know that we are stronger together than we are separately. There are differences between our schools. There are different needs that need to be addressed, different strategies that must be employed, all while keeping the needs of all students in mind. And when we all work together on the same goals, work on building each other up rather than tearing each other down, we can accomplish more. I can tell you this. Every day when we come to work, we are focused on our students and our families. We place them squarely at the center of all of our discussions and decision making. It is not possible to make everyone happy with every decision that is made by me or anyone else in the district. But please know that whether you agree, or not, that we strive to make the best decisions possible for the benefit of ALL students. Please know that I am dedicated to our students, our community, and our future. I am looking forward to working together to make a stronger future for all of our students.

Now let's hear from our student reps one last time:

Denfeld High School: Student Representative Johanna Unden shared that Denfeld has wrapped up fall sports and were getting ready for winter sports and hoping for good seasons! Two seniors were awarded HOSA Board positions. A Denfeld teacher was awarded the National ASC award for outstanding dedication to automotive teaching and his students. The Holiday Concert was a huge success. A Denfeld student will be representing Minnesota in the National Debate Tournament in Alabama in June 2017. Denfeld is having multiple fun holiday type activities at the school like pajama day. Student Representative Unden thanked her fellow students for the opportunity to represent and serve them and also thanked the School Board for the chance to give back to her school by serving on the Board. Denfeld is still in the process of selecting next year's student representative.

Duluth East High School: Student Representative Spencer Fredrickson shared their drama club presentation was a huge success! The boys' basketball team is playing rival Denfeld this week. The Cross Country team went to Yellowstone to ski! The Christmas Concert was at the DECC with 500 students in the music program. The Executive Board of the Student Council handed

out doughnuts and hot chocolate at the school for the first time ever and it was a great hit! The school was transformed into a Winter Wonderland with decorations! This is Student Representative Fredrickson's last time on the Board and he introduced his replacement. He also thanked the Board for the ability to participate and he commented on how dedicated everyone is to the success of our students.

Education Committee Report
December 2016

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

Member Loeffler-Kemp 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 this organization.

Organization	Author / Contact	Project Title	Award Amount	Terms
Duluth East High School Foundation	Cassie Letourneau	Circle of Friends	\$500	Funds from this grant award will be used to support Circle of Friends. Circle of Friends strives to reduce bullying and create a more inclusive school culture at East High School that promotes disability awareness, acceptance and friendship.

E-12-16-3411

December 20, 2016

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve Resolution E-12-16-3411 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Kirby, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report.

Chair Harala withheld Item 2.D.2)
Member Oswald withheld Item 2.D.2)

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Member Johnston withheld Item 1.B.1)

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.B.1) Summary of Duluth Public Schools' Annual School Improvement Goals to mention that the improvement goals were not being met by all schools in the District.

Member Harala withheld Item 2.D.2) New Policy 521-Student Disability Nondiscrimination to discuss the use of “disabled student” versus “students with disabilities”.

M-Harala, S-Oswald, to amend the wording in new Policy 521-Student Disability Nondiscrimination to state “students with disabilities” instead of “disabled students”.

Member Oswald withheld Item 2.D.2) New Policy 521-Student Disability Nondiscrimination to point out the included “Student Disability Discrimination Grievance Report Form” and to inquire as to where this report form will be located within the District.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the remainder of the Education Committee Report, including the wording to New Policy 521-Student Disability Nondiscrimination”, was approved – unanimously.

Human Resources Committee Report

December 2016

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

Member Kirby motioned to approve the Superintendent's contract. Chair Harala requested, and fellow Board members agreed, that Member Kirby finish the Human Resources report with his motion being address when the Superintendent's contract was withheld for discussion.

M-Kirby, S-Sandstad, to approve the Human Resource Committee report.

Member Oswald withheld Items 1, 2.A., 2.C., and 2.E.

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.B.

Member Oswald withheld Item 1 – Staffing Report Action Items to comment on a couple of retirements of long term employees.

M-Kirby, S-Sandstad, to approve the Superintendent's contract.

Member Oswald withheld Item 2.A. Superintendent's contract to discuss the length of the contract.

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M-Oswald, S-Welty, to amend the contract end date to be June 30, 2018 for a one year contract for the Superintendent.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed amendment.

Chair Harala called for a Point of Order to state that the discussion is not a public evaluation but a discussion about contract renewal. A public evaluation would violate data privacy.

Member Loeffler-Kemp to call the question.

Member Johnston called for a Point of Order to remind Board members when the question is called; a vote needs to be called and can only pass with a two-thirds vote.

Upon a vote to call to the question, the same passed 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Oswald, Welty

Nay: Johnston, Welty

Upon a vote on the proposed amendment to change the end date of the Superintendent's contract to June 30, 2018, the same failed 3-4 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Oswald, Welty

Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

M-Johnston, S-Oswald, to amend the Superintendent's contract Article III, subparagraph F, Termination Without Cause, to delete "12 months" and replace with "1 month".

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Loeffler-Kemp to call the question.

Upon a vote to call the question, the same passed 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad, Welty

Nay: Johnston, Oswald

Upon a vote on the proposed amendment to delete "12 months" and replace with "1 month", the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Oswald

Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad, Welty

M-Johnston, S-Oswald, to amend the Superintendent's contract - Article VIII, Compensation, to delete the first sentence and replace with "The Superintendent shall be paid an annual salary of \$168,000 for the remainder of this contract".

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Loeffler-Kemp to call the question.

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Upon a vote to call the question, the same passed 5-2 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad, Welty

Nay: Johnston, Oswald

Upon a vote on the proposed amendment to Article VIII, the same failed 3-4 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Oswald, Welty

Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

M-Johnston, S-Oswald, to amend the Superintendent's contract to add Article IX, subparagraph E, to state "The Superintendent shall have a legal residence in ISD 709 school area within one year of the date of this contract."

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Member Sandstad to call the question.

Upon a vote to call to the question, the same passed unanimously.

Upon a vote to amend Article IV, subparagraph E, the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Oswald

Nay: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad, Welty

Upon a vote to approve the Superintendent's contract, the same was approved 4-3 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Kirby, Loeffler-Kemp, Sandstad

Nay: Oswald, Johnston, Welty

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.B. New Policy 302-Superintendent; Member Johnston withdrew and will discuss next month.

Member Oswald withheld 2.C. the deletion of Policy 2015 Superintendent-Function; Member Oswald withdrew and will discuss next month.

Member Oswald withheld Item 2.E., the deletion of Policy 2050 Line of Responsibility, to voice concern about deleting this policy.

Upon a vote, the remainder of the Human Resource Committee was approved - unanimously.

Business Committee Report
December 2016

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

Member Sandstad presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 465.03 requires a school district to accept donations by resolution expressed in the terms prescribed by the donor in full; and,

WHEREAS, acceptance of the donations 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 donations 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 organizations.

SCHOOL	DONOR	AMOUNT	RESTRICTION
Denfeld	Betty Buntten Bullington	\$150.00	Student Council Executive Board
Denfeld	Key Club at Denfeld	\$528.34	For Art Supplies
Denfeld	Claudia Anderson	\$100.00	Drama Department
Denfeld	Various/Community Donation Box	\$216.00	Robotics
Denfeld	Sandy Bergerson	In Kind	Clare Chopp, Orchestra Teacher
Denfeld	Russell E Strom	\$400.00	Boys Hockey
Denfeld	Class of 64 C/ Elaine Mundle	\$149.54	Claudia Anderson, Secretary for Greater Denfeld Foundation
East	Celine A. Campbell	\$200.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	The Electric Fetus	\$100.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Margaret Sutherland	\$100.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Kris Larson	\$125.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Patrick Heffernan	\$50.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Frederic Anderson	\$150.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Gary Black	\$50.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Mary Davis	\$50.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	George Telatis	\$100.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Pizza Luce	\$200.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Cole Peterson	\$100.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	John Graham	\$70.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Steven & Barbara Payette	\$180.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	John Morrison	\$200.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Emily Nothacker	\$50.00	Student Council Executive Board

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East	Steven Butchart	\$50.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Kristy Gilreath	\$50.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Chongwan Park	\$50.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Keith Salfer	\$50.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Jeffrey Jarvela	\$50.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Fischer Legal Services	\$200.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Paul Johnston	\$200.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Northern Waters Smokehaus	\$50.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Geri McGivern	\$65.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Teresa Alpach	\$50.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Clearwater Composite	\$150.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	MPECU	\$50.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Duluth Library Foundation	\$120.00	Sterling Strings Orchestra
East	Lakeside Gallery	\$100.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Gary Hovland	\$50.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Douglas Hoffman	\$50.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Lakewalk Brewery & Cafe	\$300.00	Student Council Executive Board
East	Lakewalk Surgery Center, Inc.	\$500.00	Robotics
East	Northeast Area Labor Council C/O Beth McCuskey	\$200.00	Choir
East	Gary Black and Celeste Curley-Black	\$100.00	Drama Department
East	Grandma's Marathon	\$200.00	Sterling Strings Orchestra
East	East Foundation	\$100.00	Sterling Strings Orchestra
East	Andrew Marks	\$150.00	Student Council Executive Board
HOCHS	Whole Foods Co-op	\$2,000.00	Middle school farm field trips
HOCHS	Carolyn Zanho	In kind	None
Homecroft	Catherine Bianchet	\$20.00	No
Homecroft	Richard & Mildred DeBolt	\$25.00	No
Homecroft	Ann Fleming	\$100.00	No
Homecroft	Jacob & Kathrynne Dryke	\$200.00	No
Lester Park	Curtis Phillips & Beth Cash	\$50.00	No
Lester Park	Gretchen Cash	\$175.00	No
Lester Park	Joan Luther	\$50.00	No
Lester Park	Emily & Ted Cash	\$50.00	No
Lester Park	Art in the Alley	\$100.00	No
Lincoln Park	Perkins Restaurant	\$150.00	Pawsitive Perks Program
Lincoln Park	Glensheen	\$30.00	Pawsitive Perks Program
Lincoln Park	Susan Cohen - State Farm Agency	\$250.00	Pawsitive Perks Program
Lincoln Park	Target	\$25.00	Pawsitive Perks Program
Lincoln Park	Edgewater Hotel and Waterpark	\$228.04	Pawsitive Perks Program
Lincoln Park	Olive Garden Restaurant	\$514.24	Family Night
Lincoln Park	Grandmas	\$50.00	No
Lincoln Park	Duluth Children's Museum	\$162.00	No
Lincoln Park	Vertical Endeavors	\$96.00	No

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Lincoln Park	DECC	\$48.00	No
Lincoln Park	Toasty's Sandwich Shop	\$60.00	PAWS Program
Ordean-East	Autism Association of Northern MN	\$2,800.00	Purchase adapted equipment and curriculum for students with special needs in the DCd/SMI setting 3 program at Ordean-East
	Total	\$13,337.16	

B-12-16-3412

December 20, 2016

M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve Resolution B-11-16-3412 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Member Sandstad presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
2017 Legislative Platform

RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the attached 2017 Duluth School District Legislative Platform be adopted.

Resolution B-12-16-3413

December 20, 2016

M-Sandstad, S-Kirby, to approve Resolution B-12-16-3413 – 2017 Legislative Platform.

Discussion took place regarding this item.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

RESOLUTION
Certified Tax Levy 2016 Payable 2017

BE IT RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, to hereby set the Tax Levy for 2016 Payable 2017 at \$31,816,091.64.

Resolution B-12-16-3414

December 20, 2016

M-Sandstad, S-Welty, to approve Resolution B-12-16-3414 – Certified Tax Levy 2016 Payable 2017. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

M-Sandstad, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report. Upon a vote, the same was approved – unanimously.

Other
December 2016

Member Johnston inquired to the status of a Student Representative from the Area Learning Center (ALC). Currently, ALC will not have a Student Representative for the 2017 School Board year.

Member Loeffler-Kemp thanked the 2016 Student Representatives for their hard work, participation and leadership. Member Loeffler-Kemp is also looking forward to participating with them in the January 2017 Minnesota School Board Association conference with student representatives from across the state.

➤ Chair Harala adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of December 2016, 2016 at 10:15 p.m.