Our commitment to meeting students’ needs in our classrooms means we plan ahead to keep our strong financial position. We work to be responsible stewards of your tax dollars while still providing a meaningful education to our students. We found savings in our budget that include $4.5 million in reduced energy costs from 2010 to January 2016, as much as $7.8 million less over the next 20 years through owning our own fiber-optic network, and $1 million from refinancing some of our bonds.

Just like you do in your personal budget when you save up money to pay for a big purchase, we have used these savings to cover some major classroom expenses. We use the technical term “deficit budget,” but it doesn’t mean we take on new debt.

Our conservative financial approach has earned us the Meritorious Budget Award nine years in a row, and we have an excellent bond rating. Carefully managing our money allows us to make sure we are serving our students while keeping our savings just in case.

Our conservative budget helps us save money, allowing us to better meet our students’ needs in the classroom. This benefits classrooms like Sheila Webster’s at Hawthorn Elementary, where third graders Robert Boehmer and Zoe Smith enjoy a strong, supportive learning environment.

Park Hill Budgets for Our Future Classrooms

Savings Snapshot

- $4.5 million from reducing our energy usage from January 2010–January 2016
- As much as $7.8 million over the next 20 years through owning our fiber-optic network
- $1 million from refinancing some of our bonds
**STRAIGHT FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Dear Park Hill Community,

When State Auditor Nicole Galloway decided to kick off her new school cybersecurity initiative, she selected five districts to audit. Park Hill is joining the Boonville, Cape Girardeau, Orchard Farm and Waynesville districts in this first round of audits.

The auditor’s team started in Park Hill on April 18, and her office told us to expect them to work here through the end of June.

We look forward to the auditor’s input to help us find even more ways to improve on the ongoing work we are doing to make sure our data is secure.

This kind of work we do behind the scenes to constantly improve is all part of our efforts to Build Successful Futures ~ Each Student ~ Every Day! Thank you for your support of our continuous improvement efforts.

Sincerely,

Jeanette Cowherd
Superintendent

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**NEWS WORTH KNOWING**

**District Info That Could Affect Your Family**

**Mobile Units and Long-Range Facilities Planning**

Enrollment projections suggest the district’s growth will require more action to ensure we meet students’ needs and provide appropriate staffing. The district will install mobile units to add needed classroom space at Chinn Elementary, Tiffany Ridge Elementary, Congress Middle School and Park Hill High School this fall, and more mobile units will probably be necessary at other growing schools across the district. The Board discussed how this fits into our long-range facilities plan and had early conversations about possible options for funding the district’s future facility needs.

**Board Election Results and Reorganization**

The Board certified the April 5 Board election results, in which incumbents Todd Fane and Susan Newburger won reelection, with Newburger receiving 38 percent of the votes and Fane receiving 27 percent. The Board elected Matt Pepper as president, Janice Bolin as vice president and Bart Klein as Board treasurer. It also elected Newburger as the Missouri School Board Association delegate, Fane as the alternate delegate, Opal Hibbs as Board secretary and Kashca Omundson as alternate secretary.

**Executive Director Appointment**

Because the district will no longer have a fourth assistant superintendent, the Board appointed Dr. Mike Kimbrel, director of research, evaluation and assessment, to the position of executive director for quality and evaluation, starting July 1. Dr. Kimbrel will retain his responsibilities for research and evaluation, and he will oversee the district’s quality initiatives, strategic planning, leadership and supervision of student and communication services.

**Missouri Quality Award Feedback**

After the district earned the Missouri Quality Award for the second time since 2009, we received another feedback report from the site-visit team. Dr. Kimbrel shared how we will again use the report for the district’s continuous improvement efforts.

**Last Day of School**

Pending weather, the last day of school is a half day on May 26. It is a makeup day for when school was canceled for the Kansas City Royals’ World Series celebration on Nov. 3.

*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.*
Students Chosen to Attend Missouri Scholars Academy
The Missouri Scholars Academy selected six Park Hill School District sophomores to attend its three-week academic program in June at the University of Missouri. Our students are among 330 of Missouri’s gifted high school sophomores chosen for the program. The students are Meghan Cashell and Katherine Eischens from Park Hill South High School and Ashley Gilland, Noah Harris, Jonathan Russ and Jackson Turner from Park Hill High School.

Seniors Honored By Missouri Scholars 100 Program
Park Hill South seniors Grant Pace and Adam Kriz and PHHS seniors Jacob Cogley and Ryan Moise earned recognition in the 2016 Missouri Scholars 100, a statewide program honoring 100 of Missouri’s top academic students in the graduating class of 2016. These students were recognized during a ceremony in Columbia, Mo. in April.

Middle School Students Earn Duke TIP Recognition
The Duke University Talent Identification Program recognized 32 seventh-grade students from Park Hill for academic excellence. These middle school students took the ACT or the SAT, which are intended for college-bound high school students. Duke will honor high-scoring students at a state recognition ceremony. Visit www.parkhill.k12.mo.us to read the full list of students.

Students Qualify to Compete in State Geography Bee
Congress Middle School eighth grader Elizabeth Appel and Lakeview Middle School seventh grader Matthew Kruse qualified to compete at the state level of the National Geographic Society’s National Geographic Bee.

Broadcast Students Earn Honors
The PHHS Trojan TV News team earned recognition at the Student Television Network Convention. Visit www.parkhill.k12.mo.us to read the full list of students.

Chinn Elementary Teacher Earns Reading Instruction Award
Chinn Elementary teacher Bridget Comstock received the Read to Achieve award from the Missouri NEA and KCTV 5 News. A parent nominated Comstock for her efforts to help students read confidently and her compassionate approach to education.

Lakeview Middle School Students to Perform at Carnegie Hall
Two Lakeview students successfully auditioned for the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall in June. Eighth grader Hope Burr and seventh grader Delaney Church will join the National Honors Junior Choir in New York City. Renowned conductors will direct the choir, and the students will see a Broadway show and participate in a guided sightseeing tour.

Park Hill South Student Council Earns National Gold Award
Park Hill South’s student council received the National Gold Council of Excellence Award from the National Association of Student Councils for the fifth year in a row. The council received the award for its leadership record, service and activities that improve the school and community.

Park Hill Student Musicians Excel at District Competition
Visit www.parkhill.k12.mo.us to read the full list of band, orchestra and choir members earning district honors. Look for state finalists in the next edition of “Connection.”
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!

Calendar:

May 7
Sophie’s Run to benefit assistive devices for Park Hill students

May 8
Mother’s Day 5K to benefit Platte County Back-to-School Fair

May 9
Kindergarten Roundup (contact your child’s school for times)

May 12
Board of Education meeting

May 22
Graduation for Park Hill High School and Park Hill South High School

May 26
Last day of school (half day)
Board of Education meeting

May 31
Summer school starts

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 Time Warner Cable channel 18.

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

Around the District:

Lakeview Middle School student Firaol Dabessa worked on his robotic vehicle during the school’s Technology Student Association intramural, which encourages student creativity and passion for technology.

Union Chapel Elementary student Britlynn Lizardo shared her poetry book with her dad, Marcos Reyes, during the school’s student showcase.