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CXXX BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

OFFICIAL REPORT

Regular Board Meeting
St. Louis, MO
February 20, 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 Roosevelt High School, 3230 Hartford Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63118.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting came to order at 6:38 p.m.

PRESENT: Charli Cooksey, Donna Jones, Susan Jones, Natalie Vowell
Dorothy Rohde Collins (arrived after roll call)

ABSENT: Bill Haas, Katherine Wessling

A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited at 6:39 p.m.

APPEARANCES - INVITED GUESTS

None

APPEARANCES - PUBLIC COMMENTS

Concerned Citizen Mr. Don DeVivo addressed the Board regarding vacant properties.

- Mr. DeVivo served on the City's Vacancy Task Force.

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- He pointed out that the Board of Education appoints one of three commissioners of the Land Reutilization Authority.
- Mr. DeVivo asked that the Board be mindful of the current appointee and take this appointment seriously once the Board resumes governance.

22nd Ward Resident Mr. Antwan Pope addressed the Board regarding abandoned schools.

- Mr. Pope suggested Langston, Stowe, and Gundlach be repurposed rather than falling into further disrepair. He requested information on who is responsible for maintenance of vacant school buildings.
- He also expressed concern for the safety of children boarding school buses in front of vacant properties.

Education Advocate Ms. Susan Turk addressed the Board regarding pending state legislation:

- HB 1453 (May) and HB 1582 (Franks, Jr.) have received no action in the legislature. These bills would force the State Board to return the elected board of any accredited school district to governance.
- HB 1580 (Franks, Jr.) has received no action. This bill would allow a community in which a charter school is located to vote on whether the school's sponsorship should be renewed.
- HB 2283 (Bahr) is receiving action; it has a companion bill in the Senate, SB 612 (Koenig), which is also receiving action. Ms. Turk expressed concerns that this "voucher scholarship bill" would reduce the State's funding of education and other services.
- HB 2247 (Roeber) is receiving action. This bill would allow charter schools to open in any district with one underperforming school; any child in the state could attend, regardless of their district of residence.

At 6:47 p.m., Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins arrived.

APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE FEBRUARY 20, 2018 MEETING AGENDA

On a motion by Ms. Charli Cooksey and seconded by Secretary Natalie Vowell, the Board voted to approve and adopt the February 20, 2018 Meeting Agenda, on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSIONS

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NOVEMBER 14, 2017 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins and seconded by Ms. Donna Jones, the Board voted to approve and adopt the November 14, 2017 Regular Business Meeting Minutes, on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion carried.

DECEMBER 12, 2017 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by Ms. Charli Cooksey and seconded by Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins, the Board voted to approve and adopt the December 12, 2017 Regular Business Meeting Minutes, on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion carried.

JANUARY 09, 2018 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

On a motion by Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins and seconded by Ms. Donna Jones, the Board voted to approve and adopt the January 09, 2018 Regular Business Meeting Minutes, on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion carried.

2018-2019 SCHOOL CALENDAR

- President Susan Jones relayed information from Superintendent Dr. Adams regarding date changes and rationale for these changes.
- Ms. Donna Jones requested that President Susan Jones ask Superintendent Dr. Adams to consider including more information such as emergency numbers and office numbers.
- Secretary Natalie Vowell suggested adding meeting dates for both the Board of Education and the Special Administrative Board.

SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS

- President Jones reviewed slight decreases in Summer School enrollment trends, which were attributed to changes in enrollment in the District as a whole.
- Ms. Charli Cooksey expressed enthusiasm over the expanded partnerships and opportunities offered to students, and wanted to know more about content, curriculum, and goals for each program.

MSBA BOARD REPORT

The MSBA February Board Report video was shared with the Board and audience members.

SAB CONSENT AGENDA

- Secretary Natalie Vowell suggested that it would be beneficial for the Board to review RFP's and rationale behind decisions on contracts and renewals.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Secretary Natalie Vowell reported attending the MSBA Legislative Forum in Jefferson City:

- MSBA has taken stances and action on some legislation previously mentioned by Ms. Turk and gave status updates/lobbying actions for relevant bills.
- Secretary Vowell met with Rep. Bruce Franks, Jr. and Rep. Karla May regarding strategies for committee assignments for their House Bills, 1582 and 1453.
- She distributed to legislators printed copies of the Board's resolutions on HB 1582 and HB 1453, as well as the St. Louis City Republican Party's resolution in support of the elected boards return to governance. She reported these were well received by legislators of both parties.
- Secretary Vowell reported that the MSBA has taken a stance against HB 1424 (Roeber), and the bill is receiving action. This bill would change school board elections and divide districts into subdistricts. She emphasized again the need for the Board to revisit its previously composed resolution to oppose HB 1424
- Secretary Vowell met with Senator Jamilah Nasheed, the sponsor of SCR 29, which would affect the specific process by which a previously unaccredited school district would resume local control. She reported no clear rationale was given and no commitment was made to include elected board members in the process.
- Secretary Vowell distributed to board members printouts listing committee assignments and contact info for legislators involved with relevant legislation. She encouraged other board members to contact these legislators or travel with her on her next trip to the State Capitol. (Copies were also made available the audience.)

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Ms. Donna Jones reported on construction and safety around schools.

- Ms. Jones, as former lead inspector, raised concerns regarding the construction and cleanup surrounding several schools on Jefferson Avenue: Gateway Middle, Carr Lane, Gateway Elementary, and a nearby charter school.
- She advises barriers and more frequent cleanups around the site to reduce daily exposure to dust and toxins, including extra cleanup by SLPS Maintenance staff.
- Ms. Jones stresses the importance of the construction site having been a hazardous chemical dumping site and the urgent need to address this serious safety matter.
- She encouraged meeting attendees to contact the Special Administrative Board to voice their concerns as well.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Susan Jones reported on the following:

- President Jones distributed information on the Educating For Change Curriculum Conference, to be held at Wydown Middle School on Saturday, February 24, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. She invited other board members to attend to educate and involve the community on the topic of local governance.
- Today, President Jones received a response from Superintendent Dr. Adams regarding SAB members' availability and possible dates for joint meetings. She stated these meetings would be open to the public and agenda would include:
 - o the SAB's recommendations to DESE
 - o support the Elected Board needs for the transition process
 - o guidelines for transition
- President Jones suggested the Board convene for a work session prior to meeting with the SAB.

INFORMATION REQUESTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Donna Jones requested a report from the District lobbyist, Steven Carroll, specifically regarding any legislation relevant to transition.

Secretary Natalie Vowell was contacted by 15th Ward Alderwoman Megan Green to invite the Board to participate in a conference in July in Minnesota with an organization called Local Progress Convening. The conference will focus on progressive actions in emerging local issues from cities across the country.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, upon a motion by Secretary Natalie Vowell and seconded by Ms. Charli Cooksey, the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m. on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion carried.

ATTESTED BY:

NATALIE VOWELL, SECRETARY