

Regular School Board Meeting

Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709

Agenda

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Google Meet

Duluth, MN 55802

7:00 PM

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Approval of the Agenda**
5. **School and Community Recognition**
6. **Audience**
7. **Reading Communications, Petitions, Etc.** 2
8. **Report of the Superintendent** 3
 - A. Reports from Student School Board Representatives
 - B. Schedule of Meetings and Events 21
9. **Report of Standing Committees**
 - A. Monthly Committee of the Whole (*see separate report*)
 - B. Policy Committee (*see separate report*)
 - C. HR/Finance Committee (*see separate report*)
10. **Consent Agenda**
11. **Special Resolutions and Action Items - None**
12. **Questions / Other**
13. **Adjournment**

8. Communications, Petitions, etc.

- a. Letter from Tom Johns regarding his concerns on his proposed property tax statement.

Superintendent's Update

December 15, 2020

Overview

As part of my December Superintendent's Update, I would like to focus primarily on two topics, an update on our current "Return to Learn" efforts, as well as an update on proposed next steps for strategic planning. Both are complexly intertwined and are critical to student and district success.

Return to Learn Update

2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

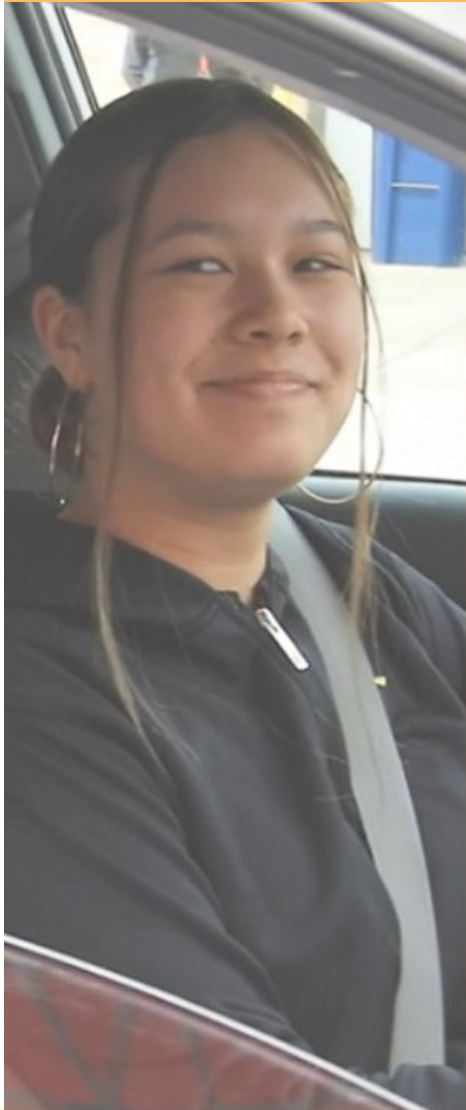


DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS
RETURN TO LEARN PLANNING

www.ISD709.org/ReturnToLearn

2020 Return to Learn

Return to Learn Update



ISD 709

Guiding Principles

FOR RE-OPENING SCHOOLS

- 1 Ensure the safety and wellness of students and staff
- 2 Deliver high-quality instruction to students, regardless of delivery model
- 3 Equity: Ensuring all means all
- 4 Optimize use of resources (space & materials)
- 5 Community and stakeholder engagement in plan development

Equity Criteria:

Access

Participation

Representation

Outcomes

ISD709.org/Equity

Current Local COVID-19 Numbers

St. Louis County Bi-Weekly Case Rate for Schools

- 9/12 - 16.14
- 9/19 - 22.47
- 9/26 - 33.37
- 10/03 - 35.2
- 10/10 - 32.7
- 10/17 - 34.2
- 10/24 - 39.8
- 10/31 - 54.3
- 11/07 - 105
- 11/14 - 153.9
- 11/21 - 169.7
- 11/28 - 154.1

Policy Option	Range (14-day case rate per 10,000 people)
In-person learning for all students	0 to less than 10
Elementary in-person, Middle/high school hybrid	10 to less than 20
Both hybrid	20 to less than 30
Elementary hybrid, Middle/high school distance	30 to less than 50
Both distance	50 or more

Current Model

Given current and projected COVID rates, we will be in distance learning at elementary and secondary levels will continue through at least the end of first semester on January 21, 2021.

Next Steps in Model Consideration

- Governor Walz Announcement - 12/16
- District Advisory Committee - 12/16
- MASA/MDE Guidance
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Family, Student and Staff Surveys

- Results are being used to target *specific* improvements for the district and schools
- 3,442 family surveys returned
- 2,614 student surveys returned
- 333 teacher surveys returned
- Additional updates in future reports

Family, Student and Staff Surveys

- [Teacher Survey](#)
- [Birth - Grade 5 Survey](#)
- [6-12 Family Survey](#)
- [6-12 Student Survey](#)

2020 Return to Learn

Engagement Efforts Update

Ongoing Engagement Efforts

Work with School and District Leaders:

- Family and student surveys were reviewed by principals and district leaders.
- Each principal is working with his/her site team to go deeper into the data and develop actionable strategies.
- District office administration will continue to review data and develop actionable strategies to increase engagement efforts.

Engagement Examples from Some Schools

[Piedmont Elementary Open House](#)

[Lakewood Elementary](#)

Synchronous Examples for Secondary Schools:

Community building: Relationships are foundational to learning and intentionally building community and a safe space to connect and learn is critical to start the year but also important to sustain the culture throughout the year.

Community check-in

Breakout groups

Share celebrations

Show and tell

Discuss current events

Whole Group Lesson: Use this time to introduce new ideas or content where you can solicit input from students and encourage interaction.

Readers/ writers workshop

Launch projects or challenges

Share a strategy

Question and Answer

Introduce a concept

Feedback + Guidance: Create intentional time to connect and provide feedback to learners and ensure that peers can review and provide feedback and guidance as well.

1:1 check in

Peer Feedback

Small Group Instruction

Goal setting

Celebration of Learning: Opportunities to make learning public and share progress is motivating and helps learners take ownership of their learning.

Exhibition

Share and reflect on learning

Student presentations

District Level Efforts

- Attendance teams created at each school to review data and make strategy recommendations
- Attendance practices were established for consistency
- Attendance Campaign-- #attendingistrending to promote checking in
- [Postcards](#) created for staff to send to students.
- Teachers received professional development to increase their virtual instructional engagement.

Strategic Planning Update

Overview

As part of my [100 Day Entry Plan](#), I discussed the formation of a study and steering team, including school and central office leaders and other stakeholders to inform next steps as we had planned to:

- Engage the district this winter in the development of a strategic plan to begin in 2021-22
- Align organizational structures and resources to strategic priorities identified within the strategic plan through the clarification of structure, roles, and responsibilities

Overview

Given the current realities with COVID-19 and the implications of this crisis, we did need to make adjustments as we prioritized student and staff safety and learning needs, as well as our desire to ensure an full and inclusive process.

Following is a draft plan for strategic planning:

[DRAFT Phases of Strategic Planning](#)

DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS ISD 709
SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

All meetings are scheduled at Historic Old Central High School, 215 N 1st Avenue East, unless otherwise noted.

Subject to change: Due to the declared health pandemic, and the declared state of emergency in the City of Duluth, and pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.021.

The December regular school board meeting will be held **REMOTELY**, WITH NO public presence. Committee meetings will continue to be held remotely at this time.

Information for the Truth In Taxation Public Hearing is posted on our website <https://www.isd709.org/district/school-board>

Public comment for the regular school board meeting on December 15, 2020 may be submitted to public.comment@isd709.org (email comments must be kept to three minutes when read aloud), or recorded by calling 218-336-8730 no later than **Monday, December 14th** by 4:00 PM.

The public is encouraged to watch Board meetings online at www.isd709.org/district/school-board and live on cable channel 187. There will NOT be a viewing room set up at HOCHS. Thank you for your understanding.

Subject to Change:

December 14-18, 2020

Tuesday	December 15, 2020	6:30 p.m.	Truth in Taxation Public Hearing Electronic Participation/Live Streamed
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Instructions on how to comment at the hearing are posted on our website :

<https://www.isd709.org/district/school-board>

Tuesday	December 15, 2020 (or to follow the Truth in Taxation Hearing)	7:00 p.m.	Regular School Board Meeting* Electronic Participation/Live Streamed
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Thursday	December 17, 2020	4:15 p.m.	Parent Advisory Committee Special Education Virtual/Remote
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December 21-25, 2020

Tuesday	December 22, 2020	5:30 p.m.	Education Equity Advisory Committee Virtual/Remote
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December 28, 2020 - January 1, 2021

No meetings scheduled at this time

January 4-8, 2021

Monday	January 4, 2021	4:30 p.m.	Annual Organizational Board Meeting Electronic Participation/Live Streamed
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Tuesday	January 5, 2021	4:30 p.m.	Monthly Committee of the Whole Electronic Participation/Live Streamed
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Tuesday	January 5, 2021	5:30 p.m.	American Indian Parent Advisory Committee HOCHS/Room 318
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Thursday	January 7, 2021	4:30 p.m.	Policy Committee Electronic Participation/Live Streamed
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January 11-15, 2021

Tuesday	January 12, 2021	4:30 p.m.	HR/Finance Committee Electronic Participation/Live Streamed
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**If a Regular School Board meeting is cancelled and cannot be held on the regularly scheduled date listed above, due to weather or unforeseen circumstances, it will be held the very next day at the same time and location.*