

Public Session March 16, 2016 Board Meeting
St. Louis Language Immersion Schools
4011 Papin Street, St. Louis, MO 63110
Time: 6:00 p.m.

The meeting is called to order at 6:10 p.m. Roll is called. Tim Cline, Aliah Holman, Kevin Conrey and Ed O'Neal are present.

Sponsor Presentation: Dr. Carole Basile, Dean of the College of Education

Dr. Basile presents on UMSL's relationships with its charter schools and its initiatives. Dr. Basile also discusses the UMSL School of Education.

Adoption of February 10, 2016 Minutes

Ed O'Neal moves to adopt the February 10, 2016 meeting minutes. Tim Cline seconds the motion. The motion is approved by voice vote with all voting in favor except Kevin Conrey abstaining.

Public Comment

No one gives public comment.

Treasurer's Report

New COO Carlton Brooks presents on the financials. Revenue for February was \$869,000 while expenditures were \$929,000 as the school continues to pay down payables. Food service and transportation remains current and total payables are below \$150,000. Marine operating costs continue to be above budget, which are somewhat offset by savings at Papin. The current year end projection is a deficit of \$93,000. Enrollment is currently 810—revenues may need to be adjusted based on updated enrollment numbers.

Ed O'Neal comments that the deficit this year is far smaller compared to historical deficits due to greater operating efficiencies. Aliah Holman notes that the financial condition this year is probably the best it's been in her 8 years of time at SLLIS, despite the challenging budget situation at the beginning of the year—thanks staff, parents and other stakeholders.

Dr. Brooks discusses unique FY 16 expenditures (DESE payback, real estate settlement, consulting costs) that will not be on the books next year.

Ed O'Neal reiterates the fact that transportation and food services costs being stable and predictable is a great accomplishment for SLLIS. Kevin Conrey notes that in his short time on the Board, he has been impressed with the staff's discipline and rigor surrounding financial matters and financial initiatives.

February, 2016 Check Register

Kevin Conrey requests more information in the check register relating to the purpose of payments.

Kevin Conrey moves to approve the February, 2016 check register. Ed O'Neal seconds the motion and it passes unanimously on voice vote.

Academic Excellence Report

The heads of school present on student achievement. Arlene discusses average daily attendance in TSS. Arlene says that attendance is good but tardiness is a problem (though not materially higher than in previous years). Aliah Holman asks how the teachers are communicating the importance of timely attendance. Arlene responds that the parents are given periodic updates on attendance records.

Arlene presents numbers relating to second language proficiency/reading level. The proficiency numbers in 5th grade are lower compared to other grades. Kevin Conrey asks how TSS is addressing the problem and the reason for the problem. Ed O'Neal asks whether it is possible to compare our data with comparable schools, e.g. other language immersion schools. Arlene responds that SLLIS is unique in that it is a publicly funded charter school in an urban environment with an IB curriculum and that there are not many good analogs.

Conrad presents on TFS enrollment. Conrad notes that TFS is getting better at average daily attendance data because of the efforts of the consultants and the results are showing in the numbers. Now, if a child is tardy or absent, a call is made to the child's home. Conrad believes some of the tardiness at the beginning of the year was due to the relocation of TFS at Marine. Conrad presents numbers relating to second language proficiency/reading level. Conrad has observed that pulling struggling students from the language immersion to instruct in English can actually have a negative effects—TFS is taking steps to correct this. Interventions in K and 1st grade in TFS are exclusively in French. Students are generally rapidly improving their reading at all grade levels.

Lydia presents on TCS and TIS academic report. Lydia notes that the goal is for students to be at level in both the immersion language and English by 5th grade. As students begin school, they will be lower than peers with respect to English proficiency since they are not instructed in English—this should bottom out (i.e. the disparity is highest) in second grade and start to pick up after that so that 5th graders are at level with English instructed peers. The theory is being demonstrated in the numbers at TCS. Lydia discusses grade level benchmarks/expectations and NWEA data.

Aliah Holman asks if Lydia foresees any issues with TCS students moving into TIS. Lydia discusses the unique challenge that Mandarin is character based while the other languages are Latin based. Lydia discusses other challenges and plans to address them.

Operations Report

Dr. Brooks presents on enrollment and re-enrollment projections. The enrollment goal is 1034 and we are currently at 77% of that goal. The current budget is predicated on enrollment of about 867, so current enrollment is at 92% of that goal. Dr. Brooks that there are lots of re-enrollments being added this week that will be added to the numbers presented in the packet.

Dr. Williams explains the 867 budget number—this is a number that would allow SLLIS to have a positive financial result in FY 16/17 assuming current expenditure levels continue. Dr. Williams notes that the 1034 target is aspirational (it will likely come down to a lower number by the next meeting), but urges that the budget is not dependent on that level. Dr. Williams notes that the school is very closely watching the enrollment updates and thanks the staff for their enrollment, re-enrollment and recruiting efforts. Aliah Holman notes that the school is trying to be more rigorous and realistic in budgeting.

Dr. Brooks provides a general operations overview, including facilities, finance, 16/17 budget, food service, HR specialist opening, security, tech and transportation.

President's Report

Interim President Dr. Jack Williams gives the President's report. Dr. Williams presents a rough draft calendar for FY 16/17. Next year's calendar will also attempt to align with SLPS's calendar. Dr. Williams notes that the calendar is under discussion with staff and teacher leaders. The school will look at a trimester rather than semester approach. The school would need to discuss this with parents, SLLIS Council, etc. Aliah Holman asks if there is a mechanism to avoid frustration that occurred last year in aligning with late changes made to the SLPS schedule.

Dr. Williams notes that the Board requested more exit data at the last meeting. Dr. Williams took the existing survey, modified it and included it in the packet presented to the Board.

Dr. Williams discusses letter the school received from DESE with respect to special education. SLLIS has a clean report with respect to special education compliance. Thanks the efforts of Katie Uldall-Welch. Aliah Holman seconds the thanks to the special education team.

Dr. Williams gives an update with respect to the salary schedule developments. Discussions with the teacher leadership group have been ongoing and positive.

Future Planning

Aliah Holman notes that the Board is open to references from the SLLIS community for new board members, particularly with skills in finance, academic excellence and facilities. Aliah Holman notes that the school is aggressively planning for the future and how best to move the school forward.

President Search Update

Ed O'Neal provides update. The search committee has met multiple times since the last meeting. Ed O'Neal thanks the stakeholders who responded to the survey with respect to the characteristics that are important for the new president to have. The committee recommends engaging Exect Connect. Tim Cline moves to approve the contract with Exect Connect subject to such reasonable modifications as are deemed reasonable by the search committee. Kevin Conrey seconds the motion and it passes unanimously on voice vote.

SLLIS Council Board Report

TFS parent provides update. The parents would like to see strong and intentional planning for the transition from the interim president to permanent president. The parents would like the Board to look closely at the possibility of adding a parent to the Board, even if it is an alumni parent (i.e. someone who previously had a child in the school). The parents would like an update regarding a potential SLPS partnership and future facility locations. The parents would like a greater focus on fundraising.

Ed O'Neal asks whether the meeting attendees are familiar with the purpose of the SLLIS Council. TFS parent explains the roll—have representation from each school who meet on a monthly basis who attend Board, SAC and Council meetings. Its goal is to improve and encourage communications and community building.

Motion to Move to Executive Session

Aliah Holman notes that there will be closed session to discuss personnel, legal, real estate matters. Kevin Conrey moves to adjourn to executive session. Ed O'Neal seconds the motion. The motion passes on a roll call vote with Tim Cline, Aliah Holman, Kevin Conrey and Ed O'Neal voting in favor. Board exits public session at 8:21 p.m.

Re-Enter Public Session

The Board returned to public session at 9:32 p.m. after taking a roll call vote. Tim Cline, Aliah Holman, Kevin Conrey and Ed O'Neal are present.

Kevin Conrey moves to adjourn the meeting. The motion is seconded by Ed O'Neal and passes on a roll call vote in which all Board members voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

**Executive Session March 16, 2016 Board Meeting
St. Louis Language Immersion Schools
4011 Papin Street, St. Louis, MO 63110
Time: 6:00 p.m.**

Aliah Holman calls executive session to order at 8:28 p.m. Board members Ed O'Neal, Kevin Conrey, Tim Cline and Aliah Holman are present. Dr. Williams, Dr. Brooks and Rich Carver are present.

The executive session is being held to discuss personnel issues, including compensation.

The Board discusses health care benefits and plans for next year, including costs and concerns with benefits equity. The Board also discusses BAFC's salary schedule, including salaries with respect to specific staff members.

Tim Cline moves to exit executive session and return to public session at 9:32 p.m. Aliah seconds the motion which passes on a roll call vote with all Board Members voting in favor. Board exits executive session at 9:32 p.m.