

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS -Administration Building - 801 N. 11th Street - 6:30 pm
(Tuesday, January 9, 2024)**

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Attendance: Tracy Hykes, Sadie Weiss, Emily Hubbard, Donna Jones (Virtual), Matthew "Matt" Davis, and Antionette "Toni" Cousins.

Absent: Natalie Vowell

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITIONS

Nahed Chapman New American Secondary Academy:

As St. Louis continues to be a welcoming place for immigrants from various nations, Saint Louis Public Schools is also seeing a population increase among English Learners. This growth has come so quickly that we've had to make changes surrounding Nahed Chapman New American Academy @ Roosevelt. Due to a 63% increase in students in just one year, shared space at Roosevelt High School was no longer sufficient. As of Tuesday, January 2, our students and staff have moved into the new Nahed Chapman Secondary Academy. These young people and their teachers are excited to have their building! Now housed in the repurposed Stevens Middle School, this relocation reflects the commitment to providing top-notch education to a diverse student body. SLPS is undoubtedly the leader in education for English Learners in the St. Louis region.

Customer Service Excellence Training:

The Professional Development Session on Customer Service Excellence, hosted by the Office of Public Affairs, occurred at the SLPS Central office on Thursday, January 4, 2024. During the session, our school secretaries, assistants, and family community specialists gained valuable insights into assisting our families with their needs and coping with stress in their roles. These can be very tough jobs. Strategies were shared to help manage the demands of their positions effectively, ensuring a smooth and efficient operation within our school system.

Additionally, participants received practical guidance on enhancing communication skills and fostering a welcoming atmosphere for our school community. Participants explored ways to make interactions with parents and students more inclusive and accommodating. The goal is to create an environment where everyone feels valued and respected. We thank the Office of Public Affairs for organizing this insightful session.

JANUARY CONSENT AGENDA

Matt Davis moved to approve consent agenda items (01-09-24-01) through (01-09-24-03), seconded by Emily Hubbard.

Aye: Tracy Hykes, Sadie Weiss, Emily Hubbard, Donna Jones, Matt Davis, Toni Cousins

Nay: None

Absent: Natalie Vowell

The motion passed.

Matt Davis moved to approve consent agenda item (01-09-24-04), seconded by Toni Cousins.

Aye: Tracy Hykes, Emily Hubbard, Donna Jones, Matt Davis, Toni Cousins

Nay: None

Absent: Natalie Vowell

Abstain: Sadie Weiss

The motion passed.

Matt Davis moved to approve consent agenda items (01-09-24-05) through (01-09-24-11), seconded by Toni Cousins.

Aye: Tracy Hykes, Sadie Weiss, Emily Hubbard, Donna Jones, Matt Davis, Toni Cousins

Nay: None

Absent: Natalie Vowell

The motion passed.

(01-09-24-01) To approve a sole source purchase from the College Board for the ACCUPLACER test units to assess all junior & senior students who will enroll in the Early College Academy at St. Louis Community College-Forest Park at a cost not to exceed \$20,000. It is also used in the MSIP VI accreditation metrics aligned to Post-Secondary acceptance and achievement. The last time we purchased the test units was in 2016. These assessments do not expire and will be used across multiple years. Pillar 1: Excellent Schools, Goal 1C: Financial Sustainability & Pillar 3: Goal 3A Career Pathways.

(01-09-24-02) To approve a contract with TSI, Inc. from RFP#014-2223 to upgrade our Mitel Phone System to the latest operating system in the amount not to exceed \$1,300,000. This upgrade will also add a phone in every classroom across the District and include a product, Revolution, that allows a notification system across our network. Individual schools can be notified, schools in specific zones, or the entire District. Communication can be received by phone, paging system, email, and text. This is a collaborative effort between Technology and Safety & Security. This contract supports Pillar 1: Excellent Schools and Goal 1C: Financial Sustainability.

(01-09-24-03) To approve a contract renewal with Harris-Stowe State University (HSSU) for the SLPS Early College at Harris-Stowe dual enrollment program to allow up to 55 Saint Louis Public School high school students to attend college-level or college preparatory classes two days a week during the Spring Semester at a cost not to exceed \$50,000. Classes are designed to allow students to earn college credit and support their goals after graduation. Although all our students are eligible to participate, the Early College at Harris-Stowe program specifically aims to increase college awareness and exposure for students who wouldn't normally qualify for traditional dual enrollment programs that require a 3.5 or higher GPA. With teacher recommendation, students can apply to join the program with a 2.0 or higher GPA. Consequently, our students are mentored along their journey by SLPS Early College graduates who transitioned from the program and are currently attending HSSU. The program runs from January 10, 2024, through June 30, 2024. This service supports Pillar 2: Fairness and Equity across the District, 2D: Partner with Community Allies; Pillar 4: Read to Succeed, 4D: College & Career Readiness; and Pillar 5: Community Partner Resources, 5A: Volunteer and Mentor Engagement.

(01-09-24-04) To approve a contract renewal with the University of Missouri-St. Louis will provide training for Reading Certification for teachers to continue taking coursework during a period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, at a cost not to exceed \$350,000, pending funding availability. This opportunity is open to all certificated teachers in SLPS in all elementary, middle, and high schools who apply for the open spots. This opportunity aligns with Transformation Plan 4.0 Pillar 1.

(01-09-24-05) To approve a Memorandum of Understanding with Harris Stowe State University to allow for the placement of university practicum students and student teachers in various SLPS classrooms (based on teacher availability, subject area, and university request) for the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, at no cost to the District. This partnership supports Transformation Plan 4.0: Culturally-Responsive Environments, Goal 3A-Career Pathways.

(01-09-24-06) To approve a contract renewal with Lindenwood University to provide training for Gifted Certification for teachers to continue coursework during the period of January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024, at a cost not to exceed \$75,000, pending funding availability. This opportunity is open to all certificated teachers in SLPS in all elementary, middle, and high schools who apply for the open spots, with priority given to designated gifted SLPS schools. This opportunity aligns to Transformation Plan 4.0 Pillar 1.

NEW (01-09-24-07) To approve a new Contractor Service Agreement with Building Futures for the period January 11, 2024, through May 31, 2024, to provide project-based STEAM instruction for approximately 600 students in 40 unique cohorts at AESM, Carnahan, Patrick Henry, and Peabody Schools in order to expand opportunities for students to participate in Career & Technical Education (CTE) experiences at an early age. The cost of the service will not exceed \$12,000.00. This service supports Pillar 4: Learn to Read and Succeed, Goal 2: Access to grade-level content 100% of the time.

NEW (01-09-24-08) To approve a one-year contract extension with USI (Understand, Service, and Innovate) Insurance Company to provide the District benefit consulting services for the period of January 10, 2024-December 31, 2024, at a cost not to exceed 105,000. The benefits consulting services consist of but are not limited to the following: Negotiation of rates, development of the Benefits Guide, support around open enrollment, etc. Efforts support Pillar 1: Excellent schools, Goal 1C: Financial Sustainability of the Transformation Plan 3.0

NEW (01-09-24-09) To purchase materials in support of the Media Center Collection Upgrade program for the period of 01/12/24-8/30/24, at a cost not to exceed \$4 500,000. ESSER III funds will serve as the funding source for purchasing the materials. All schools in the District targeted will participate in this program. This purchase supports Pillar 4: Read to Succeed and Goal 4D: College and Career Readiness.

NEW (01-09-24-10) To approve a sole source contract with Ray & Associates to provide the District with customized consulting and professional services centered around administrative and C-Level positions. This is for January 10, 2024, through June 30, 2027, at a cost not exceeding \$80,000. Ray & Associates' services include, but are not limited to, the following: National searches, screening candidates to include background and reference checks, designing interview questions, arranging interviews, and acting as a liaison between candidates and the District.

NEW (01-09-24-11) To approve an emergency contract with 4MATIVE Technologies to provide consulting services related to transportation from January 10, 2024, through June 30, 2024, at a cost not to exceed \$200,000.

PRESENTATIONS

- Dr. Williams & Dr. Scarlett presented the Listen & Learn update.
- Dr. Borishade presented the Graduation Ceremony update.
- Ray Hart, Willie Burroughs, David Palmer, Scott Allen, Toyin Akinola, and Square Watson presented the Transportation update.
- Cheryl VanNoy presented the APR update.
- Principal Tonya Marrocco, Cheryl VanNoy, and Dr. Borishade presented the Reading update.

REPORTS OF THE BOARD

- Toni Cousins presented an update on the Verizon Lab at AESM @ L' Overture. The school's ELL students are thriving. President Cousins, Secretary Jones, and Board Member Hykes attended the Building Futures Program with State Representative Cori Bush.
- Matt Davis, the 2024 Legislative session started yesterday, January 8, 2024. The District sent a letter regarding House Bill 1989. The next meeting of the Legislative Committee is Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 4:00 pm on Zoom.
- Emily Hubbard was sworn in as the newest member of the Public School Retirement System of the City of Saint Louis last week.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- B9358.3 Public Agenda Presentation
- Bill Monroe
- Staci Harvatin

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:19 pm.

The motion was made by Matt Davis and seconded by Tracy Hykes.

Aye: Tracy Hykes, Sadie Weiss, Emily Hubbard, Donna Jones, Matt Davis, Toni Cousins

Nay: None

Absent: Natalie Vowell

The motion passed.

Attested By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Donna Jones
Board Secretary