

Resolution No. 330

WHEREAS, the vitality of St. Louis Public Schools and education are primary foundation stones for rebuilding the future of the City of St. Louis; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis Public Schools are at a crossroads of crisis or creative coalition; and

WHEREAS, St. Louis Public Schools face the prospect of deficits, which has the Special Administrative Board of the Transitional School District of the City of St. Louis (hereinafter referred to as the "SAB")(Richard Sullivan -- gubernatorial appointment, Melanie Adams -- mayoral appointment, and Richard Gaines -- president of board of aldermen appointment) considering recommendations to close schools; and

WHEREAS, MGT of America, which was hired for \$625,000 to conduct a Comprehensive Facilities Review, prepared a St. Louis Public Schools Comprehensive Facilities Review Final Report (hereinafter referred to as the "MGT Final Report"), which proposes closure of the following schools: Ashland Branch Elementary, Baden Elementary, Clark EMINTS Elementary, Gallaudet Elementary, Henry EMINTS Elementary, Mark Twain Elementary, Meda P. Washington Elementary, Meramec Elementary, Scruggs Elementary, Shepard Elementary, Mallinckrodt Elementary, DesPeres Elementary, Bunche International Studies at Madison Elementary, Langston Middle, L'Ouverture Middle, Stevens Middle, Turner Middle, CAJT at Nottingham, Ames Visual & Performing Arts Elementary (phase II), Cote Brilliante Elementary (phase II), Hickey Elementary (phase II), Mann EMINTS Elementary (phase II), Shaw Visual & Performing Arts Elementary (phase II), Sherman Elementary (phase II), Shenandoah Elementary (phase II), Simmons Elementary (phase II), Pruitt (phase II), Northwest Law Academy (Phase IV), and Gateway Institute of Technology (Phase V). MGT has also proposes moving Meda P. Washington to Kottmeyer Elementary, Gallaudet to Gateway Michael, Bunche International Studies to Soldan High School, Cleveland NJROTC at Pruitt to Vashon High School, Roosevelt 9th Grade at Humboldt to Roosevelt, McKinley CJA to Humboldt, CAJT from Nottingham to Central Visual & Performing Arts, Shaw Visual & Performing Arts to Blewett (Phase III), Ames Visual & Performing Arts to Blewett (Phase III), Gateway Institute of Technology to McKinley (Phase III), and Northwest Law Academy to Sumner High (Phase IV).

WHEREAS, the SAB sought public input on Wednesday, February 4, 2009, at Roosevelt High School from 7 p.m. and extended well past its intended ending time of 8 p.m.; and again on Saturday, February 7, 2009, at Vashon High School from 10 a.m. and extended well past its intended ending time of noon, but it has not yet discussed the MGT Final Report and its impact on the City of St. Louis, its neighborhoods, residents, businesses and key stakeholders with the Board of Aldermen, whose members are elected to represent the interests of their constituents; and

WHEREAS, the proposed school closures would result in elimination of more than 1/3 of the inventory of real property assets of the St. Louis Public Schools, which belong to the citizens of the City of St. Louis, who pay for them through their tax support; and

WHEREAS, there is some urgency in meeting, because SAB has indicated an intent to reach a final decision regarding implementation of the MGT Final Report (which the SAB says is not "a done deal"); and

WHEREAS, Ms. Richard Gaines as a member of SAB indicated on Saturday, February 7, 2009, that the SAB is prepared to meet with the Board of Aldermen to discuss and receive aldermanic input regarding the MGT Final Report and school closures.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN that this Resolution be sent to the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee of the St. Louis Board of Aldermen with all authority pursuant to Article IV, Section 8 of the Charter of the City of St. Louis and Rule 18 of the Board of Aldermen Rules, in order to meet as soon as practicable with the SAB, Superintendent Kelvin Adams, and anyone else the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee deems necessary and appropriate to discuss the future of St. Louis Public Schools and the MGT Final Report recommendations.

Introduced on the 16th day of February, 2009 by

Honorable Craig Schmid, Alderman 20th Ward

Honorable Lewis E. Reed, President of the Board of Aldermen

Honorable Dionne Flowers, Alderwoman 2nd Ward

Honorable Samuel L. Moore, Alderman 4th Ward

Honorable Marlene E. Davis, Alderwoman 19th Ward

Honorable Bennice Jones-King, Alderwoman 21st Ward

Honorable Dorothy Kirner, Alderwoman 25th Ward

Honorable Gregory J. Carter, Alderman 27th Ward

Adopted this the 16th day of February, 2009 as attested:

David W. Sweeney
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Lewis E. Reed
President, Board of Aldermen