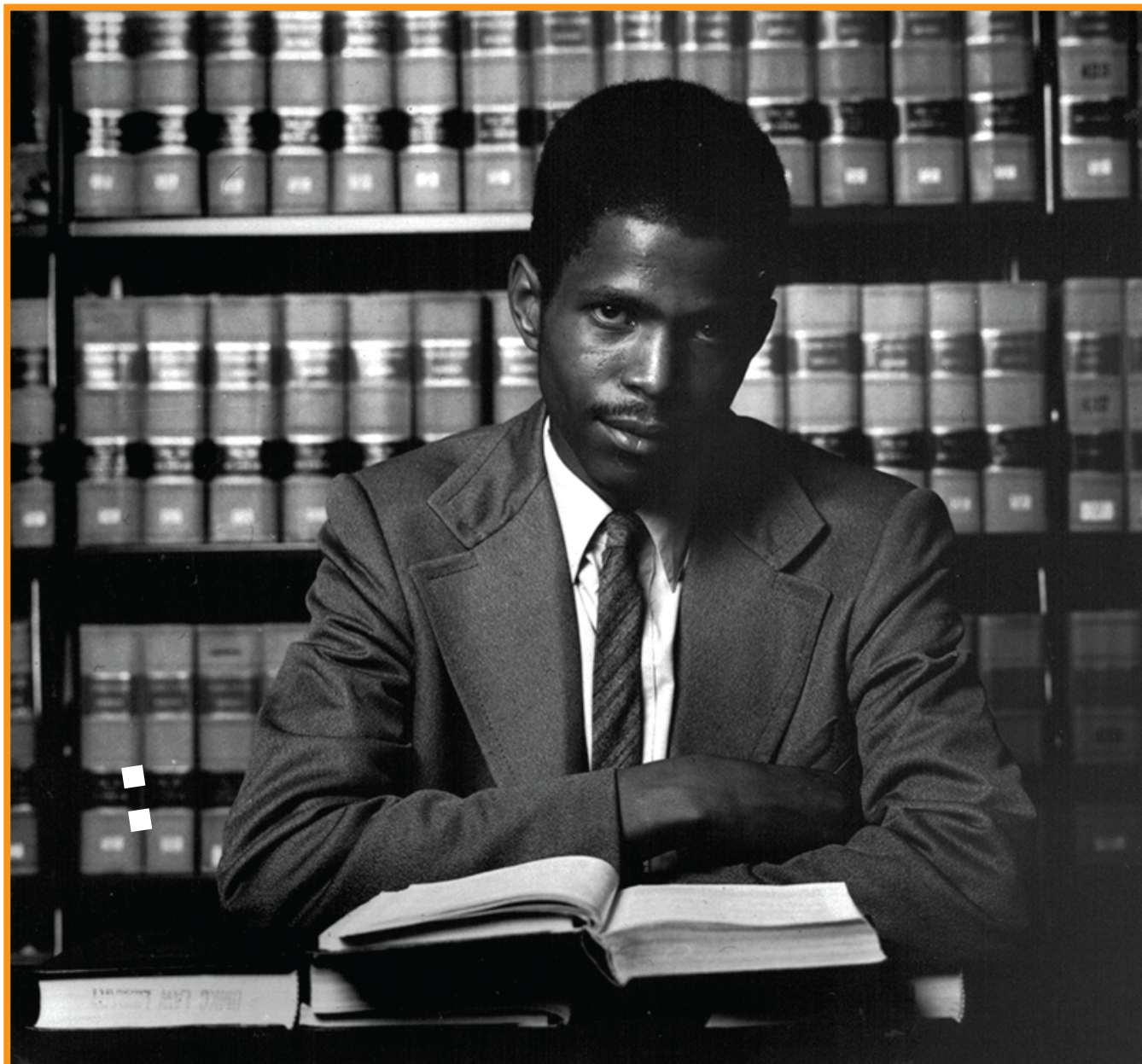


LINC Commission Meeting

February 27, 2023



Human rights activist Alvin Sykes championed the re-opening of police investigations in the murders of Emmett Till and Leon Jordan. He's one of the new profiles in the expanded second edition of the national award-winning *Kansas City Black History* book produced by LINC, Kansas City Public Library, and Black Archives of Mid-America.

Download the book and link to other companion Black history stories, audio recordings, videos and lesson plans for classrooms at KCBlackHistory.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, Feb. 27, 2023 | 4 – 5:30 pm
Kauffman Foundation

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Announcements**
- II. January minutes**
 - a. Approval (motion)**
- III. Superintendent Reports**
- IV. DESE/Contracts Update**
- V. Utility and Rental Assistance**
- VI. Black History Month**
 - a. Black History Book – Second Edition**
 - b. Black Archives of Mid-America Luncheon**
- VII. Other Reports**
 - a. Greater KC Mayors' Prayer Breakfast**
- VIII. Adjournment**



THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – JAN. 23, 2023

The Local Investment Commission met at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, Mo. Cochair **David Disney** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Bob Bartman	Anita Gorman
Bert Berkley	Tom Lewin
Aaron Deacon	Ken Powell
SuEllen Fried	David Ross
Rob Givens	

A moment of silence was observed for Commissioner **Tom Davis**, who died on Oct. 29, 2022.

A motion to approve the minutes of the Oct. 17, 2022, LINC Commission meeting was passed unanimously.

LINC Treasurer **David Ross** introduced **Alissa Klein** of FORVIS, who presented the LINC financial audit. Klein reported the audit gave a clean opinion – the highest level of performance – for financial records and for compliance with federal awards.

A motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2022 financial audit as recommended by the LINC Finance Committee was passed unanimously.

Ross presented the Fiscal Year 2023 LINC budget.

A motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 budget as recommended by the LINC Finance Committee was passed unanimously.

LINC President **Gayle A. Hobbs** reported on developments in LINC’s relationship with the Mo. Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education. As of a few weeks ago, LINC understood that \$5.6 million in DESE funding of LINC Out of School Time programs would be returned to Mo. Dept. of Social Services control. Last week, LINC learned that, on the contrary, the funding is now to remain in DESE’s control. In consequence, the \$5.6 million would be strictly tied to childcare, putting in jeopardy the \$38 million that is leveraged by the \$5.6 million and that LINC uses to provide additional services for families.

Rev. John Modest Miles of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church reported that he has contacted the governor’s office to make an appointment to discuss the issue.

Legal counsel **Rick Bien** of Lathrop GPM gave an update on work by **Doug Nelson** to track the issue in Jefferson City. Bien urged Commissioners to contact state senators and representatives with the message that “\$5.6 million gets you \$38 million,” and that without LINC, the services funded by the \$38 million won’t happen. Bien reported that the month of February will be a crucial time, and that it will be important to meet with the governor’s Director of Budget and Finance, the Chair of the House Budget Committee, and the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Discussion followed.

Superintendents Reports

- **Kevin Foster** (Executive Director, Genesis School) reported that on Dec. 15 the Missouri Charter Public School Commission notified Genesis of its decision to revoke the Genesis charter. Genesis appealed the decision and requested a public hearing, which is scheduled for Jan. 30, 5:30 p.m., at

the Kansas City Public Library Bluford Branch. Genesis believes it has strong grounds for appeal: it has met the terms of the current contract; academic results show growth and improvement despite a pandemic; Genesis is a longstanding community asset, and families have chosen Genesis even though other choices are available. The public is invited to the hearing and to submit written comment at publiccomment@genesisschool.org. Discussion followed.

- **Dan Clemens** (Superintendent, North Kansas City School District) reported that 98% of freshmen participating in the College & Career Pathways program are on track to graduate. Second grade teacher **Vanessa Thomson** received a national Milken Educator Award. Northtown junior **Eliza Cockrell** has been named to the 2023 All-State Orchestra. The district has been addressing student social and emotional issues following Covid.
- **Steve Morgan** (Assistant Superintendent, Fort Osage School District) reported the State of the District address will be held on Feb. 10, and the annual Steak Fry will be held April 27. Missouri's Career Ladder program enables teachers to earn extra pay for engaging with students outside school hours; costs are borne by the district and state. Morgan gave an update on construction projects, including the groundbreaking of a new Technology Center in May.
- **Rick Chambers** (Director of Communications and Development, Center School District) reported the district is part of the system design team for the Success Ready Students Network, a Missouri public school collaborative initiative building ways to ensure every student has the knowledge, skills and dispositions they need to be high school, college, career and workplace ready.
- **Justin Robinson** (Director of Communications & Community Engagement, Hickman Mills School District) reported that the district opened a welding academy this year and is designing a Real World Learning Center. A levy increase approved by voters last year was used to increase the teacher pay scale to the highest in the region. The district is partnering with LINC on the annual Triangle 5K Run. The LINC Chess program at Dobbs Elementary will be featured in local media.
- **Donnie Mitchell** (Superintendent, Lee A. Tolbert Academy) reported the school has found growth in student achievement and instruction. Dr. Patricia Hughes is the new school principal.

Executive Vice President **Janet Miles-Bartee** reported that LINC staff assisted in a food distribution the week of Thanksgiving at Morning Star Youth and Family Life Center. A video on the event was shown. Rev. John Modest Miles reported that food distributions at Morning Star serve more than 600 families per week. Families also receive rent and utility assistance at the center, which also provides assistance to homeless persons and helps people who are navigating the court system. Discussion followed.

A video was shown in tribute to LINC Site Coordinator **Calvin Wainright**, who died last October. LINC Director of Human Resources **Trent DeVreugd** reported that Wainright was a role model and exemplified what is best in LINC.

The LINC in Photos 2022 slideshow was shown. **Janet Miles-Bartee** reported the video shows the breadth of LINC's work in the community and its partnerships.

The meeting was adjourned.

Walking the line: How LINC connected families to millions in rent, utility assistance

January 10, 2023

By Joe Robertson, LINC Writer



LINC Caring Communities Coordinator Danisha Clarkson visits with neighbors in line outside the Morning Star Youth and Family Life Center in Kansas City.

From the beginning, LINC’s effort to connect nearly 2,000 households to more than \$2.8 million in U.S. rental and utility bill assistance funds was essentially a street mission.

All along, LINC’s team understood that the people who most needed help from the government’s relief funds were among those least likely to know about it, or least likely to have the online capabilities to access the funds even if they did.

That’s why, the week before Christmas, LINC’s Danisha Clarkson once again walked the line of cars and people lined up for a food distribution at LINC’s [Caring Communities site at Morning Star](#) Missionary Baptist Church, 27th and Prospect Avenue.

The air was gray, cold and getting colder. Clarkson, the LINC Caring Communities Coordinator at Morning Star, went car-to-car in her blue LINC wool hat and sweatshirt.

“I want to let you know we’re doing rental and utility assistance inside the center today!” she said with wispy breath into the opened passenger window of an idling pickup truck. “If you know anybody, please share!”

The man at the wheel called back.

“One of my employees lives in a house and they don’t have enough money to pay the water bill,” he said.

“All right. Tell them to come up to Morning Star,” Clarkson said. *When?* The driver asked. “They can come up now,”

Clarkson said. “You can call them right now.”

Inside the center, LINC’s team of Kachina Powell and Latricia Bradley were geared up again with their laptops, scanners and printers, linked into the regional data base and the local utilities’ payment web pages, both of them trained to navigate the government’s dense application process.

“We do all the work for them,” Powell said. “The people we assist don’t have access to computers. They may not have access to printers to print out the documents they need. We enter in all the information in the utility assistance accounts to get them some help.”

LINC [set up its assistance clinic](#) in the spring of 2021 after meeting with representatives of the local utilities — Evergy, Spire and KC Water Services — and the Mid-America Assistance Coalition who had come to LINC with a problem: Millions of pandemic relief dollars were available to help families but almost no one was accessing it.

By creating a clinic, LINC was able to bring together all the resources families needed to complete the application process, and then LINC’s Caring Communities Coordinators and partners throughout some of Kansas City’s most vulnerable neighborhoods spread the word.

The City of Kansas City used LINC’s model [to establish citywide clinics](#) and soon Kansas City became one of the nation’s most effective cities in getting needy households access to the government aid.

As the pandemic relief aid neared the end, the Morning Star team redoubled its efforts to reach families in need as the holidays — and a bitter winter chill — were coming their way.

“We’re excited to be able to go outside and perhaps bless a family whose (utilities) are being shut off,” Clarkson said.

One of the people she met out in the line said that her heat was off. She learned from LINC what documents she needed to gather and went back home, able to return within the hour and get the help she needed.

“That’s the importance of going out there and letting people know, because a lot of people do not know,” Clarkson said.



LINC’s team of Latricia Bradley, center, and Kachina Powell, right, talk with a client about utility bill assistance.

LINC and Morning Star: By the Numbers

Total Utilities and Rent Aid Processed

\$ 2.8 million

More than 1,900 households

May 2021-January 2023
With KC Water Services, Evergy, Spire, and KC Neighborhoods and Housing Services.

Total Vaccinations

25,685

February 2021
3000 vaccinations. With the Missouri National Guard and University Health.

March 2021- March 2022
More than 22,600 vaccinations with the MO National Guard, the K.C. Fire Dept., Heart to Heart Intl. and University Health

Total Food Distribution

5 million lbs

More than 75,000 household meals distributed

December 2020
With Harvesters, Kanbe’s Markets, Church of the Resurrection
39,335 pounds of food, distributed to 612 families

March 2021-January 2023
With Community Action, Harvesters
4.9 million pounds of food, distributing 75,000 household meals.

New faces, new stories: KC Black History book returns with second edition

January 26, 2023

By Joe Robertson, LINC Writer

Raised in Kansas City's east side, Alvin Sykes would find power in libraries to rise up as a human rights icon, redressing wrongs in the U.S. justice system, championing new investigations into the murders of Emmitt Till and Leon Jordan.

His story is one of eight new biographies that highlight the second edition of the national award-winning publication, *Kansas City Black History*.

The 48-page book now features 84 biographies of Black men and women from the Kansas City area who changed the world in education, science, industry, entertainment, arts and sports.

The new edition features essays from U.S. Rep. Emanuel Cleaver II — “Black History is American History” — and civil rights activist Alvin Brooks — “Dismantling the American Racist System.”

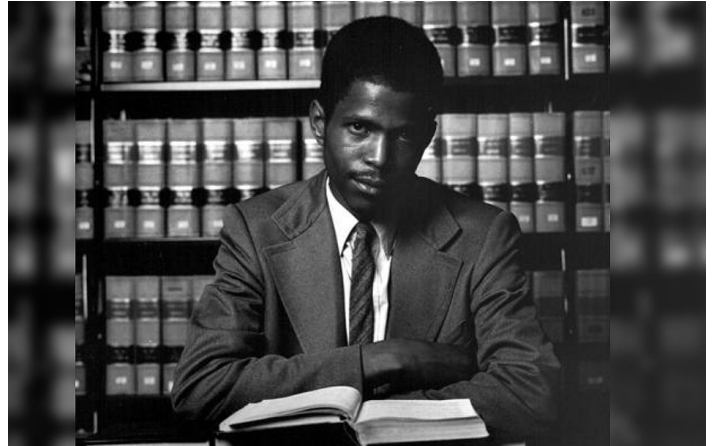
The book collects more than a dozen years of work in collaboration by LINC, the Kansas City Public Library and the Black Archives of Mid-America to chronicle Kansas City's deep Black history through the stories of the people who helped shape the nation, some of them well-known and others whose great impact was newly brought to light.

The essays by Cleaver and Brooks add to commentary from Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas, Black Archives of Mid-America Executive Director Carmalita M. Williams, Negro Leagues Baseball Museum President Bob Kendrick, social justice advocate Justice T. Horn and poet Glenn North.

North, in his poem, “I Sing Their Names,” finds comfort on the shoulders of our local icons, reciting names that are “legion” . . .

“Langston and Parker,

Ms. Bluford and Mary Lou.



*Human rights activist Alvin Sykes, who championed the re-opening of police investigations in the murders of Emmitt Till and Leon Jordan, is one of the new profiles in the expanded second edition of *Kansas City Black History*.*



Kansas City Black History

The African American story of history and culture in our community.



Download the book and link to other companion Black history stories, audio recordings, videos and lesson plans for classrooms at KCBlackHistory.org.

Old Buck, Leon Jordan,

Horace and Bruce.

Sarah Rector, Junius Groves,

Tom Bass, and Anna Jones.

Count Basie, Chester Franklin,

Bernard Powell and D. A. Holmes.

“I chant their names,” North writes, “almost as if holy.”

The second edition of *Kansas City Black History* expands the book that won a national Award of Excellence from the American Association for State and Local History, was honored statewide by the Missouri Library Association with its Excellence in Genealogy and Local History Award, and received the Jackson County Historical Society’s award for Historic Publication.

More local Black history is available online at KCBlackHistory.org, where the stories and essays gathered in the book are combined with other archival materials, including audio recordings, videos and lesson plans for classrooms.



Visit kclinc.org/blackhistorystories to learn more about the individuals featured in prior years of the Black History Project.

Collier named sole finalist in search for next KCPS superintendent

February 22, 2023

By Joe Robertson, LINC Writer

The vote was unanimous. The Kansas City School Board announced Wednesday night after a national search that Interim Superintendent Jennifer Collier is their choice to be Kansas City Public Schools' next superintendent.

What's left now are the details of a contract negotiation, but the board hopes soon to finalize the promotion of the district's popular leader.

"Dr. Collier has proven in interviews and as interim superintendent" that she brings both "exceptional leadership and pride in our school district," said Kansas City school board member Tanesha Ford in announcing the board's choice.

Because the contract has not been finalized, the board and Collier limited their comments, but Collier did take a moment to express her thanks to the board and the community.

"I am super excited about the future of Kansas City Public Schools," she said.

Collier was picked out of a list of 17 applicants forwarded by the district's hired search firm. She was one of five chosen for a second round of interviews and then picked from two finalists.

"Dr. Collier," Ford said, "has respect for the historical legacy" of the Kansas City Public Schools.

Across her 22 years in the district, Collier fully experienced the district's story, through its most difficult, challenging times and as a leader in its recent rise.

The district achieved full accreditation in 2022 under previous Superintendent Mark Bedell with Collier as deputy superintendent and is now enjoying something of a renaissance in its leadership.

The school board agreed that promoting Collier from interim is the surest way to keep this momentum going.

Previously, she's been a teacher, assistant principal, principal and chief human resource officer.

She ran classrooms, led school buildings, built communities and ran departments — praised as a reliable and consistent presence through times of changing superintendents and lost accreditation.

When Bedell shaped the administrative team that would finally lead the district all the way back to full accreditation, he picked Collier as his top lieutenant, naming her deputy superintendent.

As deputy superintendent, she was in charge of the academic vision built into the district's 2030 Blueprint plan, and has carried it forward as interim superintendent.

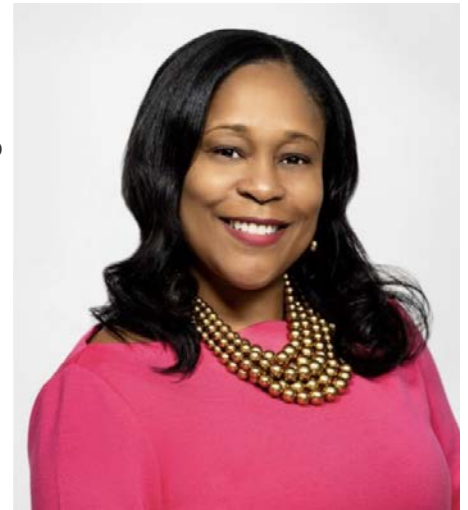
As deputy, she oversaw the Departments of School Leadership, Curriculum and Instruction, Professional Development, Student Support, Equity and Inclusion and Human Resources.

Bedell made his decision to move on after six years to take a superintendent opportunity closer to his home. He was able to make that decision, he said, knowing that the Kansas City Public Schools were in good hands with Collier.

Collier is from Kansas City, was educated in Kansas City — earning her master's degree at Avila and her education specialists degree and doctoral degree at UMKC.

She earned strong marks at every level of her career: Raising test scores and attendance as principal at Border Star; hiring top certified talent and increasing the district's number of teachers of color in classrooms as chief human resource officer; and leading the improved academic, social-emotional and operational functioning of schools as deputy superintendent.

She has the trust of the community, demonstrated in the widespread positive response to her handling of the difficult and ongoing school-closings process.



Dr. Jennifer Collier

Genesis supporters crowd public hearing in defense of community school

February 1, 2023

By Joe Robertson, LINC Writer



Supporters of Genesis School fill the meeting room Jan. 30 at Lucille H. Bluford Public Library.

For the life of a community school, nothing could be more dire than what brought a tense and overflowing crowd into an east Kansas City meeting room the night of Jan. 30.

Genesis School, attorney Chuck Hatfield said, is staring down a “death penalty.”

That is the weight of this moment, he said to the members of the Missouri Charter Public School Commission ([MCPSC](#)) who must decide the state commission’s administration’s recommendation that Genesis’ charter be revoked and that the school close effective June 30.

That is the potential consequence in a pitched debate over the school’s academic performance, its struggle for progress and its long-standing role in support of a community that turned out in force to defend their school in the public hearing at the Lucile H. Bluford Public Library.

It was an emotional hearing that would, as it reached the end of its allotted two hours, spill over with outbursts and cries of appeal.

Hatfield measured the debate that is playing out for the commissioners. He imagined the impact of children put out of their school. Teachers put out of work. He considered comparisons to heavy courtroom decisions, burdens of proof and reasonable doubt.

The commission, he said, “should resolve any doubts in favor of keeping this school open.”

There is no doubt that decisions like the one looming over [Genesis](#) are “hard and difficult for us,” MCPSC Commissioner Rev. Antoine Lee said.

He was standing up from the commissioners’ table, facing the audience that had become fraught with emotion and outcries as some of the crowd began accusing the commissioners of not caring.

“I guarantee you we care,” said Lee, one of two members on the seven-member commission from Kansas City. “We came into this meeting conflicted. We came to find out what is going on. I am incredibly proud of you, because our kids deserve to be fought for.”

The commission is expected to make a decision at its meeting Feb. 15.

It will have a lot to unpack.

MCPSC Executive Director Robbyn Wahby laid out the case for revoking the charter, citing what she called 15 years of poor performance below the level of the Kansas City Public Schools in a school that she said prioritizes social services too much over academic performance, with low expectations for students and staff.

“As a charter,” Wahby said, “(Genesis) promises to perform or close.”

Genesis Executive Director Kevin Foster and some of his administration and staff laid out the school’s argument, including data of school growth in the past three years, the school’s commitment to taking in any student at any point of the year and testimony to the skill and dedication of Genesis’ teachers.

“We made growth (in the past three years) despite the pandemic,” he said. “I am proud of the staff and the school community.”

Hatfield retraced the Genesis’ recent charter history — originally under sponsorship of the University of Missouri-Kansas City, then sponsored by the University of Missouri-Columbia, and that it only came under control of the MCPSC with a contract signed last July.

Genesis, Hatfield argued, has not been given the time allowed to carry out intervention plans in the contract.

“Revocation,” Hatfield said, if it were to happen at this point in the contract, “is not lawful.”

If the MCPSC commissioners were to revoke Genesis’ charter, Genesis can appeal to the state school board.

The members of the community who spoke at the hearing urged the commissioners to allow Genesis to remain open. The school deserves the commission’s support and its partnership, many said.

One of the testimonies came from Isaiah Veal, a recent Genesis alum now enrolled and excelling at Lincoln College Preparatory Academy in the Kansas City Public Schools.

His family had lived in the Park Hill School District, he said, where his difficulties in school put him on a course to be expelled. He has turned his fortunes around to be on track for college, he said, because of the teachers who guided him.

“No school would take me in,” he said, “but Genesis.”

Genesis School charter revoked; expects to appeal to state school board

February 16, 2023

By Joe Robertson, LINC Writer

By a 6-to-1 decision, the Missouri Charter Public School Commission voted to revoke Genesis School's charter Feb. 15 — a decision that Genesis expects it will appeal to the state school board.

The MCPSC commissioners met online and called for the vote on Genesis' charter with little discussion. The audio for the virtual meeting did not pick up the voiced votes by several of the commissioners, but the MCPSC confirmed that a Kansas City member on the statewide panel, Antoine Lee, was the only no vote.

The vote came just over two weeks after an emotional public hearing at Kansas City's Bluford Public Library in which supporters of the school overflowed a crowded meeting room to defend and praise the charter community school at 3800 E. 44th Street.

LINC provides Caring Communities services to help support the school's families.

If the state school board supports the MCPSC's decision to revoke Genesis' charter, the school would have to close effective June 30 and the commission would begin a process of notifying parents of the decision and directing them to other school options — either other charter schools or Kansas City Public Schools.

The majority of the commission followed MCPSC Executive Director Robbyn Wahby's recommendation for revocation, which she said was necessary because Genesis' academic performance over the past 15 years fell too far below the level of the Kansas City Public Schools.

The charter school had "broken its promise," she said at the public hearing, because of academic results she said were "devastating."

Genesis argued that the school has been making progress above the pace of other Kansas City Public Schools and the state since 2020. The school only came under contract with the MCPSC in July, and Genesis Executive Director Kevin Foster said the commission has not given the school the opportunity to show progress under the new contract.

In the public hearing, attorney Chuck Hatfield, representing Genesis, said revoking the school's charter at this time would be unlawful.

Genesis, which has been a charter school since 1999, was originally sponsored by the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and then moved under sponsorship with the University of Missouri-Columbia when UMKC dropped its charter school program in 2017.

The MCPSC, a state commission created in 2012 to sponsor charter schools, took Genesis under its control from the University of Missouri in December 2021 as one of three schools taken from the university over concerns of performance.

The statewide commission's portfolio has grown as universities began reducing their number of sponsorships. MCPSC now sponsors 14 of the 20 [charter schools in Kansas City](#).



NKC Schools' superintendent succession plan set

February 2, 2023

By Joe Robertson, LINC Writer



Current NKCS Superintendent Dan Clemens and future superintendent, NKCS Chief of Staff Rochel Daniels

Here's the plan:

Come the end of the 2023-2024 school year, North Kansas City Schools Superintendent Dan Clemens will retire, capping off what will then be eight years of leading the district.

And now the school board has announced his successor: Current Assistant Superintendent - Organizational Development Rochel Daniels.

Daniels, while she preps for the superintendent role next school year, will be promoted to the district's chief of staff.

"I'm humbled and honored to have the opportunity to serve our students and exceptional staff," Daniels said in a statement from NKCS. "I look forward to continuing the district's mission to be relentless champions for all!"

Clemens, who has been with North Kansas City Schools 23 years, expressed gratitude to have been able to lead the district of more than 21,000 students.

"Being part of the NKCS family is something I love and will always cherish," he said in a statement from the district earlier this school year. "Education has been my life for so long now and I can't think of a more important calling."

The NKCS Board of Education, when previously announcing Clemens' plans to retire, said they would look for a strong internal candidate first, and ultimately did not need to expand the search. The board interviewed several strong candidates for the post, said school board President Dr. Terry Ward.

"Dr. Daniels was exceptionally impressive," Ward said. "She is a dedicated contributor who values others and builds relationships. She believes in continual improvement and will lead NKCS with strength and grace."

To save lives: New suicide prevention guide aimed for schools, youth

February 8, 2023

By Joe Robertson, LINC Writer



A new resource guide is available to help the adults and youth in schools save lives — by talking about suicide, knowing the warnings of suicide, building safety networks, knowing where and how to seek comfort and hope.

And knowing that help is always a three-digit phone call away — by simply dialing 9-8-8.

The Suicide Prevention in Schools Committee, part of Missouri Suicide Prevention Network, published the [Suicide Prevention & 988 Guide for Missouri Schools](#) to help school personnel learn the latest insights and actions to save youth from suicide.

The need is urgent. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth in Missouri ages 10 to 24.

Statewide in 2020, Missouri reported that 25% of college students, 10% of high school students and 12% of middle school students experienced serious thoughts of suicide during the year.

To help save lives, the guide incorporates resources such as DESE’s Youth Suicide Awareness and Prevention Model Policy and the Missouri School Counselor Association’s Crisis Manual.

The Department of Mental Health is making available 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline materials for schools to promote this resource at school and encourage help-seeking among students. Schools will have access to the Suicide Prevention & 988 Guide, a [virtual 988 social media toolkit](#), and a [physical 988 toolkit](#).



Go Chiefs! LINC Caring Communities students and families showed their KC spirit at Super Bowl rallies at several LINC sites. Pictured here are fans at Whittier (KCPS) and Indian Creek/Red Bridge (Center School District).