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

**OFFICIAL REPORT**

**Regular Board Meeting  
St. Louis, MO  
January 09, 2018**

**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 Metro Academic & Classical High School, 4015 McPherson Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63108.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting came to order at 6:32 p.m.

Present: Charli Cooksey, Bill Haas, Donna Jones, Susan Jones, Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling (arrived after roll call)

A quorum was present.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:33 p.m.

**APPEARANCES – INVITED GUESTS**

None

**APPEARANCES – PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Bill Monroe addressed the Board regarding the following:

- concerns about the impact a new law [529 plans] will have on St. Louis Public Schools
- importance of homeless shelters for high school age teens

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- Mr. Monroe announced he has secured bank funding for the school he is founding, Harriet Tubman School, and asked the Board to follow the school's progress.

### **APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE JANUARY 09, 2018 MEETING AGENDA**

On a motion by Ms. Charli Cooksey and seconded by Ms. Donna Jones, the Board voted to approve and adopt the January 09, 2017 Meeting Agenda, as amended [with the removal of the October 10th, 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.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSIONS**

#### **NOVEMBER 14, 2017 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

Vice President Katherine Wessling moved to approve the November 14, 2017 Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded by Secretary Natalie Vowell.

The Board then opened discussion on the November 14th, 2017 Meeting Minutes.

Secretary Vowell moved to add the motions on resolutions which were left out of the current draft of meeting minutes.

Vice President Wessling expressed concerns over the overall rough draft form of the document.

President Susan Jones requested the motion be withdrawn and asked that Secretary Natalie Vowell set a date for board members to review a revised draft of the document to request corrections.

Secretary Vowell set a deadline for Thursday, January 11th.

Vice President Katherine Wessling withdrew her motion.

#### **NOVEMBER 28, 2017 SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES**

The Board opened discussion on the November 28th, 2017 Special Session Minutes.

Ms. Charli Cooksey moved to approve the November 28, 2017 Special Session Minutes.

Vice President Katherine Wessling seconded the motion.

Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins moved to amend the minutes by striking all highlighted text from the document.

Vice President Katherine Wessling seconded the motion.

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Ms. Cooksey withdrew her original motion.

On a motion by Ms. Charli Cooksey and seconded by Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins, the Board voted to approve and adopt the November 28, 2017 Special Session Minutes, as amended [with the striking of highlighted text], 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.

### **DECEMBER 12, 2017 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**

On a motion by President Susan Jones and seconded by Bill Haas, the Board voted to withdraw the December 12th, 2017 Meeting Minutes 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.

### **TASK FORCE UPDATE**

Ms. Charli Cooksey reported on the Special Governance Task Force:

- The final meeting of the Special Task Force will be held from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. on January 17, 2018 at the 801 District Office. The meeting will be facilitated by Vector Communications.
- The Task Force will make a final recommendation of which governance structure is best for the St. Louis Public School District and determine the transition timeline/process.
- The Task Force received documents and reports to support them in their decision on a governance structure, including the report that was developed by the SLPS Foundation.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

On a motion by Secretary Natalie Vowell and seconded by Vice President Katherine Wessling, the Board voted to accept the resolution (attached) to support House Bill 1582, on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion carried.

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On a motion by Secretary Natalie Vowell and seconded by Bill Haas, the Board voted to accept the resolution (attached) to support House Bill 1453 on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion carried.

On a motion by Secretary Natalie Vowell and seconded by Charli Cooksey, the Board voted to suspend the resolution to oppose House Bill 1424 until the next work session, 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.

### **MSBA BOARD REPORT**

The MSBA December/January Board Reports video were shared with the Board and audience members.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

President Susan Jones noted that board members are currently working on the transition presentation. President Jones also stated that members are required to finish MSBA Sunshine Law Training before the next meeting.

### **BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Secretary Natalie Vowell reported on the following:

- On December 21, 2017, President Susan Jones and Secretary Natalie Vowell participated in a conference call with Ms. Evie Frankl of Popular Democracy regarding a growing movement surrounding local control for urban school districts. Secretary Vowell provided an overview of the call:
  - Some districts are facing or have endured appointed boards, and some have successfully regained locally-elected representation.

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- o The goal is to establish collaboration across districts and form a coalition to share experiences and strategies when moving forward with an effort to restore education voting rights to urban citizens.
- o Other organizations, such as teachers unions are being brought on board.
- o More updates to come as action plans are solidified.
- o On January 4, 2018, Secretary Vowell spoke with 34<sup>th</sup> District State Representative Rebecca Roeber, who sponsored HB 1424. Rep. Roeber confirmed that this legislation, which would make significant changes to school board elections, is intended to affect the entire state of Missouri, including St. Louis City.
- Secretary Vowell shared a short statement (attached) in support of the Board from Annie Rice, 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Democratic Central Committeewoman and 4<sup>th</sup> Senate District State Committeewoman
- The MSBA Legislative Forum 2018 will be held on Tuesday, February 13, 2018. Secretary Vowell will be attending. She invited other board members to participate.
- On December 7, 2017, Governor Eric Greitens signed a proclamation designating January 21-27 as School Board Recognition Week in Missouri.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderwoman Megan Green has filed a resolution with the Board of Aldermen to observe School Board Recognition Week in the City of St. Louis. The resolution will be introduced on Friday, January 12, 2018.
- On December 20, 2017, a lawsuit was filed against the Special Administrative Board. Case #1722-CC11990. As of this date, Case.net reports no hearing date set.

Vice President Katherine Wessling reported on the following:

- Vice President Wessling wanted everyone to be aware of federal tax law changes which include a provision allowing deduction for private school tuition.
- Vice President Wessling requested an update regarding crossing guards and follow-up communication with Alderwoman Carol Howard.

Bill Haas discussed the following two issues:

- Mr. Haas expressed concerns over the Board's canceled work session; he suggested reviewing/creating a protocol for posting of work session agendas, and making certain proper notice is given.
- Mr. Haas expressed disappointment that the Board had not followed through with scheduling a meeting with the Task Force and extending an invitation.

### **BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Susan Jones reported on the following:

- A meeting will take place with the Superintendent Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. Board members are welcome to attend the meeting.
- Future work session meeting dates to be confirmed. A final draft will be submitted by Friday, January 12, 2018.

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## **INFORMATION REQUESTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Secretary Natalie Vowell received an information request from a constituent regarding SLPS budget adjustments due to the new federal tax laws. She requested information from Dr. Adams regarding what considerations and budget adjustments will be made.

Vice President Katherine Wessling addressed the members of the audience to offer an explanation of “accreditation” if needed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, upon a motion by Secretary Natalie Vowell and seconded by Mr. Bill Haas, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

**ATTESTED BY:**

**NATALIE VOWELL, SECRETARY**