

MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AGENDA ITEM:**August 2017****REPORT ON THE ST. LOUIS PUBLIC SCHOOLS GOVERNANCE****STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

Sections 161.092 and 162.1100, RSMo

Consent
ItemAction
ItemReport
Item**DEPARTMENT GOAL NO. 1:**

All Missouri students will graduate college and career ready.

SUMMARY:

Missouri statutes permit the re-establishment and termination of a transitional school district of St. Louis and its Special Administrative Board. However, the law does not address a transition process.

The State Board of Education (and Department) received letters from both the Special Administrative Board and the elected Board of Education for the St. Louis Public Schools indicating their willingness to reconvene to discuss and plan for a transition of governance of the district.

The State Board will discuss the means to move forward toward a collaboratively developed process.

PRESENTER:

Commissioner Vandeven will assist with the discussion of this agenda item.



Margaret M. Vandeven, Ph.D. • Commissioner of Education

205 Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 480 • Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480 • dese.mo.gov

July 21, 2017

Ms. Susan Jones
 President, St. Louis Elected Board of Education
 St. Louis Public Schools
 801 North 11th Street
 St. Louis, MO 63101

Dear Ms. Jones:

Thank you for your June 26, 2017, letter regarding the future governance of the St. Louis Public Schools and efforts toward beginning the transition of governance back to the Elected Board of Education.

Both the Elected Board of Education and the Special Administrative Board for the St. Louis Public Schools have indicated their willingness to reconvene to discuss and plan for the transition of governance of the district. As a result of both board's stated intentions, the State Board of Education will discuss the district's governance at its August 15, 2017, meeting in Jefferson City.

I appreciate your willingness to move forward collaboratively in the interest of ensuring effective governance of the district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margie Vandeven".

Margie Vandeven
 Commissioner of Education

c: ✓ Members of the Missouri State Board of Education
 The Honorable Eric R. Greitens, Governor, State of Missouri
 The Honorable Lyda Krewson, Mayor, City of St. Louis
 The Honorable Lewis Reed, President, St. Louis Board of Alderman
 Dr. Kelvin Adams, Superintendent, St. Louis Public Schools
 Dr. William Danforth
 Ms. Frankie M. Freeman

July 21, 2017

Mr. Rick Sullivan, President/CEO
Mrs. Darnetta Clinkscale, Member
Mr. Richard K. Gaines, Member
Special Administrative Board
St. Louis Public Schools
801 North 11th Street – 2nd Floor
St. Louis, MO 63101

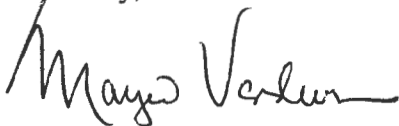
Dear Members of the Special Administrative Board:

Thank you for your June 26, 2017 letter regarding the future governance of the St. Louis Public Schools and efforts toward beginning the transition of governance back to the elected board of education.

Both the Special Administrative Board and the elected Board of Education for the St. Louis Public Schools have indicated their willingness to reconvene to discuss and plan for the transition of governance of the district. As a result of both board's stated intentions, the State Board of Education will discuss the district's governance at its August 15, 2017, meeting in Jefferson City.

I appreciate your willingness to move forward collaboratively in the interest of ensuring effective governance of the district.

Sincerely,



Margie Vandeven
Commissioner of Education

c: ✓ Members of the Missouri State Board of Education
The Honorable Eric R. Greitens, Governor, State of Missouri
The Honorable Lyda Krewson, Mayor, City of St. Louis
The Honorable Lewis Reed, President, St. Louis Board of Alderman
Dr. Kelvin Adams, Superintendent, St. Louis Public Schools
Dr. William H. Danforth
Ms. Frankie M. Freeman



SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

MR. RICK SULLIVAN
PRESIDENT/CEO

MRS. DARNETTA CLINKSCALE
MEMBER

MR. RICHARD K. GAINES
MEMBER

CHAIRMAN OF THE PROPOSITION 1 CAMPAIGN
CHAIRMAN OF THE PROPOSITION S CAMPAIGN

June 26, 2017

Members of the State Board of Education

Mr. Charles W. Shields, President

205 Jefferson Street

PO Box 480

Jefferson City, MO 65102

Members of the State Board of Education:

Enclosed is a copy of correspondence sent from the Special Administrative Board ("SAB") to the Elected Board of Education ("BOE") regarding the future governance of the St. Louis Public School District ("District"). As described in the enclosed correspondence, the SAB has contacted the BOE for the purpose of identifying and implementing an orderly transition for the governance of the District post-SAB. We believe exploring alternative forms of governance represents the final unmet responsibility of the SAB and we look forward to receiving community input as we move through this process.

Sincerely,

MRS. DARNETTA CLINKSCALE

MR. RICHARD K. GAINES

MR. RICK SULLIVAN

DC:RKG:RS:rl

cc: Superintendent Dr. Kelvin Adams



SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

RICK SULLIVAN
 PRESIDENT/CEO
 DARNETTA CLINKSCALE
 MEMBER
 RICHARD K. GAINES
 MEMBER
 CHAIRMAN OF THE PROPOSITION 1 CAMPAIGN
 CHAIRMAN OF THE PROPOSITION S CAMPAIGN

June 26, 2017

Emailed: 6-26-17
 US Mail: 6-26-17

Ms. Susan Jones, President
 Board of Education of the City of St. Louis
 Soho Lofts
 800 Arlington Avenue Apt. #308
 St. Louis, MO 63112
rjones.susan@gmail.com

Dear President Jones:

The members of the Special Administrative Board (SAB) wish to congratulate the newly elected members of the Board of Education (BOE) and pass along our hopes and desires for the success of this newly formed governing body. Because of the District's recent award of full accreditation by the Missouri State Board of Education and consistent with the requirements of Section 162.1100.4(2) of the Revised Statutes of Missouri, we believe this is an opportune time for the SAB and BOE to begin to consider and discuss the future governance of the St. Louis Public School District (District) and jointly develop a smooth and constructive process for transition.¹

At the time of our appointment in 2007, the Missouri State Board of Education cited academic performance, fiscal management, and governance as the basis for the decision to remove accreditation from the District. Now that the District is fully accredited, we believe the work of the SAB is near completion and the time is right for the St. Louis community to begin planning for the post-SAB future of the District. We also believe the BOE has an essential role to play in planning for this transition.

As part of exploring a transition process, we are interested in discussing an expanded role for the BOE in the District's governance related activities. As you may recall, in December 2014 the SAB reached out to the BOE to express our willingness to work with the BOE on plans for transitioning the District to local control. At that time, we expressed our interest in discussing the future participation of up to two BOE members in the Open Session portion of the SAB's regularly scheduled meetings. Now that the most recent BOE election is over, we are again extending this offer for the limited participation by the BOE in SAB meetings going forward.

As was previously contemplated, one of the two BOE members participating in the SAB meetings should be the Board President with the other meeting participant determined by the BOE. The two participating BOE members will not have decision-making authority, nor will they cast votes on matters before the SAB; however, a procedure will be developed to allow the two BOE members to participate, ask questions, and/or express the BOE position on matters before the SAB during the open

¹ Section 162.1100.4(2), RSMo., states that the Special Administrative Board's powers and duties shall include "[e]xploration of alternative forms of governance for the district."

Susan Jones, President
Board of Education of the City of St. Louis

Page 2
June 26, 2017

session. In addition, we will also provide the entire BOE with a copy of the regularly scheduled meeting's agenda for review prior to the meeting.

In addition to inviting the BOE to participate in SAB meeting, we also strongly believe it will serve the public interest to conduct additional joint public meetings with the SAB and BOE in order to obtain input from the St. Louis community and various District stakeholders on the future governance of the District. The ultimate goal of this process will be to explore what makes the most sense for the governance of the District and jointly identify objectives necessary to develop a plan for the future governance that can be shared with the St. Louis community and the Missouri State Board of Education.

We look forward to establishing a relationship of mutual respect with the BOE and we believe that this represents the first step toward a smooth and efficient transition that will provide a long-term benefit for the District and the St. Louis Public School District community.

Sincerely,

MRS. DARNETTA CLINKSCALE

MR. RICHARD K. GAINES

MR. RICK SULLIVAN

DC:RKG:RS:rl

cc: Dr. Margie Vandeven
Commissioner of Education
Members of the State Board of Education
The Honorable Eric Greitens
Governor of the State of Missouri
The Honorable Mayor Lyda Krewson
City of St. Louis
The Honorable Lewis Reed
President of the St. Louis Board of Alderman
The Honorable Frankie Muse Freeman
The Honorable William H. Danforth
Superintendent Dr. Kelvin Adams
St. Louis Public Schools



Susan Jones
St. Louis Elected Board of Education
801 N. 11th Street
St. Louis, Missouri 63101
June 26, 2017

Members of the State Board of Education and Commissioner Vandeven
Missouri State Board of Education
P.O Box 480
Jefferson City
65102-0480

Dear Members of the State Board of Education and Commissioner Vandeven:

The St. Louis Elected Board of Education is prepared to reconvene conversations and planning towards a smooth, strategic, and efficient transition of governance power from the State Appointed Board back to the St. Louis Board of Education. We look forward to hearing back from you regarding setting up dates for our meetings to resume. On behalf of the members of the St. Louis Elected Board of Education we thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Jones".

Susan Jones
President, St. Louis Board of Education