
CIXIII
TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD
OFFICIAL REPORT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
ST. LOUIS, MO
NOVEMBER 19, 2015
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 6:03PM 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

Recognitions were given to student winners of the 6th Annual Kevin Coyne Safety Art Contest. First place winners were Taylor Cooley, Carr Lane VPA School, Eugene Page, Lexington Elementary School and Jada Roberts of Gateway STEM. Second place winners were Keyri Arriaga-Carrillos, Oak Hill Elementary School, Harshini Kumaresan, McKinley Leadership Academy and Emma Tanovic Gateway STEM. Third place winners were Ayat Abdullah, Nahed Chapman New American Academy, Richard Reynolds, Sigel Elementary School, and Justin Schmidt of Metro High School. The theme this year was *Control Anger Before it Controls You*.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Mary Armstrong of Local 420 brought forth comments on behalf of Local 420 - teachers, paraprofessionals and secretarial clerical employees in response to administration's best and final proposal. Local 420 members met Wednesday, November 18th and overwhelmingly rejected administration's proposal at a 90% vote. The vote is a resounding indication of members' discontent. District administration and Local 420 bargaining unit need to find an effective solution and treat their employees fairly so they can receive competitive compensation. The SAB made commendable accomplishments since being appointed. But the District must also consider its employees who have stayed and not moved on to other districts where better packages are offered. Administration should keep in mind these are the same employees who were instrumental in the District achieving the points necessary to become fully accredited.

Teachers Jan Ward, Matthew Cashman, Sarah Schupanitz, Erin O'Donnell, and Eric Johnson all shared comments relative to a salary increase.

Shamonda Owens a teacher at Vashon High School provided comments in support of Vashon's principal. Likewise, Tyler Murray a student at Vashon shared passionate comments about how Vashon's principal had supported and encouraged him in his personal and educational achievements.

David Jackson and William "Bill" Monroe read prepared statements. The statements are attached to these minutes (pages 4–7). It should be noted Mr. Jackson's statement is dated August 19, 2015, but was presented before the Board at its November 19, 2015 meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Dr. M. Adams, and seconded by Mr. Gaines on the following roll call vote, the Board voted to approve the October 8, 2015 open session minutes.

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S)

The Informational items (*Academic Update, Prop S Final Update and First Quarter Budget Update*) were moved to the December 15, 2015 meeting.

BUSINESS ITEM(S): CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Sullivan called for a motion and a second to approve Resolution Numbers 11-19-15-01 through 11-19-15-08.

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 11-19-15-01 through 11-19-15-08.

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

(11-19-15-01) To ratify and approve a contract with Tech Electronics to install security cameras at Mitchell and Pruitt Schools. The work began on October 20, 2015 and will be completed no later than October 31, 2015 at a cost not to exceed \$109,969.20, which includes a 10% contingency of \$9,997.20. This resolution is in response to RFP #005-1516 and will be 100% reimbursed by KIPP.

(11-19-15-02) To approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The City of St. Louis Department of Health to participate as a member of the public health response team where the District will provide the use of 10 schools as the point of dispensing sites during a public health emergency/crisis. This MOU will be submitted to the Board for renewal status at the conclusion of each respective school year.

(11-19-15-03) To approve a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The City of St. Louis Department of Health to participate as a member of the public health response team where the District will provide adequate staff to ensure safety at four (4) points of dispensation sites. This MOU will be submitted to the Board for renewal status at the conclusion of each respective school year.

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- (11-19-15-04)** To approve a list of qualified firms (CliftonLarsonAllen, LLC; Brown Smith Wallace, LLC and Showalter & Jambouri P.C.) and authorize the engagement to perform internal audit services on an as needed basis. The internal audit services will be conduct during the period November 20, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The total dollar amount for the services will not exceed \$25,000.
- (11-19-15-05)** To approve a contract renewal with Math Solutions for professional development services as outlined in the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, K-6 Mathematics and Science Partnership grant for the period January 1, 2016 through September 30, 2016 at a cost not to exceed \$80,110. This is the third year of a three year grant.
- (11-19-15-06)** To approve the renewal of a Memorandum of Understanding with Safe Connections to provide relationship violence prevention education programming to Pamoja at Cole, Busch, Carr Lane, Langston, Compton Drew, Academy of Environmental Science and Math (AESM), Multiple Pathways, Beaumont, Cleveland, Central Visual and Performing Arts, McKinley, Roosevelt, Sumner, Soldan, Vashon, ICA at Blewett and Gateway STEM Schools for the period November 20, 2015 through June 30, 2016.
- (11-19-15-07)** To approve the St. Louis Public Schools A+ Schools Program Partnership Plan and the acceptance of the A+ School Annual Report for the 2015-2016 school year.
- (11-19-15-08)** To approve the Monthly Transaction Report for September 2015.

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 6:45PM.

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

NAY: None

The motion passed.

**Comments to the Special Administrative Board
of the Transitional School District of the City of St. Louis**

August 19, 2015

David L. Jackson, Jr.
(Former President, Board of Education)

Making public education more accountable has been the solemn pledge of government officials for years, yet that same level of accountability doesn't seem to apply to the fastest growing sector of K-12 education – charter schools.

We must come together around a common commitment to public education. You must believe that the only way to give every child the opportunity to pursue a rich and productive life, both individually and as a member of society, is through a system of publicly funded, equitable and democratically controlled public schools. Now, more than ever, access to good public schools is a critical civil and human right. You must be committed in working together to reclaim the promise of public education as our City's gateway to democracy and racial and economic justice.

Those closest to the education process—teachers, administrators, school staff, students and their parents and community members—must have a voice in education policy and practice. Our schools and district should be guided by them, not by corporate executives, entrepreneurs or philanthropists. Top-down reform doesn't address the real needs of schools or students.

Schools are community institutions as well as centers of learning. While education alone cannot eradicate poverty, schools can help to coordinate the supports and services their students and families need to thrive. Corporate reform strategies ignore the challenges that students bring with them to school each day, and view schools as separate and autonomous from the communities in which they sit, as do Charter school operators. The SLPS belong to all of us: the students who learn in them, the parents who support them, the educators and staff who work in them and the communities that they anchor. No longer should we allow ourselves to be divided.

As you may or may not know, Mayor Slay welcomed and opened 8 new Charter Schools in the City this school year. This brings the total number of Charter Schools operating in the City of St. Louis to thirty-four (34). Currently the SLPS pays a little over \$27m to these local Charters. With the lost of these 900 students (\$7m) to these new Charters, the amount SLPS will have to make this school year will be estimated at approximately \$34m.

These payments the SLPS must make to the Charters will no doubt cause the SLPS to run a deficit, lay off teachers, staff, re-think certain programs and of course close and consolidate schools. Dr. Adams has hinted at this throughout this school year. Next year there will be a transition of local governance with the SLPS, you the Special Administrative Board will have a significant role in that transition. I strongly urge you to start now in deliberating how to address this most serious issue.

As some of you may know, I with other members of previous elected boards had developed a strategic plan for the SLPS. In that plan is a proposal to the Board of Aldermen to place a "Moratorium" on the opening of any new Charter schools in the City of St. Louis. I as President of the Elected Board, initiated that process. Please be aware, the BOE has support with several members of the BOA on this issue and I strongly urge this board to start dialogue with members of the BOA of your choosing, to gather support of a "Moratorium" on Charters. If you do nothing, this Board, the Elected Board and District will be faced with devastating circumstances regarding SLPS funding Charters.

Please keep in mind school districts around the Country are facing the same devastation, many are requesting and have been successful in having their City Councils and State Legislatures place a "Moratorium" on any new Charters until they bring their Districts up to acceptable educational standards or until Charter School Legislation is passed to mirror the same educational mandates of public schools. States such as Connecticut, Idaho, Illinois, Philadelphia, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio and Tennessee, are to name just a few.

Corporate-style reforms that disregard our voices, and attempt to impose a system of winners and losers, must end. None of our children deserve to be collateral damage. You must work with the community and teachers to make the vision of true public education a reality.

Thank you.



Mr. William "Bill" Monroe
Member
Board of Education

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Public Comments of Bill Monroe, Elected Board Member
Special Administrative Board Meeting
November 19, 2015

Good Evening, Special Administrative Board, Superintendent Adams

My comments tonight are my personal comments, and in no form or fashion reflect sentiments of the Elected Board of Education.

Last month I mention a probability of new funding to consider giving teachers and other staffers an increase in wages. I recommended the SAB to look at a short term loan from the Teachers Pension fund, as other States have done. Well, I've taken the liberty to gather information on this possibility and after my research and thought processes, I will present my findings to the SAB for serious consideration of its merits.

I also would like to recommend the SAB consider a Tax Increase, in which you decided not to raise this year. If the Hancock Amendment is hindering this possibility, I will like to recommend the SAB to work with the Elected Board toward any possibility on working with the Legislature on changing this process. On the other hand, I and others throughout the community would support such a tax increase, if that increase is used specifically to give staff a livable wage. That is unless we look at including other language and components justifying the increase; such as a continuation of upgrading our individual school buildings. I and other believe these two areas of concerns will be readily accepted by the community and taxpayers at this particular time.

I stand before you the SAB tonight to once again as I did last month and say; when, where and what time can the Elected Board of Education meet to discuss the many difficult issues facing our district on a weekly and monthly basis. Dr. Adams has presented a very concerning picture, not only regarding academics, but one of financial and operational distress. The SAB or the Transitional School District is scheduled to dissolve on June 30, 2016, less than eight months away and the SAB has not met nor scheduled any meeting with the Elected Board of Education to discuss the planning of a transitional period. You, as well as I know, we cannot leave this in the hands of DESE, it must be us, together, who shall move this process forward.

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I implore you particularly Mr. CEO, Rick Sullivan as well as, the other two members of the SAB, to consider when and where these two Boards can to meet, discuss and strategize on a Transitional Plan for the SLPS District and again I would strongly recommend and encourage you Mr. CEO Rick Sullivan, that you not try and force upon the Elected Board who among its members, should participate in a Transitional meeting and plan. Your team is not fragmented, why would want to fragment us. Let's work toward what is best for our students and the good of the SLPS District.

Thank you and good evening.

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