

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

September 2010

School Board Liaisons

Julia Goldstein - Ellen Bern
B. C. Jordan - Maria Chappelle-Nadal
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Flynn Park - Linda Peoples
Jackson Park - Bob Elgin
Nathaniel Hawthorne - Ellen Bern
Pershing - Linda Peoples
Brittany Woods - Tom Peters
U. City High - Rodney Jennings Sr.
Lieberman - Maria Chappelle-Nadal
Adult Education - Bob Elgin

Board Meeting Dates

School board meetings are held in the McNair Board Room, 8136 Groby Road (63130), beginning at 7 p.m.

September 2 & 23*
October 14 & 28
November 11
December 2
January 13
February 3 & 17
March 3 & 24
April 7 & 21
May 5 & 19
June 2

For agendas, summaries, minutes and other Board information, visit www.ucityschools.org or contact Charlotte Tatum, administrative coordinator to the Board of Education, at 314/290-4003 or email ctatum@u-city.k12.mo.us.

**A special public hearing for tax rate along with an executive session for late staffing, if necessary.*

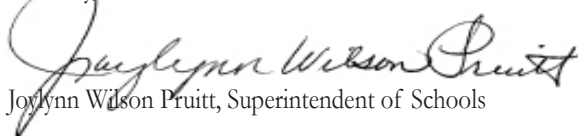
Dear Parents:

Welcome to a new school year! During the first week of school, I visited each building to talk with students and staff. It was wonderful to see cheerful students eager to learn and dedicated staff eager to engage with the students. That's a powerful combination - coming together for a common cause of student/teacher success.

Students at Brittany Woods Middle School and University City High School entered renovated buildings to begin the new year. Significant physical changes to these buildings are just a small portion of the exciting improvements happening in our District, both to physical structures and to what is happening in the classroom through our academic reform efforts.

As a parent, you can improve your child's education by being involved in many ways, whether through reviewing homework with your child or volunteering at school. There is strong data that indicates children have a higher success rate when parents are involved in their child's education. May you and your child(ren) have a wonderful school year in 2010-2011.

Sincerely,



Jorylynn Wilson Pruitt, Superintendent of Schools

Wednesday is Backpacking Day

Schools send many papers home with students. This year, the School District of University City will strive to send all information for parents home on Wednesday. Some exceptions may occur, but please regularly check your student's backpack on Wednesdays for pertinent information.

2010-11 University City Support Staff and Teacher of the Year

Sandra Feemster, a sixth-grade teacher at Delmar-Harvard Elementary School, was named the 2010-2011 University City Teacher of the Year. Patricia Chandler, school nurse at Jackson Park Elementary School, was named the 2010-2011 University City Educational Support Personnel of the Year.

Nominations for the 2011-2012 honors are available in schools and at www.ucityschools.org. Nomination deadline is the last Friday in January for both awards.

Elementary Attendance Line Update

The original redistricting timeline for attendance areas with four elementary schools included the committee making a recommendation to the Board in December 2010. **In response to feedback from the community requesting an earlier decision, the Board and administration adjusted the timeline so that the committee's recommendation will occur in November.** This change affects two committee meetings and the public forum about redistricting. The new dates are as follows. All meetings will begin at 6 p.m. in the McNair Board Room at 8136 Groby Road (63130).

- Oct. 4, 2010 - Committee Meeting
- Oct. 18, 2010 - Public Forum
- Nov. 8, 2010 - Committee Meeting

Following Board approval, the District will notify all parents of students whose school will change as a result of the redistricting. The committee's recommendation will also include the future of permissive transfers and grandfathering of existing permissive transfers. For more information, go to www.ucityschools.org and click Destination UCity > Elementary Attendance Line Updates from the left sidebar.

Parental rights under No Child Left Behind

Under the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (Public Law 107-110), public school districts are required by law to provide parents with certain information. When requested, the School District of University City will release to parents/guardians the following information in a timely manner:

- ◆ whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction,
- ◆ whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or another provisional status through which state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived,
- ◆ whether children are provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications, and
- ◆ what baccalaureate degree major the teacher has and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification.

In addition to the information that parents may request, districts must provide each individual parent the following:

- ◆ information on the achievement level of their child in each of the state academic assessments as required under this part, and
- ◆ timely notice that their child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified.



Need Assistance?

If you are in need of special accommodations or assistance in order to participate in a school- or district-sponsored event, contact Eric Gonzalez-Rubio, operations supervisor, at 314/290-4004.

Web Calendar of Events

For most up-to-date calendar information for the District, schools, PTOs and other affiliated organizations, visit the District's "Calendar of Events" tab on the website at www.ucityschools.org.

Connections Reader Survey

Complete online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/FPWDYCT or submit form below to the office of Communications & Media Services, McNair Administration Bldg, 8136 Groby Road (63130).

1. On average, how much of each issue of *Connections* do you read?
 100% 75% 50% 25% None
2. What one thing do you like most about *Connections*? _____

3. What information not currently included in *Connections* would you like to see added? _____

4. Please select your role in the District: (check all that apply)
 Parent of currently enrolled PreK or elementary (K-6) student
 Parent of currently enrolled secondary (7-12) student
 Interested resident without current student
 District Staff Other _____
5. What topics are you most interested in seeing in future issues of *Connections*? (check all that apply)
 Upcoming events
 Parenting tips related to education
 District policies/regulations
 Committee information
 Comments: _____
6. What sources do you rely on most for school/District news? (check all that apply)
 Connections (parent newsletter) District Website
 PRIDE Facebook
 INSIDE (staff newsletter) Twitter
 Principal newsletter PTO e-group
 Teacher newsletter Backpacked flyers
 PTO newsletter SchoolReach calls
 Comments: _____
7. Any other comments regarding the *Connections* newsletter? _____

Help maintain a proper learning environment for our children...

School District of University City

Anonymous Tip Line

(314) 290-4444

...report inappropriate behavior.



CONNECTIONS is a publication of the School District of University City. Published monthly throughout the school year, containing information of interest to parents of children throughout the school district. Please send suggestions or comments to: School District of University City, Communications and Media Services, 8136 Groby Road, University City, Missouri 63130; call: 314/290-4016 or 314/290-4019; e-mail lruessel@u-city.k12.mo.us or coole@u-city.k12.mo.us.