

Regular School Board Meeting

Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709

Agenda

Tuesday, October 20, 2015

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. Special School Board Meeting - September 17, 2015 2
 - B. Regular School Board Meeting - September 22, 2015 7
 - C. Special School Board Meeting / Executive (Closed) Session - October 12, 2015 13
6. **School and Community Recognition**
7. **Audience**
8. **Reading Communications, Petitions, Etc.** 14
9. **Report of the Superintendent**
 - A. Reports from Student School Board Representatives
 - B. Schedule of Meetings and Events 15
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 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

Thursday, September 17, 2015

Members Present:

Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Mike Miernicki
Judy Seliga Punyko
Bill Westholm
Harry Welty

Others Present:

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

Members Absent:

Annie Harala
Art Johnston

- Chair Seliga Punyko called the special school board meeting of September 17, 2015 to order at 12:30 p.m.

Member Miernicki presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION

Canvassing Returns of Votes of School District Primary Election of September 15, 2015

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

1. It is hereby found, determined and declared that the primary election of the voters of this district, held on September 15, 2015, 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 8,264 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 4, 2016 next following the general election as follows:

Alanna Oswald	<u>2,437</u>
Jim H. Unden	<u>1,708</u>
Renee K. Van Nett	<u>3,351</u>
3. Candidates Oswald and Van Nett, having received the highest number of votes, are nominees for the At-Large school board seat and their names shall be placed on the school district general election ballot.

4. District Two:

As specified in the attached Abstract and Return of Votes Cast, a total of 1,945 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 4, 2016 next following the general election as follows:

Jane Hammerstrom Hoffman	<u>275</u>
David Kirby	<u>1,044</u>
Charles Obije	<u>461</u>

5. Candidates Kirby and Obije having received the highest number of votes, are nominees for the District Two school board seat and their names shall be placed on the school district general election ballot.
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.
7. The clerk is authorized and directed to acquire and distribute such election materials and to take such other actions as may be necessary for the proper conduct of said general November 2015 election (including District Three Candidates Martell and Sandstad, which did not have a primary election) and generally to cooperate with election authorities conducting other elections on that date. The clerk is further authorized and directed to cooperate with the proper city officials to cause ballots to be prepared for use at said general elections.

**ABSTRACT AND RETURN OF VOTES CAST
 FOR PRIMARY ELECTION
 INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 709 (DULUTH)
 STATE OF MINNESOTA
 ABSTRACT AND RETURN OF VOTES CAST
 PRIMARY ELECTION, DISTRICT NO. AT LARGE
 September 15, 2015**

.....	
A. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS REGISTERED: AT 7:00 O'CLOCK A. M.	<u>53,040</u>
B. TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW REGISTRATIONS ON ELECTION DAY:	<u>238</u>
.....	
C. TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGNATURES ON THE POLLING PLACE ROSTER	<u>8,264</u>
D. TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCEPTED REGULAR, MILITARY AND OVERSEAS ABSENTEE BALLOTS	<u>*</u>
E. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS VOTING IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION (add C plus D equals E):	<u>8,264</u>

F. TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETELY BLANK BALLOTS IN THE BALLOT BOX	<u>*</u>
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G. TOTAL NUMBER OF COMPLETELY DEFECTIVE BALLOTS IN THE BALLOT BOX:	<u>*</u>
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H. TOTAL NUMBER OF SPOILED BALLOTS IN THE SPOILED BALLOT ENVELOPE	<u>*</u>
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I. TOTAL NUMBER OF UNUSED BALLOTS RETURNED TO THE CLERK	<u>*</u>
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**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER
 DISTRICT NO. AT LARGE**

CANDIDATE Alanna Oswald	<u>2,437</u>
CANDIDATE Jim H. Uden	<u>1,708</u>
CANDIDATE Renee K. Van Nett	<u>3,351</u>

Total number of Write In votes for this office:	<u>*</u>
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Total number of ballots defective for this office: (Overvotes)	<u>*</u>
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Total number of ballots blank for this office: (Overvotes)	<u>*</u>
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TOTAL BALLOTS COUNTED FOR THIS OFFICE:	<u>7,496</u>
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*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 PRIMARY ELECTION
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 709 (DULUTH)
STATE OF MINNESOTA
ABSTRACT AND RETURN OF VOTES CAST
PRIMARY ELECTION, DISTRICT NO. TWO
September 15, 2015**

.....	
A. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS REGISTERED: AT 7:00 O'CLOCK A. M.	<u>12,227</u>
B. TOTAL NUMBER OF NEW REGISTRATIONS ON ELECTION DAY:	<u>61</u>
.....	
C. TOTAL NUMBER OF SIGNATURES ON THE POLLING PLACE ROSTER	<u>1,945</u>
D. TOTAL NUMBER OF ACCEPTED REGULAR, MILITARY AND OVERSEAS ABSENTEE BALLOTS	<u>*</u>
E. TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS VOTING IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION (add C plus D equals E):	<u>1,945</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. TWO**

CANDIDATE Jane Hammerstrom Hoffman	<u>275</u>
CANDIDATE David Kirby	<u>1,044</u>
CANDIDATE Charles Obije	<u>461</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>1,780</u>

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

M-Miernicki, S-Welty, to approve Resolution B-9-15-3302 - Canvassing Returns of Votes of School District Primary Election of September 15, 2015 Upon a vote the same passed – 5-0.

- Chair Seliga Punyko adjourned the Special School Board meeting of September 17, 2015 at 12:35 p.m.

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, September 22, 2015

Members Present:

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:

Jude Goossens

Members Absent:

Annie Harala

Others Absent:

Thomas Olafson

➤ Chair Seliga Punyko called the regular school board meeting of September 22, 2015 to order at 6:30 p.m., and the pledge of allegiance to the American flag was given.

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

Chair Seliga Punyko asked school board members if there were any corrections or changes to the minutes of the Regular School Board Meeting of August 18, 2015.

M-Miernicki, S-Welty, to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2015 Regular School Board Meeting as presented. Upon a vote, the same was approved as presented – 6-0.

School and Community Recognition **September 2015**

Amy Starzecki: Members of the Board, this month I'm pleased to present representatives from the Denfeld Link Crew and the Duluth East Hound Pack for recognition. With us tonight from Denfeld are (TBA) and from Duluth East - Kristin Warmanen, Becca Moen, Anna Karas and Jack Miles. We know the transition from middle school to high school is a critical time for students. One way to help make that transition a smooth one is through the work of groups like the Denfeld Link Crew and Duluth East Hound Pack. These student leaders are trained to support incoming ninth grade students and ensure they get off to a good start in high school. They help orient ninth graders to the school, inform them of activities and opportunities, make introductions and assist in many different ways, making them feel at home. They help build a feeling of connectedness, serving as role models and mentors and important information resources. The work of our Link Crew and Hound Pack students contributes greatly to the success and well-being of our newest high schoolers. Many thanks to these outstanding student leaders and advisers for helping our incoming ninth graders experience a positive and productive start to the school year.

Public Comments
September 2015

Member Loeffler-Kemp read the community vision statement.

Aaron Crowell, 5802 Glenwood Street, spoke to the board on behalf of Duluth Parents for Healthy Playgrounds requesting that tire mulch be removed from the playgrounds in the District.

Marcia Stromgren, no address provided, spoke to the school board regarding her concerns with the costs associated with a collaborative area being constructed on the third floor of HOCHS.

Communications, Petitions, Etc.
September 2015

Superintendent Gronseth recognized the communications received.

Superintendent's Report
September 2015

We often talk about the importance of partnerships and community support for our schools. We're fortunate to live and work in a community where the education of children is an important priority. --Today Maurice's held their "Best Day Ever" event. Employees from Maurices travelled all over the city, giving back to the community -- and that included visiting schools and providing supplies. I know our schools are very appreciative of this program.

--This month second grade students at Myers-Wilkins Elementary received a great surprise - free Duluth Pack backpacks, courtesy of a generous and anonymous donor. The backpacks are built to last a lifetime - I'd love to see pictures of these students years from now, using those backpacks as they start their first day at college.

--The Minnesota Supreme Court will soon be visiting Duluth. They will be at Denfeld where students from all over the region will be able to hear live oral arguments from a real court case. There is an opportunity for the community to spend some time with the Supreme Court Judges as well

-- UMD will be serving as host for a community dinner. Tickets are available for purchase on the UMD website for \$15.

--You may remember hearing about our partnership with a school in Dalian, China-- on this coming Monday, students from Dalian will be arriving. They will be attending school and living with host families for about three weeks. We are looking forward to their visit! We are also beginning to plan for our students trip to Dalian next Spring. In addition to the visiting Chinese students, we are also hosting students from Germany! Programs like these provide our students with a global perspective. Interacting and getting to know people from another culture opens a whole new world of possibilities for students.

--Our student reps have been back in school for a few weeks now so I'm looking forward to hearing about some of the happenings at our schools. I know Tommy is at a big soccer game against Hermantown tonight--so Jude, it's up to you!

Jude Gooseens – East High, everyone is getting back into the groove of school, they had a carnival at the end of the first week, fall sports are in full swing, and he reviewed upcoming events at East.

Education Committee Report
September 2015

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

Member Loeffler-Kemp 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	Jay Roesler	ISD 709 Early Childhood- Kindergarten Transition and Alignment	\$4,000	Funds from this grant award will be used to support Duluth Public Schools student transition and alignment from early child to kindergarten.

E-9-15-3297

September 22, 2015

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution E-9-15-3297 – Acceptance of Grant Awards to the Duluth Public Schools. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

M-Loeffler-Kemp, S-Miernicki, to approve the remainder of the Education Committee Report.

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.3)

Member Johnston withheld Items 1.A.2) and 1.A.4)

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.2) High School Course/Program Offerings for the 2015-16 School Year to note his concerns with some areas at Denfeld and some disparities between East and Denfeld. Discussion continued regarding the issue.

Member Welty withheld Item 1.A.3) 2015 ACT Assessment Results to ask for additional information on participation and results. Discussion continued regarding the data.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A.4) Multiple Ratings and Focus Ratings to note disparities between schools and the achievement gap. Discussion continued regarding the results.

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

Human Resources Committee Report
September 2015

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

Item 2.A. Placeholder for Individual Contracts was pulled.

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

Member Johnston withheld Item 3. – Approval of New Policy 4180 Workload Limits for Certain Special Education Teachers – Second Reading to note that he would not support it.

Upon a vote on the Human Resources Committee report, the same was approved – 5-1 as follows:

Yea: Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Welty, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Business Committee Report
September 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

Authorizing a Joint Powers Agreement with the
State of Minnesota/Perpich Center for Arts Education

BE IT RESOLVED, by the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, State of Minnesota, that the Joint Powers Agreement between the State of Minnesota/Perpich Center for Arts Education and the ISD 709 Ordean East Middle School attached hereto is hereby approved.

SEE ATTACHED

B-9-15-3298

September 22, 2015

M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution B-9-15-3298 – Entering into a Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Minnesota/Perpich Center for Arts Education. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

Member Westholm presented the resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N
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>
Congdon	Northshore	XXXXXXX0	Jacqueline Dolentz	
Lakewood	Northshore	XXXXXXX7	Darren Sheldon Erica Wittmers-Graves	Phyllis Makila
Lowell	DTCU	XXXXX4	Jennifer Larva	
Piedmont	DTCU	XXXXX4	Beth Shermoen	

B-9-15-3299

September 22, 2015

M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve B-9-15-3299 – Authorized Account Signer. Upon a vote, the same was approved – 6-0.

Member Westholm Presented the Resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N
Maximum Levy Certification

WHEREAS, the School Board of Independent School District No. 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, will hold a regular school board meeting on December 15, 2015 at 6:30 PM the Board Room of the Historic Old Central High School, and will receive input from the public on the proposed certified levy for 2015 payable in 2016,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the School Board propose the ceiling for the tax levy for Independent School District No. 709 for 2015 payable 2016 at the maximum amount.

B-9-15-3300

September 22, 2015

M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution B-9-15-3300 – Maximum Levy Certification.

Discussion took place regarding the levy certification.

Upon a vote, the same was approved – 5-1 as follows:

Yea: Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Welty, Westholm
Nay: Johnston

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.

SCHOOL	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME/ORG.	RESTRICTION	AMOUNT
Denfeld		Walmart	Vizio Flat Screen/Fab Lab	In Kind
Lester Park		Lester Park PTA	None	1,310.00
			TOTAL	1,310.00

B-9-15-3301

September 22, 2015

M-Westholm, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution B-9-15-3301 – Acceptance of Donations to Duluth Public Schools. 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 1.A.

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 6.A.

Member Johnston withheld Item 1.A. – Financial Report to note his concerns with attorney fees.

Member Loeffler-Kemp withheld Item 6.A. – Expenditure Contracts to note some of the contracts are for staff training.

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

Yea: Loeffler-Kemp, Miernicki, Seliga Punyko, Welty, Westholm

Nay: Johnston

Other
September 2015

Chair Seliga Punyko adjourned the Regular School Board Meeting of September 22, 2015 at 8:17 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

Monday, October 12, 2015

Members Present:

Art Johnston
Mike Miernicki
Judy Seliga Punyko
Harry Welty

Others Present:

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

Members Absent:

Annie Harala
Rosie Loeffler-Kemp
Bill Westholm

- Chair Seliga Punyko called the special school board meeting of October 12, 2015 to order at 4:18 p.m.

Member Welty presented the resolution:

RESOLUTION
Executive (Closed) Session

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.05 Subd. 3.(c) allowing a closed meeting for discussion related to the purchase or sale of real property.

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 Monday, October 12, 2015, at approximately 4:15 p.m. in the Board Conference Room of the Historic Old Central High School for the purpose of updates related to the status of property disposals as recorded on the attached *List of Properties for Discussion*.

B-10-15-3304

October 12, 2015

M-Welty, S-Miernicki, to approve Resolution B-10-15-3304 - Executive Closed Session.
Upon a vote the same passed – 4-0.

- Chair Seliga Punyko adjourned the Special School Board meeting of October 12, 2015 at 4:20 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 1st Avenue East, unless otherwise noted.

October 19 – October 23, 2015

Tuesday	October 20	6:30 p.m.	Regular School Board Meeting (<i>Agenda Attached</i>) Board Room – 2 nd Floor
Thursday	October 22	5:30 p.m.	Education Equity Advisory Committee Board Room – 2nd Floor

October 26 – October 30, 2015

Thursday	October 29	5:30 p.m.	Education Equity Advisory Committee Board Room – 2 nd Floor
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November 2 – November 6, 2015

No meetings scheduled at this time.

November 9 – November 13, 2015

Monday	November 9	4:15 p.m.	Human Resources Committee Board Room – 2 nd Floor
Monday	November 9	4:30 p.m. (<i>or to follow the Human Resources Comm. Mtg</i>)	Business Committee Board Room – 2 nd Floor
Tuesday	November 10	4:15 p.m.	Education Committee Board Room – 2 nd Floor
<u>November 16 – November 20, 2015</u>			
Tuesday	November 17	5:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Tenured Teacher <i>Reception/Social</i> Tenured Teacher <i>Recognition Ceremony</i>
Tuesday	November 17	6:30 p.m.	Regular School Board Meeting Board Room – 2 nd Floor
Thursday	November 19	5:30 p.m.	Education Equity Advisory Committee Board Room – 2 nd Floor

November 23 – November 27, 2015*No meetings scheduled at this time.***November 30 – December 4, 2015***No meetings scheduled at this time.***December 7 – December 11, 2015**

Monday	December 7	4:15 p.m.	Human Resources Committee Board Room – 2 nd Floor
Monday	December 7	4:30 p.m. <i>(or to follow the Human Resources Comm. Mtg)</i>	Business Committee Board Room – 2 nd Floor
Tuesday	December 8	4:15 p.m.	Education Committee Board Room – 2 nd Floor

*Office of the Superintendent
October 15, 2015*