

Missouri NEA Missouri State Board of Education Report

*Notes from December 6, 2018 meeting of the Missouri State Board of Education
Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education*

On Nov. 20, the board announced the hiring of Dr. Margie Vandeven to return as Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education on Jan. 2.

Board holds public hearing for proposed Missouri Fine Arts Standards

MNEA member Michelle Ridlen, Francis Howell EA, was one of the workgroup leaders who presented. The proposed learning standards revise the Grade Level Expectation's for dance, music, theatre and visual arts. The new standards begin with GLEs for preschool and also address media arts. The workgroup recommends arts integration in other subjects at all grade levels and hope the new standards will facilitate such integration. Timeline for adoption of the Missouri Fine Arts Standards is:

- Public review and comments, now to January 30, 2019;
- Review of public comments February-March;
- Final draft of fine arts GLE's presented to the state board for approval in April or May.

Seven Missouri NEA members served in the fine arts workgroup. The workgroup held ten meetings, working side by side as a K-12 vertical group. They broke into smaller groups by content area to discuss specific information. The group is now writing the crosswalks with current standards, a glossary, and teacher and assessment resource documents.

Read the proposed standards and comment on as many sections as you choose at <https://dese.mo.gov/>. Click through the banner to get to the fine arts standard page.

Board disciplines license to teach for failure to pay damages for breaking contract

This fall, a tenured teacher in Moberly requested to be released from their contract twelve days into the school year to accept employment in the private sector. The district told him he would be released provided he paid liquidated damages per district policy. When the teacher left without paying the damages, the school district requested the state board discipline his license. The board suspended his license to teach for two years.

Marshall Future Farmers of America receives national award

The Marshall FFA chapter was named the 2018 National FFA Model of Excellence winner for the second straight year. Three Marshall FFA members gave an engaging oral presentation accompanied by a slide show explaining how the chapter implements their mission of growing leaders, building communities and strengthening agriculture.

Board approves publishing rule changes for public comment:

- Revisions to Rule 5 CSR 20-100.230, relating to state virtual instruction program. This revision is necessary due to the passage of legislation in the 2018 session. The legislation allows multiple vendors, including local school districts, to offer K-12 online courses if they meet the requirements of the rule. Read the rule at <https://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/RuleVirtualInstructionDec2018.pdf>. Comments will open January 2 or 3 and close in thirty days.
- Revisions to Rule 5 CSR 20-400.540, Certification Requirements for Teacher of Secondary Education (Grades 9-12). If eventually approved, new certifications in Unified Sciences and General Science will no longer be available. Instead, a teacher certified in any area of science

can teach advanced classes in the area of certification but is also certified to teach entry level courses in any science. This will not change the certification of anyone who currently holds a Unified Science or General Science certification. The proposed rule also amends the agriculture education certificate to add required language, including more college credit hours in specified areas. Comments will open January 2 or 3 and close in thirty days.

- Rescinding Rule 5 CSR 20-400.280, Requirement of Assessments for Professional Education Certification in Missouri. Current requirements are contained in another rule.
- Rescinding Rule CSR 20-400.250, Certificate of License to Teach Content Areas. Current requirements are contained in another rule.

Board approves three charter schools sponsored by the University of Missouri-St. Louis

North Side Community School currently serves 465 students in grades K-8. The charter school requested a renewal of ten years beginning July 1, 2019, and ending June 30, 2029. Charter schools with an Annual Performance Report score of 85% or greater for three out of the last four years are defined in state statute as high quality charter schools and are eligible for renewals of up to ten years. North Side Community School meets this standard and the board granted the ten-year renewal.

St. Louis Language Immersion School (SLLIS) currently serves 558 students in grades K-8. The charter school requested a five year renewal. The latest achievement data for SLLIS exceeds the academic performance of St. Louis Public Schools, though in previous years it did not in some areas. SLLIS restructured their academic programs and instituted instructional changes that is credited with the significantly higher academic performance in 2017 than previous years. SLLIS teaches French, Spanish and Chinese. This school year SLLIS switched from 100% immersion to a 50-50 model where half of instruction is in English and half in a second language. SLLIS met all the statutory requirements for charter renewal and was approved.

The Soulard School requested a five-year term to operate as a K-5 charter school within St. Louis beginning in the 2019-2020 school year. Over the past fourteen years, the school has operated as a private school serving families mostly from, but not limited to, the Soulard community. The charter will start operation with 120 students and hopes to grow to 144 students. The Soulard School uses a team teaching approach in the classroom. Each class of 24 students has two teachers.

Soulard leaders stated they want to be a public school to remove tuition as a barrier for families in their community. They currently charge tuition on a sliding scale. State board member Carol Hallquist raised concerns that Soulard did not appear to be innovative, and it appeared that Soulard was seeking charter approval for financial purposes. Since the charter school application met all statutory requirements the board had no choice but to approve the request. State law requires that a lottery be held to determine acceptance if the school receives more requests to attend than space allows in 2019-2020. If a lottery is held, current students will not be given preference.

State board members requested a **future study session on the impact of charter schools** on all students in St. Louis and Kansas City.

The next meeting of the Missouri State Board of Education will be January 8, 2019. Missouri NEA will be there! If you have any questions, contact Brent Fullington or Ann Jarrett at 800-392-0236. Details of state board agenda items can be found at <http://dese.mo.gov/state-board-education/agendas-minutes>.

Respectfully submitted,
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