



WEBSTER GROVES SCHOOL DISTRICT  
Open Minutes from the Special Meeting of the Board of Education  
Saturday, June 20, 2015  
Central Office Board Room  
400 East Lockwood Avenue  
Webster Groves, Missouri 63119

CALL TO ORDER

A special meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 8:05 a.m., Saturday, June 20, 2015, by its president, David Addison. The following members were present:

David Addison	President
Amy Clendennen	Vice President
Steve Loher	
Emerson Smith	
Jean Dugan	
Joel Oliver	
Michael Shipley	

Also present were:

Sarah Booth Riss	Superintendent
Diane Moore	Asst. Superintendent/COO
Linda Holliday	Human Resources Consultant
Cathy Vespereny	Director of Community Relations
John M. Thomas	Director of Student Services
Jane Baumgartner	Secretary

AGENDA

Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Smith, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

LONGITUDINAL  
FINANCIAL OUTLOOK  
AND FUTURE PLANS

Diane Moore reviewed three possible projections assuming .5%, .75% and 1% revenue growth and a 3% expenditure increase on all three projections. She focused on ways to balance the budget such as early retirement options and lowering expenditures to 2% or 1%. Mr. Addison informally polled the Board for opinions about the possibility of returning to the voters for another election and when that would be best. It was determined that the Board should find out through further communications and initiatives what the community would support.

COMMUNITY  
ENGAGEMENT AND  
COMMUNICATION  
PROCESS

Cathy Vespereny reviewed the 2015-16 Communications Plan, which included several improvement suggestions in the area of social media. Discussion followed the presentation about the most effective ways to engage the community in appropriate forums, along with a discussion about the best way to handle public comments and future Sunshine requests. Sarah Riss summarized four community engagement suggestions for possible future implementation. The Board discussed these suggestions and Mr. Addison took an informal poll to collect feedback from each Board member. Jean Dugan, Steve Loher and Emerson Smith will work with Dr. Riss and Cathy Vespereny as a subcommittee of the Board to finalize the community engagement plan and design the survey. The survey will assess the climate of the community and what the current needs/concerns are. Mr. Addison also addressed the increase of Sunshine requests that have been made in recent months. Ms. Clendennen provided a clarification on what the law states and what is required to be provided. It was determined that the Policy Subcommittee would be charged with looking into the current policy and report back any future suggestions to improve consistency.

BOARD GOALS AND  
PRIORITIES

Dr. Riss reviewed the 2015-16 BOE Goals and Priorities. It was suggested that community engagement be added, the focus on students remains constant throughout, and that an element of informing the public about district committees be included.

BOARD MEETING  
TOPICS AND  
CALENDAR

The 2015-16 calendar and meeting topics were reviewed. These dates will be posted online and additional dates will be added as they are announced.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kim Mumm provided suggestions to balance the 2014-15 budget. Her recommendations included: raising kindergarten tuition back to \$3000, cutting the WAFC preschool budget by 10%, moving both WAFC directors' full salaries to the preschool or Adventure Club, and cutting administrator salaries.

Pat Zach supported the idea of reversing the previous decision of phasing in free full-day kindergarten. She also expressed interest in joining district committees.

Dave Buck said the Board should keep its eyes on the ultimate goal, come back to voters in April showing that community ideas and opinions have been considered, develop a good survey in the meantime, and stay true to the District's Strategic Plan.

Alice Roufa suggested not returning to voters in April and learning how to operate on a small budget and live within the District's means.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Smith moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, that the meeting be adjourned at 11:35 a.m. The motion carried 7-0.

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President

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Secretary