Lee’s Summit R-7 School District March 9, 2018
Citizens’ Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST

FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS:
● 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday, May 7 - CAC meeting at Summit Ridge Academy
(PLEASE NOTE LOCATION CHANGE)

Attendance
The legislative breakfast included approximately 65 attendees including members of the Citizens’ Advisory Committee, Business Roundtable and PTA presidents as well as guests from the Lee’s Summit Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council. Meeting opened around 8:05 a.m. and adjourned at 9:25 a.m. The event was held at the Missouri Innovation Campus with tours of this new facility offered after the legislative breakfast.


Introductions
Legislators attending each presented an approximately two-minute introductory statement.

Question-and-answer session
During the question-and-answer session, legislators responded to questions on the following topics.
● House Bill 2247, a charter school expansion bill sponsored by Rep. Roeber.
● School safety including gun violence and active shooters.
● Proposed tax reductions including how the legislators would compensate for tax reductions to ensure that public schools and other state-funded programs and services are not damaged.
● The status of the A+ program for high-school students.
● Funding of the Foundation formula for public education as well as the school transportation and early childhood components.
● Opioid drug epidemic.
● Mental health care including behavior issues among schoolchildren.
● Local control of public schools as well as other local control issues such as minimum wage and gun safety laws.
● Senate Bill 612, a voucher tax credit bill.

Closing remarks
Dr. Carpenter thanked the legislators attending and shared closing remarks focusing on some of the major issues he believes we need to address such as school safety and charter school expansion. Dr. Carpenter also provided additional information related to the discussion to the legislators attending after the meeting. This message is shared below.

Legislative priorities
Our district’s Legislative Priorities are available on the district’s Legislative Advocacy webpage at http://www.lsr7.org/district/legislative-advocacy/. This webpage also includes contact information for legislators representing our school district, an advocacy toolkit and the opportunity to sign up for our advocacy newsletter.

**Dr. Carpenter’s additional information provided to legislators attending**

This data was provided to me by way of the March 2, 2018, Legislative Bulletin of the Missouri School Administrators Coalition. I trust that the data will assist you in your decision making and continued support of public schools. Please let me know if I can ever be of assistance or support to you.

**Nothing in this year’s bill addresses the issue of charter school inefficiency.**

Communities must have the ability to determine if additional charter schools are needed and, at present, they do not. To be clear, communities do not have the ability to tell a charter school operator that they cannot open once expansion is permitted. By way of example, in the Kansas City School District’s boundaries, during the 2016-17 school year, there were a total of 82 school buildings (45 elementary school options, 23 middle school options and 14 high school options). These figures are comprised of both traditional public school buildings and charter school buildings. For comparison, in a district of like student size, the Springfield Public School District operates only 5 high schools, 11 middle schools and 37 elementary schools, for a total of 53 buildings. This difference in school buildings is startling. As a result of increasing the number of buildings needed to house a like student population, non-instructional-related costs increase which, in turn, results in fewer dollars being spent on instruction. In spending less on classroom instruction and other education-related activities, students are deprived of a robust educational experience.

**Nothing in this year’s bill requires charter schools to correct inequitable enrollment practices used to inflate and manipulate their performance scores.**

During the 2005-06 school year, University Academy began enrolling students in grades K-12. In the 2005-06 school year, University Academy enrolled 120 kindergartners. When the cohort of kindergartners reached 12th grade in the 2017-18 school year, the current school year, only 32 students remained from the cohort. Approximately 75% of the class no longer attended University Academy despite being considered one of the top charter schools in Missouri (receiving a 100% APR last year). The reduction in class sizes can be seen in each of University Academy’s grade-level cohorts from 2005 to the present year. (See [here](#)). Another example we shared last year was Ewing Marion Kauffman. In the 2011-12 school year, the first year of their existence, Ewing Marion Kauffman enrolled 103 5th graders. In the current school year, that cohort has been reduced to 41 students. In just 6 years, over 60% of the cohort no longer attends Ewing Marion Kauffman despite being considered one of the best charter schools in the state (receiving a 100% APR last year). (See [here](#)).