Lee’s Summit R-7 School District Nov. 5, 2013
Citizens’ Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS:
• CAC general membership meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, at SLC
• CAC Legislative forum from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, April 3, at SLC

CAC Talking Points from Nov. 5 Meeting
• Members kicked off the CAC year by hearing presentations on a variety of topics, including Fiscal and Facilities Update, Lease-Purchase Initiative, Technology Update and the Student Transfer Lawsuit.

Opening / Welcome / Members Attending
Meeting opened at 6:35 p.m. CAC Chairperson Kent Kirby began the meeting and welcomed the group. CAC members attending included Chairperson Kent Kirby, Assistant Chairperson Elaine Bluml, Greg Arens, Ron Baker, Dave Boulden, Lenore Caldwell, Diane Clark, Don Clements, Susan Coffman, Jerry Evans, Dr. John Faulkenberry, Dr. Maria Fleming, Trish Frevert, Mia Fulson, Carla Gavril, Eric Gibbs, Bob Gourley, Jacque Gragg, Terri Harmon, Pam Hart, Stephen Hill, Kimberly Hollins, Tom Jackson, Charlie Johnson, Valerie Jones, Jackie Knabe, Libia Kozisek, Dr. Tom Kurucz, Lora Ledbetter, Manne Magady, Dr. David McGehee, Amy Moore, Judy Noland, James Oyler, Janice Phelan, Linda Thee, Lisa Vaughn, Sonja Wald, Dorothy Walk, Cheryl Ward, Terry Watters and Ying Zurbuchen. Guests included Dr. Amy Gates, R-7 executive director of technology; Kevin Whaley, R-7 coordinator of instructional technology; Ron Cox, R-7 director of purchasing and distribution; and Paula Aldridge, administrative assistant to Dr. Kurucz.

Fiscal and Facilities Update
Dr. David McGehee, R-7 superintendent, and Dr. Tom Kurucz, R-7 deputy superintendent of operations, presented an update on the district’s finance blueprint, Comprehensive Facility Master Plan, R-7 enrollment (past, present and future projections) and long-range facility plans. Enrollment increases over the last seven years have totaled 9 percent with a 66-student overall increase this school year. Also discussed were the district's long-range plans for a fourth middle school on land purchased off Bailey Road as well as preliminary discussions about a fourth high school. This fourth high school may be a traditional high school or could possibly resemble a virtual high school that includes a technology/instruction center with students working off site during part of the school day. A team is beginning to study this possibility, which will also be determined through student, parent and community input.

Lease-Purchase Information Sharing
Dr. Tom Kurucz presented information about the lease-purchase initiatives. The initiatives include:
• New compressed natural gas (CNG) school buses
• New CNG Facility Services vehicles
• Purchase of a storage building and property for additional parking
• Public CNG fill station
• District-wide technology infrastructure upgrades and equipment
• Seventh and eighth phases for future performance contract options

The initiatives align with the Board of Education goal encouraging use of alternative resources. The R-7 School District operates a total of 149 school buses, which travel around 2 million miles annually. More
than 13,000 students are transported each day. The project includes a 10-year $28.3 million lease-purchase agreement as well as a total of 196 new CNG-powered vehicles. The district's new "fast-fill" CNG fill station opened to the public Nov. 1. The school buses use a "slow fill" method, fueling overnight while docked in individual fueling stations on the Transportation Center property. The public fill station also provide ongoing royalty payments to Lee's Summit R-7. Funds saved through the lease-purchase initiative are being used to transition to the new CNG-powered vehicles and to upgrade the district's technology infrastructure. The project is the nation's largest school bus transition to compressed natural gas. It also benefits the environment and saves considerable dollars for taxpayers. Total savings over the 10-year initiatives are estimated at $28.3 million.

Technology Update
Dr. Amy Gates and Kevin Whaley presented information about the district's technology upgrades and Google Chromebook initiative. Through the lease-purchase initiatives, the R-7 School District dedicated $5 million to technology infrastructure improvements, designed to support instructional technology. These included a wireless connectivity density model, edge and core switches to support capacity, cloud-based management, data center and redesigned active directory. In addition, the district has launched a Google Chromebook initiative as the result of a comprehensive study. With the help of the Lee's Summit Educational Foundation, the district currently has more than 4,400 Google Chromebooks in mobile classroom carts. The Chromebooks were selected based on the fact that they are cloud-based (so students and teachers can access work from any location), cost effective, encourage collaboration among staff and students and support online student assessments required by the state. During the presentation, CAC members viewed several demonstrations of how students and staff are using the Chromebooks and Google Apps for Education.

Student Transfer Lawsuit Update
Dr. McGehee presented a brief update on the student transfer litigation. The Missouri Supreme Court heard oral arguments Oct. 2 with their decision expected by the end of this semester. We are not expecting a decision in our favor since this would mean the judges would have to overturn the St. Louis area decision. Eight R-7 staff teams recently formed to help us prepare for the possibility that our district will be accepting student transfers from unaccredited districts. The student transfers are currently happening in the St. Louis area and have created numerous difficulties and financial hardships for school districts on this side of the state. Currently the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is requesting $7 million in supplemental funding to keep the Normandy School District from going bankrupt. Our district continues to contend that the student transfer state statute results in an unfunded mandate for school districts. Dr. McGehee encouraged CAC members to check out the Kansas City Star’s Nov. 4 article headlined "School superintendents offer solution to student transfer woes," available at http://www.kansascity.com/2013/11/04/4598382/school-superintendents-offer-solution.html. The article details a plan developed by a group of Missouri superintendents, including Dr. McGehee, which focuses on success for all students throughout the state. This plan moves away from the current punitive system, which is also financially unsupportable.

Roundtable/Closing
Kent Kirby and Dr. David McGehee concluded the meeting and thanked all for attending. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. Members answered two questions on Google Chromebooks about tonight's presentation and additional topics they'd like to learn more about at future meetings.

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/