



SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD

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September 5, 2012

The Honorable Dr. Chris L. Nicastro
Commissioner of Education
Missouri Department of Elementary
and Secondary Education
205 Jefferson Street
PO Box 480
Jefferson City, MO 65102

Dear Commissioner Nicastro:

The recent release of data by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education ("DESE") indicating that for the fourth year in a row, the students of the St. Louis Public School District increased the number of Missouri 4th Cycle Annual Performance Standards met during the 2011-2012 academic year is wonderful and welcome news to the St. Louis Public School District and community.

Dr. Adams and his administration continue to implement the DESE approved Accountability Plan that provides for improved collection and use of data that is also proving effective in assisting the District to improve its instructional and operational functions. In general, our students continue to make significant gains in their academic performance at a rate above the state average. The members of the SAB are confident that programs such as the Early Childhood Education Program that provides free early childhood education to the children of St. Louis residents will pay dividends to our students and the District's overall academic performance for years to come. In addition, the \$155 million dollar bond issue passed with the overwhelming support of voters in 2008 is allowing the District to provide much-needed upgrades to its facilities and science laboratories. Through innovative programs such as The St. Louis Plan developed in conjunction with the American Federation of Teachers, and partnerships with national groups such as Teach For America, the District is ensuring that it is placing the best and brightest teachers in our classrooms.

Although there is still a great deal of work to do in order to restore the District to fully accredited status, it is clear that the processes and plans implemented over the last four years have put the District on the right trajectory. Because of the concerted efforts of our students, teachers, principals, and the leadership team put in place by Dr. Adams; our kids have earned the right to say they attend a provisionally accredited school district for the first time since 2007. The students and their families deserve to know that their hard work is producing positive results. It is our opinion that identifying the District as Provisionally Accredited provides area families with a more accurate picture of the District when making educational choices for their children.

In closing, please consider this as the formal request of the Special Administrative Board of the Transitional School District of the City of St. Louis, for placement on the agenda for the September meeting of the Missouri State Board of Education to present information

regarding the accreditation status of the District. The District is currently preparing a report in support of its request for Provisional Accreditation for presentment at the September meeting.

Sincerely,



RICK SULLIVAN



MELANIE ADAMS



RICHARD K. GAINES

RS:MA:RKG:rl

cc: Peter F. Herschend (electronic and hardcopy)
Missouri State Board of Education Members (hardcopy)
Superintendent Dr. Kelvin R. Adams (electronic copy)