

Webster Groves School District  
Board of Education  
Special/Workshop Meeting  
Monday, August 24, 2015  
7:00 P.M.  
Board of Education Offices  
400 East Lockwood Ave.  
St. Louis, Missouri 63119

CALL TO ORDER

A special/workshop meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Monday, August 24, 2015, by its Vice President Amy Clendennen. The following members were present:

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

Also present were:

Sarah Booth Riss	Superintendent
Linda Holliday	HR Consultant
Diane Moore	Asst. Superintendent-COO
John Simpson	Asst. Superintendent-C&I
John M. Thomas	Director-Student Services
Cathy Vespereny	Director-Community Relations
Lori Medlin	Secretary
Doug Copeland	Attorney

Ms. Clendennen called for and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag prior to beginning the meeting.

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

002 There were no public comments offered.

003 BOARD LIAISON  
REPORTS

003a CELEBRATIONS

Steve Loher congratulated the administration on a very positive and successful staff opening day celebration. Emerson Smith reported the positive energy and success at the custodial training and professional development day. Jean Dugan greeted students at Bristol on the first day of school. Thanked the principals and said all schools seem to be off to a great start. Michael Shipley reported the improvements completed on the front grounds of Avery looked great and thanked the PTO that funded the project. Joel Oliver attended the Back to School picnic at Bristol and had very positive feedback from the parents and students in attendance. Amy Clendennen attended the Back to School event at Clark, noting the large attendance and positive feedback regarding the Bubble Bus that was featured.

- 003b Jean Dugan reported the new foundation president is Travis Snelling and is busy promoting the Golf Tournament and other upcoming Foundation events.
- 003c Amy Clendennen reminded the board to inform Lori Medlin their attendance dates for the upcoming MSBA conference in October.
- 003d Amy Clendennen led discussion to identify the stakeholder groups to invite during the superintendent search process. The Board will recommend to McPherson & Jacobson that the firm will include the general public, teachers, support and custodial staff, PTO and other parent leader organizations, city leaders and local government individuals, the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Lions, Masons and student groups.
- REPORTS FROM  
SUPERINTENDENT &  
STAFF
- 004a Dr. Sarah Riss presented information from the opening of school. Dr. Riss expressed how happy she was to see faculty, staff and students so energized and ready for a new school year to begin. Dr. Riss visited each school site and was very pleased to report that things were running very smoothly.
- 004b Dr. Sarah Riss and Michael Shipley gave an overview of a draft plan for a Webster Small Business Innovation Center. This would be a collaboration of small business professionals, Webster University, Webster Groves High School and other local leaders in the community who would staff the center. The concept is in its planning stages, but could be very beneficial for students, local businesses and the community.
- 004c Dr. Diane Moore gave a report on the tuition calculations for non-resident students K-12. The calculation is based on the formula provided by DESE and is used by St. Louis County school districts to provide consistency with unaccredited tuition billings. The calculation for the 2015-16 school year is \$12,756.58. This was approved on the consent agenda.
- 004d John M. Thomas provided an update on the number of transfer students attending WGSD. There are currently 149 VICC students enrolled and 14 from unaccredited districts. Mr. Thomas provided a link to a video providing an overview of the VICC program and a historical perspective of its development in the region. Mr. Shipley expressed continued support for the VICC program and would like to see continued enrollment of new VICC students if space allows. The Board will review the number of spaces for VICC students during their January meeting.
- 004e Amy Clendennen led the discussion for the 2015-16 tuition rate for students attending from unaccredited districts. There was discussion and clarification outlining the formula and logic behind the tuition rate based on the rates the WGSD charges to offset the cost of education. Mr. Smith moved that the Board of Education set the tuition rate for students attending the WGSD from unaccredited schools at the same rate as the K-12 nonresident student tuition rate of \$12,756.58 and that the administration work with the unaccredited school districts to provide in-kind services that will not detract from their ability to serve the WGSD students and staff. Mrs. Dugan seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0.
- 004f Dr. Diane Moore presented the Facility Update. She acknowledged the wonderful job of the maintenance and custodial crews in preparing the buildings for the new school year. Highlights included: solar panels at the high school, painting and cleaning, the progress at the new service center, and looking at some alternative spaces that may come available for the district to use in the future.

004g

Cathy Vespereny provided a summary of the survey results. Emerson Smith also shared a presentation of the key talking points which were:

- a. 74% of respondents gave the District solid grades;
- b. Voters want one issue on the ballot at a time;
- c. The Board failed to communicate the connection between new classrooms at Hixson and renovations at Moss Field;
- d. The Board should have shared detailed information of all the options that were considered;
- e. To use a variety of channels to share more detailed communication with the community, including the Board's hard decisions and cost saving measures already implemented;
- f. To work with and support city governments to generate more commercial development;
- g. To continue to develop other sources of revenue to fund capital projects.

Jean Dugan gave a reminder about the public forums and community engagement sessions scheduled for August 29 and September 2, 2015. The remaining forum dates and purpose of the Community Engagement Plan were also reviewed.

#### 005 CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, that the consent agenda be approved:

- 005a August 10, 2015 Minutes
- 005b Personnel Report
- 005c Monthly Expenditures: June \$2,434,550.38
- 005d Activity Account: June \$88,260.85
- 005e Cash Flow Report: June
- 005f Monthly Expenditures: July \$1,379,316.41
- 005g Activity Account: July \$113,370.55
- 005h Cash Flow Report: July
- 005i Approval of WGSD K-12 Tuition Rate

The motion carried 7-0

#### 006 PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dave Buck made comments regarding the verbiage in the district's mission statement pertaining to measuring student success. He suggested the Board communicate more clearly to the community the many different ways student success is measured. Mr. Buck felt that the community at large generally uses the MAP data reported by the media as their means of measuring WGSD student success compared with other districts. Mr. Buck stated that the District could only benefit by a clear consistent communication.

Kim Mumm made comments pertaining to the ongoing issue of overcrowding and space in the elementary schools. She advised the district to "take care of it's housekeeping" by keeping better track of students who have moved out of the district and school boundaries, and to enroll nonresident staff children to the schools that have the lowest enrollment numbers. She also commented on the need to make every school site in the district fully ADA compliant before the district considers acquiring other buildings or other means of expansion.

#### 007 MOTION TO RECESS INTO CLOSED SESSION

#### RECONVENE OPEN MEETING

Mr. Loher moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, to recess into closed session at 8:15 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Litigation [Sec. 610.021 (1) RS Mo] and Property [Sec. 610.021 (2) RS MO] Mr. Loher, yes; Mr. Smith, yes; Mrs. Dugan, yes; Ms. Clendennen, yes; Mr. Oliver, yes; Mr. Shipley, yes. The motion carried 6-0.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The open meeting was reconvened at 9:05 p.m.

Mrs. Dugan moved, seconded by Mr. Oliver, to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. The motion carried 6-0.

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Board President

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Board Secretary

