

# Lee's Summit R-7 Business Roundtable

## MINUTES

8 to 9:30 a.m. Jan. 8, 2020

Stansberry Leadership Center - Board of Education Room



### Welcome

Bill Brown, BRt Steering Committee, and Dr. Emily Miller, Interim Superintendent, opened the meeting at approximately 8:07 a.m. Bill Brown briefly shared information about the group's formation in 2011 and its ongoing goal of providing feedback to the district as well as support for its schools. Dr. Miller added that she fully supports the Roundtable, which reports to the superintendent.

### Patron Insight Polling

Dr. Miller briefly shared the results of fall 2019 Patron Insight telephone and online surveys, which showed support for a spring 2020 no-tax-increase bond issue. The survey included information about targeted bond projects.

### Bond Financials

Dr. Miller along with representatives from Stifel Public Finance provided information about bond finances. Dr. Brent Blevins of Stifel shared that his organization was very conservative in determining the district's bonding capacity in order to ensure a no-tax-increase issue while making sure the district had enough capacity to present future no-tax-increase bonds to the public as needed.

### Bond Projects

Dr. Miller and Dr. Don Andrews, LSR7 Interim Assistant Superintendent of Secondary Instruction, discussed the proposed bond issue, recommended to the Board of Education during December by the district's Citizens' Advisory Committee. The \$224 million bond issue includes safety and security facility upgrades, an extensive renovation at Lee's Summit High School, a new middle school, improvements at the district's existing middle schools to both upgrade these schools and allow sixth-graders to transition to middle school, an addition and improvements for Mason Elementary, renovation of Prairie View Elementary's north side into an early education center and high school athletics/activities improvements. Dr. Andrews shared that the middle school transition, recommended by a district team, was based on what is best for students educationally and for school engagement and is not a change based on facility needs. That said, the move will free up room in elementary schools to allow for growth. The Board of Education is planning to decide if this proposed bond issue will be placed on the April ballot at its Jan. 23 meeting.

### Questions / Roundtable/Adjourn

During the question-and-answer session as well as the roundtable, BRt members discussed a number of topics including school safety/security, middle school renovations, opening date for new middle school (2022), timeline for the renovations, enrollment growth, community feedback as well as the need for a future levy to staff the new middle school (the school will be staffed under the existing operating budget and forecasted budget with no need for a future levy). Several members thanked the district staff and community volunteers who worked together to develop the proposal.

After roundtable, Chip Moxley adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:33 a.m.

#### **FUTURE Business Roundtable MEETINGS**

- **To be determined**

### **2019-2020 Board of Education Priorities**

#### **Board Priority 1:**

Increase the achievement of every child through a continued focus on innovative practices, student well-being, and equity in program design and implementation.

#### **Board Priority 2:**

Ensure equitable access to future ready learning environments by further engaging stakeholders in the continued implementation of the Comprehensive Facility Master Plan by identifying preK-12 facility projects in anticipation of an April 2020 “no tax increase” bond issue.

#### **Board Priority 3:**

Elevate communications by continuing to foster confidence and trust in our school district through increased involvement opportunities, interconnected public relations and engagement.