

LINC Commission Meeting

January 23, 2017



Taylor



Gaines



Miner



Thomas



Bland



Perry

Kansas City Black History 2017 "Midwest Luminaries"

The Local Investment Commission (LINC) in partnership with the Kansas City Public Library and the Black Archives of Mid-America is proud to announce the return of our Kansas City Black History educational posters and booklets. The six African Americans honored in this year's project represent the best and the brightest in the areas of entertainment, medicine, politics, civil rights, and the military.

More information about the project and sets from prior years, can be downloaded at

kclinc.org/blackhistory



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, Jan. 23, 2017 | 4 – 6 pm
Kauffman Foundation
4801 Rockhill Rd.
Kansas City, Mo. 64110

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Announcements
- II. Approvals
 - a. **November minutes (motion)**
- III. School Superintendent Reports
- IV. LINC in Photos 2016
- V. Reports and updates
 - a. Black History
 - b. Summer Food
 - c. Jackson County Children's Service Fund
 - d. HCA v Health Care Foundation update
- VI. LINC Financial Report
- VII. Closed Session*
- VIII. Adjournment

* LINC Commission will go into closed session as provided under Missouri Revised Statute 610.021(1) to discuss potential legal actions and privileged communications with our attorneys and under Missouri Revised Statute 610.021(3) to discuss "Hiring, firing, disciplining or promoting of particular employees... when personal information about the employee is discussed or recorded".



THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – NOV. 21, 2016

The Local Investment Commission met at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, Mo. Co-chair **Bailus Tate** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Sharon Cheers
Jack Craft
Tom Davis
Aaron Deacon
Steve Dunn
Mark Flaherty
Herb Freeman
SuEllen Fried

Tom Gerke
Anita Gorman
Richard Hibschan
Rosemary Lowe
Ken Powell
David Rock
David Ross

Tate introduced **Angela Miratsky-Figas** of BKD, LLC, who reported on the firm's financial audit of LINC, including adjustments, internal controls, federal funds, and the IRS form 990. There were no significant findings from the audit.

Tate reported that due to the potential for a conflict of interest identified during the audit, **Oscar Tshibanda** will no longer be associated with the LINC Personnel Committee. Tate requested the participation of **Ken Powell** and **Tom Davis** on the committee.

Tate recognized the death of **Gerald Gorman**, husband of **Anita Gorman**, and his contributions to the civic life of Kansas City.

Superintendents' Report

- **John Ruddy** (Assistant Superintendent, Fort Osage School District) reported the district and LINC are partnering to provide holiday assistance to more than 100 families.
- **Dan Clemens** (Superintendent, North Kansas City School District) reported that Kansas City Chiefs punter Dustin Colquitt helped to host a special assembly at Topping Elementary School Monday morning as part of the 2016 Hometown Grant Program.
- **Michael Weisshaard** (Director of Business, Center School District) reported the district is celebrating the high school football team's 12-0 record this season. The district's APR dropped from over 90% to the lower 80% in this year's Annual Performance Report (APR); the district has identified areas in need of improvement.
- **Jerry Kitzi** (Director of Early Learning, Kansas City Public Schools) reported the district's APR has risen to 70% from 22% four years ago, giving it the performance needed for accreditation. Kitzi thanked LINC for its partnership in helping achieve this goal. A video produced by LINC was shown of superintendent **Mark Bedell's** press conference announcing the achievement at Phillips @ Attucks Elementary School.
- **Juan Cordova** (Assistant Superintendent, Grandview School District) reported that the district had succeeded in shrinking achievement gaps. The district partnered with the Center School District on a staff curriculum training day. LINC supported the district's Trivia Night on Nov. 1.
- **Yolanda Cargile** (Associate Superintendent, Hickman Mills School District) reported the district held a groundbreaking event on Nov. 17 at Ruskin High School. The district won the Prep KC math relays on Nov. 12. Following small increases in the APR the district is working to achieve full accreditation and address racial achievement gaps by improving the instructional environment.
- **Kevin Foster** (Executive Director, Genesis Promise Academy) reported 120 people attended the school's annual Thanksgiving dinner. The school provided 58 holiday baskets to Genesis

families. Genesis will host its first annual family summit on Jan 18. Students will be able to take introductory swimming lessons at the Thornberry Boys and Girls Club.

- **Bob Bartman** (Director, Education Policy Fellowship Program) reported this year's EPFP cohort visited the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth in October. This month the participants heard from a panel including a national political consultant, Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City lobbyist, and Missouri General Assembly member.

A motion to approve the minutes of the Sept. 19, 2016, LINC Commission meetings was approved unanimously.

Dale Herl, Independence School District superintendent, gave a presentation on the district's high school Career Academies initiative. He played two videos:

- On a parade held on Labor Day weekend to mark the 150th anniversary of the school district.
- A KMBC 9 segment about the opening of the All Things Independence store operated by students in the Business Academy

Herl gave an overview of the Career Academies – Industrial Technology, Public Service, STEM, Arts and Education, and Business – as well as the majors and capstone opportunities with the various academies. Career Academies, which are supported by the Fort Next Generation Learning Model as well as more than 140 local industry partners, provide students with opportunities to earn an associate's degree or industry recognized credit. Discussion followed.

Brent Schondelmeyer, Deputy Director – Community Engagement, reported on the results of local children-related ballot issues including the COMBAT tax renewal (passed), Jackson County Children's Service Fund (passed), Mid-Continent Public Library levy increase (passed), and Constitutional Amendment 5 cigarette tax increase (failed).

Andrea O'Neal, Deputy Director – LINCWorks, gave an update on the LINCWorks welfare-to-work initiative, which achieved an increase in the client participation rate this year. Case managers had an increased focus on retention while the size of caseloads decreased.

Mark Flaherty gave an overview of the sale of the Health Midwest hospital system to HCA, the creation of the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, and a lawsuit filed by the foundation against HCA over promises to improve existing hospitals and provide charity care. Last November a \$500 million judgment was levied against HCA; the decision was appealed; the case will be heard on Dec. 20, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned.

Kansas City Star – Jan. 18, 2017

Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens continues push for lobbyist gift ban in State of the State address

By Jason Hancock

JEFFERSON CITY - In his first State of the State address to a joint session of the Missouri General Assembly, Gov. Eric Greitens on Tuesday night urged lawmakers to overcome years of gridlock and finally ban lawmakers from accepting gifts from lobbyists.

Greitens, a Republican who had never before held public office, ticked through a long list of policy priorities, from easing regulations on businesses to reworking the state's welfare system.

But the issue that sat atop his list was government ethics reform.

Speaking to an audience mostly made up of his fellow Republicans, Greitens said that while many legislators who came to Jefferson City "have been good keepers of the public's trust," often the will of the people is "obstructed and corrupted by insiders and lobbyists."

"This is a big place, with a powerful purpose," he said, "and it has too often been consumed by small goals and petty politics."

Just a few hours before Greitens' speech, the [Missouri House voted 149-5 to ban most lobbyist gifts to elected officials](#).

Lawmakers and their staffs collectively accept hundreds of thousands of dollars a year worth of lobbyist-provided meals, booze, trips and event tickets. The House-backed bill would ban individual lawmakers from accepting gifts from lobbyists, although they could still attend lobbyist-funded events as long as every member of the General Assembly is invited at least 72 hours beforehand.

The bill now heads to the Missouri Senate, where [the idea has historically run into fierce resistance](#).

Greitens, who took office Jan. 9, also called for a ban on lawmakers returning to the Capitol as paid lobbyists until they've sat out of office for as long as they served. For example, eight years in the Senate would mean eight years before the legislator could become a lobbyist.

Senate President Pro Tem Ron Richard, a Joplin Republican, said previously that [Greitens' idea stands no chance of passing](#).

Greitens also took direct aim at a longtime political nemesis of the Republican Party: labor unions.

He called for Missouri to join states like Kansas and pass a right-to-work law, which would allow employees in unionized workplaces to refuse to pay unions for the cost of being represented. He also asked lawmakers to do away with prevailing wage laws and project labor agreements.

Senate Minority Leader [Gina Walsh](#), a St. Louis County Democrat and president of the Missouri State Building and Construction Trades Council, said right-to-work laws are an example of “government overreach and bureaucratic meddling.”

“Right-to-work simply means forcing folks to work for less,” she said. “Less money. Less health coverage. And less opportunity for workers and their families.”

Greitens also urged lawmakers to pass changes to Missouri’s consumer protection law and rework the state’s standard in determining what scientific experts get allowed into trials, saying Missouri’s legal system has hurt business in the state.

The State of the State address is historically when the governor unveils his proposed state budget for the next year. Greitens decided to break with that tradition.

On Monday, he announced [\\$146 million in cuts aimed at balancing the current fiscal year’s budget](#), with higher education taking the biggest blow. But with House leaders projecting a potential \$450 million shortfall for the next fiscal year that begins July 1, Greitens has said he will keep his budget recommendations under wraps until next month.

“What disappoints me is his speech didn’t even mention the biggest issue facing Missouri government, which is our massive budget shortfall,” said state Rep. Jon Carpenter, a Gladstone Democrat.

On education, Greitens’ election in November [gave hope to school choice advocates](#) that ideas such as expanded charter schools or tax credits for private school tuition, which have historically floundered in the face of bipartisan resistance, might finally get traction.

One idea that seemed to be gaining momentum was education savings accounts, which are basically publicly funded debit cards that parents could use to pay for tuition to a private or virtual school, buy textbooks, hire tutors or pay for any number of things approved by the state.

On Tuesday, though, Greitens managed to largely avoid controversy by pledging to push for education savings accounts for special needs children but stopping short of calling for them to be available to all Missouri students.

Senate Majority Leader Mike Kehoe, a Jefferson City Republican, said Greitens’ speech was a refreshing break from the last eight years under Democratic Gov. Jay Nixon.

“This is a guy who’s never been in politics before who has a view that is very much different than what we’ve seen in this building before,” Kehoe said. “It’s really exciting. We have an opportunity to make things great, but now we can’t screw it up.”

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Read more here: <http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article127125034.html#storylink=cpy>

Kansas City Star – Jan. 18, 2017

Appeals court knocks millions off amount owed by HCA to KC health foundation

By Diane Stafford

When HCA Inc. bought the Health Midwest hospital chain in 2003, the sale agreement called for the hospital company to spend about \$450 million in addition to its \$1.13 billion purchase price on capital improvements.

In 2009, the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City sued HCA, charging that it had failed to meet the agreement. The lawsuit contended that HCA wrongly counted money it had spent to build two new hospitals in Lee's Summit and Independence as part of the capital improvement commitment.

On Tuesday, a Missouri appellate court sided with HCA and said the new construction counted as part of the capital expenditure promise.

Hundreds of millions of dollars are affected by the decision, which both parties said they are weighing to consider possible appeals.

The latest action in the case came in an opinion from the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District, which [heard arguments](#) in December.

The three-judge panel disagreed with the foundation's contention that the capital expenditure agreement was meant for improvements to existing Health Midwest facilities, including Research, Menorah and Overland Park hospitals.

The lawsuit stemmed from agreements made in connection with the sale of the nonprofit Health Midwest hospitals to the for-profit HCA company. The sale established two Kansas City-area health care foundations that were created to support "safety net" health care and other health care services by awarding annual grants to providers.

The foundation that brought the suit [previously had been awarded](#) more than \$433 million from HCA by a trial court, but the appellate decision reduced the amount HCA owes the foundation to about \$205 million.

The opinion upheld part of the trial court ruling that had awarded millions of dollars to the foundation for HCA's failure to make and report its capital improvement spending in a timely way, as required by the sale agreement.

The appellate court said the foundation is due a shortfall in HCA spending of nearly \$166 million plus accrued interest and attorneys' fees, to equal about \$205 million.

HCA, through a hospital spokeswoman, said, "We are pleased the Missouri Court of Appeals held 'it is uncontested' that we 'spent in excess of \$450 million during the five-year term following closing....,' living up to our agreement to do so. Regarding the remainder of the ruling, we are considering our options" to appeal a part of the opinion that favored the foundation.

Foundation CEO Bridget McCandless said the foundation is processing the ruling.

“Once litigation concludes, HCF will continue a deliberate and thoughtful review of our region’s health needs and engage community partners to discuss how this ruling can be leveraged to continue to positively impact our service area,” McCandless said in a news release.

Because of the ongoing litigation, none of the money has changed hands.

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Appeals Court Cuts Award To Health Care Foundation From \$434M To \$188M

By [Dan Margolies](#) - *KCUR*

An appeals court has cut by more than half the \$434 million in damages awarded to the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City in its breach-of-contract lawsuit against hospital giant HCA.

In a long-anticipated decision, the Missouri Court of Appeals in Kansas City on Tuesday reduced the judgment to \$188 million, finding a capital expenditures commitment HCA made when it acquired the assets of Health Midwest 14 years ago was partly met by HCA's construction of new hospitals in Independence and Lee's Summit.

The decision is a partial victory for both sides: HCA is now on the hook for substantially less than it was before Tuesday, but the Health Care Foundation still [stands to reap a substantial reward](#).

In a statement, Health Care Foundation President and CEO Bridget McCandless said the foundation was still absorbing the ramifications of the court's decision.

"Once litigation concludes, HCF will continue a deliberate and thoughtful review of our region's health needs and engage community partners to discuss how this ruling can be leveraged to continue to positively impact our service area," she said.

The foundation's board chair, Wayne Powell, left open the possibility that the foundation would pursue the case further.

"We respect the Missouri Court of Appeals' decision and realize that additional legal proceedings may occur," he said in a statement. "Regardless of this outcome, HCF remains committed to its mission of eliminating barriers and promoting quality health for the underserved and uninsured in the region."

An HCA spokesperson was not immediately available for comment.

The hotly disputed case centered on HCA's pledge to spend \$450 million in capital improvements after it bought Health Midwest's area hospitals in 2003 for \$1.125 billion. Those hospitals included Menorah Medical Center, Overland Park Regional Medical Center and Research Medical Center.

The foundation sued over what it said was HCA's failure to expend \$450 million over five years as part of an agreement with then-Missouri Attorney General Jay Nixon. Nixon got involved because the deal involved the purchase of non-profit Health Midwest by HCA, a for-profit company, and the attorney general oversees all charitable institutions in the state. The agreement Nixon negotiated was intended to ensure that the proceeds were used for a public benefit.

The Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City in Missouri and the Reach Foundation in Kansas were created with proceeds of the sale. The former got 80 percent of the sale proceeds and the latter 20 percent.

In its lawsuit against HCA, the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City (the Reach Foundation opted not to sue) claimed that HCA's capital expenditures commitment was intended to cover only existing facilities and that HCA had breached its pledge. HCA argued that it met its commitment by constructing new facilities, specifically Lee's Summit Hospital and Centerpoint Hospital in Independence.

In December 2015, Jackson County Circuit Judge John Torrence [agreed with the foundation's interpretation](#) of the capital expenditures clause. He found HCA liable for \$239.4 million over its failure to fund promised hospital improvements; \$167.1 million in prejudgment interest; and more than \$27 million in legal fees and expenses.

[HCA appealed](#), and in its decision Tuesday the Missouri Court of Appeals ruled that Torrence erred in not crediting HCA for its expenditures on the Lee's Summit and Independence hospitals.

"We agree that the term 'capital expenditure' is unambiguous and includes new construction," a three-judge panel of the appeals court ruled.

The court, however, found that HCA had failed to satisfy commitments to make the expenditures within five years of its purchase and let stand \$165.7 million of Torrance's award, as well as legal fees of \$22.3 million.

Further reducing Torrance's judgment, the appeals court struck down the award to the foundation of prejudgment interest. It did allow Torrance's award of post-judgment interest to stand, but calculated it as simple interest rather than compounded annually, as Torrance had decreed.

Editor's note: The Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City provides funding for KCUR's health reporting.

Dan Margolies is KCUR's health editor. You can reach him on Twitter [@DanMargolies](#).

SEBTC Project Summary 2011 - 2016

Kansas City SNAP Hybrid Model

\$2,654,151

Total Program Funds Redeemed 2011-2016

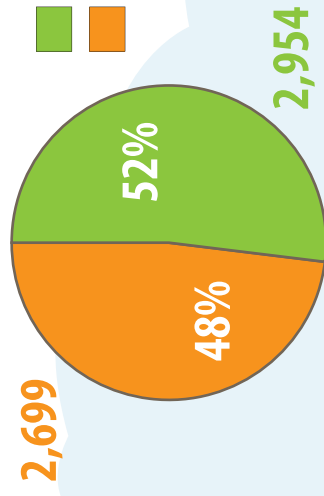
Selected for SEBTC Benefits

Households Children

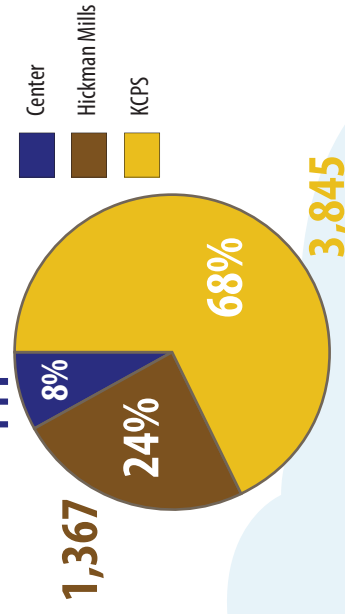
2011	1,477	2,538
2012	3,041	5,364
2013	2,262	4,001
2015	3,468	5,141
2016	2,961	5,653

There was no SEBTC program in 2014

Participants in 2016



Participants per District in 2016



2011
\$346,161

90%
funds redeemed

2012
\$831,646

92%
funds redeemed

2013
\$569,679

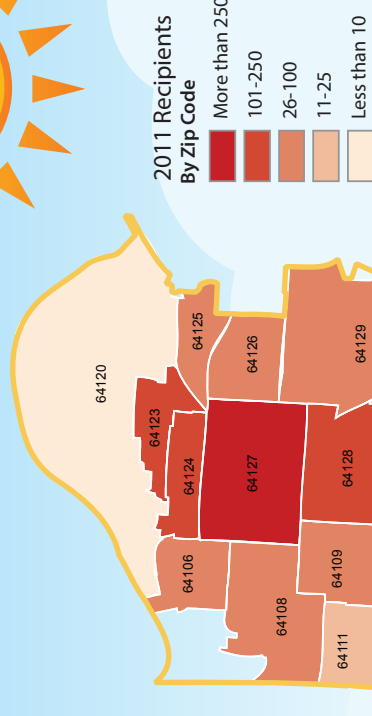
92%
funds redeemed

2015
\$426,861

93%
funds redeemed

2016
\$479,804

95%
funds redeemed



Children's Services Fund Board

Jackson County Names Advisory Panel To Review Applications For The Board

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2016

Jackson County Executive Frank White, Jr. praised voters for “putting children first” Nov. 8 when they approved creating a special fund to support social service agencies that help youths in need. White has now taken the first step in implementing the new fund: naming a three-person committee to review applications to serve on the first-ever board of the Children’s Services Fund.

The advisory committee members — **John Bluford III**, former Truman Medical Centers President/CEO; **Dr. Susan B. Wilson**, Vice Chancellor for the Division of Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Missouri-Kansas City; and **Steve Roling**, former President/CEO of the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City— will review board applications submitted online at jacksongov.org/childrensfund or via email to childrensfund@jacksongov.org. They’ll then pass along their recommendations to the county executive, who will appoint nine people to the board.

The application deadline is Jan. 20, 2017.

The Children’s Services Fund board will oversee the distribution of the approximately \$15 million expected to be generated annually by the one-eighth cent sales tax voters approved.

“I am pleased that Jackson County voters put children first with their approval of the Children’s Services Fund,” said White. “Our youth are our future. Reaching them with the right services at the right time is critical.” He also thanked Jackson County’s Legislators for their leadership in support of the fund.

The all-volunteer Children’s Services Fund board will consist of at least one member residing in each of the six County Legislative districts. No one representing an agency receiving county funding may sit on the board.

The County Executive will review the advisory committee’s recommendations and announce his final selections for the board in early March 2017. The new board is expected to hold its first meeting prior to April 1.

The funds raised within Jackson County will stay in Jackson County. They’ll go to support programs and services that will benefit tens of thousands of children who are homeless, experiencing domestic violence, in foster care or suffering from abuse and neglect.

According to the Children’s Services Fund Coalition, investing in these services ultimately saves

money. For every \$1 invested in prevention, an estimated \$11 is saved that would have been spent on substance abuse treatment, lost wages and criminal justice system costs.

Seven other counties in Missouri have passed a sales tax initiative establishing a Children's Services Fund, and the funds are supporting an array of services that are making a positive impact, including reducing child abuse and neglect, helping families regain housing and stability, and other positive outcomes enabling children and youth to become productive members of their community.

The Advisory Panel

John W. Bluford, III is the President Emeritus of Truman Medical Centers (TMC), where he served as President/CEO of the hospital for the past 15 years. Bluford's tenure at TMC is part of a distinguished career in hospital and health system administration that has spanned more than four decades. He currently serves as President of the Bluford Healthcare Leadership Institute.

Susan B. Wilson, Ph.D., is the Vice Chancellor for the Division of Diversity and Inclusion at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Her division is responsible for oversight and implementation of UMKC's strategic diversity plan. She is also charged with advising the Chancellor on matters of diversity, while leading the Chancellor's Diversity Council. Wilson previously held healthcare leadership positions at Spofford, Swope Health Services and St. Luke's Health System, where she led administrative and clinical operations, including program development, accreditation, school-based initiatives and cultural competency efforts.

Steve Roling has served as President/CEO of the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, and held senior leadership roles with the Missouri Department of Social Services and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. He has extensive leadership experience in the business, government and nonprofit sectors.

The Kansas City Star – Jan. 10, 2017

Lee’s Summit School District names Dennis Carpenter as superintendent

By Mara Williams

As the newly named superintendent of the Lee’s Summit School District, Dennis Carpenter will leave an academically struggling district for one that’s among the top performers in the state.

Carpenter, who has led the Hickman Mills School District since 2013, will officially take the reigns in Lee’s Summit on July 1. Lee’s Summit chose Carpenter from among six final candidates after a regional search that began last summer.

“We believe we have found the perfect fit for Lee’s Summit,” Bob White, president of the Lee’s Summit school board, said Monday in announcing Carpenter’s hiring.

White said Carpenter “has a solid record in improving student achievement as well as extensive experience in strategic planning and facilities and budget management.”

Carpenter will replace David McGehee, who resigned in May after he and the board agreed to a one-year buyout of \$450,000.

Carpenter has been pushing Hickman Mills in south Kansas City toward regaining full accreditation from the state for the past three years. In 2014, one year after Carpenter arrived in Hickman Mills, the district’s annual performance report increased by 18.9 percent, the largest increase of any K-12 urban or suburban school district in the state that year.

The annual performance review, or APR, is a state-issued report that measures progress in a number of areas, including how well students did on standardized tests. [Hickman Mills’ performance score of 67.9 percent in the latest APR released in fall 2016](#) fell just below the 70 percent score needed for a district to be at full accreditation level.

Carpenter has said that poverty in the district and a tremendous number of students moving in and out of the urban district daily have presented unusually difficult challenges for Hickman Mills, where 100 percent of the students get free or reduced-price lunch.

By contrast, Lee’s Summit produced a near perfect score of 97.9 percent on the APR.

Lee's Summit students scored above the state average in each tested area, and at each grade level tested, as part of the 2016 Missouri Assessment program, standardized tests. And Lee's Summit high school students, with a composite ACT score of 21.8, scored above the state average of 20.2 and the national mean of 20.8 for college-bound seniors.

In remarks Monday, Carpenter noted Lee's Summit's "rich history of academic excellence."

Although Lee's Summit gets high marks for academics, the district has not been without controversy.

[McGehee resigned](#) amid controversy between him and members of the school board who questioned whether McGehee's romantic relationship with a lead attorney for the district presented a conflict of interest.

A group of community members including parents protested outside school board offices, calling for McGehee to resign after the controversy erupted.

McGehee was the [highest paid superintendent](#) in the state of Missouri, with a compensation package that totaled \$397,000 in 2015-2016.

White said the Lee's Summit school board will vote on a contract for Carpenter next week. At Hickman Mills, Carpenter gets a base salary of \$185,366 plus a \$9,806 annuity.

David Benson has served as Lee's Summit's interim superintendent since last summer.

White said that since the controversy, the district has been working toward regaining community trust.

"I think that with Dr. Carpenter's leadership, we can move this district to the next level," White said.

Carpenter said he is committed to continuing that work and would spend his first 100 days on the job talking with community and business leaders, district administrators, teachers and parents.

Teachers in Lee's Summit said they are eager to meet and talk with Carpenter.

"I am excited to hear that the board of education has hired a new leader for our district," said Michelle Uptegrove, a Cedar Creek Elementary School teacher and the district's teacher of the year for the 2015-2016 school year.

"I feel that the biggest challenge for our district for a number of years and for the future is keeping the level of our excellence intact taking into consideration the rapid growth in our community," Uptegrove said.

Carpenter has 21 years of experience in public education. Before leading the Hickman Mills district, he was deputy superintendent of operations and the associate superintendent for human resources for Newton County Schools in Covington, Ga. He had previously served as a principal in other Georgia school districts.

Hickman Mills school board members congratulated Carpenter on his new job.

“We are grateful to Dr. Carpenter for his years of service to our district and its children,” said Darrell Curls, board president. “We have made significant progress under his leadership. Lee’s Summit is the recipient of a great leader who cares about all children.”

Carpenter said one of his accomplishments in Hickman Mills that he is most proud of is the implementation of free, full-day prekindergarten for all 4-year-olds.

Demographics in Hickman Mills are vastly different from what Carpenter will find in Lee’s Summit, where 19.2 percent of students are eligible for free or reduce-price lunch.

Lee’s Summit is one of the largest districts in the Kansas City area, with more than 17,900 students enrolled and 2,652 staff members.

[In August](#), Lee’s Summit will open a new Technology Academy/Missouri Innovations Campus. The new \$40 million school is a partnership with the University of Central Missouri and will house a school-to-career program praised by President Barack Obama in 2013 as a model for the nation.

Carpenter and his wife, LaQuanda Carpenter, who is principal at Lee A. Tolbert Charter public school in Kansas City, have two children — Landen Drake Carpenter and Layla Dee Carpenter — whom he introduced at Monday’s Lee’s Summit announcement.

Carpenter will continue leading the Hickman Mills district through this school year. The Hickman Mills school board is expected to discuss the superintendent issue at its next meeting on Jan. 19.

Mará Rose Williams: [816-234-4419](tel:816-234-4419), [@marawilliamskc](https://www.instagram.com/marawilliamskc)

The Examiner – Jan. 10, 2017

Hickman Mills leader takes Lee's Summit post

By Mike Genet

mike.genet@examiner.net

Dennis Carpenter said that as a school leader in the Kansas City metro area, he couldn't pass up the chance to be considered for superintendent of one state's most highly regarded districts.

Carpenter, currently the superintendent for the nearby Hickman Mills School District, was announced Monday morning as the next leader of the Lee's Summit School District. He will continue at Hickman Mills until he takes the Lee's Summit post July 1. The district says it expects to have Carpenter's contract finalized before the next board of education meeting Jan. 19.

David Benson, who has been serving as interim superintendent this school year after David McGehee's departure following a contentious spring, says he will help Carpenter's transition while he finishes his work at Hickman Mills.

McGehee's contract made him the state's highest-paid superintendent, with a total compensation of \$397,000 in his last year, but in 2016 he came under fire from some board members and others in the community who believed his relationship with a principal in the law firm that represented the district at the time represented a conflict of interest. McGehee later reached a separation agreement with the district.

Carpenter, who last year was a finalist for the Hazelwood superintendent position, said the search firm Lee's Summit used, BWP and Associates, contacted him about the position first, and he gave it some thought and his family prayed about it. When he learned he'd been selected, he felt, "Truly, truly humbled."

"They put forth one of the more rigorous processes I believe can exist," he said.

Carpenter said he wants to make sure Lee's Summit - with a current enrollment of nearly 18,000 students, a staff of more than 2,600 and three of the state's largest high schools - is one of the elite districts not only in the state but in the nation.

"We should be the model of all that works in public education," he said.

In selecting Carpenter from among 36 applicants, Board President Bob White said the board was fortunate to find a leader of his caliber.

"We worked very hard to find the right person for our community," White said, and as superintendent for Hickman Mills for the last four years, he has accomplished a great many things during his tenure there, as well as his time in previous districts.

"Our board was especially impressed not only with Dr. Carpenter's character and integrity, but also by the wealth of experience he has in so many aspects of school leadership important to our district and our community. He has extensive experience and has made great progress in such areas as academic success for students, fiscal management and day-to-day operations, community involvement, staff engagement and strategic planning."

Before his time at Hickman Mills, Carpenter had been deputy superintendent for operations and associate superintendent for human resources for Newton County Schools in Covington, Georgia, about 35 miles southeast of Atlanta. In addition, he had worked as an assistant superintendent for support services, middle school principal and elementary school principal in Georgia. In all, he has 21 years of experiences in public education.

At Hickman Mills, Carpenter implemented full-day pre-kindergarten for all district 4-year-olds - an initiative he said was needed there much more than he believes it would be in Lee's Summit - led the drive for a \$19 million bond passage and helped the district's substantial improvements in attendance and graduation rates and test scores. The district's annual performance report increased by 19 percent in 2014, the state's largest increase among urban and suburban districts.

Carpenter said his first few months on the job in Lee's Summit will be mostly gathering observations around the district before sharing his suggestions and concerns.

"Lots of looking, lots of listening, lots of learning," he said. "I think I'm being charged with being the lead learner in the community."

"The only non-negotiable is that we do what's best for the children first."

Carpenter's wife LaQuanda had been a principal in Georgia. The couple have a young son Landen and daughter Layla.

"I reserve sharing their nicknames until a later date," he joked.

Missouri Supreme Court orders KC to put higher minimum wage on the ballot

By Lynn Horsley

The Missouri Supreme Court on Tuesday ordered Kansas City to put a proposal on the ballot that could eventually boost the city's minimum wage to \$15 a hour.

The high court reversed a trial judge's ruling that said a state law prohibited the city from adopting a minimum wage different from the state's base wage, which is \$7.70 as of Jan. 1. The higher local pay is being proposed by a grass-roots committee's petition initiative, which seeks gradual increases to \$15 per hour by 2020.

"The city is ordered to take all steps necessary to have the committee's proposed ordinance placed before city voters in accordance with the city charter," the Supreme Court said.

The city attorney's office and Kansas City Council had thought the state law prohibited them from seeking local voter approval for a higher wage. But the Supreme Court said Tuesday that as long as the petitioners followed the proper procedure under the city charter, their measure should still go on the ballot.

The court didn't, however, settle the conflict between the petition initiative and the state law. It said that if Kansas City voters approve the higher wage, future legal challenges could decide that issue.

The city attorney's office said it was reviewing the court's decision and would advise the council on possible next steps.

Other observers said Tuesday's ruling is important for two reasons: Besides adding a new wrinkle to the local minimum wage debate, it could also open the floodgates to more petition initiatives on Kansas City election ballots.

Here's the background:

A grass-roots group led by the Urban Summit, inner-city pastors and members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Kansas City gathered sufficient signatures in 2015 to seek a public vote to raise Kansas City's [local minimum wage to \\$15 per hour by 2020](#). But Jackson County Circuit Judge Justine Del Muro [ruled in September 2015](#) that the petition should not go on the November 2015 ballot.

She said a new state law clearly prohibited Kansas City from adopting a higher minimum wage than the state-set minimum, which at the time of her ruling was \$7.65 a hour.

The grass-roots group argued in an appeal that there were problems with the way the General Assembly drafted its Missouri law and with a previous state law that also limited local control over the setting of the minimum wage.

The state's high court on Tuesday reversed Del Muro's decision. The high court said the "proper course is to wait and see if this proposal is enacted (by voters) before considering challenges to an ordinance's substance or effect.

"If the voters approve the proposal, a party with proper standing can then sue to enjoin its operation on the ground that the ordinance is invalid," the ruling said.

That leaves open the door that, even if local voters approved the higher wage, it could be overturned at a later point.

Proponents of the petition drive for the higher minimum wage cheered Tuesday's ruling and said they hope to get their plan on the April ballot. The deadline to approve ballot language for the April election is this week.

Read more here: <http://www.kansascity.com/news/politics-government/article127021059.html#storylink=cpy>

Kansas City Star – Jan. 19, 2017

Rift continues to jeopardize Kansas City Council vote on giant infrastructure plan

By Lynn Horsley and Joe Robertson

Mayor Sly James and Kansas City Council members have said for months they needed to craft a workable plan for voters to address the city's huge infrastructure problems.

Saying it was one of their top priorities for 2017, they promoted it as a signature achievement to build public trust, improve citizen satisfaction and help transform the city.

But with so much at stake, haggling over rival plans Wednesday threatened to scuttle chances for a consensus Thursday, the last day to approve ballot language for the April election.

Because the mayor and council have waited until the last minute to pass ballot language, they will need nine of 13 votes to advance the proposal Thursday for discussion. And it wasn't clear Wednesday afternoon whether they could get that number of votes.

If it is discussed, it would take seven votes to pass.

"We had a meeting this morning that seemed to go nowhere," Councilwoman Katheryn Shields said Wednesday afternoon, describing a meeting with several council members, representatives of the mayor's office, and construction officials.

Some still hold out hope the council will find a late-breaking solution.

"It's like making sausage," Councilwoman Teresa Loar said of the intense behind-the-scenes conversations to get the necessary votes. "I think we'll shake it out."

Since last September, the city manager and mayor have focused on a plan to seek voter approval in April to borrow \$800 million over 20 years. Despite several months of council debate, disagreements persist over how much of that \$800 million to spend on various infrastructure categories: roads, sidewalks, bridges, flood control and public buildings.

Just last week, two rival concepts crystallized — one from the mayor and the other from Councilman Quinton Lucas. Neither appears to have nine votes.

The mayor's plan calls for three ballot questions: \$600 million for roads, bridges and sidewalks; \$150 million for flood control; and \$50 million for a new animal shelter (replacing a hopelessly outdated facility) plus other public building improvements to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

Lucas' version would have four questions: \$550 million for roads, some adjacent sidewalks and bridges; \$75 million for neighborhood sidewalks; \$25 million for the animal shelter and other ADA work; and \$150 million for flood control. Lucas said he's willing to compromise and tweak those dollar numbers.

Mayor Pro Tem Scott Wagner, Councilman Scott Taylor and a few other council members said they were solidly in the mayor's camp. They think his plan provides more money for a

comprehensive sidewalk replacement program, already shows strong polling support, and has bond counsel approval. Wagner said he wants at least \$150 million for sidewalks, and the mayor's plan provides that.

"We're not planning for next year, we're planning for the next 20 years," said Councilman Dan Fowler, adding that he believes the mayor's plan "allows for more options."

Several neighborhood leaders and AARP of Missouri have written letters to the council urging support for the mayor's plan.

Lucas said part of his motivation in offering a different plan is to provide as much specificity as possible for different infrastructure categories.

Lucas, Shields and Councilman Lee Barnes argue the mayor's plan may spend too much on sidewalks. They said their constituents question the value of sidewalks to truly transform blighted neighborhoods.

"I had somebody who told me this, 'A new sidewalk in front of a vacant lot still doesn't really do that much for you,' " Lucas said.

Lucas' plan may get the nod from the Heavy Constructors, an influential organization that could help fund the election campaign and that wants as much money as possible for roads. Shields said she too believes road reconstruction, not sidewalks, is one of the best long-term investments the city can make.

Several council members, including Loar, Heather Hall and Alissia Canady said Wednesday they were still weighing the two versions. Some further compromise may be possible to reconcile the two plans.

But if the council can't get this worked out, it will likely have to wait another year to try again. That's because the April general obligation bond election requires a 57.1 super-majority approval — itself a high bar for success. Later in the year would require an even bigger margin, 66 percent, which could be impossible.

In an emailed statement, James urged his colleagues to get their act together. He said Kansas City is in this fix because too many past elected leaders "felt it was easier to kick the can down the road."

"I would encourage my colleagues on the council to remember that tomorrow's vote is not about them," James said. "Tomorrow's vote is about the people across this city that need their leaders to take action and make a commitment to our city's infrastructure we rely so heavily on."

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