Lee’s Summit R-7 School District Oct. 1, 2012
Citizens’ Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Next meeting: To be determined.
Tentative plans also call for two legislative forums, scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, and Thursday, April 4. Both will be finalized after the November election.

CAC Talking Points from Oct. 1 meeting

- Thanks to ongoing cost containment and solid fiscal management, the district is addressing several staffing needs this year, adding a total of 15.5 elementary teachers and three secondary teachers. Cost containment for this school year is $21 million and totals $70 million from 2008-09 through 2012-13.
- Enrollment in kindergarten through 12th grade is 17,534, slightly lower than 17,617 in 2011-12. R-7 demographers believe the slight decrease is an anomaly based on ongoing new construction and other factors and that enrollment will increase in 2013-14 and future years.
- Dr. David McGehee discussed legislative priority positions, such as fully funding of the state's Foundation formula for education, supporting legislation that provides an avenue for new sources of revenue for public schools, supporting legislation that annually reviews the effectiveness of tax credits and appropriates the funding based on the review, opposing open enrollment and opposing legislation that diverts revenue from public schools (such as tuition tax credits or vouchers).
- The Kansas City Public Schools student transfer lawsuit and the St. Louis area similar lawsuit are both headed to the Missouri Supreme Court. No transfer students from KCPS are being accepted by the five districts filing the Kansas City area lawsuit (including Lee's Summit R-7) at this time due to ongoing litigation.
- Dr. McGehee presented on Sen. Kraus' and six area state representatives' voting records related to education issues during the spring 2012 General Assembly session. We will continue to work with CAC and other R-7 groups to advocate for R-7 schools and students.
- Two CAC legislative forums are tentatively scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 28 and 6:30 p.m. April 4. These will be finalized after the November election.

Members attending
CAC members attending were CAC Chairperson Kent Kirby, Assistant Chairperson Janis Duke, Greg Arens, Phyllis Balagna, Elaine Bluml, Dr. Maria Fleming, Trish Frevert, Jacque Gragg, Hilary Graves, Kelly Honn, Berry Jennings, Charlie Johnson, Libia Kozisek, Dr. Tom Kurucz, Larry Lynn, Manne Magady, Shannon Martin, Dr. David McGehee, Judy Noland, Wendy Nyhus, James Oyler, Janice Phelan, Michael Shaw, Jan Smith, Jodi Thompson, Kelly Thompson, Sonja Wald, Cheryl Ward, Bob White and Sherri Wood-Powe. Guests included Ken DeSieghardt of Patron Insight, Sharon Williams of Summit Pointe Elementary and a student from UCM observing the meeting for a class.

New member orientation and meeting opening
Approximately 10 members attended an orientation session before the regular meeting designed for new members and facilitated by Kent Kirby and Janis Duke. Kent Kirby opened the regular meeting at 6:32 p.m.

Charter review
Members reviewed the Citizens' Advisory Committee charter, available at the CAC website: http://www.lsr7.org/district/community/citizens-advisory-committee/
Financials/Facility Planning/Demographics/Cost Containment
Dr. Tom Kurucz presented information on financials, facility planning, demographics and cost containment, including the district’s long-range finance blueprint and Comprehensive Facility Master Plan. Enrollment in kindergarten through 12th grade is 17,534, slightly lower than 17,617 in 2011-12. R-7 demographers believe the slight decrease in enrollment is an anomaly based on ongoing new construction and other factors. Thanks to ongoing cost containment and solid fiscal management, the district is addressing several staffing needs this year, adding a total of 15.5 elementary teachers and three secondary teachers. Cost containment for this school year is $21 million and totals $70 million from 2008-09 through 2012-13.

Legislative Issues
Dr. David McGehee discussed legislative priority positions, such as fully funding of the state’s Foundation formula for education, supporting legislation that provides an avenue for new sources of revenue for public schools, supporting legislation that annually reviews the effectiveness of tax credits and appropriates the funding based on the review, opposing open enrollment and opposing legislation that diverts revenue from public schools (such as tuition tax credits or vouchers). The preliminary 2013 legislative positions, based on Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City's proposal, follow.
1. Support providing appropriations for fully funding the Foundation formula.
2. Support maintaining the integrity of current Formula and avoid Formula adjustments that would significantly alter the manner in which the Formula is distributed.
3. Support equal proration of the formula as a percentage reduction for all school districts if the Formula cost exceeds appropriations.
4. Support legislation that provides an avenue for new sources of revenue for public school districts.
5. Support legislation that annually reviews the effectiveness of tax credits and appropriates the funding based on the review.
6. Support legislation that seeks equal opportunity for all taxing jurisdictions to support economic development with continued input from local districts and EDCs.
7. Support legislation that requires unanimous support of all taxing jurisdictions for any tax abatement project. If unanimous support cannot be achieved, the issue should be put to a vote of the people in affected taxing jurisdictions.
8. Oppose legislation which alters the current state public school retirement systems (PSRS and PEERS).
9. Oppose any legislation that would reduce or divert revenue from public schools, for example, scholarship tuition tax credits, tuition tax deductions or vouchers.
10. Oppose legislation that authorizes open enrollment.
11. Support a change in the Missouri Human Rights Act that would re-align the Missouri act with federal standards.

KCPS transfer student lawsuit
Dr. McGehee reviewed the Kansas City Public Schools student transfer lawsuit. The Jackson County judge ruled Aug. 16 in a split decision stating that the state student transfer law was unconstitutional based on the Hancock Amendment for Lee’s Summit, Independence and North Kansas City districts and that it was not unconstitutional in the case of the Blue Springs and Raytown districts. The KCPS lawsuit and the St. Louis area similar lawsuit are both headed to the Missouri Supreme Court. No transfer students from KCPS are being accepted by the five districts filing the Kansas City area lawsuit at this time due to ongoing litigation.

Missouri General Assembly voting records
Dr. McGehee presented on Sen. Kraus’ and six area state representatives’ voting records related to education issues during the spring 2012 General Assembly session. The information presented follows.
Legislative Forums
Kent Kirby presented information on two legislative forums, scheduled tentatively for 6:30 p.m. Feb. 28 and 6:30 p.m. April 4. We will confirm these dates with our elected officials after the November election. CAC will host the legislative forums, and Business Roundtable members will be invited.

Roundtable
Following roundtable, Ken DeSieghardt of Patron Insight conducted a focus group among CAC members as part of the R-7 Communications Audit. The audit is included in an action step within the district's Comprehensive School Improvement Plan related to public awareness and understanding of district decisions, programs and progress on key performance areas.

If you would like an electronic copy of the PowerPoint used at the Oct. 1 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/

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB1174</td>
<td>*Failed Immediate state takeover of KCPS, passed Senate</td>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB1789</td>
<td>*Passed Transportation hardships that opens door to open enrollment</td>
<td>Opposed</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB576</td>
<td>*Passed Increased accountability for Charters but allows for expansion</td>
<td>Opposed due to expansion of Charters to accredited districts</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Absent</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB595</td>
<td>*Passed Inequities in student due process hearings</td>
<td>Support due to cost savings of changes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<td>SB569</td>
<td>*Passed Eliminates June school elections and limits February to bond issues</td>
<td>Opposed</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Absent</td>
<td>Absent</td>
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<td>HB1273</td>
<td>*Failed School bus advertising</td>
<td>Support limited advertising</td>
<td>Failed in Senate Educ Commit</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>HB1526</td>
<td>*Failed Changes to teacher tenure and evaluation</td>
<td>Opposed</td>
<td>No vote taken in Senate</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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