

**School District of the City of St. Charles**  
**Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
**Open Session Minutes**  
**October 14, 2021**

**BOE Members Present:**

Dr. Donna Towers, President  
Dr. Marita Malone, Vice-President  
Ms. M. Ellen Zerr, Secretary  
Mr. Mike Thorne, Treasurer  
Mrs. Leslie Knight, Member  
Mrs. Heidi Sikma, Member

**Administration Present:**

Dr. Jason Sefrit, Superintendent  
Dr. Danielle Tormala, Associate Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction  
Dr. Rodney Lewis, Assistant Superintendent Human Resources  
Mrs. Julie McClard, Director of Special Education & Student Services  
Ms. Kelley Pendleton, Assistant to the Superintendent

**1. Open Session**

**Procedural: 1.01 Calls to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

**Action, Procedural: 1.02 Establishment of a Quorum**

M. Ellen Zerr moved and Leslie Knight seconded the motion to approve the absence of Lori Gibson as presented. A quorum was established with Lori Gibson being excused.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Donna Towers, Mike Thorne, Leslie Knight, Ellen Zerr, Heidi Sikma

Nay: Marita Malone

Absent: Lori Gibson

**Action: 1.03 Adjourn to Closed Session**

M. Ellen Zerr moved and Leslie Knight seconded the motion to adjourn to closed session to consider matters relating to the following: legal matters, real estate action, hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees, preparation for negotiations with employee groups, individually identifiable personnel records, applicants for employment, and records protected from disclosure by law with discussion and vote of the meeting to be closed in accordance with 610.021 (.1, .2, .3, .9, .13, and .14) of Missouri statutes...

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Donna Towers, Marita Malone, Mike Thorne, Leslie Knight, Ellen Zerr, Heidi Sikma

Absent: Lori Gibson

### **3. Reconvene: Preliminaries to the Open Session**

#### **Procedural: 3.01 Calls to Order**

Open session reconvened at 6:32 p.m.

#### **Procedural: 3.02 Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

#### **Information: 3.03 Superintendent's Summary and Comments**

Dr. Sefrit made the following comments:

I. Welcome to tonight's board of education meeting. We are glad that you've joined us.

II. Both high schools had successful homecomings with a pep assembly, parade, and an outside dance. We're thrilled that we're back to regular traditions/events that are memory makers for our students, staff, and families.

III. Congratulations to St. Charles West Alum and Author, Joseph Lucket. Mr. Lucket was awarded a key to the City this past Monday night. Very exciting and well deserved!

IV. Our very own Hardin Principal, Dr. Darryl Diggs, was featured on KSDK this past Tuesday for his work with black males in Education-STL and their app EduOpenings which helps pair job seekers with open positions in education. This is Awesome!

V. Fall sports/activities season are starting to wind down, with district playoffs starting this week going into the next couple of weeks. Warriors and Pirates squared off in volleyball and soccer this past Tuesday night, and the football Warriors visit the football Pirates Friday night. At the game Friday night, St. Charles High will be celebrating 100 years of Pirate football. This should be a great night in our district!

VI. Our latest podcast episode was released a few weeks ago and it features Marc Sikma and We Love St. Charles. I hope you had a chance to listen. More episodes are on the way!

VII. Parent/Teacher conferences are coming up. We hope every parent/guardian will have an opportunity to meet with teachers. It's when we communicate and work together that great things happen!

VIII. We have worked hard to prepare for this meeting and tonight we will have important presentations on:

- COVID Update/Review
- Alternative Education Programming Update
- Benefit Recommendations
- Construction/Bond Project Updates
- Paraprofessional Salary Schedule Change
- Homeless Program Evaluation Review
- Gifted Program Review
- District Financial Review

IX. I want to encourage everyone to keep going strong. Let's continue working together and making 2021-22 our BEST year yet! Together, we will Reach/Teach/Empower all students to be their BEST!

#### **Information: 3.04 Board Communications/Board Update**

None.

### **Information: 3.05 Audience Comments**

The following audience comments were made:

- I. Edgar Borho-district student: submitted a comment regarding mask mandate.
- II. Lauren Mertz-district teacher/MSTA: spoke regarding staff morale.
- III. Caleb Mertz-district student: spoke regarding mask mandate.
- IV. Theresa Lintzenich-district parent: thanked the board and staff for their efforts during this time and gave spiritual support and prayer.
- V. Brendan Kearns-district teacher/SCEA President: gave an update on certified staff survey given to SCEA members regarding mask mandate.
- VI. Nathan Hodge-district parent: spoke regarding mask mandate.
- VII. Rosie Epps-district grandparent/resident/retired teacher: spoke regarding mask mandate and suggested using a larger meeting space for board meetings.

### **Action: 3.06 Amend or Adopt the Agenda**

Marita Malone moved and Leslie Knight seconded the motion to adopt the agenda.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Donna Towers, Marita Malone, Mike Thorne, Leslie Knight, Ellen Zerr, Heidi Sikma

Absent: Lori Gibson

## **4. Consent Agenda**

### **Action (Consent): 4.01 Approval of Consent Agenda**

Heidi Sikma moved and Leslie Knight seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Donna Towers, Marita Malone, Mike Thorne, Leslie Knight, Ellen Zerr, Heidi Sikma

Absent: Lori Gibson

### **Action (Consent): 4.02 Approval of Minutes of September 9, 2021 Tax Rate Hearing, the September 9, 2021 Regular Board Meeting**

### **Action (Consent): 4.03 Approval of Bills for September 2021**

### **Action (Consent): 4.04 Approval of Items to List as Surplus Property**

### **Action (Consent): 4.05 Resignations & Retirements**

### **Action (Consent): 4.06 Bids and Contracts**

### **Action (Consent): 4.07 Donation to the Siteman Cancer Center from the Annual Dig Pink Game**

## **5. Items Removed From Consent Agenda**

None.

## **6. Old Business**

### **Action, Information, Discussion: 6.01 Policy Changes-Second Reading**

Marita Malone moved and M. Ellen Zerr seconded the motion to approve policy GBCBB as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Donna Towers, Marita Malone, Mike Thorne, Leslie Knight, Ellen Zerr, Heidi Sikma

Absent: Lori Gibson

**Action, Information, Discussion: 6.02 COVID Update**

1st Motion: Marita Malone moved and Heidi Sikma seconded the motion to approve a mask mandate for grades K-6th and mask optional for grades 9th-12th with a threshold of 4% for COVID positive/probable cases to go back to full masks in a given school building. The new mask protocol is effective October 18, 2021.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Donna Towers, Mike Thorne, Leslie Knight, Ellen Zerr, Heidi Sikma

Nay: Marita Malone

Absent: Lori Gibson

2nd Motion: Marita Malone moved and M. Ellen Zerr seconded the motion to approve a mask mandate for grades 7th-8th effective October 18, 2021.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Marita Malone, Leslie Knight, Ellen Zerr, Heidi Sikma

Nay: Donna Towers, Mike Thorne

Absent: Lori Gibson

**7. New Business**

**Information, Discussion: 7.01 Policy Changes-First Reading**

**Action: 7.02 Notice of Annual School Election**

M. Ellen Zerr moved and Mike Thorne seconded the motion to approve the Notice of Annual School Election as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Donna Towers, Marita Malone, Mike Thorne, Leslie Knight, Ellen Zerr, Heidi Sikma

Absent: Lori Gibson

**Information, Discussion: 7.03 Alternative Education Programming**

**Action: 7.04 Benefit Plan Recommendations for 2022**

Marita Malone moved and M. Ellen Zerr seconded the motion to approve the recommendations from the Benefits Committee as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Donna Towers, Marita Malone, Mike Thorne, Leslie Knight, Ellen Zerr, Heidi Sikma

Absent: Lori Gibson

**Action: 7.05 Construction/Bond Projects**

Marita Malone moved and Heidi Sikma seconded the motion to approve the Bond Projects as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Donna Towers, Marita Malone, Mike Thorne, Leslie Knight, Ellen Zerr, Heidi Sikma

Absent: Lori Gibson

**Action, Information, Discussion: 7.06 Paraprofessional Salary Schedule Change**

Marita Malone moved and Leslie Knight seconded the motion to approve the paraprofessional salary schedule change as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Donna Towers, Marita Malone, Mike Thorne, Leslie Knight, Ellen Zerr, Heidi Sikma

Absent: Lori Gibson

**8. Reports and Presentations**

**Action: 8.01 Homeless Program Evaluation Review**

Marita Malone moved and Heidi Sikma seconded the motion to approve the Homeless Program Evaluation Review as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Donna Towers, Marita Malone, Mike Thorne, Leslie Knight, Ellen Zerr, Heidi Sikma

Absent: Lori Gibson

**Action: 8.02 Gifted Program Review**

Leslie Knight moved and Marita Malone seconded the motion to approve the Gifted Program Review as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Donna Towers, Marita Malone, Mike Thorne, Leslie Knight, Ellen Zerr, Heidi Sikma

Absent: Lori Gibson

**9. Financial Report**

**Action: 9.01 District Financial Report**

Marita Malone moved and Heidi Sikma seconded the motion to approve the district financial report as presented.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Donna Towers, Marita Malone, Mike Thorne, Leslie Knight, Ellen Zerr, Heidi Sikma

Absent: Lori Gibson

**10. Adjournment**

**Action: 10.01 Adjournment**

Leslie Knight moved and Heidi Sikma seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Yea: Donna Towers, Marita Malone, Mike Thorne, Leslie Knight, Ellen Zerr, Heidi Sikma

Absent: Lori Gibson

The meeting was adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

---

President, Board of Education

---

Secretary, Board of Education