

# FINAL

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## CXXIX BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

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### OFFICIAL REPORT

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**Regular Board Meeting  
St. Louis, MO  
October 10, 2017**

### MINUTES

The Board of Education of the City of St. Louis met in Open Session pursuant to Board Bylaw B9350 on the date noted above at Patrick Henry Downtown Academy, located at 1220 N. 10<sup>th</sup> St., St. Louis, MO 63106.

#### **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Dorothy Rohde-Collins, Charli Cooksey, Bill Haas, Donna Jones, Susan Jones, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

ABSENT: None

A quorum was present.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:31 p.m.

#### **APPEARANCES - INVITED GUESTS**

Invited guest Ms. Marty Casey shared the following comments:

- Founder of “Show Me Arts Academy”
- Created UnGun Arts Program, in collaboration with Walgreens Expression Challenge, which promotes positive alternatives to use of guns for students in grades 9-12.
- Walgreens Expression Challenge has an opportunity to win \$2000 for first place winner, and winning school and teacher would win another \$500 each.
- From October 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>.

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Invited guest Ms. Justine Collum shared the following comments:

- Development Director of EnergyCare, which serves low income residents of Saint Louis City and County with heating and cooling assistance.
- In collaboration with Ameren and HOMEWORKS!, EnergyCare will meet with families at Patrick Henry and two other SLPS schools to help manage personal utility bills and keep power on.
- Services provided: weatherize homes, deliver heaters, work with Spire, pay utility bills, provide blankets, provide air conditioners in the summer.

Invited guest State Representative Bruce Franks was not present to share comments.

Invited guests Ms. Sally Topping and Mr. Ray Cumming shared the following comments:

- Ms. Sally Topping is the newly elected president of the teacher's union, AFT Local 420.

Invited guests from the Missouri School Board Association were present but did not make comments, and will instead present at the next meeting.

### **APPEARANCES - PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Driver Henderson shared the following public comments:

- Mr. Henderson is a Business and Education Analyst, with two public school teachers as children.
- The district needs to end confusion, especially around accreditation, and stabilize leadership. Additionally, the Special Administrative Board should be eliminated.
- How can SLPS be accredited with 5 schools with low ACT Scores?

Ms. Sheri Stolzie shared the following public comments:

- Ms. Stolzie has two children enrolled in Saint Louis Public Schools.
- Jane Donahue gave a presentation from the SLPS Foundation on Board governance.
- Why were those documents marked confidential, and how does the public get a hold of the documents?
- Why was this inquiry made, and who gave the authorization for this inquiry?
- Transparency is of utmost importance. The public was under the impression that once accreditation was achieved, transfer of power was to be transferred back to the citizens through the elected board. Much time and energy went into electing each of you, the citizens are under the impression that they have a say.

Mr. Rasheen Aldridge shared the following public comments:

- Mr. Aldridge is the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward Committeeman.
- It is unfortunate that the Elected Board does not have the power you need to make the important decisions.

### **APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE OCTOBER 10, 2017 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA**

On a motion by Mr. Bill Haas and seconded by Ms. Charli Cooksey, the Board voted to approve and adopt the October 10, 2017 Meeting Agenda, as amended to move Agenda Item 9: New

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Business: Transition up on the Agenda, and as amended to remove Agenda Item 6: Special Administrative Board's Consent Agenda and Agenda Item 7: Approval of Minutes from September 12, 2017, on the following roll call vote:

AYE: Dorothy Rohde-Collins, Charli Cooksey, Bill Haas, Donna Jones, Susan Jones, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

The motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS: TRANSITION**

President Susan Jones commented on the following:

- On August 22, 2017, the Elected Board invited the Special Administrative Board to come and discuss the transition process back to the Elected Board.
- The Special Administrative Board is now invited to sit with the Elected Board.

Mr. Rick Sullivan, President of the Special Administrative Board, commented on the following:

- Today, the Special Administrative Board sent a letter to State Commissioner Margie Vandeven related to board governance.
- Mr. Richard Gaines is leading this effort.

Mr. Richard Gaines, a member of the Special Administrative Board, commented on the following:

- State statute 162.1100 states that the Missouri Board of Education may terminate a transitional school district at any time once the school district has achieved its purpose.
- The Special Administrative Board has been in place for 10 years.
- The Elected Board is now presented with a letter that was filed today with the Commissioner of Education, which states that the Special Administrative Board will provide recommendations to DESE on future governance and transition.
- The law requires the Special Administrative Board to review different forms of governance and to make a recommendations to DESE.
- The SAB is putting together a committee to complete this task, and the SAB asks the Elected Board to function as a Vice Chair of that committee.
- The committee would hear expert testimony and public comments, and make a recommendation by January, before the start of the next legislative session.
- The SAB requests a response by November 4, 2017.

President Susan Jones read the letter aloud.

Members of the Elected Board discussed the letter with Mr. Gaines, raising the following concerns:

- The Elected Board did not get the letter in advance of the meeting.
- Participation of an Elected Board member as a Vice Chair of the committee could imply agreement with looking into other forms of governance.
- The process is being rushed.
- Alternate forms of governance are not being considered nationally except in high poverty, high minority areas.

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Mr. Richard Gaines commented on the following:

- The committee will hold three meetings in different parts of the city, each with a different topic: Elected Boards, Appointed Boards, and Hybrid Boards.
- The Elected Board, through the Vice Chair position, will be given the opportunity to recommend Task Force members.
- Information about the meetings will be posted on the website.
- All recommendations will be made publicly.

### **BOARD MEMBER AND BOARD PRESIDENT REPORTS**

No Board Member or Board President's Reports were given.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, upon a motion by President Susan Jones and seconded by Secretary Natalie Vowell, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m. on the following roll call vote:

AYE: Charli Cooksey, Bill Haas, Donna Jones, Susan Jones, Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

The motion carried.

**ATTESTED BY:**

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**NATALIE VOWELL**