

Missouri NEA Missouri State Board of Education Report

*Notes from December 1, 2017 meeting of the Missouri State Board of Education
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

Greitens succeeds in firing Commissioner Vandeven

During a closed session, the state board fired Dr. Margie Vandeven, Missouri Commissioner of Education, effective immediately. Gov. Greitens' five appointees voted for removal, even though this was the first regular board meeting for three of the new appointees. Greitens appointed ten people, removing those who would not blindly follow his directives, until he got five who would vote to remove Vandeven. Gov. Greitens never articulated his concerns about Vandeven's performance. Missouri NEA members generated over 1500 emails and hundreds of phone calls to stop this autocratic action.

In a second vote, the board named Deputy Commissioner Dr. Roger Dorson as the interim commissioner. The board will discuss procedure for hiring a new commissioner in a public meeting on December 14. The meeting will be by phone, and members of the public who want to listen can do so at the DESE building. Missouri NEA will be there.

MNEA President Charles E. Smith said, "As a teacher, student success is at the center of every decision we make. The governor's top-down approach runs contrary to the spirit of our constitution, turning students into political props. The confusion and chaos the governor has created does nothing to help students. Today's firing of a dedicated public servant is disappointing, but we continue to invite the governor to join a serious discussion about what works, providing all school with the resources necessary for more one-on-one attention to students, and creating a well-rounded curriculum."

School districts classified under the Missouri School Improvement Program 5

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education issued the first Annual Performance Report under MSIP 5 in the Fall of 2013. DESE produces the district's APR as an objective analysis of each district's attainment of the MSIP 5 Performance Standards and Indicators. DESE annually reviews each district's accreditation status and the APR supporting data for the three most recent APRs to identify status and trends in performance outcomes. Other considerations for reclassification may include Comprehensive School Improvement Plan goals, previous DESE MSIP findings, financial status, and leadership stability.

The MSIP 5 Performance Standards are:

1. Academic Achievement
2. Subgroup Achievement
3. College and Career Readiness (K-12)
or
High School Readiness (K-8)
4. Attendance (90% of students attend 90% of the time)
5. Graduation Rate (K-12)

The board voted to classify 511 school districts as accredited, and took no action for five districts which will remain provisionally accredited. Read about Normandy in the next section.

Per state statute, the Missouri State Board of Education does not accredit charter schools, so none appear on the list of accredited, provisionally accredited, or unaccredited school districts.

Normandy Schools Collaborative earns provisional accreditation

The Normandy Schools Collaborative became unaccredited in 2012. Following a presentation of the performance of Normandy Schools Collaborative, the state board voted to grant provisional accreditation to Normandy as of January 2, 2018. Normandy's APR has grown from 7.1 in 2014 to 62.5 in 2017. The district's APR was in the provisionally accredited range in 2016 and 2017. Normandy Schools Collaborative has shown steady increases in all five of the MSIP performance standards and is financially stable. Dr. Charles Pearson, superintendent of Normandy Schools Collaborative, thanked the teachers and support staff for their work with students that helped Normandy achieve provisional accreditation.

City Garden Montessori School

The board granted renewal of the City Garden Montessori School charter, approved by Saint Louis University, for a term of ten years beginning July 1, 2018. City Garden Montessori currently serves 231 students in grades preK-8. City Garden Montessori fulfilled the requirements to be a high quality charter school by having an APR of eighty-five percent or greater for three of the last four years. Per Missouri state statute, high-quality status allows for a ten-year charter school renewal.

In other business, the board:

- Authorized publication in the *Missouri Register* of a notice of proposed rulemaking to rescind Rule 5 CSR 20-300.140, Extraordinary Cost Fund. The rule is being rescinded due to the establishment of the High Need Fund pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Act.
- Approved educator preparation programs at four Missouri higher education institutions: Hannibal-LaGrange University; Harris-Stowe State University; Saint Louis University; and University of Central Missouri. The board has been approving educator preparation programs that meet new standards at each meeting beginning in August 2018.

The next regular meeting of the State Board of Education will be January 9, 2018. There will be a special meeting to discuss the process for hiring a new commissioner on December 14, 2017. Missouri NEA will be there at both meetings. If you have any questions, contact Brent Fullington or Ann Jarrett at 800-392-0236.

Details of state board agenda items and board meeting minutes, including those for closed sessions, can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/state-board-education/agendas-minutes>.

Respectfully submitted,
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