

FINAL

CXXIX
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF
THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

OFFICIAL REPORT

Regular Business Meeting
St. Louis, MO
April 10, 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 Nahed Chapman New American Academy, located at 1616 S. Grand, St. Louis, MO 63104.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

PRESENT: Bill Haas, Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

ABSENT: Charli Cooksey, Donna Jones, Susan Jones

A quorum was present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:30 p.m.

4. APPEARANCES - PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were presented.

5. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE APRIL 10, 2018 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

On a motion by Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins and seconded by Secretary Natalie Vowell, the Board voted to approve and adopt the April 10, 2018 Meeting Agenda on the following roll call vote:

AYE: Bill Haas, Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

The motion passed.

6. NEW BUSINESS: RESOLUTION REGARDING SUBDISTRICTING

Vice President Katherine Wessling read the proposed resolution regarding subdistricting aloud.

Secretary Natalie Vowell commented on the following:

- The sponsor of House Bill 1424, which the resolution addressed, intended for the bill to encourage greater turnout in school board elections.

Mr. Bill Haas recommended the following amendments to the resolution:

- To correct a typing mistake in the third “Whereas” clause.
- To remove the fifth “Whereas” clause.
- To remove the ninth and tenth “Whereas” clauses.
- To insert, as the eighth “Whereas” clause, the following language:
 - “and Whereas the implementation of geographically imposed subdistricts may further reinforce the North-South divide in our city, may give rise to further inequality by requiring members of the Board of Education to reside in subdistrict boundaries representing affluent neighborhoods where fewer children attend public schools, and the results would generally be complicated and uncertain”.

On a motion by Mr. Bill Haas and seconded by Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins, the Board voted to approve the resolution, as amended as follows:

- to correct a typing mistake in the third “Whereas” clause,
- to remove the fifth “Whereas” clause,
- to remove the ninth and tenth “Whereas” clauses,
- to insert, as the eighth “Whereas” clause, the following language:
 - “and Whereas the implementation of geographically imposed subdistricts may further reinforce the North-South divide in our city, may give rise to further inequality by requiring members of the Board of Education to reside in subdistrict boundaries representing affluent neighborhoods where fewer children attend public schools, and the results would generally be complicated and uncertain”

on the following roll call vote:

AYE: Bill Haas, Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

The motion passed.

Vice President Katherine Wessling commented on the following:

- The approved resolution should now be disseminated through typical press release messages, on the St. Louis Public Schools website, and to legislators.
- Vice President Katherine Wessling commented that it was every Board Member’s responsibility to get the approved resolution to state legislators.

7a. NEW BUSINESS: TRANSITION/ TRAINING

Vice President Katherine Wessling presented the training proposal compiled by the Missouri School Boards' Association (MSBA), the National School Boards' Association (NSBA), and Superintendent Dr. Kelvin Adams, that was disseminated to President Susan Jones and all board members via email.

- The proposal included eight training segments.
- Each segment would last 6-8 hours per day for each of the eight days.
- Trainings would take place at least monthly.
- NSBA would facilitate the trainings.

Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins commented on the following:

- The proposal stated that the Special Administrative Board (SAB) had agreed to allocate resources to support the attendance of Board Members at SAB meetings, but this has not yet taken place.
- Some of the trainings in the proposal are repeated from the MSBA required state training, including the sunshine law training. This training should be specific to the district.
- Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins commented on her concerns about the cost of the training, at \$4,000 per day for eight days of training.
- The proposal recommended that the trainings take place during Elected Board Work Sessions, and that the Elected Board attend SAB meetings instead of holding Regular Business Meetings. However, the trainings are scheduled to take six hours each, which exceeds the time during regularly scheduled work sessions.

Vice President Katherine Wessling commented on the following:

- The cost is also concerning to train a Board where four members may not be in place at the time of transition.
- The costs cover travel and hotel for the trainers, and printing of materials and publications.

Mr. Bill Haas commented on the following:

- The money is well spent if it prepares the Board to assume governance.

Secretary Natalie Vowell commented on the following:

- The Board should commit to specific goals and learnings about the district.
- The training should address our school district, buildings, and staffing issues.

Mr. Bill Haas commented on the following:

- The Elected Board had asked the Special Administrative Board for what the SAB thinks the Elected Board should know based on their 10 years of experience.

Vice President Katherine Wessling commented on the following:

- The State Board of Education needs to state what they are looking for before they decide on governance transition. Until then, the training would be a waste of time and money.

Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins commented on the following:

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- The SAB is approving the training and determining if the Elected Board is ready, but is not ultimately responsible for making the final decision.
- The proposal does not mention SAB participation in the transfer of knowledge.

Secretary Natalie Vowell commented on the following:

- In December, Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins and Secretary Natalie Vowell worked on specific documents that the elected board would need from the SAB for the transition.
- These documents will be brought to a future Work Session.

7b. NEW BUSINESS: SPRING REGIONAL MEETINGS

Secretary Natalie Vowell commented on the following:

- MSBA is holding regional meetings for all school boards across the state.
- May 2, 2018 is the next meeting, at Webster Groves High School.
- There is a \$45 registration fee.
- Secretary Natalie Vowell indicated that she would like to attend.
- Mr. Bill Haas and Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins also expressed interest in attending.

8. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins indicated that she did not have a Board Member report.

Mr. Bill Haas presented the following Board Member report:

- The Board should have a formal process for reaching out to legislators.
- Specifically, a process should be in place for the resolution that was passed.

At 7:25 p.m., Mr. Bill Haas departed.

Secretary Natalie Vowell presented the following Board Member report:

- Secretary Natalie Vowell went to Jefferson City on February 13, 2018 to speak in support of House Bill 1582 and House Bill 1453. These bills would sunset the State Board's ability to continue the Transitional District of Saint Louis.
- Secretary Natalie Vowell has earned Advanced Board Member certification.

Vice President Katherine Wessling presented the following Board Member report:

- Vice President Katherine Wessling has been contacted by a legislative candidate regarding charter schools.

9. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No Board President's report was presented.

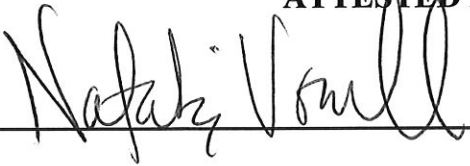
10. INFORMATION REQUESTS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

No information requests or additional announcements were made.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There no longer being a quorum of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:



NATALIE VOWELL