

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, July 21, 2015

Members Present:

Annie Harala
Art Johnston
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Mike Miernicki
Harry Welty
Bill Westholm

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives:

Jude Goossens

Members Absent:

Judy Seliga Punyko

➤ Vice Chair Harala called the regular school board meeting of July 21, 2015 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

M-Welty, S-Westholm, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same passed – 6-0.

Vice Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of June 16, 2015.

M-Westholm, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2015 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 6-0.

Vice Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of June 23, 2015.

M-Welty, S-Westholm, to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2015 Special School Board Meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 6-0.

Vice Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of June 30, 2015.

M-Welty, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2015 Special School Board Meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 6-0.

Vice Chair Harala asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of July 14, 2015.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2015 Special School Board Meeting. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 6-0.

School and Community Recognition

July 2015

Amy Starzecki: Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present the ISD 709 Community Education Department for recognition. With us tonight are Jay Roesler, Director of Community Education; Carrie Copperud from KeyZone; and Melissa Johnston from the YMCA. This summer the Department received the 2015 Community Service Award from the Duluth Area Family YMCA. The award is presented for providing time and talent to strengthen the community through YMCA programs and services and impacting the lives of many. ISD 709 Community Education was recognized for their Key Zone School Age Child Care and Youth Development Partnership with the YMCA. Through this partnership, Community Education and the Y work together to provide an academic and enrichment out-of-school time program for children in grades K through 5. This powerful partnership promotes increased student success in academics; helps develop life skills through enrichment activities; encourages regular attendance in school; and nurtures the potential of kids by providing them a safe environment to learn, grow and thrive. Many thanks to the Duluth Area Family YMCA and congratulations to Jay Roesler, and to the staff of the ISD 709 Community Education Department.

Public Comments

July 2015

Member Loeffler-Kemp read the community vision statement.

Henry Banks, no address provided, spoke to the school board regarding his concerns with transparency by the board and administration.

Jay Cole, Home Seas LLC, 10 East 2nd Street, spoke to the school board regarding his desire to purchase the Central High School site and his vision for the property.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

July 2015

Superintendent Gronseth stated that there had been no communications received.

Superintendent's Report

July 2015

Superintendent Gronseth - I want to start by officially welcoming our new Assistant Superintendent, Amy Starzecki. She was most recently Superintendent and K-12 Principal for ISD 698 in Floodwood, MN. In that capacity, she served as a member of the MN North Regional Implementation Project, a leadership team for MDE in the implementation of PBIS in Minnesota. She worked in partnership with teacher union leadership to develop a teacher evaluation system that meets MN statute and established and facilitated professional learning communities focused on instructional best practices. Amy's experience includes Adjunct Professor for Saint Mary's University in Minneapolis, Principal for King Elementary in Deer River, Special Education Coordinator for Northern Lakes Cooperative in Coleraine, Area Leader of the Special Education Department at Burnsville High School, and School Psychologist. As a principal, Amy established

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Response to Intervention (RTI) and PBIS frameworks, served as Title Coordinator and Chair of the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Committee. She worked on the MDE Equity Committee Project to help create a toolkit for districts to evaluate and improve policies, practices, facilities, curriculum and other school areas to become more inclusive and ensure that all students have access to high quality education. She holds a District Superintendent License, K-12 Educational Administration License and Special Education Director License from Saint Mary's University in Minneapolis. She earned a Master of Arts and Certification in School Psychology from Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff and a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Psychology from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks. Welcome, Amy-- and it has been a great first few weeks since you have started.

Last month, a delegation of ISD 709 students and staff boarded a plane, headed to a to Dalian, China. You may recall last year high school students from Dalian travelled to the Northland. Their visit was part of a visionary project organized by retired assistant superintendent Ed Crawford over two years ago after meeting with representatives from the High School Associated with the Dalian University of Technology and forging the beginnings of an exchange program. Last month, it was our turn to send a delegation to China to help Duluth students expand their understanding of a global society, the Mandarin language, experience another culture and help us further explore a long-term partnership with the Dalian school. This was an incredible opportunity for our students and staff. In addition to staying with host families and going to school, the visit included exploring the Forbidden City in Beijing, climbing the Great Wall and trying new foods. The hospitality we received was heartwarming and our connections with these generous people made the trip especially memorable. While there we continued to work on building a partnership with the school and we can look forward to future opportunities. This fall 39 students will travel from China to the Northland. Our school district will host 10 students at Denfeld and 10 at East, Two Harbors school district has agreed to host another 10 and I'm working with area superintendents to make arrangements for 9 others. We're looking for people across the city to volunteer as host families. We'd love to have local businesses host events for the Dalian students – experiencing local cuisine and entertainment is an important part of their visit and we'd like to match the incredible generosity that Duluth students and staff experienced in Dalian. If families are interested in hosting a student, or if there are area businesses that would like to host an event for our visitors, they can contact my office.

Jude Gooseens – stated that there are summer practices for fall sports going on, and there are a lot of volunteer opportunities for students.

Education Committee Report
July 2015

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

Member Miernicki 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	United States Department of Education	Edye Howes	Title VII Indian Education Formula Grant	\$134,707	Funds from this grant award will be used to fund Indian Education staff positions and provide educational opportunities to American Indian students, parents, and staff in Duluth Public Schools.

E-7-15-3282

July 21, 2015

M-Miernicki, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution E-7-15-3282 Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved 6-0.

M-Harala, S-Miernicki, to approve the Education Committee Report.

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.3) – Immunization Policy Update to state that this is very good news for the community and that the staff have done an extraordinarily effective job and thanked staff for their hard work. Discussion continued regarding the issue.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.2) Eligibility Requirements for Duluth Public Schools Athletes to note that the changes are good and asked for additional information regarding suspension data. Discussion continued regarding the requirements.

Superintendent Gronseth made comments regarding the graduations that took place in June and thanked Board Members for attending the programs.

Upon a vote on the remainder of the Education Committee, the same was approved – 6-0.

Human Resources Committee Report

July 2015

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

Member Miernicki presented the resolution:

Resolution

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. The term "teacher" includes every person regularly employed, as a principal, or to give instruction in a classroom, or to superintend or supervise classroom instruction, or as a placement teacher and visiting teacher.

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 5, 2015, unless another date is indicated below, in which case the employment of the particular teacher shall terminate on that date.

Sarah Remington – 7/17/15 – RESCIND

HR-7-15-3283

July 21, 2015

M-Miernicki, S-Welty, to approve Resolution HR-7-15-3283 – Termination of Non-Tenured Certified Staff. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

M-Miernicki, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the remainder of the Human Resource Committee report,

Member Johnston withheld Items 2.B. and 2.C.

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.B. Hourly Substitute Pay Rate Sheet.

M-Johnston, S-Welty, to amend the document by deleting the new rate column and substituting \$1.00 above the legal minimum wage for the entire column.

Discussion took place regarding the amendment.

Member Johnston suggested a change to the amendment to “deleting the new rate column listed at 9.00 per hour and substitute 1.00 hour above the legal minimum wage for those particular items”.

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Discussion continued regarding the proposed amendment. The proposed amendment will be discussed again at next month's committee meeting.

Upon a vote, the same failed 2-4 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Welty

Nay: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Westholm

Upon a separate vote on Item 2.B. – Hourly Substitute Pay Rate Sheet, the same passed 6-0.

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.C. – Approval of Policy 8050 – Code of Ethics for discussion and a separate vote.

M-Johnston, S-Welty, by delete the entire proposed policy and substitute the following:

Board members wills strive to improve public education, and to that end should: 1. Attend all regularly scheduled board meetings insofar as possible, and become informed concerning the issues to be considered at those meetings; 2. Recognize that board members should endeavor to make policy decisions only after full discussion at publicly held board meetings, rather than pledge their vote prior to the discussion; 3. Render all decisions based on the available facts and independent judgment; 4. Encourage the free expression of opinion by all board members while refusing to predict school board action. ~~Refrain from disparaging remarks about other board members~~; 5. Work with other board members to establish effective board policies and to delegate authority for the administration of the schools to the superintendent; 6. Seek public input from ~~other board members~~, parents, students, staff, and the community at large, and communicate such input to other board members and the superintendent; 7. Keep informed about current educational issues; 8. Support in an impartial manner the employment of those persons best qualified to serve as school staff; 9. Keep the office as a board member separate from the board member's private business or profession, avoid soliciting business or patronage from employees or others doing business with the district, and avoid being placed in any other position of conflict of interest; ~~Board members; like District Administration, and District Staff, and District employees; will refrain from participating in any issues involving family members~~. 10, Take no private action that will compromise the board or administration; 11. Respect the confidentiality of information that is privileged under applicable law; 12. Promote the educational welfare of all the students attending the public schools; and 13. Adhere to all District Policies, Minnesota and Federal statutes.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed amendment.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Miernicki, to call the question. Upon a vote the same passed 4-2 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Westholm

Nay: Johnston, Welty

Upon a vote on the proposed amendment, the same failed 2-4 as follows:

Yea: Johnston, Welty

Nay: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Westholm

Discussion continued regarding the proposed policy.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Miernicki, to call the question. Upon a vote the same passed 4-2 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Westholm

Nay: Johnston, Welty

Upon a vote on the policy changes second reading as presented, the same was approved 4-2 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Westholm

Nay: Johnston, Welty

Upon a vote on the remainder of the Human Resources Committee report, the same was approved – 4-1 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Westholm

Nay: Welty

Abstain: Johnston

Business Committee Report

July 2015

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

Member Westholm 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 various organizations.

SEE ATTACHED LISTING

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M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution B-7-15-3284 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

Member Westholm presented the resolution:

SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION

B-7-15-3285

July 21, 2015

M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve B-7-15-3285 – Membership in the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL).

Member Johnston asked about the cost of the membership.

Upon a vote, the same – 6-0.

Member Westholm Presented the Resolution:

RESOLUTION
Authorized Bank Account Signer

RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that it hereby authorizes the following:

<u>District Building</u>	<u>Banking Institution</u>	<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Addition of Authorized Signer</u>	<u>Removal of Authorized Signer</u>
ISD709	MN Liquid Asset Fd	XXXXXX3	Diana Stratioti	Diana Conway
	MN Trust	XXXXX8	Diana Stratioti	Diana Conway
Congdon	Northshore	XXXXXXX0		Jane Gephart
Lakewood	Northshore	XXXXXXX7		Charles Liebfried
Lowell	DTCU	XXXXX4		Jerry Maki
Piedmont	DTCU	XXXXXX4		Becky Jo Gerdes

Resolution B-7-15-3286

July 21, 2015

M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution B-7-15-3286 – Authorized Bank Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved 6-0.

Member Westholm presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
Approving Revisions to the
Duluth Public Schools Endowment Fund Bylaws

RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that it hereby approves the revisions as presented to the Duluth Public Schools Endowment Fund Bylaws.

B-7-15-3287

July 21, 2015

M-Westholm, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution B-7-15-3287 – Approving Revisions to the Duluth Public Schools Endowment Fund Bylaws.

Member Johnston asked why this item isn't in our policy book. Discussion took place regarding the Endowment Fund and how it operates.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee report.

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.A., 2.A.1), and 3.A., and called for a separate vote on Items 4.A.1), 3), 5), and 6).

Upon a separate vote on items 4.A.1), 3), 5) and 6), the same were approved – unanimously.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A to make notes and ask questions regarding legal fees. Discussion took place regarding the issue.

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.A.1) Bid 1243-Laura MacArthur Hydraulic Elevator Installation to ask about the cost and timing of the item. Kerry Leider, Facilities Management Supervisor explained the project.

Member Johnston withheld Item 3.A. Policy 9115 – School Board Elections to note his concern with changing it previously and now having to change it back.

Upon a vote on the remainder of the Business Committee, the same was approved – 5-1 as follows:

Yea: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Westholm, Welty
Nay: Johnston

Other
July 2015

Member Johnston indicated that he didn't know anything about Jay Cole's presentation and would like information like this shared with the board. Superintendent Gronseth stated that there had been no formal proposal from Mr. Cole and that if he gets one he will pass the information on to board members.

Vice Chair Harala adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of July 21, 2015 at 8:45 p.m.

RESOLVED, that the Governing Board of School District Number 709, County of St. Louis, State of Minnesota delegates the control, supervision and regulation of interscholastic athletic and fine arts events (referred to in MN Statutes, Section 128C.01) to the Minnesota State High School League, and so hereby certifies to the State Commissioner of Education as provided for by Minnesota Statutes.

Denfeld High School

East High School

1. _____ Make new application for membership in the Minnesota State High School League;
School Enrollment (9-12): _____
OR;
_____ ☒ Renew its membership in the Minnesota State High School League; and,
2. Participate in the approved interschool activities sponsored by said League and its various subdivisions.
3. _____ Our school **WILL NOT** be renewing its membership in the Minnesota State High School League.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Governing Board hereby adopts the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of said League and all amendments thereto as the same as are published in the latest edition of the League's *Official Handbook*, on file at the office of the school district or as appears on the League's website, as the minimum standards governing participation in said League-sponsored activities, and that the administration and responsibility for determining student eligibility and for the supervision of such activities are assigned to the official representative identified by the Governing Board.

Signing the Resolution for Membership affirms that this Governing Board has reviewed the WHY WE PLAY training video which defines the purpose of education-based athletic and activity programs and will assist school communities in communicating a shared-common language as it relates to the value of these said programs.

Member schools must develop and publicize administrative procedures to address eligibility suspensions related to Code of Student Conduct violations for students participating in activity programs by member schools.

The above Resolution was adopted by the Governing Board of this school district and is recorded in the official minutes of said Board and hereby is certified to the State Commissioner of Education as provided for by law.

Signed: _____
Clerk/Secretary - Local Governing Board

Signed: _____
Superintendent or Head of School

Date: _____ Date: _____

District Office Address, City, Zip: ISD #709, 215 N. 1st Ave. E., Duluth, MN 55802

School Superintendent's Phone: 218-336-8752 School Superintendent's Email: William.gronseth@isd709.org

RETURN ONE COPY TO THE MSHSL NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

Retain one copy for the school files.

July 21, 2015

SCHOOL	NAME	RESTRICTION	AMOUNT
East High	Northland Special Events	Prom Decorating	785.00
East High	St. Louis County Historical Society	Sterling strings	200.00
East High	TPEC	Business Professionals of America	1,000.00
East High	Ordean Foundation	Business Professionals of America	2,000.00
East High	Bill & Connie Destination Imagination	Robotics	50.00
East High	Lisa Pomroy	Robotics	50.00
East High	Lynda & John Baker	Robotics	50.00
East High	Roberta Johnson	Robotics	100.00
East High	Salter Acquisition 2000, LLC	Sterling strings	250.00
East High	J and J Insurance and Investments, Inc.	Business Professionals of America	150.00
East High	Field and Connolly, LTD	Business Professionals of America	100.00
Denfeld	Jeanette Herubin	Art	30.00
Denfeld	Casey Vukelich	Art	30.00
Denfeld	Harley -Davidson Sport Center Inc	Robotics	200.00
Denfeld	Second Harvest Heartland	General Fund	2,833.63
Denfeld	T-Bonz Bar & Grill	Softball	300.00
Denfeld	Howard J. & Barb	General Fund/Technology	2,056.50
Homecroft	Homecroft PTA	Instructional Materials	3,500.00
Laura MacArthur	United Health Care	5th gr-K.Mulliner	200.00
Laura MacArthur	Childrens Destination	kindergarten bussing	600.00
Laura MacArthur	Target	students	491.78
Laura MacArthur	ISD 709 - grant	Reading, Science, Social Studies, Destination	3,286.00
Laura MacArthur	Autism Assoc of Northern MN	ASD classrooms - Rose & Twardowski	1,285.00
Laura MacArthur	Rotary Club #25 of Duluth	5th gr - Wolf Ridge	1,500.00
Laura MacArthur	Irving Community Association	5th gr - Wolf Ridge	1,200.00
Laura MacArthur	Autism Assoc of Northern MN	DCD class - E. Johnson	2,136.00
Laura MacArthur	McTeacher Night	general	25.00
Laura MacArthur	West Duluth American Legion Post 71	5th gr - Wolf Ridge	200.00
Laura MacArthur	General Mills - Boxtops for Education	students./general	1,584.18
Laura MacArthur	Daughters of the American Revolution	Art	500.00
Laura MacArthur	various staff members	5th gr - Wolf Ridge	110.00
Laura MacArthur	Irving Community Association	5th gr - Wolf Ridge	1,000.00
Laura MacArthur	Target	students	246.62
Laura MacArthur	Duluth Grill	5th gr - Wolf Ridge	500.00
Laura MacArthur	MN Association for Health, Physical	DAPE	500.00
Laura MacArthur	various staff members	5th gr - Wolf Ridge	100.00
Laura MacArthur	various staff & community members	5th gr - Wolf Ridge	45.00
Laura MacArthur	various staff & community members	5th gr - Wolf Ridge	63.56
Laura MacArthur	various staff & community members	Destination Imagination team	546.20
Laura MacArthur	various staff & community members	Destination Imagination team	317.31
Laura MacArthur	Autism Assoc of Northern MN	DCD class - Gordon	2,181.00
Laura MacArthur	various staff & community members	Destination Imagination team	1,257.85
Laura MacArthur	various staff & community members	Destination Imagination team	2,182.00
Laura MacArthur	various staff & community members	Destination Imagination team	93.00
Laura MacArthur	Maurices	Destination Imagination team	1,000.00
Laura MacArthur	Autism Assoc of Northern MN	SPED students - Ward & Plante	1,128.80
Laura MacArthur	MacArthur PTA	Foster Grandparent program	350.00
Laura MacArthur	various community members	Destination Imagination team	1,184.33
Laura MacArthur	Irving Community Association	Destination Imagination team	1,500.00
Laura MacArthur	various community members	Destination Imagination team	1,257.42

Laura MacArthur	various community members	Destination Imagination team	91.80
Laura MacArthur	various community members	Destination Imagination team	615.05
Laura MacArthur	MacArthur PTA	family night	200.00
Laura MacArthur	McDestination Imagination Night	Destination Imagination team	540.04
Laura MacArthur	Chipotle	Destination Imagination team	361.53
Laura MacArthur	Target	students	75.00
Laura MacArthur	Childrens Destination	1st grade bussing	600.00
Laura MacArthur	Childrens Destination	kindergarten bussing	600.00
		TOTAL	45,339.60