

## **Regular School Board Meeting**

Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709

### Agenda

Tuesday, November 18, 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 - October 21, 2014 2
6. **School and Community Recognition**
7. **Audience**
8. **Reading Communications, Petitions, Etc.** 9
9. **Report of the Superintendent**
  - A. Schedule of Meetings and Events 10
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 - None**
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, October 21, 2014

Members Present:

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

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives:

Paul Manning

Members Absent:

Judy Seliga Punyko

➤ Chair Miernicki called the regular school board meeting of October 21, 2014 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

**M-Westholm, S-Harala, to approve the agenda as presented. Upon a vote on the agenda as presented, the same was approved – 6-0.**

Chair Miernicki asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of September 16, 2014.

**M-Harala, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2014 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 6-0.**

Chair Miernicki asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of October 13, 2014.

**M-Westholm, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2014 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 6-0.**

### School and Community Recognition

October 2014

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Ed Crawford: Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present representatives from Laura MacArthur, Lincoln Park, Piedmont and Stowe schools for recognition. The Achievement Gap refers to the differences in academic performance and on-time graduation rates between groups of students. Most commonly, gaps are evident based on race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, gender and disability. The goal nationally, in Minnesota, and here in Duluth, is to raise achievement for all students, and to make greater gains more quickly for those students who

experience an achievement gap. Minnesota measures progress by Multiple Measurement Ratings and Focus Ratings. Overall, most ISD 709 schools increased their MMR, FR or both. This month, the Minnesota Department of Education recognized several Title I schools for their progress in this regard. They designated Lincoln Park, Piedmont and Stowe as Continuous Improvement Schools, and Laura MacArthur Elementary as a Reward School. It takes significant planning, collaboration, support and hard work from people inside and outside our schools to make these gains. This growth can be attributed in part to school leadership, parent and community support, structured time for teacher collaboration, ongoing review of individual student data and identifying appropriate interventions and increased funding, among other strategies. Congratulations to everyone working at these schools to support achievement for all students.

### **Public Comments**

**October 2014**

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Sue Urness, 24 West Mulberry, AFCSME Unit Chairperson, spoke to the school board regarding the para-professionals concerns with lack of staff development time and resulting loss of paid days.

Johnathan Schmidt, 5987 Jerry Road, spoke to the school board to present additional information on the G Team Competition Snowboarding Team item, on the Education Committee report for a provider request.

Peg Oman, 4016 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, spoke to the school board regarding her concern with the loss of a staff development day and subsequent loss of pay for that day for para-professionals.

Abby Benser, 924 North 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue East, spoke to the school board asking them to support the provider request for the snowboarding team.

Lynn Knehnou, 312 North 60<sup>th</sup>, spoke to the school board to voice her support for the staff at Laura MacArthur and described how much they have helped her son, who is a student there.

### **Communications, Petitions, Etc.**

**October 2014**

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Chair Miernicki acknowledged the communications received.

### **Superintendent's Report**

**October 2014**

Superintendent Gronseth - We have some great opportunities coming up for the community to learn more about the Duluth Schools: October 30, from 6-9 @ Clyde Iron Works is the kick-off for the Mayor's initiative on Bullying. There will be a viewing of the movie "Bully" followed by discussions regarding how best to prevent and respond to bullying. This event will be followed by three additional meetings that we have scheduled throughout the community. These meetings will also be around the topic of preventing and responding to bullying. We will be using the input as we further develop the district policies and procedures regarding bullying behaviors. November 6<sup>th</sup> at Lincoln we have the Annual Meeting. From 6-6:30 people will be able to view student displays, hear from our music groups, and learn more about our district. Then at 6:30 I will make

a presentation and share a video update of progress we are making on the District-wide Continuous Improvement Plan. The presentation will be followed by refreshments from our culinary students and more time to view the displays. In addition to these meetings, there are many opportunities to be involved in the Duluth Schools. People can contact their local school to learn more about volunteer opportunities. We encourage people to become involved. Also, I have become involved in an effort to raise awareness and funds for Operation Warm, in conjunction with Duluth Firefighters Local 101, and I will shave my beard if enough money is raised in my name for Operation Warm.

**Education Committee Report**  
**October 2014**

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

Member Westholm 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	Northland Foundation	Dr. Michael Cary	Youth Success Team Grant	\$60,000 (\$30,000 per year for two years)	Funds from this grant award will be used to support the cash matches for AmeriCorps Programs.
2	School Breakfast Initiative – Children's Defense Fund – Minnesota and Hunger-Free Minnesota	Tonya Sconiers, Jerry Maki, and Becky Evers-Gerdes	2104-15 School Breakfast Challenge	\$2,500 initially with a maximum of \$6,250	This initiative was launched as an incentive for participating schools to increase participation in the School Breakfast Programs among low-income Minnesota students. Funds from this grant award are unrestricted and can be used at the discretion of the grant recipients.

**M-Harala, S-Welty, to approve Resolution E-10-14-3209 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

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

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.1)  
Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.2)

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.1) – 2013-14 Multiple Measurement System (MMR) Results to note that the tests have changed so much over the years that it is difficult to measure progress without that continuity. Member Johnston noted his concerns with the report, and asked for additional information. Discussion continued regarding his data request.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.2), Collaborative Efforts Regarding Bullying to comment about a situation with his significant other. Member Loeffler-Kemp made a point of order to keep conversations to items on the agenda. Member Johnston continued with his comments on the bullying item. Member Harala reminded the public of an upcoming presentation regarding bullying.

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

**Human Resources Committee Report**

**October 2014**

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

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

Member Welty withheld Item 3.B.  
Member Harala withheld 3.B.  
Member Johnston withheld Item 3.A.

Member Welty withheld Item 3.B. – Superintendent review process to ask about the process and timeline, and asked for more information on what is released to the public. Member Harala noted that the superintendent also receives feedback from other methods. Member Johnston noted his issues with the review instrument, and items he would like to see added to it. Discussion continued regarding Member Johnston’s suggested additions.

Member Johnston withheld Item 3.A. Report on “NORMS” to make comments on some of the items within the report.

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

**Business Committee Report**  
**October 2014**

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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:

**RESOLUTION**  
**Authorized Student Activity 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>
Headstart	DTCU	XXXXX0	Jennifer Jaros	Barbara Farrell

B-10-14-3206

October 21, 2014

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Harala, to approve Resolution B-10-14-3206 – Authorized Student Activity Bank Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

Member Loeffler-Kemp 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.

<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>RESTRICTION</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
East High	Maurices	None	1,000.00
East High	Debora Rachell Inc.	Art Dept.	353.50
East High	Fitz Photo	Exec. Board	75.00
East High	Ascential Wealth Advisors	Exec. Board	100.00
East High	Center for Muscle/Joint Therapy	Exec. Board	100.00
East High	Carlson Orthodontics	Exec. Board	50.00
East High	Roy Marlow	Exec. Board	500.00

East High	World Block	Exec. Board	100.00
East High	Joseph Peterson/Elizabeth Metzen	Art Dept.	55.00
East High	RBC Foundation	Athletics	250.00
Lester Park	Nathanael Elling	Lester Park School Forest	50.00
Lester Park	Lori Amundson	Lester Park School Forest	35.00
Lester Park	Dave Blustin	Lester Park School Forest	50.00
Lester Park	Michael Baasch	Lester Park School Forest	25.00
Lester Park	Jason Thackeray	Lester Park School Forest	100.00
Lester Park	S.E. Stevens	Lester Park School Forest	25.00
Lester Park	Bernard Lovely	Lester Park School Forest	50.00
Lester Park	Erika Running	Lester Park School Forest	50.00
Lester Park	Beth Waksdahl	Lester Park School Forest	25.00
Denfeld High	Irving Community Association	Cheer Team	400.00
		Athletics/In Memory of Elgin	
Denfeld High	Mary Anderson	Anderson	25.00
Denfeld High	Irving Community Assn	Robotics Program	800.00
Denfeld High	Matthew Rannila	Skills USA Club	275.00
		TOTAL	\$6,993.50

Resolution B-10-14-3207

October 21, 2014

**M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Westholm, to approve Resolution B-10-14-3207 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.**

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

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.A., 1.F., 3., and 4.B.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A. – Payment of Claims to ask questions regarding specific items on the Payment of Claims.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. – WADM to note specifics within the report and note his concerns regarding student numbers, and loss of students in the past.

Member Johnston withheld Item 3. - Policies and Regulations. Member Johnston attempted to make a motion to make changes to a policy. Chair Miernicki ruled it out of order because it was not on the agenda. Discussion continued regarding the motion.

**M-Johnston, S-Welty, to appeal the decision of the chair to rule the motion out of order.**

Discussion continued regarding the motion and the appeal of the Chairs decision. Member Welty withdrew his second of the appeal.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B.1) Change Orders at Congdon Park Elementary School to ask that the money be used to pay for repairs other than levying for it.

**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**  
**October 2014**  
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Member Welty asked to discuss and review the teachers' contract. Chair Miernicki stated it would be added to the Human Resources committee report in November.

Member Johnston noted his concern with Tim Sworsky, Human Resources Director, questioning his marital status and asked for a public apology.

Chair Miernicki stated that the walk to school event at Lincoln was a great success and that he really enjoyed it.

➤ Chair Miernicki adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of October 21, 2014 at 8:31 p.m.

8. Communications, Petitions, etc.

*No communications received at this time.*

DULUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS, ISD 709  
SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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

**November 17 – November 21, 2014**

Tuesday	November 18	5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Tenured Teacher <i>Reception/Social</i> Tenured Teacher <i>Recognition Ceremony</i> Board Room – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
Tuesday	November 18	6:30 p.m.	Regular School Board Meeting ( <i>Agenda Attached</i> ) Board Room – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
Thursday	November 20	4:15 p.m.	Parent Advisory Committee on Special Education (PACSE) Conference Room 203C
Thursday	November 20	5:30 p.m.	Education Equity Advisory Committee Board Room – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor

**November 24 – November 28, 2014**

*No meetings scheduled at this time.*

**December 1 – December 5, 2014**

*No meetings scheduled at this time.*

**December 8 – December 12, 2014**

Monday	December 8	4:15 p.m.	Human Resources Committee Board Room – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
Monday	December 8	4:30 p.m. ( <i>or to follow the Human Resources Comm. Mtg</i> )	Business Committee Board Room – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
Wednesday	December 9	4:15 p.m.	Education Committee Board Room – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor

**December 15 – December 19, 2014**

Tuesday	December 16	6:30 p.m.	Regular School Board Meeting • <i>Includes Truth in Taxation Hearing</i>
Thursday	December 18	5:30 p.m.	Education Equity Advisory Committee Board Room – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor

**December 22 – December 26, 2014***No meetings scheduled at this time.***December 29, 2014 – January 2, 2015***No meetings scheduled at this time.***January 5 – January 9, 2015**

Monday	January 5	6:30 p.m.	Annual Organizational Meeting Board Room – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor
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*Office of the Superintendent  
November 13, 2014*