

FINAL

CXXIX
BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF
THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

OFFICIAL REPORT

Regular Business Meeting
St. Louis, MO
May 8, 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 Stix Early Childhood Center, located at 647 Tower Grove Ave, St. Louis, MO 63110.

1 and 2. 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, Katherine Wessling

ABSENT: Natalie Vowell (Excused)

A quorum was present.

On a motion by Vice President Katherine Wessling and seconded by Mr. Bill Haas, the Board voted to excuse the absence of Natalie Vowell on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion passed.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

4. APPEARANCES - PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were made.

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5. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE MAY 8, 2018 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

On a motion by Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins and seconded by Vice President Katherine Wessling, the Board voted to remove agenda item #6, Approval of the Minutes of Previous Sessions for February 20, 2018, on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion passed.

On a motion by President Susan Jones and seconded by Vice President Katherine Wessling, the Board voted to approve and adopt the amended May 8, 2018 Regular Business Meeting Agenda on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion passed.

7b. SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD'S CONSENT AGENDA

The Board held the following discussion on the Special Administrative Board's Consent Agenda:

- Ms. Charli Cooksey commented that the Board should think about how each item aligns to clear outcomes, metrics and strategies for the district.
- Mr. Bill Haas commented that additional back-up information is needed for each item.
- Ms. Donna Jones asked if the Consent Agenda item related to selling or disposal of surplus property is related to the launch of the Consortium Partnership Network.
- President Susan Jones commented that Superintendent Kelvin Adams will attend tonight's meeting

7c. NEW BUSINESS: OUTREACH TO MR. ADOLPHUS PRUITT OF THE NAACP

Mr. Bill Haas commented about the following:

- Mr. Adolphus Pruitt asked for a meeting with the Elected Board.
- Mr. Bill Haas asked for agreement to move forward with this meeting.
- President Susan Jones commented that all members of the public are welcome to participate as a part of a meeting agenda, or that he could attend a future Work Session.
- Mr. Bill Haas commented that he will reach out to coordinate a future visit with Mr. Adolphus Pruitt.
- Ms. Donna Jones commented that Mr. Adolphus Pruitt should bring a list of people that he represents to that meeting.
- Mr. Bill Haas mentioned that the dialogue could take more than an hour, and suggested that he request a list of talking points from Mr. Adolphus Pruitt prior to the conversation.
- Ms. Charli Cooksey commented that dialogues and relationships should be aligned with the desired outcomes of the Board for the transition process.

7d. NEW BUSINESS: CONSORTIUM SCHOOLS

Superintendent Kelvin Adams presented an update to the Board, which included the following topics:

- Responses to the Eight Questions from President Susan Jones
- Consortium Update, formerly presented to the Special Administrative Board
- Budget plan of 18-19 School Year
- Academic and Operational Updates

Superintendent Kelvin Adams and the Board engaged in the following discussion regarding the presentation:

- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the staff at schools will make decisions for their own schools. The belief is that decisions closer to schools will allow for faster, quicker change.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that leaders from the district, along with leaders from the union, will visit a similar model in Springfield, Missouri on June 7, 2018.
- Vice President Katherine Wessling asked if staff from schools are bought in to this plan.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the staff at the schools would have to buy in, but would have the ability to leave if desired.
- Vice President Katherine Wessling asked if schools have asked for this model.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the specific plan came from the Superintendent, but the requests for additional flexibilities have come from schools many times over many years.
- Vice President Katherine Wessling asked if the model could be implemented inside the district, with individual schools reporting directly to the Elected Board.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that this model would allow for a unique union contract for specific schools.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that SY 15-16 was the last year for funding for the Superintendent Zone Schools.
- President Susan Jones asked why the Danforth-Freeman Group was listed specifically in the presentation, and who were members of the group.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that members of the Special Administrative Board held many meetings with many groups.
- President Susan Jones asked how schools will have smooth transitions into the Consortium Schools, specifically considering Professional Development for teachers.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the schools will write their own plans, and then the district will assist either directly or by providing outside consulting services for support.
- President Susan Jones asked if the district will share best practices with schools as they develop their plans.
- Ms. Charli Cooksey commented that the timeline for planning and launch feels rushed.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the district has considered this model over many months, and that it is an ongoing process.

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- Ms. Charli Cooksey asked why the appointed board would be limited to a five members. Ms. Charli Cooksey also expressed concerns with the appointments being made for the Consortium Board by the Special Administrative Board.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the makeup of the Consortium Board is up for discussion.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the district has already posted for a Consortium Network Superintendent position to assist with the launch of this program, and that after this year, any additional roles would be hired directly by the board of the Consortium.
- Ms. Charli Cooksey commented her hope that the board of the Consortium and the leader of the Consortium bring an innovative approach.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the leader of the Consortium will have to work through the district to make things happen for the schools.
- Ms. Charli Cooksey requested a public report on previous transformation work that the district engaged in.
- Ms. Donna Jones commented on her concerns regarding the involvement of the Danforth-Freeman Group and the St. Louis Public Schools Foundation.
- Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins asked how the district will ensure that schools' performance will not be effected this year during the planning process.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that all schools are required to develop plans annually, and that schools identified for the Consortium would use the services of an outside facilitating partner to develop their plans outside of usual school hours.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that, in Springfield, Massachusetts, schools return to district governance after five years.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that district lawyers are drafting by-laws for the Consortium non-profit organization.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the donated dollars for the Consortium launch was expressly earmarked for this project.
- Mr. Bill Haas asked if additional funds would be given by the state for Consortium Schools.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that he did not expect additional funds from the state.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that a separate union contract would be formed for Consortium schools.
- Mr. Bill Haas commented that, if schools are not doing well, then it is because the student population may be more challenging and additional supports are not provided or the staff is not adequate. Why would this model solve these challenges?
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the Consortium would allow schools greater flexibilities to address specific issues at their schools.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the launch of this model is not related to the recommendations regarding school board governance.
- President Susan Jones asked if this model would alienate parents and community members due to the development of a third school governance body.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that most parents align themselves to the leadership of a school than to a board.
- President Susan Jones asked that the Elected Board be included in this process.

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- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that Special Administrative Board has expressed interest in one member of the Elected Board to be directly engaged with the Special Administrative Board.
- Ms. Charli Cooksey recommended members for participation on the Consortium Board.
- Ms. Charli Cooksey commented that Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience has been successful due to: real autonomy, a strong leader, a clear mission, a clear strategy, and a strong advisory board dedicated to raising funds.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the district has received a donation of \$400,000 for this effort.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: TRANSITION

On a motion by President Susan Jones and seconded by Mr. Bill Haas, the Board voted to approve the most recent Training Plan as presented to the Elected Board, on the following roll call vote:

AYE: Charli Cooksey, Bill Haas, Donna Jones, Susan Jones, Dorothy Rohde Collins

ABSTAIN: Katherine Wessling

The motion passed.

President Susan Jones commented on the following:

- The Board will notify the Superintendent and the Missouri School Boards' Association of the passage of the Training Plan.
- The Board will work collectively to identify the schedule for the training sessions.

7a. MSBA APRIL BOARD REPORT

The Board watched the Missouri School Boards' Association's April Board Report.

9a. REPORTS OF THE FOLLOWING ORDER: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Charli Cooksey and Mr. Bill Haas did not present any Board Member reports.

Ms. Donna Jones presented the following Board Member report:

- Ms. Donna Jones attended a Trauma Workshop at the district's central office.
- The workshop was beneficial, and should be repeated.
- The workshop was funded by the St. Louis Public Schools Foundation.

Vice President Katherine Wessling presented the following Board Member report:

- High School graduations will take place from May 11, 2018 through May 22, 2018.
- A schedule of graduations can be found on the district's website.

Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins presented the following Board Member report:

- Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins and Ms. Donna Jones attended the Spring Regional Meeting led by the Missouri School Boards' Association.

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- The district is hosting budget meetings this week, including one tonight and one on this Saturday at Mullanphy-Botanical Garden ILC Elementary School.
- An amendment was offered to a bill in the Missouri Senate that would have returned governance to the Elected Board, but the amendment was voted down.

9b. REPORTS OF THE FOLLOWING ORDER: BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Susan Jones presented the following Board President's report:

- The Board will select members to serve on the Audit Committee and the Real Estate Committee at the next Regular Business Meeting.
- The Board will hold elections for Board leadership roles at the next Regular Business Meeting.

10. INFORMATION REQUESTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

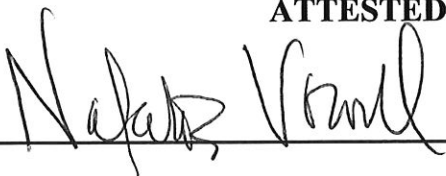
Ms. Charli Cooksey presented the following announcement:

- Ms. Charli Cooksey requested longer work blocks for the training sessions.
- Ms. Charli Cooksey commented that the Board should identify a member of the Elected Board to engage with the Consortium Schools.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, upon a motion by Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins and seconded by Ms. Charli Cooksey, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:



NATALIE VOWELL