

FINAL

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

Board Work Session
St. Louis, MO
January 8, 2019

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.

1 and 2. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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

PRESENT: Charli Cooksey (6:34 p.m.), Donna Jones, Susan Jones, Joyce Roberts, Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling (6:38 p.m.)

A quorum was present.

3. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE JANUARY 8, 2019 WORK SESSION AGENDA.

All agreed to proceed with the January 8, 2019 Work Session Agenda.

4a. NORMS AND EXPECTATIONS: BOARD PROCEDURES

The Board discussed needed areas for support for Board Members:

- Ms. Susan Jones and Vice President Charli Cooksey needed access to the district email account.
- No Board Members asked for assistance with a district phone.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey asked if it was an expectation to use the district phone.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented that this did not come up in discussions of the Sunshine Law in the trainings by the Missouri School Boards' Association.
- No Board Members asked for assistance with nameplates.
- Ms. Donna Jones asked for Business Cards.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey and Ms. Katherine Wessling asked for parking passes.
- No Board Members asked for assistance with their MSBA account access.

President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented on the following Board expectations:

- All Board Members should attend every meeting and every Work Session.

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- Absence excusal requests should be sent to President Dorothy Rohde Collins before the start of the meeting.
- All Board Members are expected to be on time to each meeting. Absent or tardy members should notify the president.
- All Board Members are expected to stay to the end of each meeting.
- Board Members should receive the Board books for the Mock Meetings at least one week before the meeting.
- All district inquiries should be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on the Wednesday preceding the meeting, through email.
- The district will have three full business days to respond.
- Additional inquiries submitted after that time will be submitted for the next meeting.
- Mock Meetings will generally use the indicated agenda from a previous meeting of the Special Administrative Board.
- The following standing items will be added to the agenda: a Norms check-in at the end of each meeting and Committee Updates.
- Meetings will still use Robert's Rules of Order.
- Work Sessions will be less formal but may be more formal than in the past.
- All Board Members are expected to check and respond to emails. This is for Board Meetings and work in committees.
- Ms. Donna Jones commented that there were issues with her email account. President Dorothy Rohde Collins asked her to follow up with the district, and notify President Dorothy Rohde Collins by January 22, 2019 if it had still not been addressed.
- All Board Members are expected to dress in Business Casual attire for Regular Business Meetings, but are allowed to dress in Casual attire for Work Sessions.

4b. NORMS AND EXPECTATIONS: NORMS COMMITTEE

The Board discussed the formation of a Norms Committee:

- Ms. Charli Cooksey and Dr. Joyce Roberts were nominated to serve on the Norms Committee.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented that committee meetings have notice posted.
- Feedback on the draft Norms were requested. Three Board Members did not respond, two responded with no edits, and two responded with edits.
- No new Norms will be discussed at this Work Session to respect the process.
- The Board is attempting to get to between five and seven Norms, but this process does not need to be completed at this meeting.

4c. NORMS AND EXPECTATIONS: COLLABORATIVE REVISION OF NORMS ESTABLISHED DURING MSBA TRAINING

The Board discussed the draft Norms:

- Ms. Susan Jones commented that, under Advocacy, #1 and #2 are the same, and that if items mirror what is in the Code of Ethics, they should not be repeated. Ms. Susan Jones proposed keeping #1.

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- Vice President Charli Cooksey commented that this document contained too many Norms.
- Ms. Susan Jones commented that Procedures are a series of steps to be followed, while Policies are guiding principles.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented that Norms are how the Board carries out its Code of Ethics.
- Ms. Donna Jones commented that #5 needs to be addressed, since Board Members currently have to go through many channels to visit a school.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented that the wording is similar to what was presented by the Missouri School Boards' Association, and that it does not apply for those functioning as a parent or guardian.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented that visits to schools to gather information is not the role of the Board. Concerns about test scores or suspensions should be raised to the Superintendent. General visits to schools should include a notification to the Superintendent.

The Board discussed the Norms related to Preparation for Meetings/Professionalism:

- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented that #1, #2, and #3 are all within #5.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented that #4 is already addressed within the Norm for Communication.
- The Board agreed on keeping #5 under Preparation for Meetings/ Professionalism.

The Board discussed the Norms related to Confidentiality:

- Ms. Charli Cooksey asked if the confidentiality of Closed Session needed to be explicitly stated.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented that it might be helpful, given past actions by Board Members.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented that #2 and #4 are not necessary, and that #8 and #10 get to overall communication.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey commented that #1, #3, and #4 should be combined.
- Vice President Natalie Vowell commented that an additional Norm about the press or media should be considered by the Norms committee.

The Board discussed the Norms related to Decision-making:

- Vice President Charli Cooksey identified two themes: respect differences and respect decisions by the Board once made.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented that #2 aligns things to the transformation plan and emphasizes educational welfare for students.
- Ms. Katherine Wessling commented that #9 seems odd, as most decisions are not just made by the Board president.
- Secretary Natalie Vowell commented that the role of the Board president is more collaborative than suggested by #9.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented that much is outlined in policy and by-laws. The Board could adopt a more updated list of responsibilities for each officer, but this should be in a document other than the Norms document.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey commented that a Norm aligning actions, behaviors, and decisions to the most up-to-date transformation plan should exist.

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The Board discussed the Norms related to Communication:

- Ms. Katherine Wessling asked if the 48 hours for #1 were business or total hours.
- Secretary Natalie Vowell proposed that it be two days, with some form of response.
- Ms. Katherine Wessling and President Dorothy Rohde Collins proposed two business days.
- Secretary Natalie Vowell commented that Board Members should notify when away from email.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins and Ms. Donna Jones proposed 72 hours.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented that #5 combines a few others. All Board Members will use district emails once Norms are implemented.
- The Board discussed whether items were Norms or procedures. The Norms Committee will discuss wording and placement.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented that the Norms that are italicized were suggested by the Missouri School Boards' Association.
- Ms. Susan Jones commented that many of these items are about Board Member roles, which should be a separate document.
- Secretary Natalie Vowell commented that the Board President is the spokesperson for the board.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey clarified that the spokesperson role should be for the media or news.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented that the Board needs to develop a document on Board Member roles.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented that the expectation is that Board Members discuss, decide, and then commit to decisions together.

The Board discussed the Norms related to Social Media:

- The Board will postpone this discussion since there is a Social Media committee, which should be reopened at the next Work Session.

5. UPDATE ON TRANSITION AND TRAINING

President Dorothy Rohde Collins presented the following update:

- Mock Meetings will begin on January 22 2019.
- Closed Session will take place at 5:30 p.m., with dinner provided.
- Open Session will take place at 6:30 p.m.
- The meetings will take place at the district's central office, at 801 N. 11th St., in room 108.
- Ms. Katherine Wessling commented that there is a Mock Meeting scheduled for March 26, 2019, which is during Spring Break.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented that credits should be added to Board Members' MSBA accounts for the trainings, with a half of a credit given for each half day of training completed.

6. PROPOSAL TO RENAME KENNARD

The Elected Board discussed the Proposal to Rename Kennard:

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- President Dorothy Rohde Collins asked if the Board wanted to discuss the proposal.
- Secretary Natalie Vowell commented that, although she is not in disagreement, the Board's focus needs to be on what it can do to regain power.
- Secretary Natalie Vowell commented that the group presented at a meeting of the Special Administrative Board (SAB) asking for support. The proposal was not met with contention from the SAB but was not receiving a lot of attention either.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins proposed that it be discussed further at the February Board Work Session if time allows. Otherwise, it will be discussed at a later date.

7. INFORMATION REQUESTS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented on the following announcements related to the onboarding committee:

- A draft of an onboarding document has been provided.
- The Onboarding Committee will meet to approve or edit this draft by January 16, 2019.
- It will be included as a final copy for the Regular Business Meeting on January 22, 2019.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey proposed a separate committee meeting.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins suggested that the meeting does not need to be held at the district, but that she needs a minimum notice of 48 hours.

President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented on the following announcements related to continued training opportunities:

- The Missouri School Boards' Association (MSBA) will host a free webinar and legislative update on January 16, 2019. It will also be recorded, and the recording can be accessed through the MSBA account.
- Board Members who would like to attend the National School Boards' Association (NSBA) meeting should notify President Dorothy Rohde Collins.
- NSBA has made a commitment that the Board can attend the 2020 session for free, but it is not clear if this session is covered.
- Legislative Day is on February 11, 2019, for a fee of \$75. The district will pay for the attendance fee but not for transportation.
- MSBA's Spring Regional Meeting is \$45, also covered by the district. Please notify President Dorothy Rohde Collins so that Board Secretary Ms. Ruth Lewis can register all interested Board members.

Vice President Charli Cooksey commented on the following:

- The Board is close to a transition in governance.
- The Board previously operated as an operational board instead of a governance board.
- New Board Members should know that there are temporary logistical expectations in place that are not usually the responsibility of the Board.

Dr. Joyce Roberts commented on the following:

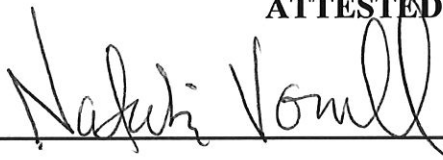
- Dr. Joyce Roberts requested a presentation related to student data received by the district since the presentation by the Office of Accountability.
- The presentation should include student data, test scores, identification of priority schools, and strategies to move the schools forward.

- President Dorothy Rohde Collins proposed that this presentation could take place in Closed Session or at a Special Session.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The work session adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Natalie Vowell", is written over a horizontal line.

NATALIE VOWELL