

**CVI
TRANSITIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
THE CITY OF ST. LOUIS
SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD**

OFFICIAL REPORT

Regular Meeting

**St. Louis, MO, January 14, 2010
MINUTES**

The Special Administrative Board of the Transitional School District of the City of St. Louis met on the date noted beginning at 6:00 p.m., in Room 108 of the Administrative Building, 801 N. 11th Street, St. Louis, MO 63101.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Ms. Adams, Mr. Gaines, Mr. Sullivan

The Board and audience recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

STUDENT RECOGNITIONS

The Spirit of Excellence Award was presented to Patrick Henry Downtown Academy for being honored with the Green School of the Month Award. The award was presented to Patrick Henry by ECO Life St. Louis for their efforts in teaching students about the significance of taking care of the environment. Washington University School of Architecture will offer a class to Patrick Henry students where they will earn college credit.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

A parent (name not audible) presented a request to have her son's current bus route changed nearer to his home which will not take the bus off its route.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The district will be closed on Monday, January 18, 2010 in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.
- The PDK Audit will begin January 24-29, 2010. The audit will focus on the district's process and delivery of curriculum instruction. The audit will also make recommendations in the area of academic performance. A more detailed description of the audit will be posted on the website along with a news release scheduled for Friday, January 15th. Parents are encouraged to offer comments.
- Etta Reece a junior at Roosevelt High School won first place in the Martin Luther King Jr. Essay Contest sponsored by the YMCA of Greater St. Louis.

- Although snow days are built into the calendar, the district will address the make-up days for January 8th and 9th at the end of winter season.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Lou Kruger provided a preliminary update of the 2010-2011 Magnet School Applications. The numbers of applicants received are 3,734. Preliminary data revealed an 18% increase in the number applied, a 50% increase of non-SLPS students and a 150% increase of neighborhood students.

The deadline for submitting applications was extended to January 12th. The sorting lottery will occur on January 19th (subject to change). Parents are expected to receive acceptance letters February 12th. Those who were not accepted will receive notification letters along with information regarding the waiting list.

Mr. Sullivan inquired if there were enough seats available to accommodate the number of applicants received. Mr. Kruger responded there should be adequate openings available. Some schools are more popular than others. If the selected school is at capacity, the option would be to assign the student to another school.

Mr. Sullivan further inquired if there was a process in place where parents can actively participate if their school of choice wasn't available. Superintendent Adams reported there was not. However, a process will be in place March 2010.

- Enos Moss announced that the State has authorized SLPS' request to carry over the 2009 unused Qualified School Construction Bonds. The dollar amount is \$28,163,000. To access the funds the district will need to proceed with the next step of obtaining voter approval to issue a General Obligation Bond.

Mr. Moss also reported he anticipates an additional allocation of \$28 to \$30M. We are waiting to hear more information.

Mr. Sullivan added the distinctiveness of the bonds would allow the district to use the funds to create a safe and secure environment for district schools. Other than the repayment of the original debt, the district will incur no interest expense or a low interest expense.

- An update of Sumner's progress was given by Superintendent Adams. He reported 50 persons participated in the training session and 10 participated in the 1/5/10 meeting. Community and Alumni were hands-on. Benchmarks in the five areas were developed.

Mr. Gaines expressed concerns regarding the attendance and parental involvement benchmarks. Superintendent Adams will forward Mr. Gaines a detailed fact sheet that will address his points of concern.

- Deanna Anderson presented an updated report on the Option to Remain school choice program.

Mr. Gaines requested a comparative data report relative to academics in lieu of attendance as reported.

- Sharonica Hardin provided an updated summary of the St. Louis Plan - Peer Assistance and Review Program. The Plan is aligned with the district's Long Range and Accountability Plans. The program is moving forward with positive accomplishments.

Mary Armstrong, Local 420 President expressed she was very pleased with the process and believed that the program is on target. However, she does think that those teachers who do not meet retention criteria should be provided the necessary resources for improvement.

Ms. Hardin concluded that since the programs' inception there has been some trial and error; mainly communication. But, she will build on these to progress the program next year.

- Cleopatra Figgures introduced and demonstrated the new PULSE system for student information management which went live October 2009. The system generates real time data that can be analyzed daily by which the district may conduct "routine maintenance" of attendance, AYP, FRL data, etc. throughout the year.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Consent Agenda

Due to the furlough days and Christmas Holidays, the January 14, 2010 Consent Agenda Items were acted on in the December 17, 2009 Meeting. Please review the December 17th Minutes for these action items.

Regarding the January 26, 2010 items for consideration, Superintendent Adams requested that item number 01-26-10-27, acceptance of the grant funds from the Community Development Administration in the amount of \$800,000 to support the Community Education Program for the period January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010 be approved.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATE(S)

Due to a conflict in scheduling, the SAB will meet on three Tuesdays for the remainder of the year. The audience was directed to the web-site for specific dates.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:15 p.m., there being no further business before the Board in open session, on the following roll call vote, the Board voted to adjourn.

AYE: Ms. Adams, Mr. Gaines, Mr. Sullivan