

FINAL

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

Board Work Session
St. Louis, MO
July 24, 2018

MINUTES

The Board of Education of the City of St. Louis met in Open Session for a work session on the date noted above at Metro Academic and Classical High School, at 4015 McPherson Ave, St. Louis, MO 63108.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting came to order at 6:45 PM.

PRESENT: Charli Cooksey, Susan Jones, Dorothy Rohde Collins, Katherine Wessling

ABSENT: Donna Jones (Excused), Bill Haas, Natalie Vowell

A quorum was present.

The board approved the excused absence requested by Ms. Donna Jones.

3. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE JUNE 26, 2018 WORK SESSION AGENDA.

Item 5 was removed so that Secretary Natalie Vowell could be present for the discussion in a future meeting.

All agreed to proceed with the amended July 24, 2018 Work Session Agenda.

4. BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR

President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented on the following:

- Saint Louis Public Schools will hold a Back to School Fair on August 11, from 10 AM to 3 PM, as a part of the Urban League Expo.

Ms. Susan Jones commented on the following:

- The Back to School Fair is an opportunity to walk around and help teachers and staff, talk to different organizations, and participate in networking time with staff, community and students.

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President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented on the following:

- The Elected Board will not ask for a booth.
- Anyone is welcome to attend and participate.
- Transportation is provided from the district's central office.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins requested that the Elected Board confirm by the end of the week if the Elected Board wants a booth, or if any members would like to speak. Otherwise, members of the Elected Board are welcome to attend as individual board members, but no speaking assignments or booth will be arranged for the Elected Board.

6. UPDATE ON TRANSITION AND TRAINING

President Dorothy Rohde Collins asked if there were any food needs for the trainings facilitated by the Missouri School Board Association (MSBA)/ National School Board Association (NSBA):

- Vice President Charli Cooksey requested gluten free options.
- President Dorothy Rohde-Collins will reach out to board members who are not present for additional needs.

President Dorothy Rohde Collins continued to comment on the MSBA/ NSBA trainings:

- The first training is scheduled for next Friday, August 3rd, from 5PM- 9PM and Saturday, August 4th, from 8:30 AM- 5:30 PM.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey and President Dorothy Rohde Collins participated in a conference call about the curriculum for the trainings. Both emphasized the importance of the applicability of the content, and requested that the training be as hands on and participatory as possible.
- The first training session will include modules 1 and 2, which will be one quarter of the material.
- No changes have been made to future dates.

President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented on the following:

- Dr. Victor Lenz and his committee are meeting on August 2nd to review the transition progress.
- When official training ends in November, the committee will consider having the Elected Board hold meetings with the same material as the Special Administrative Board (SAB), one week prior to the SAB meetings. The Elected Board will work through the material with Dr. Adams and SLPS staff.
- No set transition date is set at this time; it is a matter of demonstrating that the Elected Board is ready, as reflected through MSBA self-evaluations and through the ability of the Elected Board to work as a team.
- Given the November election, it will be the Elected Board's responsibility to demonstrate effective leadership and teamwork in bringing on new team members and onboarding them.

Ms. Susan Jones commented on the following:

- A staff member from the district can do the onboarding, paperwork, etc, to get new board members up to speed through a formal training.

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President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented on the following:

- It is the district's responsibility to provide hand-outs, materials and recordings.
- It is the Elected Board's responsibility to demonstrate the leadership necessary to bring new members on, and to model the characteristics learned in the training.
- Module 1 of the training is on the Code of Ethics, and demonstrating that we are principled people.

Vice President Charli Cooksey commented on the following:

- We should add brainstorming onboarding processes as an agenda item, to be completed at least one month prior to any new members coming on.

A discussion followed regarding the timing of onboarding if new members are elected in November:

- Vice President Charli Cooksey suggested that onboarding not take place until January.
- Ms. Katherine Wessling stated that voting members must be onboarded right away.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins stated a preference for new members to be sworn in at a Board Meeting. The Elected Board will brainstorm further in the September work session, and solidify plans in October.

A discussion followed regarding the date of the next Elected Board meeting:

- The next Elected Board meeting is currently scheduled for August 7th, which is election day and close to the transition trainings scheduled for the previous weekend.
- The second Tuesday of August is the 1st day of school.
- Therefore, the August 7th meeting will be cancelled, and the August 28th work session will be converted to a full Elected Board meeting.
- Regarding the Elected Board meeting scheduled for September 11th, Ms. Susan Jones commented that the Elected Board still has a duty to audit and report for this meeting, and can bring in someone to talk about a specific topic given how close this meeting will be to the meeting scheduled for August 28th.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins suggested to hold the September 11th meeting in order to not establish a habit of canceling meetings.

President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented on the following:

- All minutes from the calendar year must be approved by October.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins will send out minutes from previous meetings prior to the next meeting.
- Changes should be identified in advance.
- The Elected Board will vote on these minutes at the next board meeting.

7. IDENTIFYING AND ENGAGING STAKEHOLDERS

Vice President Charli Cooksey commented on identifying and engaging stakeholders:

- This is a four-part process: identify stakeholder groups, identify specific people and organizations, prioritize those groups and organizations, and identify a team leader from the Elected Board with next steps to make sure relationship building is happening.
- This process is in service of the transition of power, to ensure that the Elected Board is best positioned to support the district with thriving.

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Ms. Susan Jones commented on the following:

- The first area where the Elected Board should look is who does the district already have a relationship with.
- This list should be inside the manual from the transition committee.

The Elected Board established the following groups and specific people/organizations:

- Families/ Parents (Parent Advisory Committee members and contacts from the Family and Community Specialists)
- Students (District Student Council and Student Governments at each school)
- Teachers (Local 420)
- Schools of Education, including Alternative Certification Routes (Saint Louis Teacher Residency and Teach for America)
- Administrators
- Pre-kindergarten Providers
- Social Sector Influencers (Educators for Social Justice, For the Sake of All, Forward through Ferguson, Ready by 21, and the Early Ed. Fund (effort to raise 100M for early education))
- District Staff (non-certificated individuals)
- Philanthropic Community
- Other Elected Officials

Ms. Katherine Wessling commented on the following:

- The Elected Board should be careful about developing relationships with staff. This could set up a situation where employees jump over their boss's head to the Elected Board.

The Elected Board and State Board Member Dr. Vic Lenz discussed the transition of power to the Elected Board.

- Ms. Susan Jones expressed frustration with the lack of benchmarks in the transition process.
- Dr. Vic Lenz commented on the importance of working together as a board.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented that there is no checklist for the transition, that there are potentially two new Elected Board members in November and potentially two new Elected Board members in April, and that the majority of Elected Board members in April may not have gone through the trainings. President Dorothy Rohde Collins asked for confirmation that, if the Elected Board follows through with the trainings, power will be returned.
- Dr. Vic Lenz commented on the importance of an Elected Board onboarding process for new members.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey commented that, while the state board makes the final decision, a lot of individuals are influencing this process and decision formally and informally and are saying different things.
- Dr. Vic Lenz reassured the Elected Board of the investment of the Missouri School Board Association (MSBA) in the success of the trainings.

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- Dr. Vic Lenz commented on the possibility of joint Board sessions, with the Special Administrative Board (SAB) votes counting but with the Elected Board present and participating.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented on how the training dates were set without consulting Board member schedules.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey commented on the importance of open lines of communication.

Ms. Katherine Wessling commented on the following:

- Missouri Revised Statute 162.581, Subsection 2, states that Board members “shall take (an) oath before a circuit or associate circuit judge of the city.”

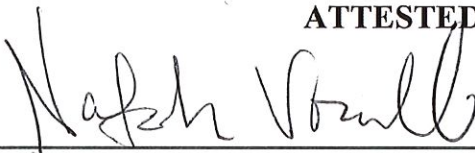
8. INFORMATION REQUESTS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

No information requests or additional announcements were stated.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The work session adjourned at 8:01 PM.

ATTESTED BY:



NATALIE VOWELL