

Regular School Board Meeting

Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709

Agenda

Tuesday, April 22, 2014

District Services Center

709 Portia Johnson Dr.

Duluth, MN 55811

6:30 PM

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Approval of the Agenda**
5. **Reading and Approving Minutes**
 - A. Regular School Board Meeting - March 18, 2014 2
 - B. Special School Board Meeting - April 14, 2014 9
 - C. Special School Board Meeting - April 15, 2014 10
6. **School and Community Recognition**
7. **Audience**
8. **Reading Communications, Petitions, Etc.** 12
9. **Report of the Superintendent**
 - A. Schedule of Meetings and Events 13
10. **Report of Standing Committees**
 - A. Education Committee (*see separate report*)
 - B. Human Resources Committee (*see separate report*)
 - C. Business Committee (*see separate report*)
11. **Special Resolutions - No Special Resolutions**
12. **Questions / Other**
13. **Adjournment**

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, March 18, 2014

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives:

Kobi Tremble
Paul Manning

➤ Chair Miernicki called the regular school board meeting of March 18, 2014 to order at 6:31 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

There were musical performances by the East High School Sterling Strings and Choraliers. Teri Akervik, Music Specialist, spoke about the music in our schools month activities.

M-Westholm, S-Welty, to approve the agenda as presented. Member Harala requested to add three extended field trip items to the Education Committee report. Upon a vote on the agenda as amended, the same was approved – unanimously.

Chair Miernicki asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of February 25, 2014.

Member Welty suggested that the School and Community Recognition section note that Ed Crawford made the presentation.

M-Westholm, S- Harala, to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2014 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.

Chair Miernicki asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of March 4, 2014.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S- Harala, to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2014 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.

Chair Miernicki asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of March 10, 2014.

M-Westholm, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2014 Special Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – unanimously.

School and Community Recognition

March 2014

Assistant Superintendent Ed Crawford - Members of the Board, in honor of Music in Our Schools Month I'm pleased to present student musicians Alia Gribbon from Denfeld and Madeleine Monson Geerts from East High School for recognition. Alia took first place in the 2014 Duluth Superior Symphony Orchestra's Young Artist Competition. The competition is open to high school students and college students up to age 19. Alia is a three-time winner of the Youth Orchestra Hester Scholarship competition and recently took second place in the solo competition in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Madeleine won the 2014 Youth Orchestra Hester Memorial Scholarship competition. She participated with many students from throughout Minnesota, performing a beautiful and expressive interpretation of the Haydn Concerto in C Major, movement 2, as her winning solo. Congratulations to two very talented young women.

Public Comments

March 2014

Jamie Zak, of the Duluth Community Garden Program spoke to the school board to update them on the statewide gardening program to increase healthy eating in the schools.

Loren Martell, 623 East 7th Street, spoke to the school board regarding his concerns with the finances of the school district in general.

Janna Bloomquist, 23 Howard Gnesen Road, spoke to the school board regarding her concerns about the cuts to the music programs in the district.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.

March 2014

There were no communications received.

Superintendent's Report

March 2014

Superintendent Gronseth started out by thanking the sterling strings and choraliars for sharing their music with us this evening. I am always so impressed with your talents and skills! This being Music in the Schools Month, I know there have been many opportunities for families and community members to enjoy performances. There was also a choir competition held at Denfeld the other day and I understand our students did very well.

Our students have been very busy in other areas as well and their efforts have been recognized across the state and across the nation.

- Duluth hosted a world record breaking double regional Robotics Competition. Teams from as far away as Hawaii came for the event. This has become an event that gets national attention and we are very proud of both of our robotics teams. Phil Norris, the program mentor received an award as well.
- Duluth East High Hockey took their sixth consecutive trip to state this year.
- Destination Imagination – Congdon Park, Lester Park, and Ordean East are competing in the state tournament in April.
- Knowledge Bowl – two teams from East found out today that they are going onto state competition.

We know that when students are engaged in activities, they are more likely to succeed in other areas. I am proud of the many opportunities our students have to be involved in so many ways.

Education Committee Report

March 2014

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

M-Harala, S-Westholm, to approve the Education Committee Report:

Member Miernicki withheld Item 1.A.4)

Member Welty withheld Items 1.A.1), 2), and 3).

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.A.1)

Member Welty withheld Item 2.A.1) – Annual Head Start Training to note that several years ago there were changes to the transportation for the program and asked how that affected the student enrollment in the program. Superintendent Gronseth clarified that the budget for the program is separate from the general budget.

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.2) – Graduation Data to note that he had mistakenly thought the graduations rates had gone down and apologized for the error. He asked for clarification about the data presented. Tawynea Bolme Lake, Assessment Director, stated she would get back to him on the questions he had. Member Johnston noted concerns within the report and trends.

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.3) – Curriculum Alignment Implementation Plan Presentation to make comments about the item and the need to be informed about such issues. Member Johnston also expressed concern about being informed. Superintendent Gronseth reminded them that he had informed them of the issue back in December, at the last board meeting, and along the way as Laura MacArthur's plan was put in place. Discussion continued regarding frustration with the MDE citations and other school districts having similar issues, and the usefulness of the tests themselves. Chair Miernicki congratulated all those involved for the strides that they have made at Laura MacArthur.

Chair Miernicki withheld Item 1.A.4) – Closed Campus Update

M-Miernicki, S-Welty, to rescind the motion adopted at the June 18, 2013 regular board meeting “to make an amendment to the closed campus item that in the school year of 2014-15 that we begin a modified campus allowing seniors in good standing be allowed to go off campus for lunch and the rest of it would be closed”.

Board discussion took place regarding the issue and the funding that would have to be put in place.

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

Upon a vote to rescind the previous decision to have a modified closed campus, the same failed 2-5 as follows:

Yay: Miernicki, Welty

Nay: Harala, Johnston, Loeffler-Kemp, Seliga Punyko, Westholm

Member Johnston withheld Item 2.A.1) – Recommended Changes to the 2013-14 School Year to comment on the issue. Discussion took place among board members regarding the proposed calendar changes.

Upon a vote on the remainder of the Education Committee, the same was approved – unanimously.

Human Resources Committee Report

March 2014

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

M-Welty, S-Westholm, to approve the Human Resource Committee report.

Member Johnston requested that the Superintendent contract item be withheld.

Discussion took place regarding the contract, yearly evaluation, and how the contract is presented and discussed.

Upon a vote to accept the superintendents contract the same passed 6-1 as follows:

Yay: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Welty, Westholm

Abstain: Johnston

Upon a vote on the remainder of the Human Resources Committee Report, the same was approved – unanimously.

Business Committee Report
March 2014

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

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N

Adoption of the Considerations and Investments for the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, that the attached considerations and investments for the fiscal year 2015 budget as presented to the School Board, be adopted.

B-3-14-3167

March 18, 2014

FY 15 Budget Considerations & Investments
3/18/2014

| | Amount |
|--|---------------|
| DRAFT FY 15 Savings: | |
| Telephone Line Savings | \$25,000 |
| Preliminary DW Consideration Plan | \$250,000 |
| | |
| Sub-Total - Considerations | \$275,000 |
| | |
| DRAFT FY 15 Investments: | |
| Add Teachers to Reduce Class Size | \$1,450,000 |
| Additional Investment for Curriculum Materials | 150,000 |
| Additional Investment for Student Achievement | 200,000 |
| Curriculum Alignment Work (One-time) | 275,000 |
| Pension Cost Increase (DTRFA) | 85,000 |
| | |
| Sub-Total Investments | \$2,160,000 |
| | |
| NET-TOTAL DRAFT Items | (\$1,885,000) |

Informational: Items From Previous Budget Discussions

District Administration Reductions:

| | | |
|--|----|-----|
| Review Non-labor Budgets for HOCHS Departments | \$ | TBD |
|--|----|-----|

Learning Services:

| | | |
|---|-----|---------|
| Revise Intervention Plan | TBD | |
| Modify Allocation of Data Coaches | | 90,000 |
| Review Teacher Development Stipends | TBD | |
| Curriculum Modifications | TBD | |
| Special Service Modifications | TBD | |
| Review Program Expenses for: | TBD | |
| Co-Curricular/Extra-Curricular Activities | | |
| ELL | | |
| Gifted & Talented | | |
| Homeless | | |
| Business Services: | | |
| Facilities Modifications | | |
| Finance Modifications | | |
| Human Resources Modifications | | |
| Transportation Modifications | | |
| Increase Walking Distance - Elementary | | 400,000 |
| Increase Walking Distance - Middle School | | 20,000 |
| Technology: | | |
| One-time spending reduction | | 150,000 |
| Instruction: | | |
| Site Administration Reductions | TBD | |
| Reduce Special Services Expenses | TBD | |
| Reduce Middle School Staffing Allocation | | 315,000 |
| Limit HS schedule to six classes | | 90,000 |
| Reduce Zero Hour Staffing Allocation | | 180,000 |
| Review all Non-Intervention Classes < 25/1 | TBD | |
| Furniture/Labor for closed campus | | 200,000 |
| District Wide Other: | | |
| Revenues | | |
| Increase Chargeback to Food Service and Community Education | TBD | |
| Seek Contributions in Exchange for Naming Rights | TBD | |

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve Resolution B-3-14-3167 – Adoption of the Considerations and Investments for the Fiscal Year 2015 Budget.

Discussion took place regarding the proposed budget considerations.

M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to add the \$200,000 funding for the closed campus into the investment section of the budget considerations.

Discussion took place regarding the funding for the closed campus program.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – 5-2 as follows:

Yay: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Westholm

Nay: Johnston, Welty

Discussion took place regarding the budget resolution as a whole.

Upon a vote on the resolution as amended, the same passed 6-1 as follows:

Yay: Harala, Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Welty, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S- Harala, to approve the remainder of the Business Committee Report:

Member Welty withheld Item 6.C.

Member Welty withheld Item 6.C. Other Contracts to ask about the cost for the use of the church field at the Piedmont site. Kerry Leider, Facilities Management Supervisor, explained the maintenance the district does to the property.

Upon a vote on the remainder of the Business Committee, the same was approved – unanimously.

Other
March 2014

Superintendent Gronseth stated that he is grateful for being offered a new contract. He said that he is proud of our schools and that working for the Duluth Schools is a privilege.

Member Harala attended the Education Equity Advisory Committee and stated that there are many community members serving on our committees and noted that Beulia Sayers was honored for her service at the last meeting.

Student Representative Manning noted his concern with the loss of music programs and the time to take those programs in the schools.

Member Johnston noted that he abstained on the vote to rescind the closed campus item.

Member Loeffler-Kemp stated that she is proud to serve on board and that there are a lot of great things going on in our schools.

Members Seliga Punyko, Johnston, and Welty also voiced their concerns over the loss of music programs in the schools

- Chair Miernicki adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of March 18, 2014 at 9:12 p.m.

Minutes of the Special School Board Meeting

9

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

Monday, April 14, 2014

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

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

- Chair Miernicki called the special school board meeting of April 14, 2014 to order at 5:20 p.m.

Member Loeffler-Kemp presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION Executive (Closed) Session

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13D.03 subdivision 1(b) allowing a closed session for discussion and review of labor negotiation proposals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the School Board shall meet in Executive (Closed) Session on April 14, 2014 at approximately 4:30 p.m. in the Board Conference Room of Historic Old Central High School for the purpose of discussion and review of labor negotiations proposal for the Duluth Federation of Teachers Local 692.

Resolution HR-4-14-3172

April 14, 2014

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Welty, to approve Resolution HR-4-14-3172 - Executive Closed Session. Upon a vote the same passed – unanimously.

- Chair Miernicki adjourned the Special School Board meeting of April 14, 2014 at 5:22 p.m.

Minutes of the Special School Board Meeting

10

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, April 15, 2014

Members Present:

Annie Harala
Art Johnston
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Mike Miernicki
Judy Seliga Punyko
Bill Westholm

Others Present:

Bill Gronseth, Superintendent
Melinda Thibault, Secretary

Others Absent:

Bill Hanson, Deputy Clerk

Members Absent:

Harry Welty

- Chair Miernicki called the special school board meeting of April 15, 2014 to order at 4:15 p.m.

Member Harala presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION Executive (Closed) Session

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13D.05 subdivision 2(a)(3) a public body must close a meeting for discussion of private educational data.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, By the School Board of Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, that the School Board shall meet in Executive (Closed) Session on April 15, 2014 at approximately 4:15 p.m. in the Board Conference Room of Historic Old Central High School for the purpose of discussing private educational data related to a possible expulsion.

Resolution E-4-14-3170

April 15, 2014

M-Harala, S-Loeffler-Kemp, to approve Resolution E-4-15-3170 - Executive Closed Session. Upon a vote the same passed – 5-0.

Recessed at 4:17

Member Johnston arrived after the vote to go into closed session.

Reconvened at 4:23

Member Seliga Punyko presented the resolution

RESOLUTION EXPELLING A STUDENT

WHEREAS, written notice of intent to expel a student attending the Area Learning Center was served upon the student and the student's parents;

WHEREAS, the notice of intent to expel the student complied with the provisions of the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act, Minn. Stat. § 121A.47, subd. 2;

WHEREAS, the student and the student's parent waived their right to a hearing on the proposed expulsion in writing; and

WHEREAS, under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, the waiver of right to an expulsion hearing and the name of the student proposed for expulsion are private data.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS FOLLOWS:

1. The School Board hereby accepts the waiver and expels the student from the schools of Independent School District No. 709, Duluth, for one full year (12 months) from April 16, 2014 through April 16, 2015.
2. The Superintendent, or his designee, is directed to mail to the student and the student's parent a copy of this Resolution along with a letter stating that the student has been expelled and that the student has the right to reenroll in the District on April 17, 2015.
3. The Superintendent, or his designee, is directed to identify the alternative educational services that are available to the student during the period of expulsion, if the student wishes to take advantage of them.
3. The Superintendent, or his designee, is directed to make an electronic report of this expulsion to the Commissioner of the Department of Education within thirty (30) calendar days, as required by Minn. Stat. §121A.53.

E-4-14-3173

April 15, 2014

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Westholm, to approve Resolution E-4-14-3173 – Resolution Expelling a Student. Upon a vote, the same was approved 6-0.

➤ Chair Miernicki adjourned the Special School Board meeting of April 15, 2014 at 4:24 p.m.

8. Communications, Petitions, etc.

03/18/14 Letter addressed to the Duluth School Board from Alana Oswald, providing copies of communication previously shared with the board regarding a complaint she filed with the Minnesota Department of Education stating that Laura MacArthur Elementary taught a limited curriculum while working to raise reading and math test scores.

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.

April 21 – April 25, 2014

| | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|---|
| Tuesday | April 22 | 6:30 p.m. | Regular School Board Meeting (Agenda Attached) Board Room – 2 nd Floor |
| Thursday | April 24 | 5:30 p.m. | Education Equity Advisory Committee Board Room – 2 nd Floor |

April 28 – May 2, 2014

No meetings scheduled at this time.

May 5 – May 9, 2014

| | | | |
|-----------|-------|------------|---|
| Wednesday | May 7 | 11:00 a.m. | PTSA City-Wide Council Conference Room 318 |
| Thursday | May 8 | 5:00 p.m. | Education Equity Budget Subcommittee Conference Room 302 |

May 12 – May 16, 2014

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------|--|--|
| Monday | May 12 | 4:15 p.m. | Human Resources Committee Board Room – 2 nd Floor |
| Monday | May 12 | 4:30 p.m. <i>(or to follow the Human Resources Comm. Mtg)</i> | Business Committee Board Room – 2 nd Floor |
| Tuesday | May 13 | 4:15 p.m. | Education Committee Board Room – 2 nd Floor |
| <u>May 19 – May 23, 2014</u> | | | |
| Tuesday | May 20 | 6:30 p.m. | Regular School Board Meeting Board Room |
| Thursday | May 22 | 4:15 p.m. | Staff Retirement Reception Lincoln Park Middle School – 2 nd Floor Commons |
| Thursday | May 22 | 5:30 p.m. | Education Equity Advisory Committee Board Room – 2 nd Floor |

May 26 – May 30, 2014

No meetings scheduled at this time.

June 2 – June 6, 2014

| | | | |
|-----------|--------|-----------|---|
| Tuesday | June 3 | 7:00 p.m. | ALC/Unity Graduation Ceremony DECC Symphony Hall |
| Wednesday | June 4 | 7:00 p.m. | East Graduation Ceremony DECC Auditorium |
| Thursday | June 5 | 7:00 p.m. | Denfeld Graduation Ceremony Denfeld Auditorium |

June 9 – June 13, 2014

| | | | |
|----------|---------|--|---|
| Monday | June 9 | 4:15 p.m. | Human Resources Committee Board Room – 2 nd Floor |
| Monday | June 9 | 4:30 p.m. <i>(or to follow the Human Resources Comm. Mtg)</i> | Business Committee Board Room – 2 nd Floor |
| Tuesday | June 10 | 4:15 p.m. | Education Committee Board Room – 2 nd Floor |
| Thursday | June 12 | 5:00 p.m. | Education Equity Budget Subcommittee Conference Room 302 |

*Office of the Superintendent
April 17, 2014*