

Recommendation from the Citizens' Advisory Committee for April 4, 2006, No-Tax-Increase Bond Issue

During December 2005, the Lee's Summit R-7 Board of Education approved a recommendation from the R-7 Citizens' Advisory Committee for an April 4, 2006, no-tax-increase school bond issue. CAC Chairperson Kent Kirby presented the recommendation at the Nov. 10 Board of Education meeting, and Board members approved this recommendation on Dec. 8.

The CAC began studying the district's facilities needs in January 2005 and developed this recommendation after six well-attended meetings, held January through October. The group's study included examination of the district's current facility needs, enrollment information, the R-7 Long-Range Facility Master Plan, technology, financial information and legislative updates. In addition, Piper Jaffray funded a 400-person community telephone survey, conducted in September 2005 for the Citizens' Advisory Committee. CAC members used the informational presentations, the community survey and their own perceptions of local public opinion and expectations as tools in their development of this recommended bond package.

The Citizens' Advisory Committee recommended a \$32 million no-tax-increase bond issue featuring new facilities to handle growth, improvements to existing facilities to address school parity issues, technology enhancements and new school buses. Bond issue components recommended by the Citizens' Advisory Committee are:

- **A new elementary school** to be located in the rapidly growing southwest portion of the school district. This approximately 650-student school would open in fall 2007 and would relieve overcrowding at Longview Farm Elementary, Hawthorn Hill Elementary and Trailridge Elementary, which are all projected to exceed capacity by 2007. The majority of the district's enrollment growth is currently taking place in the southwest region, especially in the elementary grades.
- **Middle school and elementary facility improvements/additions** at Pleasant Lea Middle School, Summit Lakes Middle School, Bernard Campbell Middle School and Pleasant Lea Elementary.
 - **Pleasant Lea Middle School** improvements would include an auxiliary gymnasium, improvements to Hilton Road and additional parking. Improvements to Hilton Road and the additional parking will also favorably impact **Pleasant Lea Elementary School**. The PLMS gymnasium will give the middle school additional physical-education/health teaching stations while providing adequate instructional space in the PE/health area, addressing recent enrollment growth. The district's 2004 no-tax-increase bond issue included a classroom addition increasing the school's overall capacity to the point where the current gymnasium facilities no longer adequately serve the larger student population. Hilton Road, located between Pleasant Lea Middle School and Pleasant Lea Elementary, is currently owned and maintained by the R-7 School District. The bond issue would allow the district to fund needed improvements to this road and turn it over to the City of Lee's Summit for future maintenance. Hilton Road is too narrow, has no shoulders or curbs, is in need of considerable repairs and is inadequate for the traffic at the schools and the nearby neighborhood. Parking at both Pleasant Lea Middle School and nearby Pleasant Lea Elementary is also insufficient. Plans call for parking to be added to this campus to meet the needs of the PLMS's increased enrollment, to ease parking difficulties at Pleasant Lea Elementary and to provide much needed parking for activities and special events at both schools.
 - **Summit Lakes Middle School** improvements also feature an auxiliary gymnasium, giving the school additional physical-education/health teaching stations. As with the PLMS addition, the SLMS addition will provide adequate instructional space in the physical-

education/health area to meet the school's recent growth. The 2004 no-tax-increase bond issue funded a planned second-phase addition at SLMS, increasing the school's student capacity so that additional physical-education/health teaching stations are needed.

- **Bernard Campbell Middle School** facility improvements include gymnasium improvements such as floor refinishing, painting and bleacher and lighting upgrades. The work would improve the PE/health teaching stations at BCMS.
- **High school facility improvements** at Lee's Summit High School, Lee's Summit North High School and Lee's Summit West High School. Improvements at the three schools focus on parity among the three campuses.
 - **Lee's Summit High School** improvements include construction of a restroom/concession building to be located between the soccer and junior-varsity football/practice fields. It provides both home and visitor access to the restrooms and concession area as well as storage needed to serve the game, practice and physical-education areas added through the 2002 no-tax-increase bond issue.
 - **Lee's Summit North High School** work includes a multipurpose/physical-education facility addition to provide added teaching space for physical education and health and activities such as Air Force Junior ROTC, dance, cheerleading and wrestling. This addition will provide parity between the other two high schools, which already have a similar multipurpose/physical education area.
 - **Lee's Summit West High School** improvements include construction of the planned second phase of the school's athletic building facility, located north of the football/soccer fields. This facility will include storage room for grounds equipment and track and field equipment as well as a weight room. It will bring LSWHS up to par with facilities at the other two high schools.
- **R-7 Administrative Office** to be constructed on district-owned land on the Lee's Summit North High School campus. When land for LSNHS was purchased in the early 1990s, a small portion of the 90-acre campus had been designated as a potential future location for the Administrative Office. This building would provide additional space for the R-7 School District offices. The Administrative Office is currently located in a remodeled school building, originally constructed as a high school in 1922 and converted into offices in 1975. The current facility is inadequate for the growing district's present and future needs.
- **Technology enhancements** to allow the district to remain current, keep up with growth and enhance instructional technology opportunities for students. Funding would help pay for replacement equipment as well as new instructional technology for students.
- **District warehouse addition** to meet growth needs in the areas of purchasing and nutrition services. The current warehouse facility opened in 1980 when the district's enrollment was less than half of today's enrollment. This building is inadequate for the district's current size and number of school buildings. A portion of this addition would be funded through the district's nutrition services, a self-supporting department.
- **Capital projects** earmarked for schools throughout the district. These funds would include repairs and improvements at approximately two-thirds of the district's existing schools.
- **Additional school buses** to meet growth needs and replace older vehicles.

SOT Presenter: Dr. Tony Stansberry
Other Presenters: Kent Kirby, Janis Duke and other CAC members
Time required: 25 minutes

Meeting date: Nov. 10, 2005