

“In The Know”

Board of Directors meeting summary, October 8, 2008

Members Present: Marilyn Simmons, Airick Leonard West, David Smith, Ray Wilson, Arthur Benson, Duane Kelly

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- **Melissa Eddy – “Do the Right Thing” –Board Watch**-continues to attend and observe the Board, offering comments. This is their fifth report (see attached). It is also available on their Web site. -
- **Janice Taylor - Improving Kansas City Schools – Unsafe school at Hartman** – Former teacher spoke of being physically assaulted at Hartman and the perception of bias in the resolution of the issue.
- **Dolores Arzola - Lack of Hispanic Representation** – Parent of LCP student spoke of KCMSD’s perceived reputation of ignoring the Hispanic population, 25 % of its students, many second and third generation families. Lack of MSIP representation was an MSIP finding.
- **Enrique Chaurand - Lack of Hispanic Representation on the School Board** Parent of children in KCMSD and lifelong resident asked the Board to seriously consider a Board for a leadership position since there are many individuals passionate and ready to serve. Some schools are predominantly Hispanic, but many parents feel invisible, since there are not many teachers, administrators, or even cafeteria workers or even custodians that are Hispanic. They need a voice.
- **Uzziel Pecina – Need for Latino Representation on the School Board** – Lifelong resident, graduate of Westport High, and has three children in the District. Feels strongly about the democratic ideals and foundation for service the District has given him, and the appreciation for many cultures and languages, but the Hispanic community feels marginalized, and needs a voice.
- **Freda Mendez-Smith – Lack of Latino Representation on the Board** – Long-time resident of KCMSD, member of the Education Reform Task Force and LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens). She was the only Hispanic on the Task Force, but the entire body felt the District should reflect the community it serves. Hispanics do not feel respected, heard, or even welcome; there is often a lack of communication between the District and the community. Agencies serving Hispanic populations often find it difficult to work with the District. The education of Hispanic youth is of primary importance to economic opportunity and stability; there is an -educational gap between Hispanic and non-Hispanic youth that is reaching a crisis level, which is reflected by representation on policy-making Boards. Hispanic youth has the lowest college attainment level of any ethnicity. To achieve true multi-culturalism in education, this group must be properly served, which means eliminating gangs, ensuring safe schools for all students, bringing in local gang experts and fostering acculturation. This can only come about from good governance and leadership, from the top down. The Board was asked to consider this for the fastest growing population in the District, as well as the nation.
- **Judy Morgan (AFT) – Negotiations** – Spoke in support of Latino representation on the Board. Also spoke of contract negotiation as it relates to preparation time, safe and healthy classrooms, abusive behavior, cronyism, favoritism in assignments/transfers, and the MSIP finding of the lack of rigor in the classroom.

- **Theresa Garza – Lack of Hispanic Representation** – (1st District At Large, Jackson County Legislature) Lifelong resident of Jackson County has family members and friends with children at KCMSD. The District had promised change 35 years ago, but West High was closed. The West side is one of the most successful neighborhoods in the city. The Latino population will continue to grow, and if the request is made to fill the vacant Board seat with a Latino member.

BOARD COMMENTS

- Duane Kelly, Airick L. West in favor of seeking out a qualified Hispanic candidate.
- Marilyn Simmons: The vacancy has been posted, and has been sent to the Hispanic papers as well as the Northeast News. It will remain posted for 14 days, and then must be filled 45 days after that. You can pick up an application here for yourself or a friend, go to a newspaper or download it from the KCMSD Web site.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Cecilia Green, Associate Superintendent – Update on Head Start** – With the help of the grantor (Mid-America Regional Council) the District is at 85% compliance, although it must be in 100% compliance with health and dental screenings by December 1, 2008. The grantor has been assisting throughout and will continue to do so, speaking directly to the Board about the progress of the Head Start team. Ms. Simmons was also complimentary about the team “stepping up to the task and we in gratitude to all who are associated with it.” Drs. Martin and Coleman have specific data as well. We will get the word out to the media.
- **Dr. Clive Coleman, Chief Academic Officer – Update on MSIP** – A five-member team has been formed to work on findings 3-8; the CSIP plan must be presented on December 1 and they are on deadline. The Board must approve the plan before it is presented to the state. The MSIP Progress Report is available on the District Web site, along with the weekly calendar, reporting mechanism, meeting notes and summary notes. It will be presented to the Board by October 31, 2008 since they must plan town hall meetings. The five action teams encompass the entire community: principals, teachers and parents so as to engender an open conversation focusing on the school site and classroom. The team has met with Mr. Linesberry today. Ms. Simmons noted that since the DAC does not meet in the latter part of November or December, it was necessary to work around their schedule.
- **Edward Marquez, Executive Director for Pupil Services – Update on KC Care**– The enrollment currently stands at 3,000 although the budget has been an issue and program adjustments have had to be made. The \$100 fee may have deterred some families; suggestions are being accepted. Quality checks are also planned, and walk-throughs will be made every 8 weeks with a checklist.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

- Dr. Martin presented Alexis Clark of the Afrikan-Centered Education Collegium Campus and her art teacher and Belinda Blake. Clark, a 10th grader, won a \$150 prize and \$500 for her school’s art department in the Grand Arts

Gallery art and essay contest. Ms. Simmons commended Alexis and her family for the beauty of the artwork, only wishing that “channel 5 were still here to see it!” Her entry will continue to be on display at Grand Arts along with well-known artist William Pope.L’s video/performance piece, Small Cup. See www.grandarts.com for more information.

- See the Good News Report attached for more awards and recognitions.

CONSENT AGENDA – GENERAL ITEMS

General Items

- 09-L-010-023 - Basil L. North, Jr. & Associates - August 2006 thru October 2007 \$3,180.00
- 09-L-010-024 Hogan & Hartson - July, 2008 \$2,825.93
- 09-L-010-025 Shook Hardy & Bacon - July, 2008 \$13,571.76

Consent Items Forwarded by Community and Government Relations Committee

- 09-S-010-008-Donation from University of Central Missouri on behalf of Mary J. Cook for a student who participated in early field experience-\$10.00
- 09-S-010-009-Walmart donation to various schools for participation in recycle program-\$18,000
- 09-S-010-010-Donation of gift card used as door prize at James Elementary Neighborhood Fair-\$10.00
- 09-S-010-011-Price Chopper donation of 20 cases of bottle water to be distributed at James Elementary Neighborhood Fair. \$99.80
- 09-S-010-012-McDonald's donation of 30 coupons for a small fry for distribution at James Neighborhood Fair-\$32.10

Consent Items Forwarded by Education Committee

- 09-I-010-074 - Acceptance of Regional Mets leadership Coalition Grant - \$1,500.00
- 09-I-010-075 - Acceptance of Professional Development Grant for Southwest Early College Campus-Prep KC - \$68,739
- 09-I-010-077 Acceptance of Grant from US Dept of VA - \$63,431.00
- 09-I-010-079-Contract Service Agreement for Mattie Rhodes a State Approved Agency \$5,000.00
- 09-I-010-080 Authorization to Contract for Services of Arts Partners 86,000
- 09-I-010-081 Pep Grant Evaluator Service Agreement 27,291
- 09-I-010-082 Acceptance of Sprint Grants \$19,299.00
- 09-I-010-083 Head Start Agreement with Mid-America Regional Council 3,619,148
- 09-I-010-085 Afrikan Centered Education Taskforce, Inc 1,078,060
- 09-I-010-086 Wallace Foundation Grant from DESE \$150,000
- 09-I-010-087 Acceptance of Service Agreement for Debate Kansas City \$160,000
- 09-I-010-088 PE4 Life Addendum to Academy Agreement \$6,000
- 09-I-010-089 - Swope Corridor After School Tutoring Program - \$0
- 09-I-010-090 Acceptance of Teaching American History Grant \$490,000

Consent Items Forwarded By Finance and Audit Committee

- 09-B-010-029 - Disbursal of School Moneys - \$24,974,118.35
- 09-B-010-030 - Depository Services C-07036 First Renewal - \$44,000

- 09-B-010-031 - Warranty Extension on Air Conditioning Equipment - \$92,400.
- 09-B-010-032 - Project Management for Acquisition & Installation of Replacement A/C in MDF thru Henderson Engineering Group. \$49,255.
- 09-B-010-033 - Project Management Services for the Acquisition & Installation of Elevator Emergency Phones thru Henderson Engineering Group - \$47,100.
- 09-B-010-034-Purchase of Absolute software Product, Computrace Professional - \$49,500.00
- 09-B-010-035-Purchase of Absolute Software Product - Absolute Track - \$90,000.00
- 09-B-010-036 - Capital Projects Budget Amend 1 - \$16,625,296
- 09-B-010-037 Mail Services/Postage
- 09-B-010-038 - Network Security Software Renewal from Vericept - \$133,701.00
- 09-F-010-035 Increase to Floor Covering Contract IFBC-08007 - \$250,000.00
- 09-F-010-036 Increase Painting contract IFBC-08008 by \$150,000.00
- 09-T-010-002 Fiscal Year 2009 School Bus Routes. (Initial Approval) - No Fiscal Impact

Consent Items Forwarded by Personnel Committee

- 09-P-010-035 Appointment of Contract Personnel \$1,842,092.00
- 09-P-010-036 Separation of Contract Personnel
- 09-P-010-038 Group Life & Accidental Death & Dismemberment C-07030 \$189,587.00

Consent Items Assigned to Policy Committee

- None

REGULAR AGENDA-

- 09-L-010-022 Spencer Fane Britt & Browne - August, 2008 \$24,000.00

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None

NEW BUSINESS

- None