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

OFFICIAL REPORT

**Regular Board Meeting
St. Louis, MO
June 13, 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 Earl Nance, Sr. Elementary, 8959 Riverview Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63147.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting came to order at 7:13 p.m.

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

A quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All recited the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:14 p.m.

APPEARANCES – PUBLIC COMMENTS

Concerned parent Nyeshia Miller addressed the Board with concerns about gun violence. Ms. Miller requested there be programs in place in our schools to address and prevent gun violence.

Concerned citizen Bob Reinhold addressed the Board regarding taxes, and distributed a handout to all board members present. Mr. Reinhold stated that in most school districts, the tax burden is placed on the poorest citizens. Mr. Reinhold said he opposes all sales taxes and instead, would like to substitute an inheritance tax or financial transaction tax which would impact the wealthy. Mr. Reinhold said that because in the City of St. Louis, many poor people are homeowners, he supports a more progressive approach to taxes, including a graduated income tax, which has been implemented in many European countries. In closing, Mr. Reinhold stated: “We are disadvantaging the poor people of this country, both black and white, and until we start changing our ways, we will continue to do that. And we will continue to bring about a greater concentration of wealth in the hands of fewer and fewer people.”

Community activist Percy Green addressed the Board to congratulate new board members and invite the entire Board to work with him on regaining local control of the District. He urged new board members to learn the history of the Board’s removal from governance and suggested the book *Schoolhouse Shams: Myths and Misinformation in School Reform* by Peter Downs; encouraged experienced members to review the book as well. Mr. Green stated, regarding the loss of governance in 2007, “We [the citizens] felt that it was unfair for the state and the politicians and the fatcats to remove the authority from the Elected Board and put it in the hands of the people that they wanted, that they could control.” Mr. Green said he was optimistic about the return of local control now that the Board is “free from hostility within”.

APPEARANCES – INVITED GUESTS

Velma Bailey, founder and operator of Camp Sun Splash, addressed the Board regarding the use of Beaumont Technical Center (formerly Beaumont High School) during inclement weather. She distributed a brochure to all board members present. Ms. Bailey described Camp Sun Splash as a summer day camp which operates at Fairground Park. The camp provides children with nutritious meals and physical activity while instructing them in socialization, time management, economics, leadership, problem-solving, and decision-making skills. Ms. Bailey explained that the camp recruits kids by knocking on doors in high-need areas, and the program is designed to deter them from promiscuity or violence. She stated: “They [the kids] learn how to be physically active in appropriate ways. And the children also get a chance, believe it or not—with all the schedules, the routines—to have fun. Good clean fun.” Upon requests for information from board members:

Ms. Bailey gave the following statistics on Camp Sun Splash:

- the program is in its 6th year
- camp is from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and spans 28 days from mid-June to late July

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- serves 70 children, ages 4-18
- charges no fees to attend
- provides 18 field trips over 28 days

Ms. Bailey cited the following reasons for allowing campers to use the Beaumont facility during heavy rains/storms:

- the camp emphasizes outdoor playtime over indoor playtime
- teaches independence and perseverance by encouraging children to brave the weather when taking public transit to/from field trips
- Beaumont Technical Center is a public building
- Beaumont is the nearest facility to the camp, just across Natural Bridge Avenue
- majority of campers are SLPS students

Regarding attempts to gain access to the building during inclement weather, Ms. Bailey stated:

- she has obtained and turned in all required signed building permits
- the building is already staffed during camp hours
- she has spoken to Roger CayCe and Stacy Clay several times and has sent numerous emails which never receive a reply
- no specific reason has ever been given for not allowing use of the building

Ms. Bailey asked members of the Board to contact Mr. Roger CayCe and request that Camp Sun Splash campers be allowed access to safe shelter during heavy rains. She stated: "Ninety-nine point nine percent of the kids that are in our summer day camp are students in the Saint Louis Public School District. They're your kids. They're our kids. And they deserve to be treated humanely."

APPROVAL AND ADOPTION OF THE JUNE 13, 2017 MEETING AGENDA

On a motion by Ms. Susan Jones and seconded by Ms. Katherine Wessling, the Board voted to approve and adopt the June 13, 2017 Meeting Agenda on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSIONS: APRIL 11, 2017

On a motion by Ms. Susan Jones and seconded by Ms. Katherine Wessling to approve the Meeting Minutes from April 11, 2017. The Board then opened discussion of the Meeting Minutes.

Ms. Natalie Vowell stated that although she was not a formally sworn-in board member when she attended the April 11, 2017 meeting, she would suggest correcting the spelling of Ms. Charli Cooksey's name from "Charlie" to "Charli" in several locations throughout the document.

Ms. Katherine Wessling pointed out that under "Roll Call", the document stated "the motion was carried", but that it was simply a roll call, absent any motion; therefore "the motion was carried" should be omitted. Ms. Wessling also requested that pages 2-3 of the Meeting Minutes be modified for clarity, specifically regarding the headings "Resolutions" and "Parliamentary Procedure". Ms. Katherine Wessling stated that there were many topics with board member names next to them, but no coherent content regarding whether any motions were made.

Ms. Susan Jones withdrew her motion to approve the Meeting Minutes. On a motion by Ms. Susan Jones and seconded by Ms. Katherine Wessling, the Board voted to table the approval of the April 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS SESSIONS: MAY 09, 2017

On a motion by Ms. Susan Jones and seconded by Ms. Natalie Vowell, the Board voted to table the Meeting Minutes from May 09, 2017.

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

The motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS TO PRESENT

Transition Letter to the Department of Education and Secondary Education:

On a motion by Ms. Susan Jones and seconded by Ms. Katherine Wessling, the Board voted to accept the Transition Letter composed by Ms. Susan Jones, pending the changes suggested by Ms. Charli Cooksey and Ms. Dorothy Rohde Collins, on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion carried.

Bylaw Resolution:

Ms. Katherine Wessling proposed updates to the second paragraph of the Board of Education Bylaws under the “Officers” section in order to bring the Board into full compliance with Sunshine Law.

Ms. Katherine Wessling proposed changing “Paper ballots will be distributed, collected, and counted by the treasurer or designee” to “Members will state their votes through a roll call vote and will state the name of the person they are voting for.”

On a motion by Ms. Katherine Wessling and seconded by Ms. Natalie Vowell, the Board voted to update the second paragraph of the “Officers” section of Board bylaws on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion carried.

Social Media Norms:

On a motion by Ms. Charli Cooksey and seconded by Ms. Susan Jones, the Board voted to accept the Social Media Policy for Facebook on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion carried.

2017-2018 Board Meeting Schedule:

On a motion by Ms. Susan Jones and seconded by Ms. Katherine Wessling, the Board voted to accept the 2017-2018 Board Meeting Schedule on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion carried.

BOARD ELECTIONS

On a nomination by Ms. Donna Jones, and no further nominations, the Board elected Ms. Susan Jones as President of the Board on the following roll call vote:

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

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Not called: Susan Jones

Ms. Susan Jones was re-elected as President of the Board.

On a nomination by Ms. Natalie Vowell, and no further nominations, the Board elected Ms. Katherine Wessling as Vice President of the Board on the following roll call vote:

Aye: Charli Cooksey, Donna Jones, Susan Jones, Dorothy Rohde Collins,
Natalie Vowell,

Not called: Katherine Wessling

Ms. Katherine Wessling was re-elected as President of the Board.

On a nomination by Ms. Charli Cooksey and no further nominations, the Board elected Ms. Natalie Vowell as Secretary of the Board on the following roll call vote:

Aye: Charli Cooksey, Donna Jones, Susan Jones Dorothy Rohde Collins,
Katherine Wessling.

Not called: Natalie Vowell

Ms. Natalie Vowell was elected as Secretary of the Board.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Natalie Vowell reported on the following topics and distributed a printed copy to each board member present as well as the Board Secretary, Ms. Ernestine Shivers-Jones:

- Ms. Vowell explained the purpose of the Social Media Strategy and Social Media Policy, as compiled by Ms. Vowell and Ms. Charli Cooksey of the Social Media Committee.
- Ms. Vowell updated miscellaneous documents.
- Ms. Vowell manually entered all of the closed captions for the hearing impaired on the video of the May 9th, 2017 Board Meeting.
- Ms. Vowell offered to provide her personal professional sound equipment for future meetings to accommodate audience members, pending discussion by the full board in a future work session.
- Ms. Vowell provided an overview and detailed printed report on the May 2017 Sheriff's Tax Auction. There were 97 properties for auction and the total owed on all properties combined was \$195,854. Including all properties bid up and all properties which received no bids, the total collected was \$657,703.
- Ms. Vowell received her Board Member Certification from the Missouri School Boards' Association on April 28, 2017.
- Ms. Vowell has been in conversations with other districts to better understand how SLPS compares.
- Ms. Vowell was contacted by a colleague in Los Angeles who works with the Southern Poverty Law Center. She received some information and educational

materials on the “Teaching Tolerance” program and offered these materials to members of the Board or any administrators or educators who may want to consider implementing them in any way.

- Ms. Vowell looked into a Nextdoor Agency Agreement and will report back when Nextdoor begins offering this option to school boards.
- Ms. Vowell attended the commencement ceremony of Metro Academic and Classical High School’s Class of 2017 on May 20, 2017.
- Ms. Vowell spoke with Team TIF about presenting at the July meeting regarding how tax increment financing and tax abatements impact school funding.
- Ms. Vowell attended the Marquette Pool Party on June 03, 2017. She spoke to Alderwoman Cara Spencer, Alderman Dan Guenther, and 20th Ward Democratic Committeewoman Wendy Campbell to request their advocacy for local control.

Ms. Donna Jones reported on the following topics:

- Ms. Donna Jones, Ms. Charli Cooksey, and Ms. Susan Jones attended the Missouri School Boards’ Association Leadership Summit on the weekend of June 03, 2017.
- Ms. Jones reminded the Board that according to recently-passed House Bill 93, the State of Missouri will direct the Department of Education and Secondary Education to authorize Missouri-based non-profit organizations to sponsor four adult high schools.

Ms. Katherine Wessling reported on the following topics:

- Ms. Wessling attended the commencement ceremony of the Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience Class of 2017.
 - The Collegiate School is the District’s newest high school and the Class of 2017 is its first graduating class.
 - Seventy students began as freshmen and, with a rigorous curriculum, just over 40 students graduated.
 - All have been accepted into college, many with scholarships, and over half the students graduated with honors.
 - Ms. Wessling hopes the school meets its intended goal of bringing minorities into healthcare careers and continues to maintain a good balance of minority enrollment.
 - Ms. Wessling expressed concern that County and charter school students may be coming in and encourages monitoring the school to ensure that it prioritizes opportunities for City students.
 - Ms. Wessling recommends the focus remain on a child’s motivation to succeed rather than test scores alone.

Mr. Bill Haas (absent) submitted a report in the form of a letter to read by Ms. Susan Jones:

- Mr. Haas reported that Superintendent Dr. Kelvin Adams will be meeting with the Board before the June 27, 2017 work session regarding early childhood reading.

Ms. Susan Jones reported on the following topics:

- Ms. Susan Jones, Ms. Charli Cooksey, and Ms. Donna Jones attended the Missouri School Boards' Association Leadership Summit on the weekend of June 03, 2017. This learning experience covered topics such as governance, TIF's, putting together an effective agenda, and how to operate more effectively as a board.
- Ms. Jones has been working with the Missouri School Boards' Association to plan a board retreat including training for the Board.
- Ms. Jones has met with Superintendent Dr. Kelvin Adams regarding funding for the teamwork and leadership training book *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* recommended by Ms. Charli Cooksey at the May 23, 2017 work session. The book will be used in conjunction with ongoing training for the Board.
- Ms. Jones spoke with Superintendent Dr. Kelvin Adams regarding the District hosting its Halloween Safe Haven event again in October 2017, and invited members of the community to assist with the activity.
- Ms. Jones spoke with Superintendent Dr. Kelvin Adams and other board members about a Back To School Bus Ride. Ms. Jones stated that in the transition plan, the Board identified roughly seven recurring challenges in the District, including issues such as parental involvement and homelessness. Ms. Jones listed the main goals of the Back To School Bus Ride as transparency, increased enrollment, and direct communication with the community. Ms. Jones stated that Ms. Natalie Vowell owns a school bus and members of the Board will ride the bus to areas of the District that the Superintendent has identified as having low enrollment. Ms. Jones reports the District has offered to provide promotional items such as t-shirts, cups, pencils, and snacks or other supplies needed to facilitate promoting SLPS by knocking on doors. She stated this event will be recognized by the Missouri School Boards' Association in their newsletter and on their website.
 - ❖ Ms. Katherine Wessling expressed concerns regarding insurance budget.
 - ❖ Ms. Susan Jones said she is considering discussing with the Board raising funds via GoFundMe as well as whether the District is able to cover the cost of this event or use the District's contracted transportation service, First Student.
- Ms. Jones and Superintendent Dr. Kelvin Adams have discussed the Superintendent going "LIVE" on Facebook to answer questions from the community in an effort to help connect citizens to the District through smartphone and computer technology. Ms. Jones stated that the Missouri School Boards'

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Association will also recognize this event. Ms. Jones stated that for now, a “LIVE” event is planned for both July and August, but hopes to make it a monthly activity, and will be promoted through social media via the Board’s official Facebook Page.

- Ms. Jones reports that new tabs have been added to the Board of Education section of the SLPS.org website, including Regular Board Meeting minutes, Work Session dates, and Work Session Minutes, in an effort to increase transparency.

NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Susan Jones requested that the Board submit any input or questions regarding the Special Administrative Board Consent Agenda to be discussed at the 2:00 p.m. meeting with the Superintendent on Wednesday, June 14, 2017.

INFORMATION REQUESTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Velma Bailey asked that, due to the urgency of Camp Sun Splash needing access to Beaumont Technical Center, the Board collectively make a recommendation to the Superintendent at the 2:00 p.m. meeting tomorrow.

Ms. Susan Jones responded that the Board had not taken a position on this issue and did not have sufficient time or information to do so. Ms. Susan Jones said she would relay the information to Dr. Adams at her next meeting with him and contact Ms. Bailey regarding his response.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, upon a motion by Ms. Susan Jones and seconded by Ms. Donna Jones, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m. on the following roll call vote:

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

The motion carried.

ATTESTED BY:

NATALIE VOWELL, SECRETARY