

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF UNIVERSITY CITY CONNECTIONS

DEDICATED TO EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

A publication connecting the School District of University City and Parents in the University City Community

EXTRA EDITION - April 2009

School Board installation, April 16

On April 7, voters cast ballots for new school board members. Newly elected Director Linda Peoples will join incumbent Ellen Bern on the school board. Inductions and officer selection will be conducted during the April 16 Board of Education Meeting.

School board meetings begin at 7 p.m. and are held in the McNair Administration Building, located at 8136 Groby Road.

These meetings are open to the public and agendas are posted on the district website at www.ucityschools.org prior to the meeting.

Current school board president Meg McClelland lost her bid to remain on the board for a second term. Both Bern and Peoples will each serve a three-year term.

University City Parks and Recreation Department's 2009 Summer Camp will be held at Jackson Park Elementary School and Centennial Commons.

For details, call 314/505-8625.

Mark your calendars for District Honorees/ Retirees Reception on Thursday, May 21

Click on "Calendar of Events" at www.ucityschools.org for the most current calendar information.

Thank you for making University City Schools a destination!

Dear Parents:

I would like to thank you for your help and dedication in supporting Proposition U, a \$53.6 million zero tax-rate-increase bond issue. Many of you canvassed, made phone calls and encouraged other members of our community to vote on April 7. The measure passed with a resounding 64.2 percent when only 57 percent was required. This step toward academic reform will ultimately help all students in the School District of University City. Funds from Proposition U will finance the construction of two new schools - Barbara C. Jordan and Pershing Elementary Schools - as well as the renovation of Jackson Park and Flynn Park Elementary Schools, and Brittany Woods Middle and University City High School. In the end, all students win.

The decision to place Proposition U on the April ballot was based upon recommendations that were made during the district's recent community engagement program known as Destination U. City Schools.

Again, thank you for your part in helping with the passage of this much-needed measure.



Joylynn Wilson, Superintendent of Schools

District commits to LEED environmental standards

New construction and renovation projects within the School District of University City that were recently voter approved under the April 7 Proposition U ballot initiative, will be designed to meet LEED environmental standards.

The LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for Schools Rating System was established by the United States Green Building Council. It recognizes the unique nature of the design and construction of K-12 schools. The LEED rating system addresses issues such as energy and water efficiency, construction waste recycling, non-toxic construction materials, classroom acoustics, day lighting, and fresh air.

"Our goal is for the newly constructed elementary schools on the Barbara Jordan and Pershing (elementary school) sites to be certified LEED sustainable buildings," said Art Bond, of Bond-Wolfe Architects. "The renovations that will occur at the other schools will be designed to meet LEED sustainable standards where achievable."

Each building will reflect the character of the facilities that they will replace and be designed to be "contextually sensitive to the neighborhoods that surround them." This includes reusing the tile mosaics which surround the drinking fountains at Pershing and Barbara Jordan schools and placing them in the new buildings.

"This is an exciting time for the district," said Joylynn Wilson, superintendent of schools. "Our desire to seek LEED certification on our building and renovation projects will ensure our students will have access to positive learning environments for many years."

Additionally, LEED certified schools provide a number of benefits including increased thermal comfort for students and staff, a healthier learning environment, increased attendance, enhanced productivity and savings in operational costs.

For more information about LEED certification, visit www.usgbc.org.

Teacher of the Year throws first pitch

Missouri Teacher of the Year Margaret Williams, a history teacher at University City High School, has been invited to throw the first pitch during the May 22 U. City Night at the ball game.

A limited number of tickets are still available for the game at Busch Stadium. The Cardinals versus Royals game begins at 7:05 p.m. on Friday, May 22. Tickets are \$15 and \$17 and include a free stadium hot dog and soda and may be purchased through school PTOs.

Summer school registration deadline is May 18

Parent notification letters were distributed during or soon after March parent-teacher conferences for students who need to attend the 2009 Summer Learning Academy. Application forms should be returned to the student's school by May 18. After this date, registrants will be put on a waiting list. For questions regarding the 2009 Summer Learning Academy, contact your school office.

If you are in need of special accommodations or assistance in order to attend or participate in any District event or function, contact Erie Gonzalez-Rubio, operations supervisor, at 314/290-4004.