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

OFFICIAL REPORT

**Regular Board Meeting
St. Louis, MO
May 09, 2017**

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 Carr Lane Visual Performing Arts Middle School, 1004 N. Jefferson Ave, St. Louis MO, 63106.

SWEARING IN CEREMONY

Newly-elected board members Dorothy Rohde Collins and Natalie Vowell, along with re-elected board member Susan Jones took their oath of office.

PERFORMANCE BY CARR LANE VPA DRUMLINE

The Carr Lane VPA Drumline performed cadences for the audience in celebration of the swearing in ceremony.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting came to order at 7:16 p.m.

Present: Charli Cooksey, Bill Haas, Donna Jones, Susan Jones,
Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:17 p.m.

APPEARANCES – PUBLIC COMMENTS

Former Board of Education member Mr. Bill Monroe addressed the Board to congratulate newly-elected board members and wish them luck. He urged the Board not to participate in any “behind-closed-door meetings” and to act as “stewards of the people’s confidence.”

Mr. Monroe gave updates on his current personal education projects.

- seeking occupancy for the former Army ROTC building located at 4100 Goodfellow Blvd to establish a center for homeless high school students
- has filed a lawsuit against Donald Trump, Betsy DeVos, HUD, and the GSA complex for ownership of the building
- will continue to “fight for our children”

Former Board of Education President Mr. David Jackson welcomed new board members to the education system. Mr. Jackson addressed the Board to discuss an inquiry he had submitted to the Board the previous month regarding school accreditation, and to submit a follow-up inquiry.

Mr. Jackson’s comments included the following:

- 11 schools are unaccredited
 - o Long Middle School
 - o Beaumont High School
 - o Sumner High School
 - o Vashon High School
 - o Carr Lane Visual Performing Arts Middle School
 - o Gateway Middle School
 - o Langston Middle School
 - o Lyon Academy at Blow Elementary
 - o Mullanphy Investigative Learning Center Elementary School
 - o Earl Nance, Sr. Elementary School
 - o Peabody Elementary School
- 9 schools on the verge of being unaccredited
 - o Ashland Elementary School
 - o Ames Visual Performing Arts Elementary School
 - o Clay Elementary School
 - o Herzog Elementary School
 - o Columbia Elementary School
 - o Roosevelt High School
 - o Yeatman-Liddell Preparatory Middle School
 - o Washington Montessori Elementary School
 - o Woodward Elementary School

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- the state does not accredit individual schools, only the district as a whole
- Mr. Jackson is concerned about DESE/Title 1 funding and state-determined timelines for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) improvement, particularly for schools approaching the end of their 5-year improvement timeline
- Mr. Jackson requested the following of the Superintendent via the Board:
 - identify consecutive time period of all 20 schools not meeting AYP
 - specify corrective actions being taken

Community activist and concerned parent Ms. Megan Betts addressed the Board regarding the Gifted Program at Columbia Elementary School.

Ms. Betts stated the following concerns:

- her son (Kindergarten) was not being challenged at Columbia
- District Headquarters does not provide adequate gifted testing for young children
- top schools in the City do not serve enough minority students like her son

APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE MAY 09, 2017 MEETING AGENDA

On a motion by Ms. Charli Cooksey and seconded by Ms. Katherine Wessling, the Board voted to approve and adopt the August 08, 2017 Meeting Agenda, as amended, on the following roll call vote:

Aye: Charli Cooksey, Bill Haas, Donna Jones, Susan Jones,
Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSIONS:

- **MARCH 14, 2017**
- **APRIL 11, 2017**

On a motion by Ms. Susan Jones and seconded by Ms. Natalie Vowell, the Board voted to suspend Agenda Item #6 (Approval and Adoption of Minutes of Previous Sessions) and table the Meeting Minutes from March 14, 2017 and April 11, 2017.

Aye: Charli Cooksey, Bill Haas, Donna Jones, Susan Jones,
Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

The motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS TO PRESENT

Ms. Susan Jones presented the following resolution:

“Effective July, 2017, the Board of Education meeting shall begin at 6:30 p.m. every second Tuesday.”

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- ❖ Mr. Haas expressed concerns regarding whether the resolution would require a bylaw change.
- ❖ Ms. Susan Jones requested a point of information from Ms. Katherine Wessling regarding the bylaws.
- ❖ Ms. Katherine Wessling confirmed no bylaw change was required.

On a motion by Ms. Susan Jones and seconded by Ms. Charli Cooksey, the Board resolved to change Regular Board Meeting times from 7:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m, effective July 2017, on the following roll call vote:

Aye: Charli Cooksey, Bill Haas, Donna Jones, Susan Jones,
Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

The motion carried.

Ms. Susan Jones presented the following resolution:

“The Board of Education shall host Work Sessions every fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.”

On a motion by Ms. Susan Jones and seconded by Mr. Bill Haas, the Board resolved to implement monthly Work Sessions at 6:30 p.m. every fourth Tuesday, on the following roll call vote:

Aye: Charli Cooksey, Bill Haas, Donna Jones, Susan Jones,
Dorothy Rohde Collins, Natalie Vowell, Katherine Wessling

The motion carried.

BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Ms. Susan Jones reported on the following topics:

- Ms. Jones distributed copies of the 2017-2018 Regular Board Meeting proposed schedule and locations, to be finalized after discussion at the next Work Session.
- Ms. Jones confirmed that the District would cover expenses for the 2017 Missouri School Boards’ Association Leadership Summit for any board members interested in attending
 - ❖ Ms. Charli Cooksey inquired about whether board member trainings would include team building experiences, and whether this topic could be visited at the next Work Session.
 - ❖ Ms. Jones confirmed that team building would be addressed in a future Work Session.
- Ms. Jones hosted a community conversation at Sump Coffee where citizens came to discuss SLPS. She stated the event was successful, and invited other board

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members to join her in the future or host similar events of their own.

- ❖ Ms. Charli Cooksey requested clarification on whether Ms. Jones had hosted the conversation as an individual board member or on behalf of the Board.
- ❖ Ms. Jones stated she was acting as an individual, and not speaking for the full board. Ms. Jones explained that this event was her personal community work.
- ❖ Mr. Haas inquired as to whether the Board was notified of Ms. Jones' community conversation prior to her hosting it.
- ❖ Ms. Jones stated that she had not formally notified the Board, but would let other members know about any upcoming events.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Natalie Vowell and Ms. Charli Cooksey reported on the following topics:

- At the April Work Session, Ms. Cooksey and Ms. Vowell were appointed by President Susan Jones as the Social Media Committee. They have been working on a Social Media Strategy and Social Media Policies to be incorporated into the Board's Communications Plan.
 - Ms. Vowell stated that the ultimate goal is to reach more of the community, beginning with Facebook, and the full board will discuss social media plans at the next Work Session.
 - Ms. Cooksey explained that this would be an effective platform for Ms. Susan Jones' idea for the Board to host a Facebook Live conversation with Superintendent Dr. Kelvin Adams, and that Facebook would formalize the Board's social media presence.
 - Ms. Cooksey stated the Board could consider expanding to other platforms in the future, such as Instagram and Twitter.
 - Ms. Vowell explained that the Facebook platform was already in a testing phase and invited other board members to learn more about its functionality and features in a Work Session.
 - Ms. Vowell stated that the Board's new Facebook page would be released to the public once the policies and procedures were adopted via a formal vote.

PRESENTATION BY SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Kelvin Adams gave a PowerPoint presentation on the following topics:

- Technology Update
 - improvements in staff training and bandwidth for the District
 - purchase of more devices for staff and students
 - plans to replace outdated devices and reduced equipment costs

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- solutions for data security, including recent hacking of SLPS servers
- Revisions to the Code of Conduct for 2017-2018
 - updated vision to support child development and positive behavior
 - anti-bullying policies and approaches in response to changes in RSMO 160.775
 - collection of civil rights data on victims of bullying
 - lowering suspension rates and focusing on age-appropriate behavioral issues

NEW BUSINESS

- SAB Consent Agenda to be discussed at next Work Session
- 2017-2018 Welcome Letter to be discussed at next Work Session
- Mr. Bill Haas requested the Board address the concerns expressed in Mr. Jackson's letter
- Mr. Bill Haas spoke on possible ways to improve 3rd Grade reading scores:
 - smaller class sizes
 - second qualified adult in the classroom
 - additional funds to be raised by a personal property tax increase
 - requested Superintendent Dr. Kelvin Adams work on requesting this tax increase to fund the above approaches

- ❖ Ms. Susan Jones requested this topic be discussed in a future Work Session.

INFORMATION REQUESTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no information requests or announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on a motion by Ms. Susan Jones and seconded by Ms. Katherine Wessling, the Board voted by acclamation to adjourn at 8:46 p.m.

ATTESTED BY:

NATALIE VOWELL, SECRETARY