

Regular School Board Meeting

Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709

Agenda

Tuesday, November 19, 2013

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 15, 2013 2
 - B. Special School Board Meeting - November 13, 2013 7
6. **School and Community Recognition**
7. **Audience**
8. **Reading Communications, Petitions, Etc.** **15**
9. **Report of the Superintendent**
 - A. Schedule of Meetings and Events 16
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, October 15, 2013

Members Present:

Mary Cameron
Art Johnston
Tom Kasper
Mike Miernicki
Ann Wasson
Bill Westholm

Others Present:

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

Student Representatives:

Erik Thibault
Katlyn Persch

Members Absent:

Judy Seliga Punyko

➤ Chair Kasper called the regular school board meeting of October 15, 2013 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

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

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of September 24, 2013.

M-Westholm, S-Wasson, to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2013 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as corrected – 6-0.

Chair Kasper asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Special School Board Meeting of October 7, 2013.

M-Westholm, S-Wasson, to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2013 Special School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 6-0.

School and Community Recognition October 2013

The school board acknowledged/congratulated several individuals who played a key role in organizing Piedmont Elementary's recent Set Your Student Up for Success event. Those recognized include Becky Gerdes, Principal; Tim Doyle, Piedmont PTA President; Deb Montgomery, Community Liaison; Jenna Gust, KEY ZONE; Greg Jackson, Building Engineer; Jean Engebretson, WITC Cosmetology Instructor; Fae Shunk, Monitor and Office Assistant and Justin Chumick. The evening was created to work toward proactively raising the academic and behavioral standards for students in the Piedmont and Lincoln Park communities. It also focused on the many community organizations available to provide for good health, positive well-being and increased academic success.

Public Comments
October 2013

Loren Martell, 623 East 7th Street, spoke to the board regarding the tax impact of the levies and how the money will be used.

Marcia Stromgren, No address provided, spoke to the board regarding bullying issues in the district and the retirement funding.

Annie Harala, 1129 North 7th Avenue East, spoke to the board to state that she took part in the walk to school event at Lincoln Park and encouraged the board to continue those types of positive events within the district.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.
October 2013

Superintendent Gronseth stated that no communications had been received.

Superintendent's Report
October 2013

Superintendent Gronseth spoke regarding the recent death of an East High School student stating that death of a young person is never easy and it's even more difficult when they take their own life. It can be difficult to understand and there are often many variables involved. He thanked the Duluth Police Department, the faculty of East High School and members of the community who helped support the family, staff and students through this difficult time.

Events held this past month included the National Walk to School Day events held at Congdon, East, and Lincoln Park Middle School. I walked to school with Lincoln students, joined by our mayor, Don Ness—it was a fun event and the staff and students seemed to enjoy the walk.

He encouraged everyone to learn more about the levy questions that will be on the November ballot and stated that you can visit our website for more information.

Education Committee Report
October 2013

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

Member Cameron 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	Minnesota State Colleges & Universities/US Department of Education	Jim Arndt	Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Allocation	\$466,896.77 (\$154,638.56 for Secondary Schools/\$312,258.21 for Post-Secondary Schools)	Funds from this award will be used to support Career and Technical Programs and courses.

E-10-13-3136

October 15, 2013

M-Cameron, S-Wasson, to approve the Resolution E-10-13-3136 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

M-Cameron, S-Westholm, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.1)

Member Johnston withheld item 1.A.1) – 2013 MMR Results to congratulate Laura MacArthur for the great improvements they made and his concerns with other areas of the results. Discussion took place regarding the results.

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

Human Resources Committee Report

October 2013

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

M-Westholm, S-Wasson, to approve the Human Resource Committee report. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

Business Committee Report
October 2013

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

Member Wasson presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N
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>
Merritt Creek	DTCU	XXXX0	Kathryn Sislo	
Woodland Hills	DTCU	XXXX1	Kathryn Sislo	
East High	Northshore Northshore DTCU	XXXXXX2 XXXXXX9 XXXX6		Sandra Gustafson
Headstart	DTCU	XXXX0	Barbara Farrell Sharie Blevins	Deborah Youngblom

B-10-13-3138

October 15, 2013

M-Wasson, S-Westholm, to approve Resolution B-10-13-3138 –Authorized Student Activity Bank Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

M-Wasson, S-Westholm, to approve the Business Committee Report withholding the resolutions:

Member Johnston withheld 1.F. for discussion, 1.G. & H. 2.A.1), 2), & 3) for a separate vote, and 4.B. for discussion.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.F. – WADM Projections to note his concern with the enrollment projections.

Upon a separate vote on 1.G. Fund Raisers, the same was approved – 6-0.

Upon a separate vote on Item 1.H. Investments in School Children, the same was approved – 6-0.

Upon a separate vote on Item 4.A. Contracts, the same was approved – 6-0.

Member Johnston withheld Item 4.B. Change Orders to note his concern with them.

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

Yea: Kasper, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Wasson, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Other
October 2013

➤ Chair Kasper adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of October 15, 2013 at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes of the Special 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

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Members Present:

Art Johnston
Tom Kasper
Judy Seliga Punyko
Bill Westholm

Others Present:

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

Members Absent:

Mary Cameron
Mike Miernicki
Ann Wasson

- Chair Kasper called the special school board meeting of November 13, 2013 to order at 5:09 p.m.

Member Seliga Punyko presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Canvassing Returns of Votes of School District General Election of November 5, 2013

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District 709, as follows:

1. It is hereby found, determined and declared that the General election of the voters of this district, held on November 5, 2013, was in all respects duly and legally called and held.

2. At Large:

As specified in the attached Abstract and Return of Votes Cast, a total of 19,442 voters of the district voted at said election on the election of nominees for election as school board member for two four year term vacancies on the school board caused by expiration of terms on January 6, 2014 next following the general election as follows:

Henry Banks	<u>4,753</u>
Annie Harala	<u>11,064</u>
Nancy Nilsen	<u>6,966</u>
Harry Welty	<u>7,648</u>

3. Candidates Annie Harala and Harry Welty having received the highest number of votes, are elected to a four-year term for the two At Large school board seats beginning January 6, 2014.

4. District One:

As specified in the attached Abstract and Return of Votes Cast, a total of 6,647 voters of the district voted at said election on the election of nominees for election as school board member for one four year term vacancy on the school board caused by expiration of term on January 6, 2014 next following the general election as follows:

Rosie Loeffler-Kemp	<u>3,317</u>
Joseph Matthes	<u>2,563</u>

5. Candidate Rosie Loeffler-Kemp having received the highest number of votes, is elected to a four-year term for the First District school board seat beginning January 6, 2014.

6. District Four:

As specified in the attached Abstract and Return of Votes Cast, a total of 3,608 voters of the district voted at said election on the election of nominees for election as school board member for one four year term vacancy on the school board caused by expiration of term on January 6, 2014 next following the general election as follows:

David Bolgrien	<u>1,518</u>
Art Johnston	<u>1,796</u>

7. Candidate Art Johnston having received the highest number of votes, is elected to a four-year term for the Fourth District school board seat beginning January 6, 2014.

8. The School District Clerk is hereby authorized to certify the results of the election to the County Auditor of each County in which the School District is located in whole or in part.

Resolution B-11-13-3140

November 13, 2013

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Westholm, to approve Resolution B-11-13-3140 – Canvassing Returns of Votes of School District General Election of November 5, 2013. Upon a vote, the same was approved 4-0.

**ABSTRACT AND RETURN OF VOTES CAST
FOR GENERAL ELECTION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 709 (DULUTH)
STATE OF MINNESOTA
ABSTRACT AND RETURN OF VOTES CAST
GENERAL ELECTION, DISTRICT NO. ONE
November 5, 2013**

.....	
A. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS REGISTERED: AT 7:00 O'CLOCK A. M.	<u>16,281</u>
B. TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW REGISTRATIONS ON ELECTION DAY:	<u>189</u>
C. TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGNATURES ON THE POLLING PLACE ROSTER	<u>*</u>
D. TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCEPTED REGULAR, MILITARY AND OVERSEAS ABSENTEE BALLOTS	<u>*</u>
E. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS VOTING IN THE GENERAL ELECTION (add C plus D equals E):	<u>6,647</u>

F. TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETELY BLANK BALLOTS IN THE BALLOT BOX	<u>*</u>
G. TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETELY DEFECTIVE BALLOTS IN THE BALLOT BOX:	<u>*</u>

H. TOTAL NUMBER OF SPOILED BALLOTS IN THE SPOILED BALLOT ENVELOPE	<u>*</u>
I. TOTAL NUMBER OF UNUSED BALLOTS RETURNED TO THE CLERK	<u>*</u>

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
DISTRICT NO. ONE**

CANDIDATE Rosie Loeffler-Kemp	<u>3,317</u>
CANDIDATE Joseph Matthes	<u>2,563</u>
Total number of Write In votes for this office:	<u>*</u>
Total number of ballots defective for this office: (Overvotes)	<u>*</u>
Total number of ballots blank for this office: (Overvotes)	<u>*</u>
TOTAL BALLOTS COUNTED FOR THIS OFFICE:	<u>5,880</u>

*City Clerk's System does not generate blank or defective ballot information, which could be used for this abstract.

**ABSTRACT AND RETURN OF VOTES CAST
FOR GENERAL ELECTION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 709 (DULUTH)
STATE OF MINNESOTA
ABSTRACT AND RETURN OF VOTES CAST
GENERAL ELECTION, DISTRICT NO. FOUR
November 5, 2013**

.....	
A. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS REGISTERED: AT 7:00 O'CLOCK A. M.	<u>12,036</u>
B. TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW REGISTRATIONS ON ELECTION DAY:	<u>109</u>
C. TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGNATURES ON THE POLLING PLACE ROSTER	<u>*</u>
D. TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCEPTED REGULAR, MILITARY AND OVERSEAS ABSENTEE BALLOTS	<u>*</u>
E. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS VOTING IN THE GENERAL ELECTION (add C plus D equals E):	<u>3,608</u>

F. TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETELY BLANK BALLOTS IN THE BALLOT BOX	<u>*</u>
G. TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETELY DEFECTIVE BALLOTS IN THE BALLOT BOX:	<u>*</u>

H. TOTAL NUMBER OF SPOILED BALLOTS IN THE SPOILED BALLOT ENVELOPE	<u>*</u>
I. TOTAL NUMBER OF UNUSED BALLOTS RETURNED TO THE CLERK	<u>*</u>

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
DISTRICT NO. FOUR**

CANDIDATE David Bolgrien	<u>1,518</u>
CANDIDATE Art Johnston	<u>1,796</u>
Total number of Write In votes for this office:	<u>*</u>
Total number of ballots defective for this office: (Overvotes)	<u>*</u>
Total number of ballots blank for this office: (Overvotes)	<u>*</u>
TOTAL BALLOTS COUNTED FOR THIS OFFICE:	<u>3,314</u>

*City Clerk's System does not generate blank or defective ballot information, which could be used for this abstract.

Member Seliga Punyko presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Canvassing Returns of Votes of School District Special Election of November 5, 2013

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District 709, as follows:

1. It is hereby found, determined and declared that the special election of the voters of this district, held on November 5, 2013, was in all respects duly and legally called and held.
2. As specified in the attached Abstract and Return of Votes Cast, a total of 19,442 voters of the district voted at said election on Question One (1) to renew its existing referendum revenue by seeking authorization of \$595.78 per pupil of which 12,696 voted in favor, 6,662 voted against the same.
3. As specified in the attached Abstract and Return of Votes Cast, a total of 19,442 voters of the district voted at said election on Question Two (2) of Increasing the General Education Revenue of the School District by an additional \$200.00 per pupil of which 9,796 voted in favor, 9,485 voted against the same.
4. Said proposition One (1), having received the approval of at least a majority of such votes, is hereby declared to have passed.
5. Said proposition Two (2), having received the approval of at least a majority of such votes, is hereby declared to have passed.
6. The School District Clerk is hereby authorized to certify the results of the election to the County Auditor of each County in which the School District is located in whole or in part.

Resolution B-11-13-3141

November 13, 2013

M-Seliga Punyko, S-Johnston, to approve Resolution B-11-13-3140 – Canvassing Returns of Votes of School District General Election of November 5, 2013. Upon a vote, the same was approved 4-0.

**ABSTRACT AND RETURN OF VOTES CAST
FOR SPECIAL ELECTION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 709 (DULUTH)
STATE OF MINNESOTA
ABSTRACT AND RETURN OF VOTES CAST
SPECIAL ELECTION QUESTION ONE (1)
November 5, 2013**

A. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS REGISTERED:
AT 7:00 O'CLOCK A. M. 57,521

B. TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW REGISTRATIONS ON ELECTION DAY: 645

C. TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGNATURES ON THE POLLING PLACE ROSTER *

D. TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCEPTED REGULAR, MILITARY AND OVERSEAS
ABSENTEE BALLOTS *

E. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS VOTING IN THE ELECTION 19,442
(add C plus D equals E):

F. TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETELY BLANK BALLOTS IN THE BALLOT
BOX *

G. TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETELY DEFECTIVE BALLOTS IN THE
BALLOT BOX: *

H. TOTAL NUMBER OF SPOILED BALLOTS IN THE SPOILED BALLOT
ENVELOPE *

I. TOTAL NUMBER OF UNUSED BALLOTS RETURNED TO THE CLERK *

**SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION ONE (1) - PROPOSITION OF EXCESS LEVY
REFERENDUM – TO RENEW ITS EXISTING REFERENDUM REVENUE BY SEEKING
AUTHORIZATION OF \$595.78 PER PUPIL**

YES 12,696

NO 6,662

Completely Blank Ballots *

Completely Defective Ballots *

TOTAL BALLOTS COUNTED FOR THIS QUESTION: 19,358

*City Clerk's System does not generate blank or defective ballot information, which could be used for this abstract.

**ABSTRACT AND RETURN OF VOTES CAST
FOR SPECIAL ELECTION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 709 (DULUTH)
STATE OF MINNESOTA
ABSTRACT AND RETURN OF VOTES CAST
SPECIAL ELECTION QUESTION TWO (2)
November 5, 2013**

A. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS REGISTERED:
AT 7:00 O'CLOCK A. M. 57,521

B. TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW REGISTRATIONS ON ELECTION DAY: 645

C. TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGNATURES ON THE POLLING PLACE ROSTER *

D. TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCEPTED REGULAR, MILITARY AND OVERSEAS
ABSENTEE BALLOTS *

E. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS VOTING IN THE ELECTION 19,442
(add C plus D equals E):

F. TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETELY BLANK BALLOTS IN THE BALLOT
BOX *

G. TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETELY DEFECTIVE BALLOTS IN THE
BALLOT BOX: *

H. TOTAL NUMBER OF SPOILED BALLOTS IN THE SPOILED BALLOT
ENVELOPE *

I. TOTAL NUMBER OF UNUSED BALLOTS RETURNED TO THE CLERK *

**SCHOOL DISTRICT BALLOT QUESTION TWO (2) - PROPOSITION OF EXCESS
LEVY REFERENDUM – INCREASING GENERAL EDUCATION REVENUE BY AN
ADDITIONAL \$200.00 PER PUPIL**

YES 9,796

NO 9,485

Completely Blank Ballots *

Completely Defective Ballots *

TOTAL BALLOTS COUNTED FOR THIS QUESTION: 19,281

*City Clerk's System does not generate blank or defective ballot information, which could be used for this abstract.

➤ Chair Kasper adjourned the Special School Board meeting of November 13, 2013 at 5:11 p.m.

8. Communications, Petitions, etc.

- 10/13/13 Letter addressed to Superintendent Gronseth and All School Board Members from Barbara Walcome, expressing her concerns that the District is not doing enough to prevent bullying. Ms. Walcome encourages the District to develop a more effective anti-bullying program.
- 11/05/13 Letter addressed to Duluth School Superintendent and Board Members from Anne Fleischman, writing on behalf of a neighborhood group interested in learning how they can be of assistance in reducing and eradicating bullying in the schools.

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.

November 18 – November 22, 2013

Tuesday	November 19	4:45 p.m.	Special School Board Meeting (<i>Agenda Attached</i>) Adjourn to Executive (Closed) Session Re: (A) Discussion of Contract Parameters for Pending Labor Negotiations with All Impacted Bargaining Units (B) Preliminary Consideration of Charges / Allegations Against and Employee
Tuesday	November 19	5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Tenured Teacher <i>Reception/Social</i> Tenured Teacher <i>Recognition Ceremony</i> Board Room
Tuesday	November 19	6:30 p.m.	Regular School Board Meeting (<i>Agenda Attached</i>) Board Room
Thursday	November 21	5:30 p.m.	Education Equity Advisory Committee Board Room

November 25 – November 29, 2013

No meetings scheduled at this time.

December 2 – December 6, 2013

Tuesday	December 3	6:00 p.m.	PTSA City-Wide Council Room 318
Thursday	December 5	5:00 p.m.	Education Equity Budget Subcommittee Room 302

December 9 – December 13, 2013

Monday	December 9	4:15 p.m.	Human Resources Committee Board Room
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Monday	December 9	4:30 p.m. <i>(or to follow the Human Resources Comm. Mtg)</i>	Business Services Committee Board Room
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Tuesday	December 10	4:15 p.m.	Education Committee Board Room
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Thursday	December 12	4:15 p.m.	Parent Advisory Council on Special Education Room 203C
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December 16 – December 20, 2013

Tuesday	December 17	6:30 p.m.	Regular School Board Meeting • <i>Includes Truth in Taxation Hearing</i> Board Room
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Thursday	December 19	5:30 p.m.	Education Equity Advisory Committee Board Room
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December 23 – December 27, 2013*No meetings scheduled at this time.***December 30, 2013 – January 3, 2014***No meetings scheduled at this time.***January 6 – January 10, 2014**

Monday	January 6	6:30 p.m.	Annual Organizational Meeting Board Room
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Wednesday	January 8	11:00 a.m.	PTSA City-Wide Council Room 318
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Thursday	January 9	5:00 p.m.	Education Equity Budget Subcommittee Room 302
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*Office of the Superintendent
November 15, 2013*