

**MISSOURI NEA's
STATE BOARD REPORT**

Notes from the March 22, 2007 State Board of Education Report

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President Peter Herschend called the meeting to order in a large room located at the Truman Office Building in Jefferson City. Usually the State Board of Education (SBOE) meetings are held in a small board room located within the Department of Education Jefferson Building. A much larger meeting room was necessary because the SBOE would consider a controversial agenda item regarding classifying the St. Louis Public School District as unaccredited. The auditorium sized meeting room was full as the SBOE members began the meeting describing the various meetings they had attended on behalf of the SBOE since their last meeting.

State take-over of St. Louis Public Schools

People who traveled from St. Louis to Jefferson City on buses listened as the SBOE received a report on the recommendation to declare the St. Louis Public School District unaccredited. As an unaccredited district, St. Louis Public Schools would be in state-takeover with the appointment of a three member transition board to actually run the district. The three member transition board would be comprised of one appointee by the SBOE, one from the governor, and one appointed by the St. Louis Mayor. The elected school board would remain in place but be rendered powerless in the operation of the district.

A motion was made to classify the St. Louis Public School District as unaccredited effective June 15, 2007. During the discussion of this item, it was necessary for the meeting to be adjourned for 15 minutes because the crowd had gotten so noisy. Emotions ran high as a student approaching President Herschend during the break was wrestled to the ground, handcuffed, and removed by Capitol Police.

When the meeting reconvened, the board voted five to one to classify St. Louis Public Schools as unaccredited. The next agenda item was for the board to nominate Richard T. Sullivan for appointment by the Governor as the Chief Executive Officer of the Transitional School District of St. Louis. The board also voted to continue to support the Voluntary Student Transfer Program in St. Louis City and County.

Approval of Charter Schools in St. Louis and Kansas City

The SBOE approved an application from Missouri Baptist University, St. Louis, to open the Imagine Academy of Careers and Imagine Academy of Academic Success within the St. Louis Public School District. The schools plan to open during the 2007-08 school year, serving 896 students in grades K – 8.

The SBOE also approved an application from the Metropolitan Community College-PennValley campus to open the Endeavor Academy in 2007-08 in the Kansas City School District. This academy will use the KIPP (Knowledge Is Power Program) that originate in the South Bronx, New York and Houston, Texas. The five pillars of the KIPP program include: high expectations, choice and commitment, more time on task, power lead, and focus on results.

Two other charter schools in Kansas City, the Benjamin Banneker Charter Academy of Technology and the Scuola Vita Nuova, were granted authority by the SBOE to continue operations for another five years through a charter renewed by the University of Central Missouri.

Board receives report on Student Information System

The board heard a report on the new Missouri Student Information System (MOSIS) which will become Missouri's central repository of student records. The system will include address, demographic data as well as performance data on every student enrolled in a public school. The system is expected to be ready for the 2007-08 school year.

The SBOE also received a report from MACCE and legislative updates on both the federal and state level. After approving eight requests for license to teach from individuals who had issues in the required background check, the SBOE adjourned.

The SBOE will meet again in Jefferson City on April 19-20 and Missouri NEA will be there.

