

## **Regular School Board Meeting**

Duluth Public Schools, ISD 709

Agenda

Tuesday, April 27, 2021

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

Google Meet

Duluth, MN 55802

6:30 PM

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Approval of the Agenda**
5. **School and Community Recognition**
6. **Public Comment** 2
7. **Reading Communications, Petitions, Etc.**
8. **Report of the Superintendent**
  - A. Reports from Student School Board Representatives
  - B. Superintendent's Report 4
  - C. Schedule of Meetings and Events 17
9. **Report of Standing Committees**
  - A. Committee of the Whole Meetings
    - 1) Monthly Committee of the Whole Meeting (*April 6, 2021*)
  - B. Policy Committee (*April 8, 2021*)
  - C. HR/Finance Committee (*April 13, 2021*)
10. **Consent Agenda**
11. **Special Resolutions and Action Items**
  - A. Resolution SP-4-21-3806 - Authorizing School Board Members' Attendance at Miscellaneous Workshops/Trainings 19
  - B. Resolution SP-4-21-3807 - Resolution Asking the Minnesota Legislature to Fully Fund Minnesota's Public Schools 20
12. **Questions / Other**
13. **Adjournment**



Public Comment &lt;public.comment@isd709.org&gt;

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## Distance learning

1 message

Thu, Apr 15, 2021 at 10:21 AM

To: public.comment@isd709.org

Cc

Kerry.DurickEder@isd709.org, David.Kirby@isd709.org, rosie.loefflerkemp@isd709.org, alanna.oswald@isd709.org, jill.lofald@isd709.org, Paul.Sandhom@isd709.org, Sally.Trnka@isd709.org,

I have a complaint about how the distance learning kids are now being pushed aside because they choose not to come back to in person. Up until now all homework assignments for the week had been released all at once and then the families and students would work on the assignments when time permitted. This worked great and teachers were communicating very quickly to emails and questions. Now homework is assigned daily instead of all at once and we no longer have the opportunity of working on them as time permitted. This is causing a great deal of frustration for the students and us parents. It seems like they are being punished for their choice of safety over in class attendance. I would really like to see this addressed and fixed. There is no reason that it had to change. I do understand that the teachers are busier now that classes are back in session, but students and parents expect responses for emails to not take days. We expect that our teachers would be able to get back to us the same day. When I look on ISD 709's website this is what it states for guidelines:

### **How often will my student interact with their teacher(s)?**

Students are expected to receive daily interaction with their licensed teacher each day.

Contact may take place through email, phone, text Google Meet, Canvas, a shared Google document and/or face-to-face.

### **How will I know what my student is supposed to do?**

Teachers will release content and learning activities by week. This allows students and families to gauge workload, time, and fashion a plan for completion. The plan is to release all new information Thursday mornings for the coming week. Predictability will help provide a comfortable routine. Unpredictable assigning practices cause undue stress on students and families.

### **When is student work due?**

All student work is due every Wednesday at noon. This deadline allows teachers to grade and discern what students need for the next week.

I will keep an eye out for your response to my complaint. My boys attend Denfeld 9<sup>th</sup> grade via distance learning.

Thank you,

Dave Stewart



Public Comment &lt;public.comment@isd709.org&gt;

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**Old Central High**

1 message

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**Shawna Mullen**

Wed, Mar 31, 2021 at 5:12 PM

To: public.comment@isd709.org, schoolboard@isd709.org

Hello,

I am emailing to comment on the future use of Old Central High - hoping that it is not too late, since the hearing has already occurred.

As the building was built as and maintained (up to now) as a public building and is of great historical significance, it is imperative that a stipulation of purchase and development into a new use include that the bell tower, the 1890's classroom museum, and the auditorium are maintained as such, and that they continue to be accessible to the public. I acknowledge that this would require maintenance and management, but I don't think that is too much to ask as the new owners will be stewards of this once-public building and have a responsibility for maintaining its historic integrity. A small fee could be charged to help cover the management costs (\$5 to tour the tower and visit the museum and more for rental of the auditorium, with fee waivers for things like public meetings). I'm grateful that the building will continue to exist, though disappointed it will not be as a public building, and these stipulations are the least that can be done to maintain a level of public access.

Thank you,  
Shawna Mullen

# Superintendent Update

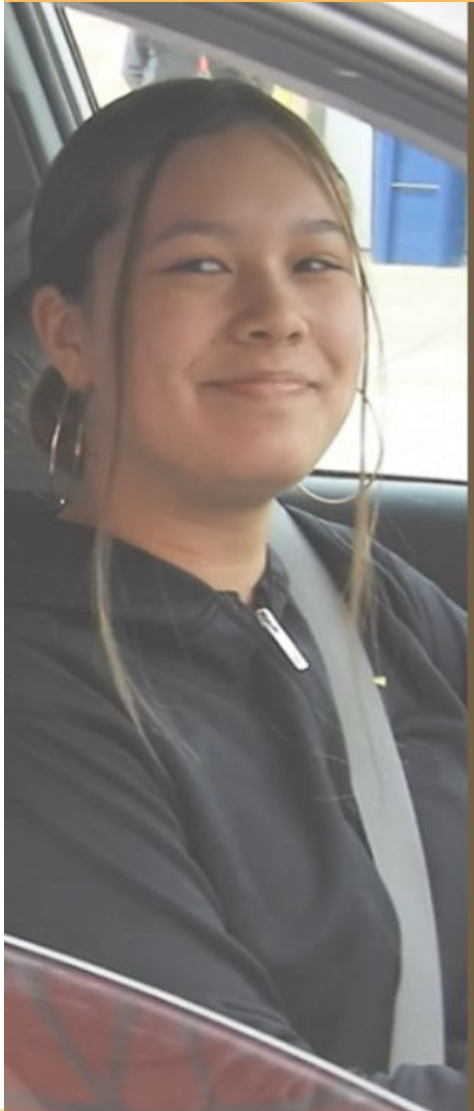
*April 26, 2021*

# General Updates

- Learning Model and Operational Planning Updates to follow
- Next week, we will celebrate National Teacher Appreciation Week
- Laura Hoffman Hordyk, our new Director of Human Resources will start tomorrow
- Interviews for Director of Elementary Teaching and Learning and Equity and Director of Secondary Teaching, Learning and Equity will take place in the coming weeks

# Learning Model Updates

# 2020-21 Return to Learn



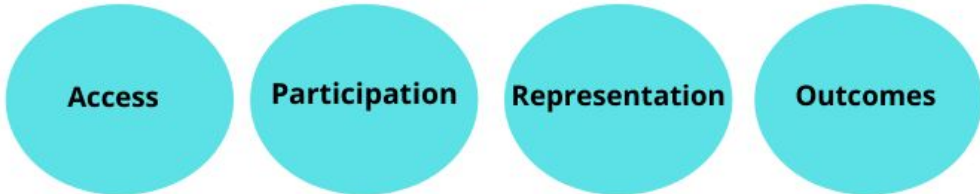
ISD 709

## 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:



[ISD709.org/Equity](https://ISD709.org/Equity)

## 2020-21 Return to Learn

### Current Local COVID-19 Numbers

#### *St. Louis County Bi-Weekly Case Rate for Schools*

- 01/02 - 58.75
- 01/09 - 56.90
- 01/16 - 43.4
- 01/23 - 38.0
- 01/30 - 29.04
- 02/06 - 16.5
- 02/13 - 13.23
- 02/20 - 10.82
- 02/27 - 11.7
- 03/6 - 12.9
- 03/13 - 12.57
- 03/20 - 15.1
- 03/27 - 27.88
- 04/03 - 39.86
- 04/10 - 44.52
- 04/17 - 39.13

## In-Person Model Update:

- Additional consultations with the department of health indicate that we can stay in our 4 Day In-Person model at the secondary level, as well as in our 5 Day In-Person model at the elementary level
- Future forecasting and other measures indicate that our rates will decline, but we continue to remain vigilant and must exercise caution

## *2020-21 Return to Learn*

### Prom and Graduation Updates:

- Again, with consultation with the department of health and in work with school administration, we decided to cancel prom so that we can focus on remaining in our in-person learning models as well as to have in-person graduation
- East and Denfeld are continuing to take input and plan for these exciting events.

## Vaccine and Testing Updates

- Students between the ages of 16 and 17 are now eligible for vaccination and encouraged to get them
- Students may turn in their saliva testing through our staff testing events

**2021 - 2022**

**Operational Planning Updates**

# Operational Planning Overview:

- The 2021/22 Operational Plan is intended to provide a unified and focused approach to the return to school from the distance-based learning during the Covid 19 pandemic.
- The Operational Plan is intended to inform and lead into a longer range and continuous District Strategic Plan as has been prioritized by district stakeholders, including the School Board and the Superintendent.

# Where are we going?

The return to in-person learning will require district-wide focus in all schools on:

- a. Student learning, including learning loss (MTSS)
- b. Social Emotional Learning and Mental health of students (MTSS)
- c. Equity Framework knowledge and application
- d. Blended Learning Initiative implementation

# Where are we going?

The District will also need to focus on:

- a. Development and implementation of a principal support framework
- b. Renewed support of our Continuous Improvement Teams
- c. Consistent and clear employee and public engagement
- d. Skyward and Frontline software and processes
- e. Consider needed changes in employee agreements
- f. Consider relatively minor elementary school attendance area changes

# Next Steps:

- District Continuous Improvement Team Planning- April 27 and May 4th
- Leveled Principal Meetings on May 6th
  - Continue to prioritize draft strategies for 21-22 school year
  - Continue to prioritize draft strategies for 22-23 and 23-24
- Drafting staff and community input surveys
- Will continue to update the board

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 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 13D.021.

**Due to new information and legal council regarding public participation at in person board meetings:**

**The April regular school board meeting will be held ~~in person~~, VIRTUALLY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE with no public presence. ~~Other meetings may be held in person (with no public presence) or remotely.~~ All future board meeting methods will be held remotely until conditions allow for members of the public to safely attend.**

Public comment for the regular school board meeting on April 27, 2021 may be submitted to [public.comment@isd709.org](mailto:public.comment@isd709.org), or recorded by calling 218-336-8730 no later than **Monday, April 26th** by 4:00 PM.

[Public Comment Guidelines](#)

The public is encouraged to watch Board meetings online at [www.isd709.org/district/school-board](http://www.isd709.org/district/school-board) and live on cable channel 187. Thank you for your understanding.

**Subject to Change:**

**April 26-30, 2021**

Tuesday	April 27, 2021	6:30 p.m	Regular School Board Meeting*
<b>Electronic Participation/Live Streamed</b>			

**May 3-7, 2021**

Tuesday	May 4, 2021	4:30 p.m.	Monthly Committee of the Whole TBD
Tuesday	May 4, 2021	5:30 p.m.	American Indian Parent Advisory Committee HOCHS/Room318
Thursday	May 6, 2021	4:30 p.m.	Policy Committee <b>Electronic Participation/Live Streamed</b>

**May 10-14, 2021**

Tuesday	May 11, 2021	4:30 p.m.	HR/Finance Committee TBD
Wednesday	May 12, 2021	5:00 p.m.	Committee of the Whole - Budget TBD

**May 17-21, 2021**

Tuesday	May 18, 2021	6:30 p.m	Regular School Board Meeting* TBD
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**May 24-28, 2021**

Wednesday	May 26, 2021	5:00 p.m.	Committee of the Whole - Budget TBD
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**May 31-June 4, 2021**

Tuesday	June 1, 2021	4:30 p.m.	Monthly Committee of the Whole TBD
Tuesday	June 1, 2021	5:30 p.m.	American Indian Parent Advisory Committee HOCHS/Room318
Thursday	June 3, 2021	4:30 p.m.	Policy Committee TBD

**June 7-11, 2021**

Tuesday	June 8, 2021	TBD	ALC/Bridge/T12/ABE/AEO Graduation Virtual Video Release
Tuesday	June 8, 2021	4:30 p.m.	HR/Finance Committee Board Room - 2nd Floor
Wednesday	June 9, 2021	11:00 a.m.	Merritt Creek Academy Graduation Merritt Creek Academy 4000 West 9th Street
Wednesday	June 9, 2021	4:30 & 7:30 p.m.	East Graduation Ceremony Amsoil Arena - Two Ceremonies 350 Harbor Drive
Thursday	June 10, 2021	5:00 p.m.	Denfeld Graduation Ceremony Public School Stadium 401 N. 44th Avenue West (In case of inclement weather there will be two ceremonies in the Denfeld Auditorium)

**June 14-18, 2021**

Tuesday	June 15, 2021	6:30 p.m.	Regular School Board Meeting* TBD
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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.*

Office of the Superintendent  
April 26, 2021

**RESOLUTION**

Authorizing School Board Members' Attendance at Workshops/Trainings

RESOLVED, That Independent School District 709, St. Louis County, Minnesota, pay costs incurred, as per District policy, for school board members to attend various Minnesota School Boards Association Workshops and the NSBA Equity Online Symposium

2021 Negotiations Seminar

2021 Officers Workshop

2021 Phase III Workshop

2021 National School Board Association Equity Online Symposium

Resolution SP-4-21-3806

April 27, 2021

## Resolution Asking the Minnesota Legislature to Fully Fund Minnesota's Public Schools

Whereas, most Minnesotans want similar things for our children, including safe and supportive public schools where all students — no matter what they look like or where they come from — can thrive and succeed;

Whereas, public schools in Minnesota have faced decades of chronic underfunding;

Whereas, all Minnesota students are in desperate need of more school social workers, nurses, counselors, psychologists and other support staff;

Whereas, too many students are trying to learn in overcrowded, outdated and under-resourced classrooms and buildings;

Whereas, we need to build culturally responsive schools that reflect the diverse students they serve so all feel welcome and valued;

Whereas, all educators working with our students deserve more respect for the contribution to the care and education of our children — including better pay, affordable health care and safe working conditions;

Be it resolved that the School Board of the Duluth Public Schools call on the governor and Minnesota Legislature to find the courage and the political will to raise taxes on the wealthiest 1 percent and largest corporations and fully fund Minnesota's public schools so all students can receive the opportunities and supports they deserve.