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**XXX
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF
THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS**

OFFICIAL REPORT

**Regular Board Meeting
St. Louis, MO
November 14, 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 Mann Elementary at 4047 Juniata Street, St. Louis, MO 63116.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

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

A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

APPEARANCES- INVITED GUESTS

Ms. Phyllis Barks with The Missouri School Associations' Board presented to the Board. Ms. Barks discussed the following effective practices and major goals:

- Session 1 - Student Learning and Performance
- Session 2 - Equity Issues (the impact of equity on student learning and performance)
- Session 3 - Maintaining and use of Current Policies
- Session 4 - Engaging in Legal and Ethical Behaviors
- Session 5 - Collaborative Board Member Relationships
- Session 6 - Encouraging Two way Communication with all Stakeholders
- Session 7 - Review, Reflect and Plan

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Ms. Charli Cooksey commented on the following:

- The effectiveness of the training for the Board Members
- Is there a Rubric

Mr. Bill Haas questioned and commented on the following:

- Session One - Student Achievement and Learning
- Implementation
- Looking at issues that school boards are mostly involved in addressing, such as transportation and district-wide issues.
- Will this training help the Board with addressing the teaching needs and student reading scores?

Secretary Natalie Vowell questioned and commented on the following:

- Is there a possibility to find what has been working for the SAB and addressing the needs for improvements?
- Will there be a possibility for collaboration between both boards?
- Will the SAB be involved in training alongside the Elected Board?

Vice President Katherine Wessling commented:

- She hopes that the Elected Board will benefit from these trainings and can familiarize themselves on the policies and bylaws.
- There is no need for the SAB participation.

Mr. Bill Haas questioned and commented on the following:

- When will training start?
- He proposes to start training now for board members.

Charli Cooksey suggested the following:

- A training session on budgeting
- Look at the District's Transformation Plan to compare and contrast

Ms. Phyllis Barks responded to board members' questions and comments.

President Jones made note that the Board members will discuss the MSBA training at their next work session.

APPEARANCES - PUBLIC COMMENTS

Concerned citizen Ms. Susan Turk addressed the Board with the following comments regarding Alternative Governance:

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- Ms. Turk heard information on the radio and reading in the paper referencing “an” elected board rather than “the” Elected Board, stating that people wanted “an” elected board put back in place.
- She referenced stories from local media erroneously reporting that state law does not address how to return the Elected Board to power. Ms. Turk emphasized that state law does in fact specify that the State Board of Education may determine at anytime that a transitional school district has accomplished its purpose, and that the State Board may return power to the board of that district by giving the governor and legislature 30 days' notice.
- Ms. Turk encouraged everyone who supports the Elected Board to write letters to the editor or send comments to the radio stations to have them to retract erroneous statements regarding the transition period.

22nd Ward Republican Committeeman Robert Vroman read the St. Louis City Republican Party’s resolution in support of the elected board and a smooth, timely transition.

Mr. Dryver Henderson addressed the Board regarding the following:

- MSBA Training Book
- Reading Scores of SLPS Students

APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE – NOVEMBER 14, 2017 MEETING AGENDA

On a motion by Secretary Natalie Vowell and seconded by Ms. Charli Cooksey, the board voted to remove the October 10, 2017 minutes of previous sessions from the Agenda, 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.

On a motion by Secretary Vowell and seconded by Dorothy Rohde Collins, the Board voted to approve and adopt the November 14, 2017 meeting agenda as amended, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSIONS

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On a motion by President Jones and seconded by Katherine Wessling, the Board voted to accept the September 12, 2017 meeting minutes, 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.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Transition: Update/Recommendation

- The Transition Plan will be discussed at the next Transition Committee meeting
- Discussion was had regarding the transition committee participation and roles
- Any board member can be part of the transition committee
- Discussion on whether the committee should function as a transition committee or work session committee
- Discussion if the Board should revamp the committee. Discussion will be had at the next work session
- Dates will be forthcoming

MSBA November Board Report

- The Board and audience members watched the MSBA's monthly video to keep up with the Missouri School Boards' Association's activities and statewide education issues.

NEW BUSINESS

Crossing guard request for Oak Hill Elementary School and Buder Elementary School

- Alderwoman Carol Howard of the 14th Ward was sent a letter to both the Elected Board and SAB asking the Board to consider the situation that both schools are currently without crossing guards.
- An issue has arisen regarding no funding for crossing guards.
- The SLPS district has been asked to provide funding for future crossing guards.
- A response on behalf of the Elected Board was made to 14th Ward Ald. Howard acknowledging that the letter was received by the members of the Board and that matter will be discussed at this evening's meeting.
- Ald. Howard understands that the Elected Board does not have the power at this time to make any decisions regarding funding for crossing guards, but it was made clear to her that the Elected Board would discuss the need and bring a discussion forth to the SAB regarding reinstating funds for future crossing guards.
- Discussion will be had at President Jones' next meeting with Dr. Adams and feedback will be shared with board members at the next work session.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE TASK FORCE UPDATE

Charli Cooksey reported the following updates:

- Discussion of the Agenda and Timeline.
- October 17, 2017 was the formal announcement of the forming of the Special Committee Task Force.
- The first three meetings took place on October 30th, November 6th, and November 13th.
- Ms. Cooksey received little information between meetings other than logistics of arrival time and parking instructions.
- The first meeting included introductions, and Mr. Gaines reviewed the agenda and accepted questions. Ms. Cooksey asked several questions, but wasn't given much clarity.
- Task force is tasked with making recommendation on the future governance structure, and what the structure would be in terms of transition.
- Ms. Cooksey asked for more clarity from Mr. Gaines regarding next steps. Mr. Gaines responded that a meeting would take place next Monday, November 20, 2017 which will be public.
- Dr. Adams shared a handout with the task force.
- It was again discussed that there would be no formal meeting that was originally scheduled for next Monday, November 20, 2017. The next meeting will either be convened on December 4th or 11th.
- Concerns were expressed regarding shared information and the proposed meeting dates and more concerns were expressed regarding the timeframe of the next meeting.
- Ms. Cooksey have concerns given that the next meeting is almost a month, which doesn't give the opportunity to discuss all the concerns collectively if anyone had questions of the committee.
- Ms. Cooksey addressed Dr. Adams regarding her concerns of the timeframe of the next meeting which is at least three weeks from now. WMs. Cooksey felt that the topic of information wouldn't be fresh in mind discuss and debrief with the Elected Board. She and others had concerns about the long wait before the next meeting.
- The reasons per Dr. Adams, was that 100 or more pages of information needs to be transcribed, which will take at least 5-7 days to complete before it can be shared.
- Again it was said that the next meeting will be either held on December 4th or the 11th
- Final meeting January 8th.
- Recommendation will be determined on January 11th.
- Discussion on how the task force will vote and make recommendations on either a Hybrid Board or Elected Board.

Secretary Natalie Vowell commented on the following:

- She received many calls regarding concerns of transparency.
- There were concerning issues surrounding the data handling/accuracy of the online survey posted on the SLPS website.

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Ms. Charli Cooksey welcomed any feedback and asked that the Board Members submit to her any questions and concerns that they may have so that she can present them to the committee.

Special Administrative Board October 17, 2017 Consent Agenda

- No consent agenda received
- Discussion of whether this item should remain on the Regular Business Agenda
- Discussion to only discuss at Work Session

RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED

Call for Community Boycott of *Post-Dispatch* Advertisers

- Mr. Bill Haas read the resolution (attached) aloud to the Board.
- Mr. Haas moved to adopt the resolution. The motion received no second.

At 8:21 p.m., Mr. Haas departed.

Resolution to Support Only Fully Elected School Board Governance

- Secretary Natalie Vowell read the resolution (attached) aloud to the Board.

The Board then opened discussion on the resolution.

Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins suggested that might be possible, with some amendments, to take a vote on the resolution tonight by addressing the following concerns discussed by board members:

- The language of the resolution
- Remove the mention of Vector Communications and the cost for their services.
- Ms. Charli Cooksey suggested that the Board make an electronic vote on the resolution.
- President Jones recommends that the Board have a combined Regular Business Meeting and Work session on November 28, 2017.
- A deadline for updates to the resolution was set for 12:00 p.m. on Monday, November 20, 2017.

On a motion by Secretary Natalie Vowell and seconded by Vice President Katherine Wessling, the Board voted to postpone the resolution [Item Number 5d (2)] until the Special Session on November 28, 2017 on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

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Vice President Katherine Wessling reported on the following topics:

- Ms. Wessling submitted a draft opinion editorial to *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and welcomes board feedback prior to its publication.

Due to time constraints, Secretary Natalie Vowell stated she would report on the following topics at the next meeting:

- MSBA Conference Recap
- training and valuable information to share with the Board

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Susan Jones reported on the following topics:

- President Jones submitted an opinion editorial to the *St. Louis American*.
- currently working with the Teachers Union to garner community support.
- Local 420 AFT and SLPS Teachers support the Elected Board.
- President Jones and Vice President Wessling appeared on *The Allman Report* to discuss SLPS board governance.
- President Jones and Dorothy Rohde Collins will participate in a podcast with *The St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and the “Drinking Liberally” event hosted by 7th Ward Democratic Central Committeewoman Marie Ceselski.

INFORMATION REQUESTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Jones will send an email to the Superintendent addressing the concerns of Buder and Oak Hill Elementary not having crossing guards.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion by President Susan Jones and seconded by Dorothy Rohde Collins, the Board voted by acclamation to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:

NATALIE VOWELL, SECRETARY