

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

OFFICIAL REPORT

**Regular Meeting
St. Louis, MO
September 9, 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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A moment of silence was held in recognition of the passing of former St. Louis Public Schools (SLPS) Superintendent, Dr. Cleveland Hammonds, Jr. Mr. Gaines and Superintendent Adams shared comments with reference to Dr. Hammonds' leadership, legacy, and generosity and as a great educator who genially cared for SLPS' students and staff. He will be deeply missed.

STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITIONS

Fifteen year old sophomore Jecoliah Wang of Metro Academic and Classical High School was honored with a Certificate of Recognition for being selected to perform the *Violin Concerto of Pyotr Llyich Tchaikovsky* at the Powell Symphony Hall on Sunday, September 26, 2010 at 3:00PM. Jecoliah's talents did not end here. She participated in the Laclede's Quartet Kid's Competition where she won first place and was also the recipient of a cash prize in the William Schatzkamer Young Artist Competition. Jecoliah enlightened the Board, Superintendent and audience with a selection.

Dr. Carla Lewis, Principal of Walbridge was acknowledged for her valiant efforts in resuscitating a second grade Walbridge student. Dr. Lewis spoke candidly about her heroic endeavor. But, the St. Louis Public Schools and certainly the Walbridge students are pleased to have an employee of Dr. Lewis' standings.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

ANNOUNCEMENTS

On Friday, September 17, 2010, the St. Louis American Newspaper will present its Annual Salute to Excellence Award to the Patrick Henry Downtown Academy-Monsanto School of Excellence, Principal Bruce Green of Carnahan School of the Future and Bryan Hill Principal, Carole Johnson.

Likewise, Soldan International Studies' Music Teacher, Ms. Chrisena Bolden-Brown was named 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year. As the 2010-2011 Teacher of the Year, Ms. Brown is eligible to compete for the Missouri Teachers of the Year honors.

Congratulatory remarks were extended to all recipients.

INFORMATION ITEMS

The following reports were presented.

- John Windom presented a comparative report of the Back to School Fair. The Fair included parent/student assistance in the areas of transportation, lunch application, Early Childhood and ESOL program information, address verification, etc. The data noted increases in some areas and decreases in others, but overall proved to be successful and beneficial for SLPS students and those attending outside of SLPS. The Fair drew an attendance of 6,154 for the current year and 5,662 for year 2009.
- The Food Service Report was presented by Althea Albert-Santiago and George Nash of Chartwells-Thompson. The report showed an improvement in financial performance which was attributed to an aggressive effort of securing free/reduced lunch applications. The amended guidelines that allowed principals to complete applications for SLPS families assisted in these financial gains as well.

Chartwells-Thompson suggested the following to put food service operations back into the districts, 1) continue to outsource operations in middle and high schools with the district managing meal services in the elementary schools or 2) discontinue outsource operations and assume operation by January 2011.

Per the presentation, the Board requested the following:

- 1) Follow-up and report back on the Lexington site as a functional location.
 - 2) Investigate managed portion controls as it relates to Federal guidelines and reimbursements for free/reduce students.
 - 3) Provide quality analysis of food served in years past to current services.
 - 4) Suggestions/recommendations for the District to sustain and continue on course with the noted improvements as we move forward to bring Food Services back in-house.
 - 5) Report on the cost to discontinue outsourced operations with the district assuming all management and administration of the Food Service Program. The report is to be submitted prior to January 2011 with members receiving a copy of the report one month in advance for review and discussion.
- Mr. Roger CayCe provided an updated report on Capital Projections (Proposition S). The report demonstrated a savings across the board, noted involvement from a diverse group of contractors and reflected participation by MBE/WBE alike.

For the next meeting, Mr. Sullivan requested a goal and target in terms of the projected numbers relative to securing MBE/WBE participation. Superintendent Adams interjected the numbers have been completed. Considering the in-depthness of this report, he wished the Board to have the opportunity to digest each

area without overpowering the content. This information will be presented at another meeting.

Mr. Gaines expressed concerns regarding employment for St. Louis citizens as part of the bond issue campaign were "job opportunities". He continued the process should also include those qualified talents of St. Louis citizens.

Mr. CayCe replied he and his team had investigated this area following specified guidelines. The investigation revealed a ruling that states if Missouri is experiencing double digit numbers in unemployment for a period of time, a Missouri resident must be given employment preference over a non-resident.

At a question proposed by Mr. Gaines regarding monthly progress updates being available for the Oversight Committee, Mr. Charles Fleming of Flemco reported his company has a master information system where progress data is entered daily. Mr. Fleming will make this information available.

Mr. CayCe provided additional input on the subject. He stated the Operation Division in conjunction with the Public Information Office developed a monthly newsletter for the community and principals of updates and scheduling.

In conclusion, the construction management team and SLPS staff were commended for their accomplishments on the project thus far.

- Mr. Michael Haggen provided an updated report on the School Improvement Grant (SIG). He established teams from the identified schools to assist in the application process. The goal is to build and strengthen partnerships that develop and model successful strategies to improve student and school performance. Seventeen applications were submitted with the Tier I schools receiving approval.

School Initiatives were also developed to include SIG mandates, i.e., to maximize the value of increased learning time through the use of student performance data and increase staff effectiveness in order to improve student performance.

In collaboration with SLPS, Local 420 President Mary Armstrong introduced Educational Research and Dissemination (ER&D). President Armstrong described ER&D as effective student performance through professional development by increasing teaching and facilitators' skills. ER&D offers targeted professional develop that will help Local 420 and district personnel to build capacity to deliver high quality professional development services to teachers, paraprofessionals and other school related personnel. ER&D represents just one of Local 420's major efforts to improvement student achievement.

In closing, Mr. Haggen reported a meeting is scheduled with DESE, principals of Tier I Schools and other central office administrators on September 15th to continue discussions.

Mr. Gaines asked if Peer Review had been considered as part of the program.

Superintendent Adams, Mr. Haggen and President Armstrong advised discussions are current. President Armstrong shared an intervention piece is being "brain stormed" for those teachers recognized as "lacking" to have the option of working with a consulting teacher for instructional classroom improvements rather than being placed on the required 90 Day Plan.

Superintendent Adams added the 90 Day Plan is a legal binding document that would require legislature amendments. He continued, the teacher would have to agree to look at another form of evaluation – this is not a district call.

Mr. Gaines expressed Peer Review demonstrated all signs of promising success in its first year in the district.

With that said, on a motion by Mr. Gaines, and seconded by Ms. Adams, on the following roll call vote, the Board voted in favor of adding the Peer Review Process as part of the district's legislative packet that defines the district's position, consistent with the law, its support of the Peer Review Process verses the 90 Day Plan be utilized in the St. Louis Public Schools as an evaluation assistance tool for teacher performance.

The motion carried with a unanimous "aye" vote by the Special Administrative Board of the Transitional School District.

At the request of Mr. Sullivan, President Armstrong agreed to support this legislative effort as a joint venture.

Mr. Gaines also inquired if members would receive monthly progress reports of SIG. Superintendent Adams responded they would as monthly reports are also a part of DESE's requirements.

Mr. Sullivan stated communication to the public regarding the benefits of the SIG program is essential; communicated what the program offers, how it will help, how does one enroll their child(ren), where does one go to enroll, who is the contact person(s), etc.

Mr. Haggan will collaborate with the Public Information Office to assure this message is generated to the public.

- Dr. Joselyn Larry gave an update on E-Rate. She reported the district's appeal for 06/07 was approved and the district is expected to receive the funding this year. But she cautioned funding will be adjusted due to some school closures. Dr. Larry is in continued discussions concerning the settlement for 2008.

BUSINESS ITEMS:

CONSENT AGENDA

On a motion by Ms. Adams, and seconded by Mr. Gaines, on the following roll call vote, the Board voted to approve the September 9, 2010 Consent Agenda Items as submitted.

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

- 09-09-10-01** The July 2010 Monthly Budget Transaction Report.
- 09-09-10-02** A sole source contract with the School Safety Center Foundation, Inc. to provide Violent Confrontation Avoidance for Educators training for the period September 10, 2010 through December 1, 2010 at a cost not to exceed \$8,500.
- 09-09-10-03** A membership renewal with the National School Boards' Association (NSBA) for the period October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011 at a cost not to exceed \$13,750.

- 09-09-10-04** The Medical, Dental, Short-Term and Long-Term Disability Plans, Vision, Prescription and Life Insurance for the period January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011 in an amount not to exceed the annual estimated total of \$27,822.986.
- 09-09-10-05** Increasing the Medical Flexible Spending Account Limit to \$1,500. This amount aligns the program more closely with the 2011 Medical Plan Deductibles, Co-Insurance and Co-Pay Expenses.
- 09-09-10-06** A dollar limitation on the previously approved contract (Resolution Number 06-24-10-24) with Dell Corporation as the standard vendor for technology purchases. The cost of equipment purchased under this contract will not exceed \$2,000,000 for the fiscal year 2010-2011.
- 09-09-10-07** A contracts and a total dollar limitation for the purchase of interactive boards to be provided during the period September 10, 2010 through June 30, 2011 with multiple vendors (list attached) at a total combined cost not to exceed \$150,000.
- 09-09-10-08** The purchase of musical instruments and equipment from Nottelmann Music for six (6) high schools at a total combined cost not to exceed \$28,893.25.
- 09-09-10-09** The purchase of 25 sets of choir risers from Wenger Corporation for use at five (5) high schools at a total combined cost not to exceed \$24,762.50.
- 09-09-10-10** The purchase of Accelerated Reader and STAR reading materials for the non-Turnaround High Schools through Renaissance Learning at a cost not to exceed \$69,840.06.
- 09-09-10-11** Ratify approval of a contract renewal with Chartwells Food Service to provide food services to the District's schools for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, (unless terminated by either party without cause by giving a sixty (60) days notice in writing to the other party with its intent to do so) at an amount not to exceed \$13,349,848.

Superintendent Adams requested the approval of items **09-30-10-07 through 09-30-10-10** and **item 09-30-10-19** from the September 30, 2010 Items for Consideration.

On a motion by Ms. Adams, and seconded by Mr. Gaines, on the following roll call vote, the Board voted to approve 09-30-10-07 through 09-30-10-10.

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

- 09-30-10-07** Acceptance of funds for the Superintendent's Book Club from the US Department of Education Literacy Through School Programs in the amount of \$471,242.
- 09-30-10-08** Acceptance of funds for the St. Louis Elementary Counseling Initiative from the US Department of Education's Elementary and Secondary Counseling program in the amount of \$395,327.
- 09-30-10-09** Accept expenditures of \$93,055 in reimbursable funds from the Missouri Department of Elementary Education, School Food Services for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for the 2010-2011 school year.

09-30-10-10 Acceptance of equipment and promotional items from the St. Louis Dairy Council for the Breakfast in the Classroom Program for two SLPS' schools at no cost to the district.

On a motion by Ms. Adams, and seconded by Mr. Gaines, on the following roll call vote, the Board voted to approve item number 09-30-10-19.

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

09-30-10-19 Adoption of a resolution to adopt the findings and recommendations of the Administration to begin a reduction in force and eliminate certain positions due to declining enrollment and lack of work.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATE(S)

There were no updates presented.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:05 PM, 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