
CIXIII
TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

OFFICIAL REPORT

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
ST. LOUIS, MO
JANUARY 12, 2016

M I N U T E S

The Special Administrative Board of the Transitional School District of the City of St. Louis met on the date noted in Room 108 of the Administrative Building, 801 N. 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63101.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:24PM on the following roll call.

AYE: Dr. Melanie Adams, Mr. Richard Gaines, Mr. Rick Sullivan

A quorum was present.

The Board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITIONS

Students James Stevens-Fitgugh, Antwan Sanders and Jerome Smith were recognized. James and Antwan were the winners in Mayor Francis Slay's 2015 Holiday Card Design Contest. James a second grader at Wilkinson Early Childhood Center was the grand prize winner and Antwan a fourth grader at Oak Hill Elementary School was the first runner up. James' design was used as the Mayor's 2015 holiday e-card.

Jerome Smith an eighth grader at the Academy of Environmental Science and Math @ L'Ouverture Middle School competed in the USA Weightlifting American Open Championships in Reno, Nevada on December 3-6, 2015. Jerome's win in this competition moved him to rank 6th in the nation for weightlifters under 17 years of age across all weightlifting classes. In February 2016, Jerome will take part in the Junior National Championship. If he winS in this competition, he will qualify to compete in the Youth Pan Am Championships in April 2016 that will be held in El Salvador.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Parent Anne Vigih shared a comment of support concerning a teacher who is no longer assigned to Metro Academic and Classical High School. She asked the Board to give consideration in reassigning the teacher back to Metro. She stated when substitute teachers are assigned, the continuity of instruction is interrupted and with that interruption the students' performance can be affected. Mrs. Vigih's daughter attends Metro.

Parent Lisa Dorner offered comments about enhancing and expanding the District's International Baccalaureate and Language Immersion programs. Mrs. Dorner is a professor of education at the University of Missouri and advocates global, international, and multi-language programs in public education. She believes

international education is real applied learning that not only addresses DESE's standards, but teaches students how to question, explore and understand how to influence change within a community. Mrs. Dorner has a 7th grader who attends McKinley Leadership Academy.

Mr. Roderick Allen of The St. Louis Tutoring Company reiterated concerns from the December 15, 2015 SAB meeting about the outcome of an RFP for Tutoring Services as advertised by the District. He again asked for a meeting with District administration for a clear discernment of the selection criteria.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S)

- A brief overview of the District's Annual Audit for year ended June 30, 2015 was presented by Mrs. Mary Houlihan, Chief Operating Officer (on behalf of Mr. Harry Rich, Chairman of the Audit Committee) and Mr. Jeff Winter and Mrs. Mary Kay Lofgren of Rubin Brown. Overall, the District continues to demonstrate improvement in its financial operations and activities. A significant number of fewer findings were noted for correction. However one finding that was again noted in the audit was the inadequacy of preparation and review procedures that insure year-end account balances are accurate to prevent/minimize manual adjusted entries. The District again had too many adjusting entries. The Federal compliance review noted two (2) findings as opposed to six (6) findings noted in 2014. Those 6 findings were all corrected and noted in audit report.
- Deputy Superintendent of Academics, Mr. David Hardy provided an Academic Update report. Notable progress was made in reading as indicated on some Benchmark and STAR assessments. This may be attributed to the stability in school support and supervision provided by the Network Superintendents. Some improvements were also noted in the development of retained students who received tutoring lessons through the Response to Intervention and Instruction (RTII) program. The number of school leader observations as of this report increased by 2,077 (1,419 school year 2014/2015). Academic strategies are ongoing in an effort to confront problematic weaknesses early on.
- Mrs. Angela Banks, CFO/Treasurer provided a brief report on Refinancing Bonds. Current low interest rates afforded the District an opportunity to refinance all callable 2006 and 2009 HVAC Bonds with varying maturities from 2017-2021. Average coupon rate was reduced from 4.7% to an estimated 1.77%. Total estimated cash savings over 5 years is \$1.0M. Resolution Number 01-12-16-06 of these minutes addresses this report.

Members entertained questions/comments at the conclusion of these reports. The reports can be viewed in their entirety on the District's website.

BUSINESS ITEMS - CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Sullivan called for a motion and a second to approve Resolution Numbers 01-15-16-01 through 01-15-16-08.

On a motion by Dr. M. Adams, and seconded by Mr. Gaines on the following roll call vote, the Board voted to approve Resolution Numbers 01-15-16-01 through 01-15-16-08.

AYE: Dr. M. Adams, Mr. Gaines, Mr. Sullivan

NAY: None

The motion carried.

(01-12-16-01) To ratify and approve a sole source contract with Lindenwood University to provide Gifted Certification for current teachers at Mallinckrodt ABI, McKinley Middle and McKinley High Schools for the period August 24, 2015 through June 30, 2016 at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.

(01-12-16-02) To ratify and approve a sole source contract with Expeditionary Learning to provide professional development around the new English/Language Arts curriculum adoption for the SIG schools Dunbar, Laclede, Meramec, Nance, Oak Hill and Yeatman-Liddell for the period October 13, 2015 through April 16, 2016 at a cost not to exceed \$138,000.

(01-12-16-03) To ratify and approve the renewal of a Memorandum of Understanding with St. Louis Community College to provide Dual Credit Programs for students participating in the Innovation High School Initiative for the period October 30, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

(01-12-16-04) To approve a contract extension with EPI, Use America Inc. for an additional six (6) months beginning January 13, 2016 and ending June 30, 2016 to provide uninterrupted services for functional support on the District's enhanced SAP system at an additional cost that will not exceed \$80,000. The current contract is set to expire December 31, 2015. A RFP (Request for Proposal) was released and is currently under review. If this request is granted the total cost for these services will now be \$1,690,000.

(01-12-16-05) To approve the renewal of a Memorandum of Understanding with TJX Companies, Inc. to implement the Youth Business Institute Program for students at Roosevelt and Vashon High Schools for the period January 26, 2016 through June 30, 2016.

(01-12-16-06) To approve the authorization for sale of the General Obligation Refunding Bonds for Series 2006A and 2009 Bonds.

(01-12-16-07) To approve the October 2015 and November 2015 Monthly Transaction Reports.

(01-12-16-08) To approve the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and the Compliance Report for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2015.

Mr. Sullivan called for a motion and a second to approve Resolution Number 01-15-16-09.

On a motion by Dr. M. Adams, and seconded by Mr. Gaines on the following roll call vote, the Board voted to approve Resolution Number 01-15-16-09.

AYE: Dr. M. Adams, Mr. Gaines, Mr. Sullivan

NAY: None

The motion carried.

(01-12-16-09) To approve the acceptance of grant funding from the Parson-Blewett Memorial Fund in the amount of \$565,341 for the St. Louis Plan related projects.

Mr. Sullivan called for a motion and a second to approve Resolution Number 01-15-16-10.

On a motion by Dr. M. Adams, and seconded by Mr. Gaines on the following roll call vote, the Board voted to approve Resolution Number 01-15-16-10.

AYE: Mr. Gaines, Mr. Sullivan

ABSTAINED: Dr. M. Adams

NAY: None

The motion carried.

(01-12-16-10) To approve a contract for the purchase of 1,250 tickets for students/teacher(s) to attend the Metro Theatre production of "And In This Corner...Cassius Clay" at a cost not to exceed \$10,000. Dates for this production are inclusive of February 1, 2016 to February 26, 2016.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATE(S)

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, on a motion by Dr. M. Adams and seconded by Mr. Gaines on the following roll call vote, the Board voted to adjourn at 7:26PM.

AYE: Dr. M. Adams, Mr. Gaines, Mr. Sullivan

NAY: None

The motion passed.