
I
THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS

OFFICIAL REPORT

WORK SESSION MEETING

OPEN SESSION

August 27, 2019

ST. LOUIS, MO

M I N U T E S

The Board of Education of the City of St. Louis convened their monthly work session meeting on the above date. The Board also convene a closed session meeting at 5:30PM. Both meetings were held at the Administrative Building, 801 North 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63101. Those in attendance were Mrs. Dorothy Rohde-Collins, Mrs. Natalie Vowell, Dr. Joyce M. Roberts, Ms. Donna Jones, Ms. Susan R. Jones, Mr. Adam Layne, Ms. Tracee Miller, Superintendent Dr. Kelvin R. Adams, General Counsel of Mickes O'Toole, LLC Mr. Jeffrey St. Omer, and Ms. Ruth Lewis, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Board.

At 6:35PM, Mrs. Rohde-Collins called the meeting to order on the following roll call.

AYE: Ms. Donna Jones, Ms. Susan R. Jones, Mr. Adam Layne, Tracee Miller, Dr. Joyce M. Roberts, Mrs. Natalie Vowell, Mrs. Dorothy Rohde-Collins

A quorum was present.

The motion passed.

On a motion by Mrs. Rohde-Collins, and seconded by Mrs. Vowell, on the following roll call vote, the Board voted to amend the August 27, 2019 Work Session meeting agenda for discussion of a Special Work Session on Community Safety.

AYE: Ms. Donna Jones, Ms. Susan R. Jones, Mr. Adam Layne, Ms. Tracee Miller, Dr. Joyce M. Roberts, Mrs. Natalie Vowell, Mrs. Dorothy Rohde-Collins

NAY: None

The motion passed.

I. Superintendent's Report: September 10, 2019 Consent Agenda items

Members entertained a brief follow-up discussion on the September 10, 2019 Consent Agenda items. The work session meeting provides for additional clarity prior to a scheduled board meeting.

Ms. Miller asked, how the District ascertains the effectiveness of its contractual services and MOU agreements in terms of measureable outcomes, raw data, and growth. Superintendent Adams replied the District's Vendor Performance Report tracks the value of contractual services and the Performance Report measures the effectiveness of an MOU agreement. These reports are completed each academic year by the owner (staff) of agreement to determine the continued need or necessary adjustment(s) of same. Superintendent Adams will forward the Vendor Performance Report to Mrs. Rohde-Collins to be disseminated via email to members for proposed

changes. Dr. Roberts indicated she would prefer a work session instead of taking the task via email. Considering the availability of members, a work session meeting will be considered if efforts via email do not work.

II. Bylaws of the Board

B9358.3 (Methods of Operation: Meetings, Meeting Conduct and Public Participation at Meetings)

- Bylaw B9358.3 was tabled as unfinished business.

B9358.4 (Methods of Operation: Meetings, Meeting Conduct and Recording)

- The board meetings of the Board of Education will be posted on the District's website the following day accommodating the visual and hearing impaired as well.
- The Superintendent will hold a livestream informational meeting each semester.

B9270 (Duties of Officers, Members, Employees and Agents)

- Bylaw B9270 will return to the next meeting agenda for continued discussion. However, in the interim, members agreed to send a courtesy email to the full Board if any individual member or members receives a request/invitation to speak, attend, or participate in an event or activity.

III. Special Work Session on Community Safety

Due to deaths of several SLPS students, and other violent acts committed against students, the Board felt compelled to hold a special work session on community safety. Mrs. Rohde-Collins presented a "draft" agenda for discussion. Invitees included governmental parties of the City of St. Louis, state legislature representatives, church leaders and those alike. Superintendent Adams shared his drafted letter on the subject matter to be published in the American Newspaper and the Post-Dispatch Newspaper. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Board moved on the following:

On a motion by Mrs. Vowell, and seconded by Ms. S. Jones, on the following roll call vote, the Board voted to hold a Special Work Session on Community Safety on Tuesday, September 5, 2019 to be held at Vashon High School, 6PM to 9PM.

AYE: Ms. Donna Jones, Ms. Susan R. Jones, Mr. Adam Layne, Ms. Tracee Miller, Dr. Joyce M. Roberts, Mrs. Natalie Vowell, Mrs. Dorothy Rohde-Collins

NAY: None

The motion passed.

IV. Missouri School Boards' Association Updates and Norms Implementation Monitoring

Mrs. Phyllis Barks, Associate Executive Director for Leadership Development of the Missouri School Boards' Association (MSBA) presented a proposal, *Supporting Effective Governance Practices for the St. Louis Public Schools Governance Team* for continued governance training of the Board. MSBA will provide support to strengthen effective governance practices by facilitating discussions in a variety of formats. Starting with this meeting, and subsequent meetings for work sessions and board meetings, members will complete the SLPS Assessment of Board Norms evaluating their performance as individuals and as a full board. Ms. Ruth Lewis, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Board will tally the results per meeting as an official record to the minutes. Please see page 4 for the results of this meeting (double click on the document" to view the full report").

V. Board Members/President Report(s)

- Dr. Roberts shared the book *Boards that Make a Difference* and believes the book would be a great backdrop for future professional developments by the Board. Mrs. Rohde-Collins will review the calendar for potential dates.
- Mrs. Vowell shared that she and Dr. Roberts will attend the 19th Annual Conference of MSBA. This year's conference will take place at the Tan-Tar-A Resorts at Osage Beach, September 26-28, 2019. MSBA is considering holding their 20th annual year's conference in Kansas City, MO.
- Mrs. Rohde-Collins reported the policy on Renaming School Buildings will come before the Board sometime in the fall. She also announced the appointment of board member, Ms. Donna Jones to the board of the Public School Retirement System.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion by Mrs. Vowell and seconded by Ms. Miller, on the following roll call vote, the Board voted to adjourn at 9:21PM

AYE: Ms. Donna Jones, Ms. Susan R. Jones, Mr. Adam Layne, Ms. Tracee Miller, Dr. Joyce M. Roberts, Mrs. Natalie Vowell, Mrs. Dorothy Rohde-Collins

NAY: None

The motion passed

ATTESTED:



DR. JOYCE M. ROBERTS
BOARD MEMBER – SECRETARY

SLPS Assessment of Board Norms

Date: August 27, 2019

X Work Session

Board Meeting

Directions: At the end of the board meeting, individually, indicate **how well you followed the norms** and then the degree to which you believe **the governance team as a whole** followed its norms during the meeting by placing a check mark under the appropriate descriptor. Provide examples as necessary. Return this form to the Board Secretary. Compare results over time.

Norm	I Followed the Norms				The Board Followed the Norms			
	Consistently	Mostly	Sometimes	Rarely	Consistently	Mostly	Sometimes	Rarely
Decision Making								
* First priority and greatest concern is the educational welfare of all students in SLPS.	6	1				5		
* Align decisions, discussions, superintendent evaluations, district partnerships, budget allocations, etc., to the current Transformation Plan.	4	1	1	1			1	1
* Demonstrate respect for diversity of thoughts, backgrounds and experiences, roles and decisions once they have been made.	5	2				3	1	
* Embrace healthy debate.	5	2			1	3	1	
* Acknowledge board members with different opinions during discourse in both open and closed sessions to gain clarity and engage in meaningful dialogues.	5	2			1	3	1	
TOTALS	25	8	1	1	2	17	4	1

* Denotes meeting specific norms

Norm	I Followed the Norms				The Board Followed the Norms			
	Consistently	Mostly	Sometimes	Rarely	Consistently	Mostly	Sometimes	Rarely
Professionalism								
* Demonstrate engagement by thoroughly reviewing the board packet and other documents, arriving on time, remaining on topic during discussions, and respectfully interacting with each other, the superintendent, staff and all stakeholders.	6	1			2	1	4	
* Demonstrate respect for diversity of thoughts, backgrounds and experiences, and roles.	4	2	1		2	3	2	
Communication								
Demonstrate professionalism and respect for other board members, the superintendent and district staff by adhering to timelines and deadlines outlined in the workflow calendar and any other tasks as assigned.	6	1			2	3	2	
Conduct all official board related email communications using our @slps.org email accounts; read and reply to all board emails within 72 hours.	6		1		3	1	1	
Conduct all official board related phone and text communications using district issued phones; check voicemail and return phone calls and texts within 72 hours.	2	4	1		1	3	1	
As individual concerns or questions arise, we will seek to understand the information and gather pertinent facts in order to direct stakeholders/staff to contact appropriate district personnel.	4	3			3	2	1	
Channel concerns or requests for information through the board president who will direct those requests to the superintendent in an organized, concise manner.	5	2			3	1	1	
TOTALS	33	13	3	0	16	14	12	0

Norm	I Followed the Norms				The Board Followed the Norms			
	Consistently	Mostly	Sometimes	Rarely	Consistently	Mostly	Sometimes	Rarely
* Recognize the importance of proactive communication and agree there will be no surprises.	4	2	1		1	3	2	1
The board president shall be the official spokesperson for the board; the superintendent shall be the spokesperson for the district. Board members who receive requests for board issue positions shall direct the request to the board president or superintendent.	5	1	1		3	2	1	1
Confidentiality								
Respect and maintain the confidentiality of closed session items and the board's discussion on those items.	7				7			
Refrain from discussing confidential business in public, with members of the press or with anyone else not privy to such information.	7				5			
* If it's necessary to provide a statement to the public following a closed session, the board president and superintendent will agree on a unified response prior to making the statement.	5				4	1		
TOTALS	28	3	2	0	20	6	3	2

COMMENTS RELATIVE TO TALLY:

Categories Headings not totaling "7"

Total responses based on 7 member per meeting

Total responses count Headings: "I Followed the Norms" plus "The Board Followed the Norms"

Total responses heading: I Followed the Norms

Total responses heading: The Board Followed the Norms

Non-responses and/or NA's for 8/27/19 Work Session Meeting

Total Responses Inclusive of *both headings for 8/27/19 meeting

(*I Followed the Norms" plus "The Board Followed the Norms")

A response was not listed.

238

34

117

97

(24) {22- Board Follow Norms/2 N/A's-1 each heading}

214 (89.92%)