Thank you, Park Hill community. Because our no-tax-increase bond issue passed with 84 percent of the vote, we will be able to follow our enrollment-based, long-range facilities plan to prepare our students for the future.

Since the election, many people ask us a common question – “now what?” You can find all of the answers on our website at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us, but here is a spotlight on our biggest projects:

Elementary School and Facility for High-School Students
For our 11th elementary school and a facility for our high-school students, we purchased almost 272 acres of land at 68th Street and Waukomis Drive, on the eastern edge of our district. The elementary will open in 2019, and the LEAD Innovation Studio, which is opening this fall in a leased office space, will move to the new high-school facility no sooner than 2020.

The space and the designs for the high-school facility will allow us to build onto it to make a full high school if we have enough enrollment growth in the future.

Middle School
The new middle school opens in 2019 on 47.9 acres of land at 56th Street and N. Northwood Road.

Support Services and Possible Projects
The future site of our support services facility and possibly a transportation facility is on 46 acres near NW Tiffany Springs Road and North Congress Avenue. Constructing the transportation facility and scheduling more maintenance projects will depend on economic conditions.

For all of this land, we used funds from the 2011 no-tax-increase bond issue, as we promised. We do not anticipate needing any more land in the near future.
**Election Results**

Incumbents Janice Bolin and Bart Klein won re-election, and voters elected Scott Monsees. Bolin received 29 percent of the vote, Klein received 25 percent and Monsees received 26 percent.

**Board Member Appointment**

Kimberlee Ried filled the seat vacated by Karen Holland, who resigned with one year left on her term. Ried will serve the remaining year of the term, through April 2018.

**Budget Update**

Our expenditures are expected to increase because of projected enrollment growth, but we expect to receive a moderate increase in local and state funds. The successful no-tax-increase bond issue will help us plan for future capital needs and continue responsible management of taxpayer dollars, keeping us in a good financial position.

**Salary Study**

We studied our support staff salaries to make sure they were competitive and in line with market rates. Overall, results show that our salaries are competitive while being efficient with taxpayer dollars.

We identified a few positions in which we pay less than our competitors in comparable jobs, so we will adjust wages for those positions.

In the few areas that our pay was higher than the market rate for a position, we will adjust our starting salary for new hires. We will not reduce wages for current employees as a result of this study.

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For the latest, most up-to-date news about the Park Hill School District, subscribe to our email newsletter, follow us online or watch our TV broadcasts. See the back page for more information.

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**Straight from the Superintendent**

Dear Park Hill Community,

Thank you! We are so grateful to our community for supporting our successful no-tax-increase bond issue, which passed with 84 percent of the vote.

I had the pleasure of meeting with many of you while I shared our enrollment-based, long-range facility plan to prepare for our growing enrollment. These projects will benefit our current students and all the future students who will come to us over the next few years. And thanks to our Board’s conservative stewardship of taxpayer dollars, we will be able to build the schools and facilities we need with no tax increase.

As I spent time this past year sharing this information with you, I found once again that Park Hill residents support public education’s mission of preparing our students for their future college and career goals. I am humbled to serve a community that recognizes education’s importance for our future.

Thanks to your continued trust in our vision of Building Successful Futures ~ Each Student ~ Every Day, all of our students will have the space they need to learn, grow and thrive for many years to come!

Sincerely,

Jeanette Cowherd
Superintendent
Data Security Award
We earned the Trusted Learning Environment Seal from the Consortium for School Networking for protecting student data.

Board Award
The Board earned the Outstanding Board of Education award from the Missouri School Boards' Association.

Duke Summer Programs
Park Hill High School sophomore Eunice Jung earned a spot in Duke University’s clinical psychology summer program, and PHHS freshman Jessica Binkley earned a spot in the nanotechnology summer program.

DECA Honors
Four of our DECA students reached the international competition after earning recognition on the state level, including Maddie Bechtel, PHHS sophomore; Hannah Scott, PHHS junior; Alex Shrankel, senior; and Brett Currey, Park Hill South senior.

Spelling Bee Champion
Congress Middle School eighth grader Elizabeth Tittrington won our Spelling Bee and reached the Scripps National Spelling Bee.

Geography Bee Champion
Lakeview Middle School eighth grader Matthew Kruse qualified to compete at the state level of the National Geographic Society’s geography bee. Congress Middle School eighth grader Jake Higgs won his school’s geography bee.

Rotary Competition
Jake McFee, PHHS senior, placed first in the KCI Rotary Club’s Four-Way Test Scholarship Speech Contest, and Emma Patterson, Park Hill South High School senior, placed second.

Speech and Debate Champions
Three of our debate students earned state championships, including Matt Hayes, PHHS senior; Jake McFee, PHHS senior; and Ben Tuimauga, PHHS junior.

Safety Award
Park Hill South’s school resource officer, Officer Matt Westrich with the Riverside Police Department, and Park Hill South earned recognition from the Greater Kansas City Crime Stoppers for supporting the text-a-tip program.

New Principal of the Year
Lakeview Middle School Principal Larry Smith received the Exemplary New Principal of the Year award from the Greater Kansas City Missouri Principals Association.

Academic Team
The PHHS academic team earned first place regionally in the 2017 District Scholar Bowl championship and qualified for the national tournament. Dayten Rose, senior; Chris Swett, senior; Lawrence Suba, junior; Tim Whittaker, senior; Collin Streu, sophomore; and Jessica Kennedy, junior, were undefeated.

Bridge Builders
Park Hill South juniors Ethan Wissmann, Trent Neutgens and Chloe Wiser earned first place in the University of Missouri-Kansas City’s RooBuilders bridge-building competition.

More awards at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us:
• Art: District Art Festival winners, students featured in the Albrecht-Kemper Museum of Art, Avila University’s High School Invitational and the Missouri Capitol
• Journalism: Awards from the Journalism Educators of Metropolitan Kansas City, winners of the state competition, Gallery of Excellence yearbook award
• Music: Honorees from district competitions, state competitions and regional competitions
• Northland Career Center: SkillsUSA state and national qualifiers, program honorees
• Other Student Honors: Spelling bee winners, Duke TIP program, Park Hill South gold student council award, national speech and debate qualifiers
• State Honors: Missouri Scholars Academy, Missouri Scholars 100, Glory of Missouri, Missouri PTA Reflections
• Staff: Outstanding Assistant Principal, Advisor of the Year, Taft journalism award, Making IT Happen award, Missouri Schoolwide Positive Behavior Support gold level award, Excellence in Education awards, Community Champions
• Theater Honors: Kansas City Cappies and Blue Star awards

Service Awards Banquet: Our Service Awards Banquet recognized retirees and award winners, including the 2017 Support Employee of the Year, Donna Weir from Park Hill High School, (left) and Teacher of the Year, Marc Harman from PHHS (right). Dr. Jeanette Cowherd, superintendent, presented the awards.
Calendar:
August 15
First day of school

Planning Ahead:
See the district website under “Parent Resources” for the registration schedule, back-to-school nights, parent orientations and open houses.

Get Connected:
Our website has lots of ways for you to engage with Park Hill schools. Find them all at www.parkhill.k12.mo.us.

Social Media
Follow the district’s Facebook page and Twitter feed.

First Hand E-mail News
Get district news and highlights from Board meetings.

First Hand Mobile
Get text message alerts about weather and emergencies.

Park Hill TV
See our videos on YouTube and Spectrum channel 18.

Online Comment Portal
Share your comments, suggestions for improvement and even your compliments.

In an effort to keep the community informed, the “Park Hill Connection” goes to every home in the Park Hill School District, even those without students in our schools. Thank you for your support of your community’s schools!

Around the District:

Kindergarteners at Southeast Elementary studied dinosaurs and checked out fossils.

Lakeview Middle School’s Harry Potter after-school club immersed themselves in literature by making wands from the fictional universe in the J.K. Rowling novels.

Park Hill South High School brought businesses into the classroom for mock interviews. Students built resumes and practiced soft skills, which are critical for success in the work force.