FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS:

- **Wednesday, Jan. 27 -- Advocacy trip to Jefferson City.**
  - Leaving Stansberry Leadership Center at 7:30 a.m.; RSVP to Janice Phelan by Jan. 20
  - **NOTE:** Our Jan. 6 meeting agenda incorrectly listed this trip as Monday, Jan. 27 -- it is actually **Wednesday**, Jan. 27.

- **8 a.m., Friday, March 11 -- Legislative Breakfast** at Stansberry Leadership Center.

CAC Talking Points from Jan. 6 Meeting

- **Bond update:** Dr. Brent Blevins provided a quick update on the April 2015 no-tax-increase bond issue. Phase 1 of the school improvements has been completed, and planning is underway for Phase 2. The Summit Technology Academy / Missouri Innovation Campus design team is finishing up, and the final design is complete. Bid packets will go out in early February with construction starting immediately following the bid award. All infrastructure and grading is also complete at Summit Tech / MIC. All projects are also currently on time and within budget.

- **Student performance:** CAC members heard information about student performance including academics, percentage of students qualifying for free/reduced lunch program, expenditures per pupil and our focus on meeting the needs of each child.

- **R-7 strategic plan:** Dr. McGehee encouraged CAC members to consider becoming involved in the development of the district’s next five-year Comprehensive School Improvement Plan by contacting Amanda Russell at amanda.russell@lsr7.net for an application.

- **Connect2Learn:** CAC members received an update on the district’s Connect2Learn one-to-one digital device program.

- **Spring plans:** Upcoming CAC plans were discussed including a Jan. 27 trip to Jefferson City and a March 11 legislative breakfast.

Members attending

CAC members attending included Chairperson Kent Kirby, Assistant Chairperson Elaine Bluml, Dr. Brent Blevins, Don Clements, Susan Coffman, Trish Frevert, Eric Gibbs, Jacque Gragg, Dr. Dale Greer, Terri Harmon, Pam Hart, Stephen Hill, Charlie Johnson, Valerie Jones, Lora Ledbetter, David McCaughey, Dr. David McGehee, James Oyler, Janice Phelan, Michael Shaw, Dorothy Walk, Cheryl Ward and Ying Zurbuchen. The meeting opened at 6:33 p.m. and adjourned around 8:30 p.m. Guests included Dr. Amy Gates, executive director of technology; Dr. Don Andrews, assistant superintendent of secondary instruction; Dr. Katie Collier, assistant superintendent of elementary instruction; Dr. Christy Barger, executive director of assessment and data analysis; and Dr. Kevin Whaley, director of instructional technology.

Student performance

Members of the Instructional Operations Team, including Dr. Collier, Dr. Andrews and Dr. Barger, presented information on the student performance including:

- The importance of quality relationships between students and teachers.
- Comparisons of data related to student performance among R-7 and other area districts, including the district’s rank (based on percentage scores on state assessments and ACT college-entrance tests), the percent of students qualifying for free and/or reduced lunch program and the district’s expenditure per pupil.
- How school districts earn points for the state’s Annual Performance Report.
- The fact that the state assessments are based primarily on a few test sessions during a brief period of time. Districts must make decisions on how intensely to focus on preparing students for these annual tests, knowing that what is best for students may not be limited to this testing snapshot. That time spent on test preparation is valuable but also takes away from other learning activities.
- The way district staff members use the state annual tests and ACT results as well as other assessments to improve instruction and student performance, including an increased focus on personalized learning and an emphasis on meeting the needs of each student.
- Interventions and enhancements that have been implemented throughout all grades to improve learning and help students be successful.
- The district’s ACT prep class, which is now provided to all high-school students during the school day as a semester course. In the past, the district offered ACT test prep as an after-school/weekend course, and the school-day ACT course is new this year.
- The district’s upcoming development of a new five-year strategic plan, known as the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan. A team of community and staff members will be developing the plan for 2016-21 this spring, and it will again include a focus on student academic performance. Any members of the CAC who would like to be involved in helping develop the plan may contact Amanda Russell in Dr. Kevin Daniel’s office at amanda.russell@lsr7.net for information about meeting dates and an application. The team and focus groups will be selected soon so please indicate your interest in serving as soon as possible. CSIP focus groups will meet Feb. 8 and March 9, and the CSIP Team will meet April 11-12 and May 9-10.

Connect2Learn update
Dr. Gates and Dr. Whaley provided an update of the district’s Connect2Learn program, which began this school year. Each student from kindergarten through 12th grade received a Google Chromebook during August.
Information shared included:
- R-7 began providing some Chromebooks to students during 2012 with around 8,000 Google Chromebooks available for students by the end of 2014-15. These Chromebooks were available on carts and were checked out to teachers for specific lessons and activities.
- During fall 2015, the district began providing each student with a Chromebook through a lease program. Around 17,850 Chromebooks were distributed to students during a two-week period in August.
- A loaner program is available for students who forget their Chromebooks, forget to charge it for the day or if the device is being repaired.
- A recent survey among families that revealed that 95 percent of students have wireless Internet service at home with 2.6 percent having Smart phone or desktop access only and 2.4 percent indicating they have no access. The district is addressing this by partnering with everyoneon.org, an organization that helps connect families who qualify by income to low-cost Internet services (ranging from $10 to $20 per month).
- The district’s robust Connect2Learn support program which provides teachers with training on how to use technology to support and enhance learning within a one-to-one digital environment. This training is
provided to teachers as well as support staff who want to learn more about the Google apps for education and Google production apps.

- If you are on Twitter, check out #r7c2l and read what is being said about Connect2Learn by teachers, including examples of how teachers are using the one-to-one digital device learning environment.

**Spring CAC Plans**

Dr. McGehee shared that CAC members as well as members of the Business Roundtable and Board of Education are invited to participate in a Jan. 27 advocacy trip to Jefferson City. The group will be leaving the Stansberry Leadership Center at 7:30 a.m. and returning around 6 p.m. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Janice Phelan at janice.phelan@lsr7.net by Jan. 20. Based on RSVPs, carpools will be organized. If you would like to volunteer to drive, the district will reimburse all carpool drivers for mileage.

In addition, the CAC will host a legislative breakfast at 8 a.m. March 11, inviting all state representatives and senators. The R-7 Business Roundtable and Board of Education will also be invited to attend this event. In the past, the CAC has hosted a legislative forum on a Thursday evening, and we are moving it to Friday morning in an attempt to increase participation among the lawmakers. (The General Assembly’s weekly session runs from Friday morning through Thursday afternoon so they are traditionally back in Lee’s Summit on Fridays.)

**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/]