FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS:
• No meetings scheduled at this time.

CAC Talking Points from Jan. 13 Meeting

Members heard information on the following topics:
• An update on the Missouri General Assembly session from Dr. McGehee including information on legislation impacting student transfers from unaccredited to accredited districts, special-education services and the state education budget.
• Projects that will soon be underway thanks to the April 7, 2015, successful bond issue. Dr. Blevins shared information and timelines for the many projects scheduled for summer 2015 and summer 2016. Construction on the new Summit Technology Academy / Missouri Innovation Campus will begin soon, and it is scheduled to open in August 2017.
• Several R-7 administrators shared information about Connect2Learn, a program which will provide a Google Chromebook for all children from kindergarten through 12th grade by fall 2015. More information is available at http://connect2learn.lsr7.org/.

Members attending
CAC members attending included Chairperson Kent Kirby, Assistant Chairperson Elaine Bluml, Amy Allen, Dr. Brent Blevins, Dave Boulden, Diane Clark, Dr. Kevin Daniel, Trish Frevert, Jacque Gragg, Dale Greer, Terri Harmon, Valerie Jones, Libia Kozisek, David McCaughey, Dr. David McGehee, Janice Phelan, Cheryl Ward and Ying Zurbuchen. The meeting opened at 6:33 p.m. and adjourned around 8:30 p.m.

Legislative issues
Dr. David McGehee presented information on the current Missouri General Assembly session. He discussed concerns about a bill impacting special-education services as well as the state budget (which has been approved by the legislators and sent to the governor) and legislation impacting transfers from unaccredited districts to accredited districts. The $84 million in additional funding designated for the Foundation Formula does not mean R-7 will get more funds due to the double hold-harmless aspect of the formula. All the new funds will go to the hold-harmless districts, which do not include Lee’s Summit R-7.

Dr. McGehee talked to Missouri legislators April 29 and shared concerns about legislation that would allow students in unaccredited schools – as opposed to unaccredited districts – to transfer to accredited schools. The lowest performing schools tend to have a higher level of poverty. In our district, we are providing resources to address students needing interventions in these high needs schools. Transferring students, especially students within families that are struggling economically, to other schools that do not have the resources in place to serve them will not help these students. We are also concerned about the transfer legislation that is allowing charter schools in high-performing districts, which will pull public money away from public schools. The General Assembly session ends later this month.

CAC members may visit the district’s legislative web page at http://www.lsr7.org/district/2013-legislative-platform/ for information about legislative issues, the district’s legislative platform, a Toolkit for Advocacy, contact info for legislators and voting records (posted after General Assembly session ends).
Successful April 7 no-tax-increase $40 million bond issue

Dr. Blevins shared information about the successful bond issue, which was approved by around 80 percent of voters. Both Dr. McGehee and Dr. Blevins thanked the CAC members for their involvement in the bond issue’s design as well as their work toward its approval by voters. Thanks to its passage, the projects listed below and on the next page are moving forward. Summit Technology Academy / Missouri Innovation Campus is scheduled to open in August 2017, and the school improvements will soon be underway with a number of projects scheduled for summer 2015 and summer 2016. Dr. Blevins distributed a packet listing all school improvement work scheduled for summer 2015. The remainder of the bond issue projects will be completed in summer 2016. Bids for this summer’s projects will be awarded soon with the school improvement work beginning soon after the last day of school.

New Summit Technology Academy / Missouri Innovation Campus

- Partnering with the University of Central Missouri (UCM), R-7 will begin construction soon on an approximately 140,000-square-foot school that will replace a currently leased space. Land has been purchased and is located near Ward and Tudor Road near the current STA / MIC facility.
- Through the partnership, R-7 and UCM will construct and operate a shared educational facility housing R-7’s Summit Technology Academy, including the nationally recognized Missouri Innovation Campus, as well as UCM programs currently located in the University’s Summit Center.
- Approximately $16 million of the new facility’s cost would be funded through passage of the R-7 bond issue, and this is around 40 percent of the facility’s total cost. UCM would pay the remaining 60 percent, and R-7 will be the facility’s sole owner.

Elementary school improvements

- Greenwood Elementary ADA access and gym renovation
- Hazel Grove Elementary kitchen renovation
- Longview Farm Elementary concrete at kindergarten wings
- Lee’s Summit Elementary health room renovation, drop-off lane and kitchen renovation
- Meadow Lane Elementary track upgrade/repair and basement renovation
- Mason Elementary gym expansion, classroom renovation, ADA
- Pleasant Lea Elementary health room/office renovation
- Prairie View Elementary north gym isolation
- Richardson Elementary additional parking
- Trailridge Elementary restroom sink replacement
- Underwood Elementary cafeteria renovation

Middle school and high school improvements

- Bernard Campbell student administration entry doors replacement and locker painting
- Pleasant Lea locker replacement
- Summit Lakes sound system
- LSHS science classrooms renovation
- LSNHS entry re-design (safety/security)
- LSWHS restrooms/concession area for baseball and softball area

Special education projects

- Highland Park Elementary life skills classroom restrooms
- Miller Park Center upstairs renovation, gym floor upgrade and kitchenette

Maintenance projects at numerous schools including playground work

- Playground upgrades at all elementary schools including synthetic turf installation and replacement of deteriorated play equipment
• Maintenance projects at numerous schools including flooring, carpet, ceilings, painting, roofing, paving, mechanical, doors, windows, FOBS, backflows, water sanitizing and masonry
• Projects included would impact all Lee’s Summit R-7 schools

**Connect2Learn**

R-7 staff members shared information about Connect2Learn, a program that will provide a Dell Chromebook for all students beginning in fall 2015. Administrators presenting information included Dr. Kevin Daniel, associate superintendent instruction and leadership; Dr. Amy Gates, executive director of technology; and Kevin Whaley, director of instructional technology. The Chromebook rollout supports R-7 priorities and is an important step toward further developing engaged learners and meeting the district’s mission. Students will be able to use these tools at school as well as at home. Students have been using Chromebooks in the classroom since 2012 with around 7,000 devices district-wide at this time. Throughout the past few years, teachers and students have been enthusiastic about the devices as a tool for learning with teachers requesting more access to the devices for students.

Financing the one-to-one Chromebooks has incorporated (1) moving to a leasing model for district devices, (2) reduction of general all-purpose school computer labs due to the one-to-one program, (3) sale of many of the current Samsung Chromebooks with proceeds from these devices helping fund Connect2Learn, and (4) reallocation of the Merchants and Manufacturers tax revenue from the debt service fund to the operating fund to help pay for one-to-one. Information was presented on the new devices’ additional features to enhance their durability. Kindergarten will receive a touch screen Chromebook with first grade through high school receiving the regular Chromebooks. A team is also working to select devices for students with disabilities, so some students with special needs may receive a specially tailored device. Insurance fee for families is $30 per device with a reduced insurance fee available for families qualifying for the free/reduced lunch program. The district is also discussing ways to help families unable to pay for Internet access to have low-cost options.

Connect2Learn is designed to help the district meet its mission which is to prepare each student for success in life. Presenters emphasized that Connect2Learn is all about the learning and is designed to increase equity in an innovative learning environment, support the ways students learn and teachers teach and engage students in the learning experience. Several examples of how teachers are using technology to enhance learning and engage students were presented. Information was also included on professional development for teachers to help them continue to get the most out of the digital devices in their classrooms. Under discussion is communication and training opportunities for parents to assist them in learning more about Connect2Learn and how they can assist their children with their schoolwork using the devices.

CAC members asked several questions and used sticky notes during the meeting to write down their “wishes” and “worries” about the one-to-one digital device program and shared these at the end of the meeting. CAC members also had the opportunity to use one of the Google Chromebooks that students will receive.

For more information about Connect2Learn, visit [http://connect2learn.lsr7.org/](http://connect2learn.lsr7.org/).

**Roundtable/Closing**

After roundtable, the meeting adjourned.

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/