

# LINC Commission Meeting

November 17, 2008



LINC's newest Caring Communities Site at Covenant Presbyterian Church is a partnership between LINC and the City of Kansas City, Missouri. Below, site council members meet to discuss neighborhood issues.



LINC  
Local Investment Commission

3100 Broadway, Suite 1100 - Kansas City, MO 64111 - (816) 889-5050 - [www.kclinc.org](http://www.kclinc.org)

# Local Investment Commission (LINC) Vision

## Our Shared Vision

A caring community that builds on its strengths to provide meaningful opportunities for children, families and individuals to achieve self-sufficiency, attain their highest potential, and contribute to the public good.

## Our Mission

To provide leadership and influence to engage the Kansas City Community in creating the best service delivery system to support and strengthen children, families and individuals, holding that system accountable, and changing public attitudes towards the system.

## Our Guiding Principles

1. **COMPREHENSIVENESS:** Provide ready access to a full array of effective services.
2. **PREVENTION:** Emphasize “front-end” services that enhance development and prevent problems, rather than “back-end” crisis intervention.
3. **OUTCOMES:** Measure system performance by improved outcomes for children and families, not simply by the number and kind of services delivered.
4. **INTENSITY:** Offering services to the needed degree and in the appropriate time.
5. **PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT:** Use the needs, concerns, and opinions of individuals who use the service delivery system to drive improvements in the operation of the system.
6. **NEIGHBORHOODS:** Decentralize services to the places where people live, wherever appropriate, and utilize services to strengthen neighborhood capacity.
7. **FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS:** Create a delivery system, including programs and reimbursement mechanisms, that are sufficiently flexible and adaptable to respond to the full spectrum of child, family and individual needs.
8. **COLLABORATION:** Connect public, private and community resources to create an integrated service delivery system.
9. **STRONG FAMILIES:** Work to strengthen families, especially the capacity of parents to support and nurture the development of their children.
10. **RESPECT AND DIGNITY:** Treat families, and the staff who work with them, in a respectful and dignified manner.
11. **INTERDEPENDENCE/MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Balance the need for individuals to be accountable and responsible with the obligation of community to enhance the welfare of all citizens.
12. **CULTURAL COMPETENCY:** Demonstrate the belief that diversity in the historical, cultural, religious and spiritual values of different groups is a source of great strength.
13. **CREATIVITY:** Encourage and allow participants and staff to think and act innovatively, to take risks, and to learn from their experiences and mistakes.
14. **COMPASSION:** Display an unconditional regard and a caring, non-judgmental attitude toward participants that recognizes their strengths and empowers them to meet their own needs.
15. **HONESTY:** Encourage and allow honesty among all people in the system.



Monday, Nov. 17, 2008 | 4 – 6 p.m.  
**Kansas City Central Library**  
14 West 10th Street  
Kansas City, Mo. 64105

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## **Agenda**

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- I. Welcome and Announcements**
- II. Approvals**
  - a. October minutes (Motion)**
- III. LINC Finance & Audit Report**
  - a. 2007-08 Audit Report**
  - b. Management Letter**
  - c. Q1 2008 Financial Report**
  - d. Investment Report**
  - e. Board Governance**
- IV. LINC President's Report**
- V. Other reports**
- VI. Adjournment**



## **DRAFT MINUTES**

**THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – OCT. 27, 2008**

The Local Investment Commission met at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, Mo. Chairman **Landon Rowland** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Bert Berkley  
Sharon Cheers  
Steve Dunn  
Herb Freeman  
Rob Givens  
Anita Gorman  
Bart Hakan

Rosemary Smith Lowe  
Mary Kay McPhee  
Richard Morris  
Margie Peltier  
David Rock  
David Ross  
Bailus Tate

**Gayle A. Hobbs** gave the LINC President's Report:

- LINC staff **Brent Schondelmeyer** will serve as a co-chair of Urban Affinity Group of the Coalition for Community Schools.
- The Missouri Dept. of Social Services (DSS) is requesting LINC Subsidy Services to expand child care invoicing from three Missouri counties (Jackson, Clay and Platte) to a potential additional four counties (Cass, Johnson, Ray and Lafayette). LINC's administrative involvement saves DSS administrative costs on a state-mandated service and provides LINC a chance to have additional direct contact with families involved in child care services.
- The LINC independent financial audit is complete. The audit will go to the LINC Finance Committee and be presented at the November LINC Commission meeting.
- LINC staff **Robin Gierer** now has an assistant to help with improving certain LINC operations processes.
- On Aug. 18, LINC gained many new Caring Communities sites in the Independence School District. In the short time since, site councils have been started at the sites; three of the four sites offering Before & After School programs have achieved child care facility licensure (and the fourth is expected to receive its licenses in the next few weeks).
- GED programs are now in place at Maywood Baptist Church and Van Horn High School. There was no GED program serving western Independence or Sugar Creek prior to those areas becoming part of the Independence School District this summer.
- The month LINC supported Lights On Afterschool! events at 26 school sites, as well as large community celebrations. This was LINC's largest Lights On Afterschool! celebration yet. A video about the Lights On events was shown.
- A recent Kansas City Star article describes efforts of the Kansas City, Mo. School District to revive a partnership with LINC and to expand its partnership with Swope Corridor Renaissance. LINC partnered with Swope Corridor to serve Kansas City district students over the summer.

***A motion to approve the minutes of the Sept. 15, 2008, LINC Commission meetings was passed unanimously.***

LINC Professional Cabinet member **Cathy Davis** reported that the Kansas City Quality Improvement Consortium (KCQIC) will release a patient satisfaction survey on Nov. 10.

LINC staff **Brent Schondelmeyer** introduced a discussion of home foreclosures and their impact on the community. Recent developments include:

- Kansas City, Mo. will receive \$7.9 million in federal funding to address the problem of vacated, abandoned and foreclosed properties.
- The city planning department has produced maps showing current and projected foreclosures in Kansas City. (Maps were shared at today's meeting.)
- More than 450 calls were received from people seeking foreclosure counseling during the recent KCPT special "*Foreclosed: The Growing Mortgage Crisis in KC.*"

**Paul Wenske** of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City reported on efforts to assist the community with the foreclosure issue.

**Michael Duffy** of Legal Aid of Western Missouri reported that Legal Aid has been addressing the mortgage crisis as an outgrowth of its investigation of and effort to seek redress for harm caused by discriminatory and predatory lending practices. Legal Aid will convene a loan servicers summit on Nov. 20, and is working with the City of Kansas City, Mo. on foreclosed and vacated properties.

Discussion followed.

*A motion to move to close the meeting to consider matters pertaining to legal actions, causes or action or litigation was approved unanimously.*

The public meeting was closed.

The public meeting reconvened.

The public meeting was adjourned.

### **KC school board member cites lack of time in resignation**

By JOE ROBERTSON

The Kansas City Star

In the end, David Smith said he simply didn't have the time anymore to carry on with the struggles of the Kansas City Board of Education.

The former president acknowledged that he had his differences with the new leadership under Marilyn Simmons, but he resigned with words of encouragement for a board facing monumental tasks.

"I did the best I could to do what I thought was best," Smith said Thursday, "and I don't have any doubt that Marilyn is doing that.

"It's a tough assignment."

Smith became the second board member in six weeks to step down, after Ingrid Burnett, who had been vice president under Smith.

With Smith's departure, only Joel Pelofsky remains of the five members who held the majority with Smith for four years through April.

Simmons had been aware of Smith's intent to resign before Wednesday night's board meeting, but waited until Thursday to announce it because some board members were absent.

"While we will certainly miss Dave," she said in a statement, "we understand (Smith's) need to focus his energies ... as president (of the) Boys and Girls Clubs."

She said she expected the school district to continue partnerships with Smith and his nonprofit organization.

The board now must appoint new members to replace Burnett and Smith, whose terms end in April 2010.

Their resignations come as the board is under state pressure to correct serious flaws if the district is to have a chance at regaining full accreditation.

The board is working on an accountability plan to outline how it will overcome two major failings raised by the state: Turmoil in district leadership and the board's history of micromanagement.

The district's administration also is working on a plan to correct other concerns in the state's review.

"The focus of the board, the administration, the teachers and the community has to be in developing that accountability plan," said Stan Johnson, assistant education commissioner over school improvement.

"Whatever is happening cannot remove that focus."

The board has spent several weekend retreats working with the state and the Missouri School Boards' Association on that plan, due in December.

Smith was unable to attend some of the retreats, he said. That, along with his inability to devote time to pursue some of his points of contention with the board, told him it was time to step down, he said.

He had disagreed with the current board leadership on several issues, including a decision to put off selling the downtown central office building and the process the board chose for its ongoing superintendent search.

"It kind of rendered me ineffective," Smith said. "I'm going to focus on how I can best help kids ... through my organization. That's where I can have an impact. I can't do both."

When Burnett resigned, she said she could no longer justify devoting so much time and effort to a board that she said was dysfunctional.

Bill Eddy, who had been part of Smith's majority bloc, dropped his re-election bid last spring, saying district governance needed an overhaul.

Smith's resignation further reflects the board's difficulty in making progress in student achievement and fiscal management, Eddy said Thursday.

"To not be able to get a handle on those ... is very frustrating."

Former board member Claude Harris, who was part of the minority bloc with Simmons during Smith's tenure, said the community should have confidence in the new board despite the resignations.

"I think the people who are left on the board have the best interests of the district at heart," Harris said. Simmons is "persistent and consistent," he said. "She asks the right questions until she gets an answer. With Marilyn and her passion, I believe they are in good hands."

The board is taking the state's criticisms seriously, said David Lineberry, the consultant from the Missouri School Boards' Association who has spent many hours working with the board.

"I see an awful lot of progress in the expressed will of the board ... to try something new," Lineberry said. "This board has always worked hard. They have not always been efficient. They have not always worked with good information."

One example of change in the works, he said, is that the board is planning to drop its use of board-run working committees. Those committees, including education, finance and audit and personnel, will become staff-driven meetings — as is the practice in most high-performing school districts.

That means the board will have to rely more on staff recommendations, Lineberry said. The board will have to gain trust in administration — which it is trying to earn through its accountability plan with the state.

The work will be hard, Smith said.

"It's going to be a challenge for the board to keep focus on the right things," he said. "I'm concerned about the prospects of landing a qualified leader. The district has to be different before a superintendent can come in here and be different."

**To reach Joe Robertson, call 816-234-4789 or send e-mail to [jrobertson@kcstar.com](mailto:jrobertson@kcstar.com).**

# DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT

## Hickman Mills C-1 School District • Region 4



### GROUP ASSESSING NEIGHBORHOODS ONE ADDRESS AT A TIME

The Hickman Mills C-1 School District is located in south Kansas City. The fully accredited school district has 1,300 employees and the district educates nearly 8,000 students. In July, a new summer home visit project was introduced in the district.



Volunteers visit with an area resident as part of the neighborhood program

“We want to get to know the neighborhood ‘up close and personal’ through this home visit project,” said Trent DeVreugd, the LINC (Local Investment Commission) coordinator for the district. “We want to build relationships throughout the Hickman Mills and Ruskin community.

Building relationships and learning about the community needs are the goal of the program. Due to a high elderly population and record breaking foreclosures, this program was designed to reach out to the community and will also act as a census of the surrounding neighborhoods. This program was led by The LINC, Caring Communities staff and volunteers from the school district.

During the program, volunteers went door-to-door in the evening to introduce themselves and the Caring Communities program to residents of the Ruskin Hills and Ruskin Heights neighborhoods. Volunteers also distributed information about local resources for families and children as well as informational materials about programs available through the school district. The program was held in July, 2008. It is estimated that 3,000 homes were visited during this time.

Volunteers received training on how to conduct one-on-one interviews from Communities Creating Opportunities ([www.cco.org](http://www.cco.org)). These ‘one-on-one’ visits help LINC staff better ascertain the needs of the community. Getting out into the neighborhoods is part of LINC’s Caring Communities initiative which includes school-based services in eight school sites.

“We want to let people know what is available and let them know we are there to help, if needed,” DeVreugd said. “We also want neighbors to know there are chances to get involved, volunteer and help build stronger neighborhoods”.

Partners in the effort include the Ruskin Heights and Ruskin Hills Neighborhood Associations, Hickman Mills School District, Community Assistance Council, and St. Matthew’s Catholic Church.

For more information about LINC, contact Trent DeVreugd at 816-316-8535 and for more information about Hickman Mills, contact 816-316-7000 or visit us on the web at [www.hickmanmills.org](http://www.hickmanmills.org).

**“We want to let people know what is available and let them know we are there to help...”**

### SCHOOL DISTRICTS EXEMPT FROM MINIMUM WAGE

The Missouri Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DOLIR) have publicly acknowledged that the new minimum wage requirements enacted by the passage of Proposition B in 2006 do not apply to school districts.

MSBA contacted the DOLIR to verify information given to a school district pertaining to this law and was told the department’s opinion was based on a Cole County court case. In *Wright v. State of Missouri*, the Circuit Court of Cole County found that local governments were not “persons acting as an employer” and therefore not subject to the state minimum wage law.

Judge Richard Callahan found that the state minimum wage law did not apply to local governments and enjoined the state and the DOLIR from enforcing the law against those entities. Attorney General Nixon, who represented the state in this matter, has said there will be no appeal. Local government employers are still subject to the federal minimum wage which is set to be \$6.55 August 1, 2008.

For more information contact MSBA School Laws Department, 800-221-MSBA (6722).



### HISTORICAL TRIVIA:

25 Years Ago - In 1983 MSBA offered a basic policy manual to member districts at a cost of \$500. In 2008, a greatly improved, basic policy manual is available to member districts at the same cost of \$500.

### LET US HEAR FROM YOU

The MSBA Board Bulletin features in each edition an article about local district programs/services in the District Spotlight section. Let us hear from you about the innovative and exciting programs/services your district provides students. Contact Jan Watson at [watson@msbanet.org](mailto:watson@msbanet.org) or 800-221-MSBA (6722), ext. 328 for more information.