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BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF
THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

OFFICIAL REPORT

Regular Business Meeting
St. Louis, MO
March 12, 2019

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 the Saint Louis Public Schools Administrative Building, located at 801 N. 11th St., St. Louis, MO 63130.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting came to order at 6:48 p.m.

PRESENT: Charli Cooksey, Donna Jones, Susan Jones, Joyce Roberts, Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

A quorum was present.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:49 p.m.

4a. APPEARANCES - PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments were given.

5. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE MARCH 12, 2019 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

On a motion by Ms. Katherine Wessling and seconded by Ms. Susan Jones, the Board voted to approve and adopt the March 12, 2019 Meeting Agenda on the following roll call vote:

AYE: Charli Cooksey, Donna Jones, Susan Jones, Joyce Roberts, Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

The motion passed.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: FEBRUARY 12, 2019 REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

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On a motion by Vice President Charli Cooksey and seconded by Ms. Susan Jones, the Board voted to accept the February 12, 2019 Regular Business Meeting Minutes on the following roll call vote:

AYE: Charli Cooksey, Donna Jones, Susan Jones, Joyce Roberts, Dorothy Rohde Collins,

ABSTAIN: Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

The motion passed.

7a. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: BUDGET UPDATE

Chief Financial Officer Angie Banks presented an update related to the Fiscal Year 19-20 Budget Update, which will be presented to the Special Administrative Board at the March 14, 2019 SAB meeting. Topics included:

- GOB Revenue Assumptions
- K-12 Student Enrollment Over Time
- GOB Revenue Over Time
- Preliminary FY 2019-20 General Operating Budget
- FY 2019-20 Preliminary District Budget
- Budget Challenges
- Next Steps

A discussion took place between the Board, Chief Financial Officer Angie Banks, the Superintendent, and Deputy Superintendent of Operations Roger CayCe on the presentation:

- Vice President Charli Cooksey asked if there was a document that demonstrated how the budget supports the five pillars of Transformation Plan 3.0, and if not, what it would take to create one.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that all Consent Agenda items would demonstrate alignment to Transformation Plan 3.0 beginning in the 2019-2020 school year.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey asked if the district knew the amount expended per student, the historical trend of that amount and the projected trend of that amount.
- Chief Financial Officer Angie Banks commented that this amount is available on DESE's website, is roughly \$14,500 to \$15,500 per student, and can be provided to the board.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey asked if the district was eligible for dollars from the Every Student Succeeds Act or for School Improvement Grants.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the district is currently in the third year of the School Improvement Grant program, and receives approximately 1.5M to 2M for this grant. In addition, the state has designated approximately 3.6M for Comprehensive schools through the Every Student Succeeds Act. Every Comprehensive school must have a plan, which will be turned in to the state on April 15.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey asked if the planning process for Comprehensive Schools was being facilitated by an external partner.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that all planning is being completed internally, except for the two Consortium Partnership Network schools.

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- Vice President Charli Cooksey asked when and how often the public forums are, and how communication will work in preparation for those events.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the district did reach out to Better Budgets for feedback on dates, times and locations, which are all still tentative.
- Ms. Donna Jones asked if the transportation contract is up for renewal, and what is included in transportation.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the district has a five-year contract with First Student, with one-year annual renewals. The contract went out for bid a year and a half ago. Only three vendors responded, and no vendors applied for the entire contract.
- Ms. Donna Jones asked if the district had instituted any green activities for transportation or facilities.
- Deputy Superintendent of Operations Roger CayCe commented that the district has worked with Ameren for the last three years on rebates, and with the state on LED lighting upgrades. Additionally, First Student has moved to using diesel fuel in order to reduce costs.
- Ms. Donna Jones commented that many of the buses are not full.
- Ms. Donna Jones asked if the district had ever considered installing solar panels.
- Deputy Superintendent of Operations Roger CayCe commented that there had been no formal investigation, but that the district has started to look into it.

7c. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: APR/ MAP UPDATE

Deputy Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability Cheryl Vannoy presented an update related to the Annual Performance Report Update, which was presented to the Special Administrative Board at the February 21, 2019 SAB meeting. Topics included:

- APR Results Over Time
- APR Results with Hold Harmless Over Time
- Graphical Visualization of Points Over Time
- Academic Achievement by Content
- Looking Forward: APR and Law Changes

A discussion took place between the Board, Deputy Superintendent of Assessment and Accountability Cheryl Vannoy, and the Superintendent on the presentation:

- Secretary Natalie Vowell asked what data the district receives from field tests.
- Deputy Superintendent Cheryl Vannoy commented that the district uses formative assessments through Scantron for Science in Grade 5, Grade 8 and Biology. No vendors who applied to the RFP have formative assessments for Social Studies, so the district's curriculum team created one for Government aligned to the Social Studies standards.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey asked how many points are possible in each category.
- Deputy Superintendent Cheryl Vannoy commented that there are typically 56 points in Academic Achievement, 14 points in Subgroup Achievement, 30 points in College and Career Readiness, and 30 points in Graduation Rate, for a total of 140 points. For Graduation Rate, the state uses the highest rate of the four-, five-, six- or seven-year graduation rates.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey asked why there was a fluctuation between 2013 and 2018, particularly in Academic Achievement.

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- Deputy Superintendent Cheryl Vannoy commented that the district has done a lot of internal work, within the academic office, to align curriculum, best practices, and the Missouri Learning Standards. The state has operated four different tests in five years.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey asked if there was intentionality around not worrying about the test, and instead around creating a culture of reading and rigor.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the district doesn't teach to the test, but also doesn't walk away from the standards. The district provides as many experiences as possible in the test format for students.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey asked how the district was looking at other schools and districts to determine how best to leverage the dollars to demonstrate improvement in the Comprehensive schools.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the district received guidelines from the state two weeks ago requiring an increase in MPI of 1.9 in ELA and 2.6 in Math. The district will work collaboratively with other districts in the area. An update will come to the Board in April or May.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the Board had been provided the draft district and school report cards.

7d. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: READING UPDATE

Director of Special Projects Claire Crapo and K-12 Reading Specialist Kay Royster presented an update related to the Reading Update, which was presented to the Special Administrative Board at the February 21, 2019 SAB meeting. Topics included:

- 2017-2018 STAR Results
- Current Actions
- Reading Plans with Associated Funding
- Reading Plans: Evidence of Impact
- Focused Observations and Coaching
- Focused Observations and Coaching: Evidence of Impact
- Professional Development
- Professional Development: Evidence of Impact
- Interventions
- Interventions: Evidence of Impact
- 2019 Mid Course Corrections
- Skill: Comprehension
- Measuring Student Results: Grade Equivalency (GE)
- Measuring Student Results: Student Growth Percentiles (SGPS)
- Plan Moving Forward

A discussion took place between the Board, Director of Special Projects Claire Crapo, K-12 Reading Specialist Kay Royster, and the Superintendent on the presentation:

- Ms. Katherine Wessling asked if a correlation existed between schools with better growth and those with well-stocked libraries.
- Director of Special Projects Claire Crapo commented that the district has not examined that specific correlation, but that students do better when they have access to books that they enjoy reading.

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- K-12 Reading Specialist Kay Royster commented that the district does set aside time for students to have reading during the day.
- Ms. Katherine Wessling commented that the scores in grades six through eight illustrate more of a struggle in reading. Is there lower interest at that age? Is there less growth to be had at that point?
- K-12 Reading Specialist Kay Royster commented that there are fewer grades at middle school, so students do not have stability at the school. The district has worked to ensure that proper resources are in the hands of teachers and children, and that the district can access the status of achievement of students.
- Ms. Katherine Wessling asked if there was also a focus on children who are reading above grade level.
- K-12 Reading Specialist Kay Royster commented that these students were given opportunities to continue to grow.
- Ms. Katherine Wessling asked how a teacher can handle both groups of students.
- K-12 Reading Specialist Kay Royster commented that teachers focus on guided reading.
- Secretary Natalie Vowell asked what is done to recognize student growth and achievements.
- K-12 Reading Specialist Kay Royster commented that the district focuses on Student Growth Percentile to place a focus on progress, and that schools provide celebrations for growth.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey asked if this was the first year the model has been in practice.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that, after attending the Public Education Leadership Project (PELP) at Harvard last summer, dollars were allocated specifically to schools for reading
- Vice President Charli Cooksey asked if a correlation could be studied between APR and reading interventions next year.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the MAP assessment is not a reading assessment, but that reading improvements should still lead to increases on the assessment.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins asked if there was an opportunity next year to bring teachers with plans that produced results together to share best practices.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that there was some intent from Chief Academic Officer Paula Knight for Professional Development at the end of the year, but that it was not that granular at this point.
- Director of Special Projects Claire Crapo commented that focus groups had been planned that would bring teachers with the most growth together.
- K-12 Reading Specialist Kay Royster commented that the reading plans are living documents.
- Dr. Joyce Roberts complemented the presentation team.
- Ms. Donna Jones asked if students receive a book form where they can receive books at no cost, and if those books are culturally sensitive.
- K-12 Reading Specialist Kay Royster commented that the district selects titles where students see themselves in the text, or where they see other cultures in similar circumstances.

7b. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: POLICY UPDATE

Superintendent Kelvin Adams presented an update related to the School Board Policy Review and Update, which was presented to the Special Administrative Board at the February 21, 2019 SAB meeting. Topics included:

- Background
- Process
- Examples
- Approval Process

A discussion took place between the Board and the Superintendent on the presentation:

- Vice President Charli Cooksey asked if there was alignment between policies and Transformation Plan 3.0.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams stated a hesitation to align policy to the language of Transformation Plan 3.0 since it is an administrative strategic plan, and that future superintendents may alter it.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey commented that equity is ensuring that those impacted by policies have a seat at the table. Are parents, students, teachers, and community members involved in this process, and what additional steps can we take?
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that he is working with the state and would bring to the Board an Equity Policy.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that, at the end of the policy process, feedback would be gathered from the public, parents, students, and teachers.
- Vice President Charli Cooksey commented that equity is about decision making, not just input.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the process is already onerous. The policies should be in place so that, when the governing body returns, policies are in place to govern them. The process as described by Vice President Charli Cooksey is a one- to two-year process, would likely have to be completed by an outside entity, and would increase costs. Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that the onus is on the Elected Board to indicate that the district should stop the process and examine an alternative process.
- Secretary Natalie Vowell commented that these policies could be merged with other governance documents.
- Superintendent Kelvin Adams commented that he had not talked to legal, but that currently by-laws are not part of this conversation.

7e. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: CONSORTIUM PARTNERSHIP NETWORK RECOMMENDATIONS

President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented on the following:

- At the last Board meeting, all items pertaining to the Consortium Partnership Network were pulled from the Consent Agenda.
- The Board is opting not to vote on these items at this time, given the unique situation and expected transition.
- The Board will honor the vote of the Special Administrative Board.

8a. SAB CONSENT AGENDA FROM FEBRUARY 21, 2019

On a motion by Secretary Natalie Vowell and seconded by Ms. Susan Jones, the Board voted to approve Special Administrative Board consent agenda items 02-21-19-01 through 02-21-19-22 on the following roll call vote:

AYE: Charli Cooksey, Donna Jones, Susan Jones, Joyce Roberts, Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

The motion passed.

On a motion by Ms. Susan Jones and seconded by Ms. Katherine Wessling, the Board voted to approve Special Administrative Board consent agenda items 02-21-19-23 through 02-21-19-29 on the following roll call vote:

AYE: Charli Cooksey, Donna Jones, Susan Jones, Joyce Roberts, Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

The motion passed.

8b. SAB CONSENT AGENDA FROM MARCH 14, 2019

On a motion by Secretary Natalie Vowell and seconded by President Dorothy Rohde Collins, the Board voted to approve Special Administrative Board consent agenda items 03-14-19-01 through 03-14-19-11 on the following roll call vote:

AYE: Charli Cooksey, Donna Jones, Susan Jones, Joyce Roberts, Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

The motion passed.

On a motion by Secretary Natalie Vowell and seconded by President Dorothy Rohde Collins, the Board voted to approve Special Administrative Board consent agenda item 03-14-19-12, as amended to read "100,000.00" instead of "100,00.00" on the following roll call vote:

AYE: Charli Cooksey, Donna Jones, Susan Jones, Joyce Roberts, Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

The motion passed.

On a motion by Ms. Katherine Wessling and seconded by President Dorothy Rohde Collins, the Board voted to approve Special Administrative Board consent agenda items 03-14-19-13 through 03-14-19-67 on the following roll call vote:

AYE: Charli Cooksey, Donna Jones, Susan Jones, Joyce Roberts, Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

The motion passed.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS: TRANSITION/ TRAINING UPDATE

President Dorothy Rohde Collins commented on the following:

- President Dorothy Rohde Collins has a goal for the Elected Board to receive the Missouri School Board Association (MSBA) Board Governance Award within the next two years.
- The award requires School Boards and Superintendents to reach different levels of certification, to attend (with at least a quorum) the MSBA conference, to send representatives to the spring regional meeting, and to participate in the delegate assembly.
- This award would be a great way to capture and congratulate the Board on everything that it has done.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins has reached out to the MSBA to facilitate team-building for the Board after the April election.
- MSBA has indicated that they are available.
- All costs would have to be approved by the board that is in governance at the time.
- MSBA is hosting a free Legislative Update webinar tomorrow, at noon. Anyone interested can go to their website and sign up
- The MSBA Spring Regional Meeting is on May 1. President Dorothy Rohde Collins will be requesting who would like to attend.
- Additionally, the Board is planning to send two representatives and Dr. Adams to an institute at Harvard this summer. The Board member representatives have not been determined.
- President Dorothy Rohde Collins is working on developing a Board Member Handbook, to provide to new board members, that will be brought forward as a draft in the future.
- The Elected Board's March Work Session is officially cancelled, in order to not burden staff, schools or board members. The Elected Board's next Regular Business Meeting will take place in April.

Secretary Natalie Vowell commented on the following:

- With Vice President Charli Cooksey and Ms. Katherine Wessling leaving the board, the Onboarding Committee needs additional members.

10a. BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Vice President Charli Cooksey, Ms. Donna Jones, Ms. Susan Jones, Dr. Joyce Roberts, and Ms. Katherine Wessling indicated that they did not have Board Member reports.

Secretary Natalie Vowell presented the following Board Member report:

- On March 19, an alternative spring break program from Iowa will visit St. Louis with a focus on educational equity.
- While the group originally wanted to attend a board meeting, instead they will meet with President Dorothy Rohde Collins, Secretary Natalie Vowell, and any other interested Board members.
- The location is yet to be determined, but is planned to be North of Delmar Blvd
- Board members should email Secretary Natalie Vowell if interested.

10b. BOARD PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Dorothy Rohde Collins presented the following Board President report:

- President Dorothy Rohde Collins is currently participating in an executive committee for the Leading to Improve Initiative, which is launching a Schoolfinder tool for St. Louis Public Schools.
- The tool is in the planning stages.
- The tool should serve as a clearinghouse of information, similar to St. Louis City Schools Blog.

11. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, upon a motion by Secretary Natalie Vowell and seconded by President Dorothy Rohde Collins, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m. on the following roll call vote:

AYE: Charli Cooksey, Donna Jones, Susan Jones, Joyce Roberts, Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

The motion carried.

ATTESTED BY:



DOROTHY ROHDE-COLLINS