Lee’s Summit R-7 School District Jan. 14, 2013
Citizens’ Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

ATTACHMENT: R-7 Toolkit for Advocacy (Please note that this document is updated, adding U.S. Rep. Sam Graves, who was mistakenly left off the meeting handout)

FUTURE MEETINGS:

• 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28: CAC legislative forum, Stansberry Leadership Center. Business Roundtable and Board of Education members to also be invited.
• 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 4: CAC legislative forum, Stansberry Leadership Center (tentative based on legislators' response). Business Roundtable and Board of Education members to also be invited.

CAC Talking Points from Jan. 14 meeting

• Members heard an update on R-7 cost containment which has totaled more than $70 million over the past five years and is continuing this year and in future years.
• Dr. McGehee provided an update on the Governance portion of the R-7 Comprehensive School Improvement Plan, including a number of ways that the CAC is being involved in this aspect of the plan.
• The R-7 Legislative Platform was discussed, and CAC members were invited to the two legislative forums, scheduled for Feb. 28 and April 4 (the April date is tentative).
• CAC members provided feedback on the R-7 dashboard, a website display focusing on timely and pertinent information in an easy-to-understand display.

Opening / members attending
Meeting opened at 6:35 p.m. CAC members attending were CAC Chairperson Kent Kirby, Assistant Chairperson Janis Duke, Greg Arens, Elaine Bluml, Dave Boulden, Rick Chapman, Don Clements, Susan Coffman, Jerry Evans, Dr. John Faulkenberry, Dr. Roger Fender, Dr. Maria Fleming, Jacque Gragg, Hilary Graves, Dr. Dale Greer, Terri Harmon, Kimberly Hollins, Berry Jennings, Charlie Johnson, Dr. Tom Kurucz, Travis Loyd, Larry Lynn, Manne Magady, Dr. David McGehee, Judy Noland, Janice Phelan, Michael Shaw, Dennis Smith, Bill Upman, Paul Voris, Cheryl Ward, Bob White and Sherri Wood-Powe. Guests included Julie James, a third-grade teacher from Richardson Elementary, and Tony Yarbrough of Metcalf Bank, who was representing Tom Jackson.

Cost Containment / Untangling the Mystery
Dr. McGehee presented a brief update on ongoing R-7 cost containment, totaling more than $70 million over the past five years. Throughout 2008-09 through 2012-13, Lee's Summit R-7 reduced its work force by approximately 157 full-time equivalent employees, making reductions mainly through attrition.

2012-13 R-7 cost containment by category includes:

• Budget Cuts $9,859,090
• Deferred Expenses $6,336,126
• Savings Initiatives $4,144,873
• New Revenues $453,357
• Total 2012-13 Cost Containment $20,784,446
The R-7 "budget challenges" website also has additional information about specific cost containment measures: [http://www.lsr7.org/district/budget-challenges/](http://www.lsr7.org/district/budget-challenges/).

**Comprehensive School Improvement Plan**
Dr. McGehee reviewed the Governance portion of the district's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan, the district's five-year strategic plan. The CAC has been involved in several portions of this plan, including participating in the district's communications audit and providing feedback for the district's planned website dashboard at the Jan. 14 meeting. Plans within the Governance section also call for the CAC to continue to serve as a focus group for the district on specific issues and to continue to be involved in legislative advocacy.

**Legislative Forums and R-7 Platform**
Dr. McGehee and Kent Kirby discussed upcoming legislative forums, to be hosted by the CAC on the following dates:
- 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28.
- 6:30 p.m. Thursday, April 4 (tentative based on legislators' response).

Both forums will include Missouri General Assembly members who represent the R-7 School District. The R-7 Business Roundtable members are also being invited to this forum. The forum will be similar to last year's forum although additional time will be provided for questions from CAC and Business Roundtable members.

Information about the R-7 School District's Legislative Platform is available at [http://www.lsr7.org/district/2012-legislative-platform/](http://www.lsr7.org/district/2012-legislative-platform/). This website also includes a Toolkit for Advocacy and contact information for all R-7 area legislators. The platform includes a variety of points, including fully funding the state's education Foundation Formula, providing avenues for new sources of revenue for public schools, opposing legislation that authorizes open enrollment and opposing legislation that diverts public school funding to voucher-type programs.

**Feedback on R-7 Dashboard**
Kent Kirby and Dr. McGehee presented information on the R-7 website dashboard, which is currently under development. A dashboard is traditionally a well-organized visual display of the most important information needed to achieve one or more objectives. Web-based dashboards often feature interactive numerical and graphical components and ideally fit onto one computer screen.

After viewing several example dashboards from other school districts, CAC members met in small groups and shared the following feedback (not in priority order):
1) Make it simple
2) Good information and public relations
3) Inclusive
4) General information
5) 'Send a question' or 'contact us' option that would link to specific staff members with more information about each topic
6) 'Read more' option with links to more thorough web pages
7) Items on budget – where does our revenue come from, what are our expenses
8) Show state budget shortfall
9) Academic achievement
10) Graduation rates with comparison charts
11) Demographics
12) Innovations
13) Scholarships and awards
14) Student achievement:
   a) Graduation rate, ACT scores, MAP scores/EOC scores, AP/IB scores or number of courses and
      enrollment, number of students earning different types of diploma (basic, NCAA, IB, etc.)
15) Financial:
   a) Per pupil expenditures and total revenues/expenditures – interested in building expenditures such
      as maintenance and staff and other costs
16) Demographics/programs
   a) Enrollment, average class size, programs offered in schools
17) Human resources, such as teacher education
18) Facilities
   a) School capacity and potential capacity, building age, maintenance budget
19) Functionality
   a) Need to drill down to school level and feeder pattern level, pictures of schools, master calendar that
      shows district and schools, view/breakdown by district level and K-12 feeder pattern, comparison to
      district, level, other individual school
20) Special needs resources available
21) Class size per school per grade – or average and what is recommended
22) MAP scores by school, average of grades such as School/District/State comparisons
23) Lunch menu for the day
24) School size and capacity
25) Extra-curricular – what’s offered by age and how many attending
26) Finance – what are we spending in each category, cost per child, state/local/national comparisons
27) School safety – perception of students safety/parents and what safety initiatives at each school
28) Facilities – age, technology, renovations
29) Capital projects in the works
30) Teachers – qualifications, certifications, state vs. district
31) SAT, ACT, EOC scores, IB scores
32) DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) levels for all elementary schools
33) Graduation rates – scholarship money and how many enroll in college
34) Legislative issues by congressional representative
35) NO ACRONYMS!!!
36) What is the focus? Who is the audience?
37) Less is more – not 'too much' info
38) Data: What is local data compared to (self, goals, targets, other suburban districts, state)?
39) Use mission statement as the guideline for posted info
40) Too risky to compare school to school or teacher to teacher
41) Compare to state averages or metro averages
42) Highly qualified teacher representative/salary levels? – rank of average salaries to other districts
43) TEAM Lee’s Summit satisfaction scores, length of time in district
44) Student/teacher ratio per grade
45) Student to computer ratio
46) Real time and 'current status' for attendance, school calendar, enrollment rates/month, live feed from
    Facebook and Twitter, snow days, weather report (jacket day), sport scores for secondary
47) Finance – ‘fund balance' trend line up or down and ongoing
48) Parents – demographics, diversity
Elementary, middle and high school student participation in music, sports and extra-curricular

Number of A+ students

Annual report of community-service hours served

Nutrition: number of meals served annually, percent of district provided meals

Students attending college post graduation, IB diploma grads, college scholarships granted

Satisfaction surveys from students post graduation

Staff: breakdown on staff qualifications based on education, percent of staff by years served, breakdown of staff – educators vs. support staff, costs (salary levels), percent of staff who serve with extra-duty contracts.

Facilities: student populations by schools, classroom sizes, utility usage info, sports and extra-curricular facilities – reports of usage by school and outside groups, transportation-costs and efficiencies

Instructional resources: Resources needed for 21st Century learning and percent of availability per school and/or per student.

We first asked our self what would be needed to benefit the individual parents and someone not associated in the district and wanting to make a voting decision or decision to move to the district. We also felt it was important to compare LS R7 to other districts in our area and state for comparison.

Academics

- Classroom size or student to teacher ratio
- ACT rankings for the previous year graduates
- Academic rankings K-12 that are measured by the state
- Graduation rates

Finances

- Breakdown of revenue produced by commercial and residential taxes
- Budget amount and how that money is accrued. i.e. state, local and alternative possibly compare that to other districts
- Budget, surplus, shortfalls (cost containment type items)
- Green indicator – demonstrating the efforts of the district to go green

Human Resources

- A breakdown of the staff. i.e. the number of teachers who hold a B.S., master's and doctorate degrees.
- A demonstration of average starting salaries, midrange, and tenured teachers. I know that many of the comparisons I have seen often show R7 at the lower end of those. I think that needs to be communicated to the citizens the amount of success our district has been able to achieve on lower salaries. My thinking is that the citizens would be a little less hesitant in voting for teacher pay increases. It also shows the transparencies people often request.

Legislative Activity

- Have a section on current legislative bills that would affect our district.
- Include the Votes for 2012 and use the percentages that Terri Harmon was able to quickly develop. The percentages made it much more clear. We also think the legislators will think twice about their votes if they know everyone in their district knows how they voted.
- Include a link to read the bills and how to take action – Toolkit for Advocacy.

Roundtable

Following roundtable, the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

If you would like an electronic copy of the PowerPoint used at the Jan. 14 meeting, please contact Janice Phelan at Janice.phelan@leesummit.k12.mo.us
Thank you for being a part of the Citizens' Advisory Committee!!
Please visit the CAC website at: http://www.lsr7.org/district/community/citizens-advisory-committee/