

## **Recommendations from 1997-1998 studies**

Beginning in early 1997, the CAC members began studying the R-7 growth issue. The group heard from school, city, state and county officials as well as representatives from Economic Development Council and other agencies. During late summer and early fall 1997, community forums were held to gain input from the public. A community survey was also distributed to R-7 parents and through the *Lee's Summit Journal*. Our group has been exploring options for addressing growth and made its recommendations to the R-7 Board of Education during November 1997.

The group again studied the growth issue during fall 1998 and made recommendations to the Board of Education in December 1998. The CAC's recommendations from 1997 and 1998 follow:

### **R-7 Citizens' Advisory Committee recommendations *December 1998***

*The Citizens' Advisory believes:*

- The bond issue packages should include at least \$101 million to address the need for new schools and to provide equity at existing schools.
- The Board of Education should authorize two elections: one in April 1999 and one in April 2002.
- The following priorities for these two issues were established:
  - 1) Eliminate sub-standard temporary classroom facilities.
  - 2) Address growth needs at elementary and secondary schools.
  - 3) Address parity needs at Lee's Summit High School and elementary schools.

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### **R-7 Citizens' Advisory Committee recommendations *November 1997***

Clustered by length of time needed to realize results

#### **Short-term (two years or less) \***

- No-tax-increase bond election (earliest date, April 1998) -- **High priority rank**  
***COMPLETED -- No-tax-increase bond issue was approved in April 1998***
- Push for successful ballot measure to increase bonding capacity from 10% to 15% -- **High priority rank**  
***COMPLETED***
- Cultivate climate with residential development that promotes land set aside for schools, land acquisition and/or construction costs -- **High priority rank**  
***INITIATED IN 1998***
- Bond issue with tax increase (earliest date, April 1998) -- **High priority rank**  
***COMPLETED -- 12-cent bond issue was approved in April 1999***
- Push for successful state ballot measure to enable voters to approve a levy increase up to \$6 per \$100 of assessed valuation by a simple majority vote -- **Medium priority rank**  
***ON NOV. 3, 1998, STATEWIDE BALLOT BUT WAS NOT APPROVED BY MISSOURI VOTERS***

- More temporary teaching spaces -- **Medium priority rank**

***MOBILE CLASSROOMS WERE ADDED TO SEVEN SCHOOL SITES IN FALL 1998 AND ADDITIONAL MOBILES ARE BEING ADDED BEFORE FALL 2000.***

- Maximize calculation and collection of real personal and real property assessments/reassessments--**Medium priority rank**
- Seek temporary facility space from commercial development sector -- **Low priority rank \*\***  
(Also listed with long-term)
- Scale back renovation to meet growth needs -- **Low priority rank**
- Bigger class sizes -- **Low priority rank**

### **Medium-term (two to five years)**

- Larger schools — add on where feasible -- **Low priority rank**

### **Long-term (five years or more)**

- Actively pursue and support quality commercial development that provides a significantly increased and growing revenue stream for schools -- **Medium priority rank \*\*\***

***INITIATED IN 1998***

- Pace new development with the ability to provide facility space for students -- **Medium priority rank**
- Seek temporary facility space from commercial development sector -- **Low priority rank**

### **Under study (not prioritized or ranked)**

- Year-round education

***STUDY IS COMPLETE. On Oct. 8, Board of Education members authorized that the Year Round Education Model as developed by the Year Round Education Committee be recognized in the R-7 Facility Master Plan for future consideration if needed, but that other options for coping with growth be pursued instead.***

- Alternative scheduling to accommodate more secondary students.

\* - Several of the recommendations listed in the short-term could be fully realized within the two year time frame and others would be ongoing.

\*\* - Whether or not seeking temporary commercial space is a viable option is also dependent on the availability of space.

\*\*\* - Although we must immediately begin finding ways to pursue and support commercial development, we do not anticipate significant financial results in the short to medium term.