

Record of Proceedings of a regular meeting of the Board of Education, School District of University City, St. Louis County, held at Ronald E. McNair Administration Building, 8136 Groby Road, University City, Missouri, February 26, 2009.

The following Board members were present:

Ms. Meg McClelland, President; Mr. Tom Peters, Vice-President; Mr. Todd Gilyard, Secretary; Ms. Ellen Bern, Mr. Stacy Clay, and Mr. Bob Elgin, Directors; and Ms. Kristin Rice, Student Representative to the Board.

Ms. Joylynn Wilson, Superintendent; Dr. Chauna Williams, Assistant Superintendent/Curriculum & Instruction; Dr. Judy Sclair, Assistant Superintendent/Human Resources, Mr. Scott Hafertepe, Chief Financial Officer/Business & Financial Management, and approximately 32 staff members, students, and citizens were present.

CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, Ms. McClelland called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Wilson announced that item #09-125 was added to the agenda.

A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kristin Rice highlighted events at University City High School. She reported that on February 26 a performance of "Shakespeare in the Park" took place during seventh period, and the Bridge Program, along with College Bound St. Louis presented to the students during a seminar class. On February 13 the District wrestling meet took place and DeMarco Kemp placed second. The FAME musical is April 3 & 4 and Pass it Forward is a program where selected female seniors went to an HIV AIDS conference and they brought what they learned back to students. They will put on a seminar for the students in the upcoming weeks. Arts Night in Our Schools will be March 3 & 5, and a Math Equations competition took place on February 21 with more than 360 elementary schools participating.

Board members in attendance highlighted activities they engaged in since the last board meeting. Activities included attendance at a two-day Leadership & Racism Retreat, Black History Programs at UCHS, Pershing, and Barbara Jordan and the Bridges Across Racial Polarization meeting.

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Ms. Wilson

- On February 26, two Lieberman Learning Center teachers, Dan Holden and Cathleen Callahan, presented at the Best Practices Conferences III-Honoring Teachers, Classrooms and Schools that Get Results, sponsored by Cooperating School Districts and the Regional Professional Development Center.

Their topic, "Alternative Voices" will explain how teachers meet more frequently with students as their advocates.

- On February 17, President Barack Obama signed into law, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. University City School District applied for more than 99.4 million in stimulus requests. To date, we have received temporary notification of funds, for Title I and IDEA, in excess of 2.5 million, approximately more than two million for new construction and each day we get notified that we are getting closer and closer to getting our final numbers.
- On March 3 & 5 at 7:00 p.m. the annual Music in Our Schools Celebration will take place. The instrumental music is on March 3 and the vocal music is on March 5. Both will be held in the auditorium at UCHS.
- The District is hosting a series of planning committee meetings with the architects each month regarding new facilities and renovations in the schools. See notices of dates and times that are posted throughout the schools or visit the District website.
- On Wednesday, March 18 we presented to the Parent Community Advisory Council connecting the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan with the recommendations for the Comprehensive Reform. This includes the academic, the facility and the financial piece of the reform.

We will be hosting a public forum on the academic component of the reform on March 11 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the McNair board room.

- The University City Jazz Band took first place this weekend in Carbondale, IL. We also received honors for best trumpet and Eli Katz for best soloist.

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- On February 25, members of the University City Education Association accompanied our Missouri State Teacher of the Year, Ms. Margaret Williams, to Jefferson City where she was honored by the Legislature and our Governor.
- On February 27, the executive cabinet, members of the Board of Education and I will travel to Jefferson City where the state will present the results of our Missouri School Improvement Process review which was held in November. This topic will be one of the agenda items at the board workshop on March 7.

09-117 RECOGNITIONS

Each year, high school students from across the nation participate in the National Merit Scholarship Program academic competition. Nine students from University City High School were recognized in the Semifinalist and commended categories of the competition. One student was recognized as an Outstanding Participant in the National Achievement Scholarship program which identifies high performing African Americans who also take the PSAT/NMSQ test.

Of the six students who were named National Merit Semifinalists this past September, three have now reached finalist status. Nils Carlsson, Zachary Levinson and Adam Mizes are among a select group of students who are competing for Merit Scholarship awards worth \$33 million. The group will learn in April about their specific scholarship award.

The Board of Education recognized Nils Carlsson, Zachary Levinson and Adam Mizes for advancing as finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Programs. Each student was presented with a certification of recognition. Mr. Blumenhorst accepted certificates on behalf of Nils and Zachary who were not in attendance.

09-118 RECOGNITIONS

March 1-7 is National School Social Workers Week. The theme for this year's recognition is "Social Work — Purpose & Possibility." The observance began in 1984.

Within the School District of University City, social workers help people, through tough times, by providing services to students and their families, who may be having social or emotional problems that are negatively impacting their school experience.

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District social workers are Vanessa Ragsdale, Stacey Miller, Patricia Fontana and Ponchita Argieard.

In honor of National School Social Workers Week, the Board of Education and Central Administration, recognized the social work team for the assistance and support they provide daily and for “making a difference” in the lives of the students they serve. Each social worker in attendance was presented with a certificate of appreciation.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

The following individuals addressed the Board:

1. Walter Daniels, 7523 Drexel

PREVIOUS MINUTES

A motion to approve the February 12, 2009 minutes was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items were presented under the Consent Agenda which can be approved by a single motion and vote.

Action	09-119	Order for Drawing Checks
Action	09-120	Conference Attendance
Information	09-121	Conference Attendance

A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

09-122 FEDERAL PROGRAMS - PROGRAM EVALUATION

It was recommended the Board of Education approve the 2008-2009 Federal Programs Evaluation. The School District of University City receives funding through five Federal Programs including: Title I, Title IIA, Title III, Title IVA, and Title V. Federal Guidelines mandates that each of these programs be evaluated annually to assess their effectiveness. The evaluation includes an overview of the programs, goals, evaluation objectives and criteria, data review, analysis of effectiveness and recommended changes.

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Ms. Rebecca Soriano presented this item and responded to questions from the Board.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Ms. McClelland acknowledged those Board Candidates that were in attendance.

Ms. Wilson requested that item #09-124 be moved before #09-123 in light of a guest presenter.

09-124 WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY MIDDLE SCHOOL DESIGN
PARTNERSHIP

In December 2008, the School District of University City's Board of Education voted to accept the recommendations from the community engagement initiative, Destination U-City Schools. The recommendations addressed four imperatives: academic achievement, facilities, finances and parent and community involvement. Specifically, under academic achievement, and parent and community involvement, the District was charged with implementing a comprehensive Pre-K-12 reform with an emphasis on the Middle School instructional program. In addition, the District was also charged with strengthening its community partnerships.

In response to the recommendations, in January 2009, the District, along with Ms. Victoria May, Assistant Director of Science Outreach at Washington University started the discussion about the Middle School Design Partnership. On February 20, 2009, Washington University formally agreed to collaborate with the School District of University City through the Middle School Design partnership.

Dr. Chauna Williams, along with Ms. Victoria May, presented this item and responded to questions from the Board.

A brief discussion took place.

The following individual addressed the Board:

1. Walter Daniels, 7523 Drexel

A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

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09-123

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

The School District of University City is committed to educational excellence for all students. We will educate and graduate students, who have mastered a comprehensive body of knowledge, have developed critical thinking skills, value creativity, respect diversity and make responsible life choices.

Accountability for all is key to getting this work done. The School District of University City has developed a Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP) in compliance with Missouri School Improvement Plan (MSIP) Standard 8.2. As a part of the CSIP, Critical Issue Academic Achievement, Objective VIII, Strategies 1 and 2, each school site has been charged with developing a building level school improvement plan aligned to the identified needs as outlined in the CSIP with five overarching areas: Academic Achievement; Highly Qualified Staff; Facilities, Support and Resources; Parent and Community Involvement, and Governance.

The goal of each school improvement plan must be to increase achievement for all children, especially those furthest from meeting the State's proficient academic achievement standard.

Herbert Buie, Principal of Pershing Elementary, and Christopher Blumenhorst, Interim Principal of University City High School, presented their improvement plans. Those members in attendance from the accountability teams of both schools were introduced. Plans will be monitored throughout the course of the school year with supportive data to substantiate improvement.

A lengthy discussion ensued.

09-125

TEMPORARY VOLUNTARY EARLY RETIREMENT INCENTIVE FOR CERTIFIED AND SUPPORT STAFF

Currently the District offers a Voluntary Early Retirement program for certified and non-certified staff. Due to budgetary constraints, the administration projects that the District will have to reduce staff for the 2009-2010 school year.

Regulation 4760 is titled Voluntary Early Retirement: Certified Staff. The administration feels that reducing the number of years for eligibility to participate in VER for certified staff from twenty to fifteen, will increase the number of people

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who take advantage of this opportunity. Further, the administration believes a 50% temporary increase in the consultation payment will likely result in additional staff participation.

Regulation 4761 is titled Voluntary Early Retirement: Non-Certified Staff. The administration feels that reducing the number of years for eligibility to participate in VER for non-certified staff from fifteen to ten, will increase the number of people who take advantage of this opportunity. Further, the administration believes a 50% temporary increase in the consultation payment will likely result in additional staff participation.

The administration believes that these modifications will reduce the number of involuntary staff reductions. Staff members wishing to participate would be required to notify the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, in writing, no later than 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 31, 2009. All staff members who have previously submitted their intent to retire for VER, effective June 30, 2009, will also be able to take advantage of this temporary revision to the consultation payments. Regulations' 4760 and 4761 will revert back to their current language after this temporary modification period concludes.

It is recommended that the Board of Education approve the changes to Regulations 4760 and 4761 as stated.

Dr. Sclair and Mr. Hafertepe presented this item and responded to questions from the Board.

A brief discussion took place.

A motion to approve was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to hold a Board Workshop on March 7, 2009. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously. The public is invited but cannot participate.

A motion was made to hold an executive session before the regularly scheduled meeting on March 12, 2009 for discussions of personnel, real estate, legal matters, pupil personnel, and meet and confer. The meeting, records and votes are to be closed to the public. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by a roll call vote: Ms. Bern, Mr. Clay, Mr. Elgin, Mr. Gilyard, Mr. Peters, and Ms. McClelland.

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A motion to adjourn this meeting at 9:35 p.m. was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

RESUME

A motion to resume the executive session at 9:45 p.m. was made, seconded, and passed unanimously.

Meg McClelland, President

Todd Gilyard, Secretary