

THE ST. JOSEPH PUBLIC SCHOOLS



SECTION 4

1994 to 2015

By Dr. Chris Hubbuch

St. Joseph Public Schools Superintendents: 1994-2015



Dr. Dan Colgan
1992-2006



Dr. Melody Smith
2006-2013



Dr. Fred Czerwonka
2013-2015



Dr. Jake Long
2015 (acting)



Dr. Robert Newhart
2015-2018

Chapter 1

In June 1994, the board approved a middle school pilot that moved the 6th grade students from Mark Twain to Truman Middle School in 1994-95. August 1994, the school board approved the Journey of Excellence document which included a high school restructuring plan. This marked the beginning of block scheduling in the district (Board, 1994).¹ In April 1999, a \$35 million bond proposal was narrowly defeated, garnering only 55% support when 57% was needed for approval.²

In August 1999, the district received the *Great Place to Work* award from Practical Parenting Partnerships and the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. In December 1999, the Chamber of Commerce recognized the district for a recent Blue Ribbon Rating from Expansion Management Magazine, a relocation trade journal for business and industries. The district earned this recognition based on the level of student achievement when compared to support given from the community (Board, 1999).

In April 2000, a \$36 million bond was approved for major improvements to all 25 school district buildings, with nearly 60% support. In October 2000, the board recognized Martha Meyer for being named the State Director of the Year by the Missouri School Food Service Association and the National Director of the Year. She was also named to the American School Food Service Association Executive Committee. The St. Joseph Public Schools Nutrition Services Department was the Mountain Plains Regional winner of the Best Practices Award for the “after school snack program” (Board, 2000).

In February 2002, district leadership discussed closing Neely School. In March 2002, the district withdrew the proposal to close Neely. In February 2003, voters defeated a 55-cent levy increase with nearly 60% opposition to the increase, a margin of 2,500 votes.²

In March 2004, Dr. Colgan proposed a 63-cent tax levy increase with a five-year sunset, stating that “In five years, I feel we will not need the additional levy.” In April 2004, voters approved a 63-cent, five-year levy with 61%, a margin of 4,800 votes.² In May 2004, the school board reviewed the functioning of block scheduling at the high school level and revised the required minutes. An additional course was added to the high school schedule, creating a 4x4 block schedule with 8 annual courses and 32 courses over four years (Board, 2004).³

In May 2005, the board of education approved Project Lead the Way (PLTW) at the high school level to support the exploration of careers in technology and engineering. It was approved as a supplement to existing curriculum in industrial technology (Board, 2005).⁴

In January 2006, the board approved a veterinary science program to be facilitated at Hillyard Technical Center (Board, 2006). In March 2006, four St. Joseph elementary schools were honored for their student’s scores on the MAP test. Coleman earned a “Top Ten Highest Performing School” recognition for its fourth grade math scores. Eugene Field earned “Highest Performing School” honors in both third grade communication arts and fourth grade math. Webster earned its “Top Ten Highest Performing” ranking in third grade communication arts. Finally, Humboldt earned a “Top Ten Most Improved School Ranking”.⁵

In May 2006, the Alternative Resource Center was named in honor of outgoing superintendent, Dr. Dan Colgan. The board also announced that the district had received the *Commissioner's Award of Excellence for Professional Development* from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. This recognition was awarded as a result of a rigorous written and on-site review. St. Joseph was one of only two schools with enrollments, of 10,000 or larger, to receive this award. Particular recognition pointed to use of job embedded professional development for teachers and the instructional coaching model (Board, 2006).

In July 2006, Melody Smith began her tenure as superintendent of schools. In September 2007, the district released enrollment numbers that showed an increase for the third year in a row. Data showed 119 more students than the prior year with the majority coming from the elementary schools.⁶ In December 2006, the board accepted the bid from Lehr Construction, in the amount of \$610,907 for an addition to Hillyard Technical Center, which included a lab to service its medical-and health-related programs and also to serve the community's life sciences initiative.

In April 2007, it was announced that seven schools in the district made the State's Top Ten Highest Performance list. Those schools were Coleman, Ellison, Field, Humboldt, Noyes, Pershing, and Skaith. They received a total of 19 Top Ten rankings. It was also announced that Bessie Ellison Elementary School has attained the state's "Gold Star School" status due to its student performance. The designation was Missouri's top award in terms of academic performance.

In September, 2007, Superintendent Melody Smith delivered the annual state of the schools address to the St. Joseph Area Chamber of Commerce. Smith stressed the fact that the average age of the district's school buildings is 85 years, noting that Neely and Hall Elementary schools are among the oldest buildings being built back in 1909. She noted that the next time St. Joseph taxpayers could face a significant tax rate change is in 2009.⁷

In October 2007, the board of education recognized Bessie Ellison Elementary for being designated as a Blue Ribbon School by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).⁸

In December 2007, the board of education approved salary raises for the 2008-09 school year. Salary increases included better pay for teachers with more than 20 years experience and improved compensation for doctoral degrees. Approved raises included a 3.1% average increase for teachers and administrators.⁹

Chapter 2

In February 2008, Superintendent Melody Smith announced proposed changes to the district. Her proposal included closing Hall, Neely, Webster and Noyes elementary schools and building two new schools, one in midtown and one on the northeast part of St. Joseph. Smith's proposal was offered to "right-size the district, which she said is needed because of the way the city's population is shifting." She noted that the plan was largely dependent on renewal of the tax levy, which was set to expire in April 2009.^{1,2}

In March, an update was provided to the community on the proposed acquisition of land and development costs of new elementary schools. The cost of the northeast school was projected at \$18.3 million, while the Carden Park school was estimated at \$17.8 million. ³

In April, Dr. Smith reported that six St. Joseph schools earned 18 Top Ten highest performing school rankings from the state's education department. The rankings, released by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, were based on scores from the spring 2007 Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests. Schools were recognized for their performance on the assessment for grades three through eight, 10 and 11 in both communication arts and mathematics. Coleman led the way with six Top Ten rankings, including fourth and sixth grade communication arts, and third, fourth, fifth and sixth grade math. Ellison had four rankings, including sixth grade communication arts, and third, fifth and sixth grade math. Field Elementary also had four Top Ten rankings, including third and sixth grade communication arts, and fifth and sixth grade math. Webster Elementary had two rankings – fourth grade communication arts and fourth grade math. Mark Twain had one ranking, sixth grade math. Pershing Elementary also had one ranking, fifth grade math. In addition to the Top Ten rankings, Ellison led the state in fifth and sixth grade math, while Coleman led the state in third grade math (Board, 2007).

In June, the district selected a property at the northwest corner of Cook and Bishop roads for the northeast St. Joseph school site. ⁴ On June 10, the Board of Education approved “a \$114.2 million operating budget for the 2008-09 year. Due to increasing revenues and expenses, the budget reflects an about 2 percent increase from the previous budget.” Also announced was the intent to ask voters in April to renew the operating levy for another five years. The district also announced plans to seek a \$43 million bond issue for new school construction. ⁵

Over the summer, the district completed a \$1.6 million capital improvement project, which included “a \$191,000 new parking lot at the expanding Hillyard Technical Center, \$147,000 to refurbish the high school tracks and \$142,000 to install a new roof at Truman Middle School”. ⁶

In August, the district held a press conference about student performance on the 2008 MAP assessments. Dr. Smith reminded everyone that the MAP was only one performance metric, adding, "one measure is not a measure of their complete improvement. When you put all the measurements together, we are improving." Results showed improved performance at the middle school levels. ⁷

In September, the district reported an enrollment of 11,603 students, a decline of 27 students from the previous year. ⁸ In October, the district reported a 29% reserve balance. When pressed about that level of reserves, school officials reported that maintaining that level would prevent the district from having to ask for an increase above the current 63-cent levy in April 2009. ⁹

In December, the “Board of Education voted unanimously to give the district approval to ask the city of St. Joseph to gift 15-acre Carden Park and also gave authorization to go under contract to purchase a 16-acre property on Cook Road for building the schools”. ¹⁰ It was announced that the district had received the Distinction in Performance Award from DESE,

which examines 14 standards in K-12 education, and required schools to meet 13 of the standards to receive the award. The district met 13 of 14 standards along with 330 other districts in the state. ¹¹

Chapter 3

In January 2009, Dr. Smith announced that Eugene Field Elementary School had been awarded the Gold Star Award and invited by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to apply as a National Blue Ribbon School (Board, 2009).

In February 2009, district officials shared the relatively low administrative costs in the district, noting that “of the 523 school districts in Missouri, only 56 have a lower administrative cost as a percent of expenditures than SJSD”. ¹ During the March board meeting, “district officials expressed outrage over a push poll some parents and staff members received that opposed the school's levy/bond issue.” The district was in the final stages of a campaign to pass two funding issues on April 7, the renewal of a 63-cent operating levy and a bond issue to construct two new schools. ² The district defended its financial planning and announced that discretionary expenditures would be reduced by about 10% FY2010. A narrative published in the News-Press noted that “building two elementary schools and closing buildings will result in more efficient operations; the closings will generate annual savings of about \$1.5 million. And, the district has demonstrated financial restraint - remember that in 2006 the district voluntarily rolled its tax rate back by 5 cents. Today, the levy is \$3.98; five years ago, the levy was \$4.05”. ³

Ahead of the April vote, the district addressed the opposition campaign's advertisements and claims that the district's spending on travel and professional development was extravagant. ⁴ The SJSD Citizen's for Children campaign committee reported \$55,246 in contributions from city employers, organizations and other local sources. Businesses included Heartland Health, St. Joseph School District Foundation, WireCo WorldGroup Inc., Pro Serv Business Systems, Triumph Foods, St. Joseph PTA Council, and U.S. Bank. Financial reports were also announced from the levy opposition groups which were located out of Kansas City. ⁵

In April, voters rejected question 1 by 172 votes. If passed, question 1 would have made the temporary operating tax levy of 63-cents permanent. Approximately 49.53% of residents voted to make the levy permanent. Question 2 was rejected by 976 votes. If passed, question 2 would have allowed the district to issue \$45 million in general obligation bonds for the purpose of opening two new elementary schools. Approximately 47.31% of residents voted in favor of the bond issue. ⁶ District committees met in closed session to discuss job cuts, the loss of services and other changes to be made as a result of the defeat. ⁷ The board discussed reductions in response to the failed tax levy. Items discussed were the loss of 132 certified positions and the closing of Neely and Webster elementary schools for the next school year. ⁸

In May, the district announced a limitation in granting of transfer requests due to the closure of Webster and Neely and the subsequent redistricting necessary. In the past year, about 1,100 students were granted transfers. ⁹ Curriculum for the International Baccalaureate program at Central High School was presented to the board's curriculum, instruction and assessment committee (Board, 2009). ¹⁰

In June, it was announced that Eugene Field Elementary had been selected again by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education as a Gold Star School.

In August, the school board committed to forgoing the bond issue in November while asking for approval of the 63-cent operating tax levy. The board reinstated the five-year sunset clause for the levy proposal.¹¹ The district also announced that Edison and Noyes elementary schools would be subject to “No Child Left Behind” sanctions due to not scoring high enough on federally mandated tests for two consecutive years. Under the federal law, parents of children attending Edison or Noyes would have an option of sending their children to Coleman, Field, Hyde or Pershing elementary schools.¹²

During the fall, the district renewed efforts to connect with the community and made the case for renewal of the operating tax levy on November 3rd. In October, an independent auditors report was shared with the school board and examined the district’s reserve balance. According to Westbrook & Co., the district reserve fund in June 2009 was 28.02%, with approximately 77% of the total budget allocated for employee salaries.¹³

Experts in the field of school finance weighed in on the St. Joseph tax levy discussion in October. According to Roger Dorson, Missouri’s coordinator of school administrative services, “sunset clauses are used mostly for one-time capital improvement and debt service projects, rather than ongoing expenses such as operating levies. While the act of using sunset clauses for ongoing expenses is unique, it is one way to make a levy issue acceptable to voters. And it has drawbacks. Eventually, that's going to have to be re-evaluated. That's probably the biggest issue (the district) has to face”.¹⁴

In October, the board recognized Eugene Field Elementary School for being selected as a Blue Ribbon School by the United States Department of Education. Only 314 schools across the nation received this award, and only 8 schools in Missouri (Board, 2009).

Following the failure of the operating levy in April, the district’s level of local tax support dropped to the bottom 31% in Missouri, ranking 163 out of 523 districts, with No. 1 being the lowest and 523 being the highest. In the previous year, the district’s level of tax support ranked 359 out of 523 districts.¹⁵ On November 3, a 63-cent operating levy was approved with a 5 year sunset with 55.95% of the vote and a margin of 1,905 votes.¹⁶

In December, DESE released the annual performance reports that showed the district meeting 13 of 14 standards. According to Dr. Smith, “the APR is significant because it provides an annual indicator of trends in a school district and enables us to see where we can improve”.¹⁷ Student achievement earned the district Missouri’s “Distinction in Performance” recognition. The district was one of 266 K-12 districts to earn the designation, out of 523 school districts in the state. Dr. Smith celebrated the great news and noted, “I hope this demonstrates to our patrons that we are working hard and that we are moving in the right direction”.¹⁸ The district's financial credit rating was upgraded two notches from "A-" to "A+" following a review by Standard & Poor's (2009).¹⁹ The improved rating opened the door to future successful bond issues.²⁰ Also on December 16, former superintendent, Dr. Dan Colgan filed for a seat on the Board of Education.²¹

Chapter 4

In January 2010, the board voted to retain Unicom.ARC to conduct a long-range planning process for the St. Joseph community and its public schools, based on extensive community engagement and research. The proposal outlined a 12 month process with an option to extend two additional months if needed at the cost of \$7,000.00 per month, excluding travel expenses and research costs (Board, 2010).

In February, a community group formed to begin work on the development of a long-term plan for the district.¹ The district was informed by the state that up to \$43 million in budget cuts should be expected for the next fiscal year. The district expected to cut more than \$800,000 in response.²

In March, Dr. Smith introduced the co-chairs of the long-range plan facilitating team, Mr. Lee Sawyer, Mrs. Stacey Park and Mrs. Loes Hedge, along with Dr. Bill Hedge who could not be in attendance tonight. Mr. Sawyer unveiled the logo of the long-range plan process, PACT, or “Planning a Course Together” (Board, 2010).

In June, a demographic and enrollment study was presented to the board of education with projections through 2024-25. According to the analysis, the district should expect shifting enrollment with a projected enrollment of 12,211 for the 2019-20 school year. Schools expected to see the most growth included Skaith, Pickett and Coleman.³ The board of education approved a \$111,232,000 operating budget for the 2010-11 school year. The budget projected operating expenditures at \$109,502,000 and planned to increase the reserve fund by \$1,730,000, bringing it to a projected total of \$36.9 million.⁴

In August, the board of education approved its annual tax rate at 4.0002 of assessed valuation. That change was projected to help fund the district’s \$105 million annual operating budget and debt service account at \$2.3 million.⁵ Enrollment numbers for the 2010-11 school year were reported to the board in August. Enrollment was reported at 11,450 students, which was a decline of 137 students (Board, 2010).

In September, the district reported results from the annual performance report. According to the report from DESE, the district met 13 of 14 evaluation standards, earning the “Distinction in Performance” accreditation status.⁶ The board recognized Hillyard Technical Center for receiving the E3 Award for excellence in education, and economic development, and employment (Board, 2010).

In November, the district provided a facilities planning update to the community that projected the district would exceed its capital improvement budget in 10 years unless intervention took place.⁷ The board of education voted unanimously to hire Illinois-based BLDD architects to conduct a study to evaluate district facilities. At a cost of \$262,500, the bid estimated the cost to evaluate all educational facilities and non-instructional sites. At the time of the bid the district maintained 27 educational facilities, including the former Neely School sites and six non-instructional buildings.⁸

In December, the board of education approved the High School of Business program. The district was recommended by DESE to be the second school district in Missouri to be selected to participate in this national program (Board, 2010). Community members met with associates from Franklin Hill & Associates to discuss educational facilities planning. During a PACT community engagement session, participants examined several scenarios for school size and grade configuration.⁹ A schedule of tour dates was announced in late December for the coming spring to allow the community to take an inside look at neighborhood school buildings. As part of the PACT study, individual “building evaluation teams” planned to learn about the challenges and opportunities at each school, tour the facility and, using a specially designed evaluation tool, give feedback on the condition of that building. Each team will then be asked to attend two evening events and provide feedback for a future PACT session presentation.¹⁰

Chapter 5

In March 2011, results from the Unicom survey community engagement survey were presented to the board (Board, 2011). In April, the first draft of the district’s long-term plan was shared with the community. The three phase plan called for a reduction of four elementary schools, the addition of a middle school, and three high schools. The facilitation team known as PACT (Planning A Course Together for the St. Joseph School District) held more than 60 team meetings and facilitated 11 community engagement sessions. Surveys were sent out and input was gathered from multiple sources.¹

In June, the board of education voted to sell the Neely building. The building had been saved two times in recent years. In 2002, the district withdrew its recommendation to close the school after a public outcry. Neely was evaluated as part of the PACT long-range planning process in 2010. Despite affection for the building, Neely received the poorest grades of any structure in the district and was deemed unfit for use as a school.²

Several matching fund requests were presented to the board for approval in June. The board approved a partnership with the St. Joseph School District Foundation and committed approximately \$900,000 to be used with the Foundation’s \$500,000 and the federal dollars to build the Advanced Science Research Center addition at Hillyard Technical Center. The board approved a community group proposal to build a weight room and field house at Central High School with group contributing \$600,000 and the board committing \$1.2 million toward the project. The board approved a community group proposal to renovate a field house at Benton High School. The proposal asked the board to contribute \$875,000 to the project, while boosters would raise approximately \$350,000 toward the project.

In August, the district unveiled a new website prototype that was designed to improve communication. The website was set to go online in October. The district’s annual performance report status was released by DESE in August. Similar to previous years, the district met 13 of 14 state evaluation standards, and earned a bonus point because of its performance in six student achievement areas. The district did not meet the standard regarding sub-group performance.³ The district reported enrollment numbers for the 2011-12 school year. Enrollment saw a slight increase by three students to 11,453.⁴

In September, Dr. Smith discussed district goals for the new school year which included security upgrades, the installation of air conditioning, and the launch of a pilot program for laptop computers at four schools. Parkway Elementary was selected as the first school in the district to receive air conditioning during the 2011-12 school year, at a cost of \$372,000. Benton High School, Bode Middle School and Lindbergh and Edison elementary schools were selected to participate in a pilot project with laptops, at a cost of \$1 million.⁵

In October, the topic of student mobility surfaced as a topic of discussion. According to the district, the total district mobility rate was 27.03%, which included all elementary, middle and high schools. Poverty was cited as a primary factor influencing the high rate of mobility.⁶ The board of education approved Westbrook & Co., P.C. to complete district audits for the next three years. Westbrook had completed the district audits since 2006 and was selected through a competitive bidding process at that time.

On November 14, the board of education voted unanimously Monday to take the lowest bids to install closed-circuit security and automated keyless entry systems in all the schools.⁷ In December, Dr. Smith presented the vision, mission, beliefs, core values, and goals for the 2012-16 strategic plan. The district announced the launch “Project Connect: Advancing Learning through Technology” in January and February of 2012. The initial launch was planned at Benton and Bode in January with the elementary pilot launching at Edison and Lindbergh in February. The elementary pilot was designed to support fourth, fifth and sixth grade students.⁸

Chapter 6

In January 2012, members of PACT shared a middle school restructuring plan that would establish a sixth through eighth grade level span.¹ The board of education approved putting a \$42 million, general obligation bond issue before voters in April to fund construction of a new Midtown school, and air condition and renovate some existing school facilities.² Orientations were held for parents at Lindbergh and Edison elementary schools in preparation for distribution of iPads as part of the “Project Connect” initiative in the district.³ In February, the district announced plans to save money with a program that would recycle waste and eventually return a profit.⁴ The board of education completed Dr. Smith’s evaluation and approved a 1% salary increase. According to the three-year contract, Dr. Smith would receive an annual salary of \$128,508 beginning July 1, 2012. The board also approved a \$15,000 per year tax-sheltered annuity.⁵

In April, voters approved a \$42 million bond issue with 65.49% support and a margin of 3,853 votes.⁶ The board of education reorganized following the recent election and Dan Colgan was elected president of the board by a 4-3 vote.⁷ In May, the board of education approved Phase II of Project Connect, which will provide iPad computers to students at the remaining Title 1 schools, Humboldt, Hall, Noyes, Lake Contrary, Hosea and Mark Twain. Students at Truman, Spring Garden and Robidoux middle schools and the freshman classes at Central and Lafayette high schools will also receive the iPads for the 2012-2013 school year.⁸ The board also accepted several low bids for the installation of air conditioning: \$530,500 for Coleman Elementary, \$1.3 million for Lindbergh Elementary, \$1.5 million for Hosea Elementary, and \$850,000 for Skaith Elementary.⁸

An agreement was signed between the district and River Bluff Architects and Ellison-Auxier Architects to build the first two public schools in the city in 40 years. The fee for both firms was set at 4.75% of the total cost of construction. The estimated cost of building at 16th and Duncan streets was \$17.9 million, and the school at Bishop and Cook roads at \$15.3 million. The schools were funded through the passage of a \$42 million bond issue in April.⁹

In June, the board finance committee reached an agreement to sell the former Ruth Huston Learning Center and to begin issuing bonds to build the new schools. The committee planned to recommend the sale of Ruth Huston property at 803 S. 13th St. to Foutch Brothers LLC for \$1,500.¹⁰

In August, district officials shared results of their Annual Performance Review (APR). The district met 14 of 14 APR evaluation standards, and also showed improvement in its Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) scores. The district met five of six academic standards and was awarded bonus points for closing achievement gaps in the impoverished and minority students subgroup category.^{11, 12} The district celebrated the opening of the new school year with several elementary schools enjoying air conditioning, the expansion of the Project Connect iPad initiative, and a new parent communication system known as Alert Now.¹³

In September, the district continued to deploy iPads to students and assess the learning needs of students. The district was able to use \$499,690 in fiscal year Title I savings and planned to use \$1.2 million in local funds from FY2013 to fund Phase II of Project Connect.¹⁴ The district unveiled the new Early Learning Center in the north portion of the former Neely School building. This facility was designed to serve 100 pre-kindergarten students in half-day sessions in three classrooms.¹⁵

The new school year saw an increase in the number of non-English speaking students in the district. The district reported that 471 students were participating in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program in 2012-13.¹⁶ In October, the district announced the pursuit of accreditation from AdvancED to help guide continuous improvement.¹⁷ District officials, architects, engineers and city staff met with residents who live around the planned site for the new school at Carden Park to field concerns.¹⁸ In December, Dr. Smith announced her retirement from the district, effective June 30, 2013.¹⁹

Chapter 7

In January 2013, a consultant with the Missouri School Boards Association met with members of the community on to discuss the search strategy for a new superintendent. Around 60 community members met at Troester Media Center and discussed the search process and criteria. The proposed base salary range for the new superintendent was advertised as \$150,000 to \$200,000.¹ Information about Project Connect was shared with the public in January. Two primary devices were selected for the instructional initiative, laptops and iPads. The cost of the laptops was around \$800, while the iPads ranged from \$379 to \$479. The district reiterated that Project Connect was still a pilot program under review with a comprehensive evaluation due in May or June of 2013.

The goal of the Project Connect Initiative was to promote deeper learning in a changing world. To date, the district experienced \$17,310 in total repair costs for devices at Benton, Bode, Central, Edison, Lafayette, Lindbergh, Robidoux, Spring Garden and Truman schools. Beyond the cost of the initiative, concerns were expressed about the lack of internet access among low-income households and internet safety once students used the devices at home. ²

In February, the board of education approved a \$3.07 million cut to the district budget. The board approved a 24-item list of budget reductions that included the reduction of technology expenditures up to the elimination of positions. The reductions were necessary according to board president Dan Colgan, who stated that by 2016 the district would face a nearly \$10 million deficit and the depletion of all of our cash reserves. Stagnant state revenues and the expiration of the 63-cent operating levy which is set to sunset in August 2015, were cited as reasons for budget reduction measures. ³ \$843,000 of the reductions for 2013-14 came from technology funding. That translated into eliminating instructional tech specialists, not buying or distributing any more iPads and laptops to students, or purchasing anymore video projectors and other devices. The budget cuts also called for reducing technology from \$250 per student to \$192 per student. ⁴

In March, the board of education held a press conference and introduced Dr. Fred Czerwonka as the new superintendent. He was chosen from four finalists for the position and was offered a base salary of \$190,000 plus a \$12,000 annuity, a \$500 per month car allowance, and the normal staff benefit package. ⁵ Following a review of the district, an official from AdvancEd recommended improved unity between the school board and central office administration in order to cohesively and collectively support the district's vision and mission. ⁶

In May, the district broke ground for the construction of two new schools. District officials and community leaders participated in ground breaking ceremonies at Carden Park on 16th and Duncan streets and later at the Bishop and Cook roads site. ⁷ The district acknowledged a communication error with their health insurance provider and district employees that resulted in a district cost of \$31,425. ⁸

In June, the board's finance committee reviewed the preliminary budget for FY2014. The proposed budget for FY2014 was \$117.058 million. Due to over \$3 million in budget cuts the board approved in March, the district was able to add \$537,579 to its reserve fund. The reserve fund was at \$37 million at the end of June 2013. ⁹ Results from a public perception survey were shared at the school board meeting. Results indicated 55% of the community supported renewal of the 63-cent operating levy with a five year sunset, while only 37% of respondents would support making the temporary levy permanent. ¹⁰

In July, the district announced the intent to explore outside sources for their nutrition services program in the coming year. In the 2012-13 school year, the food services program had a \$594,483 deficit. According to the district, approximately 31% of school districts in Missouri contract out their food services. ¹¹

In August, Dr. Czerwonka met with the News-Press Editorial Board and discussed his goals and vision as superintendent.¹² The district launched a free mobile application to provide school-related information to parents, students and the community.¹³ The district announced changes to the Project Connect initiative to address issues that surfaced with student devices during the pilot year.¹⁴ The diversity of native languages spoken by students continued to expand in the district during the 2013-14 school year.¹⁵

District officials presented Annual Performance Report results from DESE. Overall, the district earned 126 of 140 total points, or a 90% APR score. That score placed the district on track to track to achieve the “accredited with distinction” label, which, under new guidelines, would be based on a three-year average. One area needing improvement was student attendance. The district earned 6 of a possible 10 points for attendance with a proportional attendance rate of 81.1% of students attending school 90% of the time.¹⁶

In September, the board of education approved the hiring of Opa! Food Management to provide food services for the district. By contracting with Opa!, the district hoped to gain an additional \$400,000 in revenue and over the course of 10 years, save an additional \$10 million.¹⁷ In October, Dr. Czerwonka held his first town hall meeting with the community at Troester Media Center. Topics discussed included technology, board policies, kindergarten readiness, textbooks, and work force development efforts.¹⁸

In November, the board of education voted to hire Brightergy out of Kansas City, Missouri to equip the district’s various buildings with solar panels. Following three months of careful study, it was projected that over a 20-year period, solar energy could save the district more than \$1.7 million in heating costs.¹⁹ Dr. Czerwonka gave a report on his first 100 days on the job as superintendent and his goals for the future. He shared the goal of St. Joseph becoming a premier school district in state and across the country.²⁰

Toward the end of the month, an independent auditing firm gave the district a positive audit. Following analysis of the district’s 2012-13 activities, Westbrook & Company, P.C. applauded the district’s efforts. Overall, the audit was favorable with the auditor stating, “There is nothing that we would be alarmed about, but ... there are some issues that they need to focus on, but I think that is a good sign when a district doesn’t have the same issues year after year. I would give (the district) an ‘A’ because I have worked with so many districts over the years ... but their records were in good shape and they are financially sound as well.”²¹

Chapter 8

In February 2014, the district assembled a team of teachers and administrators to explore cost savings related to Project Connect. The district team evaluated technology on its ability to comply with the new Common Core Smarter Balance testing requirements. The group used a sample test for each grade level and used different systems to determine the appropriate device. They tested Apple, iPads, Windows, Google and Android systems. Based on results, the district decided on Chromebooks. iPads cost about \$550 to \$600, compared to the unit price of \$261 for Chromebooks. Beginning with the 2014-2015 school year, 80 percent of the district will move to Chromebooks, with the other 20 percent moving to the device next year.¹

In March, the board of education delayed action on boundary changes to accommodate the addition of two new elementary schools in the 2014-15 school year.² At the March 24 school board meeting, a board of education member shared a serious financial and policy concern prior to the board's consideration of the 2014-15 salary schedule for teachers and administrators. Board member Chris Danford expressed concern about unapproved administrative stipends and staff assignments. She pointed out that Dr. Czerwonka gave all administrators, principals and assistant principals a \$5,000 stipend at the beginning of the 2013-14 school year, totaling more than \$250,000. She also expressed concern that the human resources director promoted five staff members to technical director status without board approval, including his wife. Mrs. Danford expressed concern that three board policies were violated including GBL, GCB, and GCKA.³

In response, Dr. Czerwonka said he planned to do away with administrative stipends and would approach the Board of Education for approval on his recommendation.⁴ A district official later acknowledged that stipends had been used since the 1980's.⁵ The district placed their chief financial officer on administrative leave pending an internal investigation.⁶ The superintendent held a press conference and recommended a realignment of the central office senior staff. The proposed restructuring would reduce the number of staff reporting directly to the superintendent from eight to four. Dr. Czerwonka defended his position to issue the stipends, but also gave an apology for not coming to the board with the information earlier.⁷

In April, the Missouri auditor's office contacted the district about conducting an audit on its budget.⁸ The FBI met with Dr. Czerwonka at the district office and also visited the home of Human Resources Director Doug Flowers.⁹ Concerns later surfaced about the cost of the Capturing Kids' Hearts professional development that was implemented earlier in the school year. Records indicated a payment of \$134,900 for training.¹⁰

The district hired Mickes, Goldman, O'Toole LLC to provide counsel regarding an FBI inquiry and the district's financial issues.¹¹ Concerns surfaced about the cost of legal representation the district had retained.¹² It was later disclosed that earlier in the month, the board of education approved a 2% pay increase and a one-year contract extension for Dr. Czerwonka.¹³

In May, the board voted to retain the Mickes Goldman O'Toole LLC firm¹⁴ and a federal grand jury opened an investigation into the district.¹⁵ Beau Musser filed a civil employment discrimination lawsuit naming the district, Dr. Czerwonka, Doug Flowers and board member Dennis Snethen as defendants.¹⁶

In June, the district responded to the Musser lawsuit and denied allegations of wrongful sexual harassment claims and illegal handling of school funds.¹⁷ In July, the district received another subpoena to produce records for an ongoing federal grand jury investigation.¹⁸ In August, Mickes, Goldman, O'Toole, LLC requested that it be allowed to withdraw as counsel for the district in wrongful termination lawsuit.¹⁹ Dr. Jake Long, director of student services, explained a response plan to the board finance committee in anticipation of the audit findings.²⁰

In September, results from a Missouri Sunshine Law request showed the district spent \$18,502 in school year 2013-2014 for MSTA dues for its administrators. In the 2012-2013 school year, the district paid \$17,598 in membership dues.²¹ In October, Standard and Poor's Ratings Services gave the district an A+ bond rating for its 2014 school building bonds.²² Doug Flowers refuted a claim from the media that the district paid \$270,000 in stipends to administrators from an insurance rebate.²³ It was revealed that the district had spent a total of \$291,876 in legal fees since 2012.²⁴

In November, the district received another federal subpoena to produce information pertaining to personnel records, tuition reimbursement program documents, and teacher certification reimbursement program documents.²⁵ The district's liability insurer filed a motion in federal court asking to be removed from claims related to the wrongful termination lawsuit filed by chief financial officer Beau Musser.²⁶

In December, it was announced that the district would see a reduction of \$1.034 million in Foundation Formula monies due to inaccurate reporting of summer school activities.²⁷ DESE later corrected the anticipated loss of revenue and increased the decrease of funding to \$1.85 million due to inaccurate information being reported and inflated attendance hours.²⁸ As the year concluded, DESE clarified earlier communications and stated they are just asking the district to correct mistakes on its last submitted application.²⁹

Chapter 9

In January 2015, the district placed Dr. Czerwonka and Mr. Hartigan on paid administrative leave pending further investigation. Dr. Jake Long was appointed as acting superintendent.¹ The board of education waived attorney-client privilege in the ongoing personnel investigation.²

In February, the board of education announced it had discontinued its Summer Explorers program.³ The Missouri State Auditor delivered findings from the state audit and announced a serious issue with stipends. He noted that over \$25 million worth of stipends either not approved, unauthorized or improper over the last 8 years. He added that going back to 2001 (13 years), that number could be as high as \$40 million. The overall performance of the district was rated as "poor."⁴ Commerce Bank announced that it was exercising its right to cancel the purchasing card contract with the district.⁵ Toward the end of February, the board announced it had terminated Mr. Hartigan and had reassigned the Human Resources Director.⁶

In March, Dr. Dan Colgan resigned from the board of education⁷ and the district announced it had sent out a request to hire a new external auditor.⁸ In April, it was learned through court documents that the civil lawsuit between Beau Musser and the District had been settled for \$450,000.⁹ The board of education appointed Eric Bruder to the board seat that was vacated by Dr. Colgan's resignation.¹⁰ In May, Dr. Czerwonka resigned as superintendent¹¹ and the board discussed the hiring process for an interim superintendent with an expected completion by the end of the month (Board, 2015).

Dr. Long announced that the district was making steady progress on the audit recommendations.¹² Dr. Long reported to the board that there would be a salary compensation study completed by September to address the issues of stipends and competitive salaries. A new purchasing card system and a better way to track expenditures was also underway. Dr. Long also informed the board that the Missouri auditor's office staff were scheduled to return later in May to see how many issues have been addressed. Dr. Long noted that progress on recommendations will continue to be posted on the district website for the public.¹³ Officials from the Missouri State Auditor's Office visited the district and announced that significant improvements had been made since the state audit.¹⁴

In June, the board completed interviews for an interim superintendent¹⁵ and announced the hiring of Dr. Robert Newhart, the current superintendent in Princeton, Missouri.¹⁶ District officials confirmed that the superintendent's office received a letter from the IRS seeking to "examine" the district's federal tax returns for the 2013 calendar year.¹⁷ Toward the end of June, the board of education approved a budget for FY2016 with a \$12.2 million deficit. The sunset of the 63-cent levy and rising payroll and health insurance costs were factors for the deficit.¹⁸ The board hired announced the restructuring of the human resources department with the hiring of Amy Todd as director and Carolyn Sanders as assistant director.¹⁹

In July, Dr. Newhart began his tenure as superintendent.²⁰ The first board meeting with the new superintendent focused on ethics, conflicts of interest, and communication. Dr. Newhart stressed the importance of following the proper channels of communication with any concerns.²¹ Later in the month, Dr. Newhart pitched a plan for a new district leadership structure with one superintendent, two associate superintendents and eight directors.²²

In August, the district auctioned off the controversial painting from the office of the former chief operations officer.²³ The winning bid from the online auction brought in \$5,000.²⁴ In September, the board of education voted to stop all current and future insurance payments for health care coverage for Dr. Dan Colgan.²⁵ The district scheduled a series of town hall meetings to solicit community input with development of their new comprehensive school improvement plan.²⁶

In October, the Missouri State Auditor released a follow-up report to the district audit, saying the district has met 10 recommendations following the "poor" audit rating in February.²⁷ More good news was shared in October as the district released results of its Annual Performance Report. Local schools earned 124.5 points out of a possible 140, good for a score of 89%.²⁸

In November, the board of education met to discuss plans to spend bond funds on air conditioning projects.²⁹ The district received word that they would be required to pay \$27,249 in additional taxes and \$2,200 in penalties after the Internal Revenue Service released its findings from a July audit.³⁰ The district received another subpoena from federal investigators in November. The superintendent's office received a subpoena to produce district records for the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri. The request asked for documents relating to former administrators of the district.³¹

In December, the district announced that DESE would conduct an audit of the district's use of federal funding. The notice placed the district on a "Cash Management Plan" which requires the submission of additional documentation.³² To guide improvement efforts, the board of education participated in a retreat put on by the Missouri School Boards Association. Board members discussed roles, board relations, confidentiality, and the Missouri Sunshine Law.³³

Chapter 1 References

- ¹ St. Joseph School District. (1994). August 8, Board of education minutes.
https://esb.sjsd.k12.mo.us/Reference_Library/ESB_Minutes/8-8-94.pdf
- ² St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). History repeating itself?
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/history-repeating-itself/article_7cbd0801-b202-5953-a763-20cca329c447.html
- ³ St. Joseph School District. (2004). May 10, Board of education minutes.
https://esb.sjsd.k12.mo.us/Reference_Library/ESB_Minutes/5-10-04%20minutes.pdf
- ⁴ St. Joseph School District. (2005). May 12, Board of education minutes.
https://esb.sjsd.k12.mo.us/Reference_Library/ESB_Minutes/5-12-05%20board%20minutes.pdf
- ⁵ KQ2.com. (2006). St. Joseph elementary schools earn top ten ranking.
<https://web.archive.org/web/20060323135340/http://www.kq2.com/news/default.asp?mode=shownews&id=3150>
- ⁶ St. Joseph News-Press. (2007). School District Releases Enrollment Figures.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/school-district-releases-enrollment-figures/article_580b2168-0e80-57a2-86c9-7b68c02c0181.html
- ⁷ St. Joseph News-Press. (2007). Smith Gives State Of Schools Address.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/smith-gives-state-of-schools-address/article_a228158d-7d4c-5571-b389-f5a494e71206.html
- ⁸ St. Joseph School District. (2007). October 8, school board meeting minutes.
https://esb.sjsd.k12.mo.us/Reference_Library/ESB_Minutes/10-8-07%20Minutes.pdf
- ⁹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2008). St. Joseph Teacher Salaries Inch Upward.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/st-joseph-teacher-salaries-inch-upward/article_61f7e3c4-a0bb-5489-a6d7-5c043b858899.html

Chapter 2 References

- ¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2008). School district proposes big changes in district.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/school-district-proposes-big-changes-in-district/article_28fbdeca-1aa3-53fa-ab54-3fd1efede86a.html
- ² St. Joseph News-Press. (2008). Four schools on chopping block.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/schools-on-chopping-block/article_a982e899-ae4c-5a7e-85cc-9d74cdfc378a.html
- ³ St. Joseph News-Press. (2008). District has pretty good deal on property.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/district-has-pretty-good-deal-on-property/article_eae3eef1-7b7e-5594-83a3-20ffbc823b77.html
- ⁴ St. Joseph News-Press. (2008). School district chooses new site.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/school-district-chooses-new-site/article_6515d143-4b8c-51c7-94bf-95275d10686b.html
- ⁵ St. Joseph News-Press. (2008). School district oks budget, looks ahead to tax renewal.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/school-district-oks-budget-looks-ahead-to-tax-renewal/article_66534034-4c51-5a08-8c06-4bfa1922c194.html
- ⁶ St. Joseph News-Press. (2008). School district plans \$1.6M in building improvements.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/school-district-plans-m-in-building-improvements/article_1ebfe093-3c0e-519d-9317-6ccddb21a469.html
- ⁷ St. Joseph News-Press. (2008). District reveals MAP scores.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/district-reveals-map-scores/article_2afcf3c1-89e5-5dc2-a3a1-173cf6664e3a.html
- ⁸ St. Joseph News-Press. (2008). SJSD enrollment down slightly.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/st-joseph-school-enrollment-down-slightly/article_9ade6a65-d57b-54ae-8796-8eac38a2cddf.html
- ⁹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2008). Districts defends reserve levels.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/district-defends-reserve-levels/article_6aec2850-5361-573a-9afd-41d2f41cf220.html
- ¹⁰ St. Joseph News-Press. (2008). SJSD moves to acquire new property.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/st-joseph-school-district-moves-to-acquire-new-property/article_6eb2aff3-587d-55ac-9f56-3fa2bbe59677.html
- ¹¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2008). School district receives distinction award.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/school-district-receives-distinction-award/article_05dc7d90-8aaf-584d-ae64-d9f91089308e.html

Chapter 3 References

- ¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). District explains spending habits.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/district-explains-spending-habits/article_7cdfe824-c6ad-58bd-b6dc-1e5b7c338662.html
- ² St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). Critics question district's tactics.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/critics-question-district-s-tactics/article_7719f47e-71e9-5204-bfd9-4e1bed89176c.html
- ³ St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). Raise your hand: School district defends its frugality.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/raise-your-hand-school-district-defends-its-frugality/article_b5ca0d09-6805-57e6-bc76-3035ac3dbd8e.html
- ⁴ St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). Critics question district's tactics.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/district-addresses-spending-concerns/article_9fb28f62-ca64-58c2-9fdd-2ac5261585aa.html
- ⁵ St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). District, opponents disclose finances.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/district-opponents-disclose-finances/article_fbf85af9-efa6-5f2d-abaf-6ce7564ae2c5.html
- ⁶ Buchanan County Clerk. (2009). April 7, general municipal election results.
<https://www.co.buchanan.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/645>
- ⁷ St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). District regroup after vote.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/district-regroups-after-vote/article_8ed31f06-28a3-5a8e-bd3e-bfb6e01e9f50.html
- ⁸ St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). Webster, Neely closing.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/webster-neely-closing/article_06918a1c-cf6b-5e55-8baa-a3369f51afb8.html
- ⁹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). District expects to limit transfers.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/district-expects-to-limit-transfers/article_10e47b93-6822-54e3-b07e-a457664f1158.html
- ¹⁰ St. Joseph School District. (2009). May 4, Curriculum/instruction/assessment committee.
https://esb.sjsd.k12.mo.us/public_agendaview.aspx?mtgId=697&CS=No
- ¹¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). District must heal rift.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/district-must-heal-rift/article_8aa5b717-b482-5201-9352-295a62650dad.html

- ¹² St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). District faces NCLB sanctions.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/district-faces-no-child-left-behind-sanctions/article_82bdf8a-1d53-5713-8a8f-6cc73e0c9436.html
- ¹³ St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). Independent auditor: School district's reserves an asset.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/independent-auditor-school-district-s-reserves-an-asset/article_bd452f04-5cb0-51b7-9fc2-67f6a65257ab.html
- ¹⁴ St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). District steer clear of sunsets.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/districts-steer-clear-of-sunsets/article_0ce5aa53-e306-5cee-baa6-a5c6cb80268a.html
- ¹⁵ St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). Tax support plummets for SJSD.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/tax-support-plummets-for-st-joseph-district/article_905211f7-c248-5183-b004-a3b5c17dde5b.html
- ¹⁶ St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). November 3, Special Election Results.
<https://www.co.buchanan.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/648>
- ¹⁷ St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). Report shows SJSD meeting state standards.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/report-shows-st-joseph-schools-meeting-state-standards/article_5c05f8aa-75ec-52a2-b5a0-b81d8d91279c.html
- ¹⁸ St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). SJSD receives 'distinction' award.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/st-joseph-school-district-receives-distinction-award/article_7b06c03d-48bd-5f78-b91a-dc01c9c0ce00.html
- ¹⁹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). District gets credit upgrade.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/district-gets-credit-upgrade/article_21542e53-cea0-5185-8a6a-63de873128c9.html
- ²⁰ St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). School district's credit rating improves.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/school-district-s-credit-rating-improves/article_3aef7870-bb90-58c8-a83c-114ba300ec17.html
- ²¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2009). Colgan running for school board.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/colgan-running-for-school-board/article_e2aedd4-f3d9-598a-86f3-1ae130e0e8da.html

Chapter 4 References

- ¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2010). Group begins work on plan for SJSD.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/group-begins-work-on-plan-for-st-joseph-schools/article_b953eab9-9075-5d0b-b73e-b90fb4b55194.html

- ² St. Joseph News-Press. (2010). SJSD will face cuts.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/st-joseph-schools-will-face-cuts/article_f1622a7b-c23e-5201-ac45-22f4f554ec9a.html
- ³ St. Joseph News-Press. (2010). Local schools see shift in growth.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local-schools-see-shift-in-growth/article_2980d188-cdb0-5096-bc37-ed273a60fbe2.html
- ⁴ St. Joseph News-Press. (2010). District approves budget.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/district-approves-budget/article_cc2a14cd-1241-57bd-9d97-adb9df059b3a.html
- ⁵ St. Joseph News-Press. (2010). District sets tax levy.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/district-sets-tax-levy/article_ba1cc794-3edb-5ad3-88c6-209e4a32bbd0.html
- ⁶ St. Joseph News-Press. (2010). School district gets high marks.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/school-district-gets-high-marks/article_cadbebd4-c2a5-5391-95bd-dde7c84a98d2.html
- ⁷ St. Joseph News-Press. (2010). District expects capital crunch.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/district-expects-capital-crunch/article_ea653a42-c683-5598-b5aa-852e19346002.html
- ⁸ St. Joseph News-Press. (2010). School board OKs \$262,000 bid.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/school-board-oks-k-bid/article_81bd7130-5736-5053-8993-9995bc546462.html
- ⁹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2010). A question of school size.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/a-question-of-school-size/image_22c057fc-d881-5859-8169-0cef0f7fab8c.html
- ¹⁰ St. Joseph News-Press. (2010). Community invited to tour, evaluate school buildings.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/community-invited-to-tour-evaluate-school-buildings/article_13df5e37-6b3f-54fd-b405-642ca20d2e60.html

Chapter 5 References

- ¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2011). School planning team shows ideas for future.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/school-planning-team-shows-ideas-for-future/article_0a280bee-5ef8-5e8d-87ee-8ad993cc4fa6.html
- ² St. Joseph News-Press. (2011). District to sell Neely building.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/district-to-sell-neely-building/article_c0622052-b7f4-5c80-a8c6-7b2e0d8b4f33.html

- ³ St. Joseph News-Press. (2011). SJSD meets all but one evaluation standard.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/sjsd-meets-all-but-one-evaluation-standard/article_3aa22ab0-f496-5797-a13b-6ff528d0c985.html
- ⁴ St. Joseph News-Press. (2011). School district enrollment holds steady.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/school-district-enrollment-holds-steady/article_e05ca02d-e766-554b-b7fa-9b5ecebed4fd.html
- ⁵ St. Joseph News-Press. (2011). Superintendent discusses plans for SJSD schools.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/superintendent-discusses-plans-for-sjsd-schools/article_c161f2b8-5e2a-5813-a2c6-bc750b1e2921.html
- ⁶ St. Joseph News-Press. (2011). Student mobility rate tops 27 percent.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/student-mobility-rate-tops-percent/article_6b416b6c-a3a6-5d03-bf9b-1f81a4fd8bbd.html
- ⁷ St. Joseph News-Press. (2011). District moves forward on security system.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/district-moves-forward-on-security-system/article_b65eb105-9573-5612-93cd-f2deb7530ba7.html
- ⁸ St. Joseph News-Press. (2011). New year brings laptops to schools.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/new-year-brings-laptops-to-schools/article_9017148c-ae6d-5f7f-85f0-1667bb263c7d.html

Chapter 6 References

- ¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2012). District eyes moving sixth grade to middle school model.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/district-eyes-moving-sixth-grade-to-middle-school-model/article_a8e029fe-0094-5ab0-8c28-57eab454154f.html
- ² St. Joseph News-Press. (2012). School district seeks \$42M bond issue.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/school-district-seeks-m-bond-issue/image_d6f7f7b9-bea5-592b-9bb5-2b902d70acd0.html
- ³ St. Joseph News-Press. (2012). More schools getting portable technology.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/more-schools-getting-portable-technology/article_4a307cbd-f445-5709-a275-8464e629d423.html
- ⁴ St. Joseph News-Press. (2012). Recycling could save money for school district.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/recycling-could-save-money-for-school-district/article_e10fa8a1-e9ad-51ad-af28-46eafe113ee1.html
- ⁵ St. Joseph News-Press. (2012). St. Joseph superintendent approved for raise.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/st-joseph-superintendent-approved-for-raise/article_55e71e80-9929-54b8-87f0-c31910c3e6b8.html

- ⁶ Buchanan County Clerk. (2012). April 3, general municipal election.
<https://www.co.buchanan.mo.us/DocumentCenter/View/668>
- ⁷ St. Joseph News-Press. (2012). Colgan elected school board president.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/colgan-elected-school-board-president/article_8e0deb7f-15a3-50f9-96f1-d5655c5e45ee.html
- ⁸ St. Joseph News-Press. (2012). Board approves iPads, bids for AC.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/board-approves-ipads-bids-for-ac/article_b7e1b3f6-7a4e-581d-a297-ffd81e7d5277.html
- ⁹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2012). Deal between architects, school district finalized.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/deal-between-architects-school-district-finalized/article_c2a444cc-958f-5c83-8856-3a14f421f278.html
- ¹⁰ St. Joseph News-Press. (2012). School district may sell Ruth Huston property.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-may-sell-ruth-huston-property/article_b235206f-f09f-5886-937f-fdf19ba0647b.html
- ¹¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2012). School district shows improvement.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-shows-improvement/article_8ee2920a-10ec-5fb6-9a15-108d39dbfedd.html
- ¹² St. Joseph Post. (2012). SJSD aces annual performance review.
<http://www.stjosephpost.com/2012/08/15/st-joseph-school-district-aces-annual-performance-review/>
- ¹³ St. Joseph News-Press. (2012). School open with chaos, iPads.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-open-with-chaos-ipads/article_33a827af-fd40-5626-9e5f-b28599a82ad8.html
- ¹⁴ St. Joseph News-Press. (2012). District distributes more iPads.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-distributes-more-ipads/article_ecc74ae3-6e68-52d1-9e70-7e30d53ba2fe.html
- ¹⁵ St. Joseph News-Press. (2012). District shows off Early Learning Center.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-shows-off-early-learning-center/article_9ee3c7b8-6ffa-5450-89bc-db22ec23a15b.html
- ¹⁶ St. Joseph News-Press. (2012). District faces challenges with diversity.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-faces-challenges-with-diversity/article_c659d40f-686d-53d7-89b7-24ad4f164342.html
- ¹⁷ St. Joseph Post. (2012). St Joe School District Seeks International Accreditation.
<http://www.stjosephpost.com/2012/10/09/st-joe-school-district-seeks-international-accreditation/>

- ¹⁸ St. Joseph News-Press. (2012). Officials address concerns about new school.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/officials-address-concerns-about-new-school/article_9c4bb886-64a5-5f9b-9cbb-fd773715d0c2.html
- ¹⁹ St. Joseph Post. (2012). SJSD Superintendent Dr. Melody Smith announces retirement.
<http://www.stjosephpost.com/2012/12/21/sjtd-superintendent-dr-melody-smith-announces-retirement/>

Chapter 7 References

- ¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). Community updated on district's search.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/community-updated-on-district-s-search/article_54c66df0-ae95-53cc-9ecc-b36234bb77a2.html
- ² St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). More students using iPads, laptops in class.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/more-students-using-ipads-laptops-in-class/article_0a9d2781-7d7c-524a-afcc-a9d92a297dda.html
- ³ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). Board president explains cuts to school budget.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/board-president-explains-cuts-to-school-budget/article_0748b24a-1701-5bfd-8c38-640975cb788e.html
- ⁴ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). Cutting dollars to make sense.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/cutting-dollars-to-make-sense/article_7fffed88-2aad-5b2f-a92d-a2c784f5a7d9.html
- ⁵ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). District introduces new superintendent.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-introduces-new-superintendent/article_a3ee4cbf-f36f-5a55-acf6-1d9be354dc39.html
- ⁶ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). District recommended for accreditation.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/schools/district-recommended-for-accreditation/article_75a97bee-3576-5599-9639-8fd518e94127.html
- ⁷ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). Officials turn dirt for two new schools.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/officials-turn-dirt-for-two-new-schools/article_76516243-c274-5f06-977b-8fe92c35621b.html
- ⁸ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). School district has \$30,000 insurance mistake.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-has-insurance-mistake/article_384feb5b-aa80-5922-a2b6-6c4365f7d52c.html
- ⁹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). School board reduces budget, beefs up reserves.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-board-reduces-budget-beefs-up-reserves/article_dd68ab60-1f43-51e1-a16f-a811634ae553.html

- ¹⁰ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). District gets mixed reviews in survey.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-gets-mixed-reviews-in-survey/article_f5580bf8-9b60-57cc-8e06-43603bd0e868.html
- ¹¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). Schools look at hiring outside food provider.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/schools-look-at-hiring-outside-food-provider/article_2edee69e-176d-5b49-a41b-d136c9385a4d.html
- ¹² St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). New school superintendent discusses challenges.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/new-school-superintendent-discusses-challenges/article_161c9601-1ee4-5488-a1fe-fc7a7590bc87.html
- ¹³ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). School district unveils mobile app.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/schools/school-district-unveils-mobile-app/article_64d242c4-a326-5aec-a6bd-be05c3f44d3f.html
- ¹⁴ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). School district examines computer needs for new year.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-examines-computer-needs-for-new-year/article_284070fb-71d0-5238-9de7-9ed9803a6a57.html
- ¹⁵ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). St. Joseph schools becoming more diverse.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/st-joseph-schools-becoming-more-diverse/article_2da0a49a-3666-5976-bb01-1d5b5f0c695c.html
- ¹⁶ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). School district scores high on state report card.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-scores-high-on-state-report-card/article_1a5b0ed9-764a-5171-89a2-17a20895bb81.html
- ¹⁷ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). School board approves new lunch provider.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-board-approves-new-lunch-provider/article_0eb8e398-8f8a-5849-824a-1c346f8d3ad5.html
- ¹⁸ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). Czerwonka asks for community input.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/czerwonka-asks-for-community-input/article_6627e91a-91d4-5643-a98e-6fc322955a80.html
- ¹⁹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). Schools to get solar panels.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/schools-to-get-solar-panels/article_3cf411d0-f276-5051-9487-4c617f3b3d8e.html
- ²⁰ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). Czerwonka reports on first 100 days.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/czerwonka-reports-on-first-days/article_741163cd-0bf2-54a3-9025-aedec9c78966.html

²¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2013). School district receives 'A' on audit report.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-recvies-a-on-audit-report/article_f7ea0f87-664b-5d2b-b0ff-24230015c10e.html

Chapter 8 References

- ¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). District to expand Chromebook usage.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-to-expand-chromebook-usage/article_89a597ee-8a48-5243-818f-3e2a0ffbd4bc.html
- ² St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). District seeks input on boundary proposal.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-seeks-input-on-boundary-proposal/article_69336110-e77a-5b36-98bd-c9fffc2a0e64.html
- ³ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). School board member questions stipends.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-board-member-questions-stipends/article_3f42fef0-4cd1-5f3d-b267-13f1e65e1ac2.html
- ⁴ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). Superintendent hopes to do away with stipends.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/superintendent-hopes-to-do-away-with-stipends/article_1782932a-361e-5b5a-b24b-2d25eb846d36.html
- ⁵ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). What should schools do about stipends?
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/what-should-schools-do-about-stipends/article_cb091c2e-a362-5dcc-8af7-177ec1fb9c61.html
- ⁶ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). Lawsuit reveals other issues at SJSD.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/lawsuit-reveals-other-issues-at-sjسد/article_7ae6410f-e574-57d5-89d5-4cbd8faa9823.html
- ⁷ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). Czerwonka offers restructuring and apology.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/czerwonka-offers-restructuring-and-apology/article_625ae7a6-45cd-503d-8cf6-b06ef1eca6f0.html
- ⁸ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). State will audit school district.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/state-will-audit-school-district/article_a628aae1-1aef-5107-878e-0cddd3e10428.html
- ⁹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). School district concerns draw FBI interest.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-concerns-draw-fbi-interest/article_1ef5e6f2-4b30-5e10-9164-ad341dab3985.html
- ¹⁰ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). District paying consultant nearly \$135,000.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-paying-consultant-nearly/article_5963f994-e542-51b6-aa3d-185fb4129bcc.html

- ¹¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). As FBI probes, district hires law firm.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/as-fbi-probes-district-hires-law-firm/article_a968969e-a2bf-5d88-9f92-3ec54f6415af.html
- ¹² St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). School district shouldering cost of some legal services.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-shouldering-cost-of-some-legal-services/article_fb2bced0-105d-55db-8c27-84e37173192a.html
- ¹³ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). Czerwonka gets extension, raise.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/czerwonka-gets-extension-raise/article_2fd12741-13b9-5606-aa77-9d7ba7b98656.html
- ¹⁴ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). School board votes to retain Mickes law firm.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-board-votes-to-retain-mickes-law-firm/article_6aaa3b24-3709-57e8-a8b3-86c8b569850b.html
- ¹⁵ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). Grand jury targets school district.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/grand-jury-targets-school-district/article_ffc7fcec-da5b-5b9f-abf3-b43e38901688.html
- ¹⁶ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). Suit claims CFO warned of irregularities.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/suit-claims-cfo-warned-of-irregularities/article_d91af6a0-393d-530c-991f-b8a008a3b938.html
- ¹⁷ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). School district denies claims in Musser lawsuit.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-denies-claims-in-musser-lawsuit/article_231f05f9-b514-574f-b696-118e5ce42c48.html
- ¹⁸ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). District receives second grand jury subpoena.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-receives-second-grand-jury-subpoena/article_49291d8d-c884-5a0a-a49b-79df27fa8a1f.html
- ¹⁹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). Mickes withdraws as school district attorney.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/mickes-withdraws-as-school-district-attorney/article_cf31db6c-3588-5b7b-a09f-0e24ea745158.html
- ²⁰ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). School district plans ahead for audit report.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-plans-ahead-for-audit-report/article_b255c43c-b331-5ac0-b688-1618435d9eec.html
- ²¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). District pays for some administrator dues.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-pays-for-some-administrator-dues/article_988d52ac-ef5f-554d-a072-0506ea0a9a0a.html

- ²² St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). District retains S&P rating.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-retains-s-p-rating/article_0d358b90-2586-5c18-a4ef-8efcb9649920.html
- ²³ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). District denies report of insurance payout.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-denies-report-of-insurance-payout/article_ea5eee38-bec6-5954-938e-b569d67752d1.html
- ²⁴ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). District legal fees nearly \$300,000 since 2012.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-legal-fees-nearly-since/article_f86001d3-8fc4-5316-a76c-04c4b5a47149.html
- ²⁵ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). District receives federal subpoena for records.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-receives-federal-subpoena-for-records/article_59eeaaae-fdbf-5f79-9b57-b1484850ce7e.html
- ²⁶ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). School district's insurer wants to back out.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-s-insurer-wants-to-back-out/article_b101a1d6-f5fc-54c4-9a0e-c6fc2e4446be.html
- ²⁷ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). District to lose summer school funding.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-to-lose-summer-school-funding/article_5d47f0ab-2245-5903-81c8-61395bee8245.html
- ²⁸ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). School district will lose more money than thought.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-will-lose-more-money-than-thought/article_23689c23-aad3-5e90-958e-094361117b7a.html
- ²⁹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2014). District may avoid summer school penalties.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-may-avoid-summer-school-penalties/article_7ee61514-c0dd-5d30-a6f8-7f0267788ded.html

Chapter 9 References

- ¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). District: Administrators placed on leave.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-administrators-placed-on-leave/article_8de4d159-0c83-55a4-8ed5-97afaa07869d.html
- ² St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). Board again waives attorney-client privilege.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/board-again-waives-attorney-client-privilege/article_5fe16ff0-2dbd-5087-aa9c-f0652b4a4eff.html
- ³ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). School district cuts Summer Explorers program.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-cuts-summer-explorers-program/article_5225df62-2065-5312-9ff2-ab016227e0ac.html

- ⁴ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). District spending called 'startling,' 'staggering'.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-spending-called-startling-staggering/article_b9007c2d-1e01-5311-bdaa-09672e745559.html
- ⁵ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). Bank wants out of district 'P card' program.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/bank-wants-out-of-district-p-card-program/article_001c141d-f37a-5f30-9b89-358259cd6a49.html
- ⁶ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). School district shakeup continues.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-shakeup-continues/article_845d9571-8b08-5be2-bc39-8d0de9c46c35.html
- ⁷ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). Dan Colgan has resigned from the school board.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/dan-colgan-has-resigned-from-the-school-board/article_3e3e2496-a22f-5fba-817c-a7360590356f.html
- ⁸ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). School district looks for new external auditor.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-looks-for-new-external-auditor/article_938e3c86-7411-5ccd-8fcf-b61fe84bde49.html
- ⁹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). Musser case settled for \$450,000.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/musser-case-settled-for/article_dd0306b1-343a-5de1-bf0a-01311405b9d6.html
- ¹⁰ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). Eric Bruder chosen as new board member.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/eric-bruder-chosen-as-new-board-member/article_d5b09b77-e622-5133-8979-9f74db72fb9b.html
- ¹¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). Czerwonka resigns from school district.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/czerwonka-resigns-from-school-district/article_63abe8e8-5034-5909-89ae-f86dde43fa74.html
- ¹² St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). District slowly correcting audit problems.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-slowly-correcting-audit-problems/article_e422c6e0-369e-56f6-81b8-d25a2d07aa2f.html
- ¹³ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). School board says district is showing progress.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-board-says-district-is-showing-progress/article_83c8f4a4-6015-5474-877e-7b8469565f84.html
- ¹⁴ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). Auditor's office says district is on right path.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/auditor-s-office-says-district-is-on-right-path/article_ecf944f3-b637-5e75-8366-93ff1fee6344.html

- ¹⁵ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). School board to pick interim superintendent Friday.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-board-to-pick-interim-superintendent-friday/article_a47b2e1c-3b19-50ca-98c2-2cc3cd722d37.html
- ¹⁶ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). School district picks new superintendent.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-picks-new-superintendent/article_7b7945dc-591a-5d34-a5b3-be213671044e.html
- ¹⁷ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). IRS targets school district tax returns.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/irs-targets-school-district-tax-returns/article_0e4bd1c0-7836-5fde-8db3-46bdf3b88c20.html
- ¹⁸ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). Budget puts school district in \$12.2 million hole.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/budget-puts-school-district-in-million-hole/article_04f70db5-66af-5830-a589-eb25ef1c22e8.html
- ¹⁹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). School district restructures HR department.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-restructures-hr-department/article_1a71025b-674c-5df3-9160-c9acc8c8cf9e.html
- ²⁰ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). Dr. Newhart takes helm of school district.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/dr-newhart-takes-helm-of-school-district/article_61b3dae9-5a62-53d3-9094-c3d77f8f4e92.html
- ²¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). School district lays groundwork for future.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-lays-groundwork-for-future/article_817effc9-37cd-5433-acf4-e6aa8277371d.html
- ²² St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). Newhart pitches plan for new district structure.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/newhart-pitches-plan-for-new-district-structure/article_58994923-7c64-54dc-8687-02fbf392231d.html
- ²³ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). School district to auction controversial painting.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-to-auction-controversial-painting/article_a39ba7c7-b022-531e-a23b-dcde55d19431.html
- ²⁴ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). Bids in for school district's infamous painting.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/bids-in-for-school-district-s-infamous-painting/article_3569d744-daaa-5a78-849b-9af6177ffdf6.html
- ²⁵ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). District discontinues Colgan's health insurance.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-discontinues-colgan-s-health-insurance/article_f5616c6c-f34e-5cfl-857c-77f3b48713d8.html

- ²⁶ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). School district schedules town halls.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-schedules-town-halls/article_e9b99bdf-ad66-548f-a7f7-1dd75a657c73.html
- ²⁷ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). School district showing increased transparency.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-showing-increased-transparency/article_980e76e2-577c-5d3d-b12e-03775e929e13.html
- ²⁸ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). Local schools improve on state report card.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/local-schools-improve-on-state-report-card/article_7a0d24c7-e2f0-5390-b4e5-1178b3a9b3a4.html
- ²⁹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). Air conditioning on school district agenda.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/air-conditioning-on-school-district-agenda/article_90301bc4-0a75-598b-adeb-1e76e4c4eb85.html
- ³⁰ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). District to pay \$29,449 after IRS probe.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/district-to-pay-after-irs-probe/article_96381083-c981-56e9-a904-2c9ea40349ad.html
- ³¹ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). School district receives new subpoena.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-receives-new-subpoena/article_a7010282-9070-5815-91bc-b9a1266696f6.html
- ³² St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). School district faces state scrutiny of finances.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-district-faces-state-scrutiny-of-finances/article_698cebb3-557c-50a7-b5ea-ddc1e0699842.html
- ³³ St. Joseph News-Press. (2015). School board trains to improve district.
http://www.newspressnow.com/news/local_news/school-board-trains-to-improve-district/article_3018690f-4dfd-588a-b135-0246eba06eb7.html

2011-2012

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Melody Smith	Superintendent of Schools
Cheri Patterson	Associate Superintendent
Steve Huff	Assistant to the Superintendent
Janet Pullen	Chief Financial Officer
Rick Hartigan	Chief Operating Officer
Tim Ellis	Director of Data Management
Dr. Brian Shindorf	Director of Elementary Education
Doug Flowers	Director of Human Resources
Chris Silcott	Director of Operations and Warehousing
Dr. Jaime Dial	Director of Secondary Education
Denise Colhour	Director of Special Services
Jenny Gaddie	Assistant Director of Special Services
Beery Johnson	Assistant Director of Student Services
Dr. Laura Nelson	Assistant Director of Assessment and Program Evaluation

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Jeanette Westfall	Principal	Benton High School
Roberta Dias	Principal	Bode Middle School
Dr. Marlie Williams	Principal	Central High School
Mike Otto	Principal	Coleman Elementary School
Deborah Sisco	Principal	Colgan Alternative Resource Center
Dr. Matt Martz	Principal	Edison Elementary School
Kim Siela	Principal	Ellison Elementary School
Dr. Deborah Stephens	Principal	Field Elementary School
Heather Gladheart	Principal	Hall Elementary School
Regenia Briggs	Director	Hillyard Technical Center
Lindsay Minson	Principal	Hosea Elementary School
Lacey Adams	Principal	Humboldt Elementary School
Jeaneen Boyer	Principal	Hyde Elementary School
Dr. Tyran Sumy	Principal	Lafayette High School
Dr. Jasmine Briedwell	Principal	Lake Contrary Elementary School
Dr. Julie Gaddie	Principal	Lindbergh Elementary School
Dr. Suzanne Tiemann	Principal	Mark Twain Elementary School
Dr. Adam Willard	Principal	Noyes Elementary School
Joni Owens	Principal	Parkway Elementary School
Tara Wells	Principal	Pershing Elementary School
Sarah Gerving	Principal	Pickett Elementary School
Krista Sly	Principal	Robidoux Middle School
Dr. Jennifer Patterson	Principal	Skaith Elementary School
Dr. Lara Gilpin	Principal	Spring Garden Middle School
Sandy Steggall	Principal	Truman Middle School
Betty Wymore	Director	Webster Learning Center

2012-2013

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Melody Smith	Superintendent of Schools
Cheri Patterson	Associate Superintendent
Steve Huff	Assistant to the Superintendent
Janet Pullen	Chief Financial Officer
Rick Hartigan	Chief Operating Officer
Tim Ellis	Director of Data Management
Dr. Brian Shindorf	Director of Elementary Education
Doug Flowers	Director of Human Resources
Chris Silcott	Director of Operations and Warehousing
Dr. Jaime Dial	Director of Secondary Education
Denise Colhour	Director of Special Services
Jenny Gaddie	Assistant Director of Special Services
Beery Johnson	Assistant Director of Student Services
Dr. Laura Nelson	Assistant Director of Assessment and Program Evaluation

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Jeanette Westfall	Principal	Benton High School
Roberta Dias	Principal	Bode Middle School
Dr. Marlie Williams	Principal	Central High School
Mike Otto	Principal	Coleman Elementary School
Michele Thomason	Principal	Colgan Alternative Resource Center
Dr. Matt Martz	Principal	Edison Elementary School
Kim Siela	Principal	Ellison Elementary School
Dr. Deborah Stephens	Principal	Field Elementary School
Heather Gladheart	Principal	Hall Elementary School
Regenia Briggs	Director	Hillyard Technical Center
Lindsay Minson	Principal	Hosea Elementary School
Lacey Adams	Principal	Humboldt Elementary School
Jeaneen Boyer	Principal	Hyde Elementary School
Dr. Tyran Sumy	Principal	Lafayette High School
Dr. Jasmine Briedwell	Principal	Lake Contrary Elementary School
Dr. Julie Gaddie	Principal	Lindbergh Elementary School
Dr. Suzanne Tiemann	Principal	Mark Twain Elementary School
Dr. Adam Willard	Principal	Noyes Elementary School
Joni Owens	Principal	Parkway Elementary School
Tara Wells	Principal	Pershing Elementary School
Sarah Gerving	Principal	Pickett Elementary School
Precious Kurth	Principal	Robidoux Middle School
Dr. Jennifer Patterson	Principal	Skaith Elementary School
Dr. Lara Gilpin	Principal	Spring Garden Middle School
Dr. Sandy Steggall	Principal	Truman Middle School
Betty Wymore	Director	Webster Learning Center

2013-2014

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Fred Czerwonka	Superintendent of Schools
Steve Huff	Assistant to the Superintendent
Beau Musser	Chief Financial Officer
Rick Hartigan	Chief Operating Officer
Tim Ellis	Director of Data Management
Dr. Brian Shindorf	Director of Elementary Education
Doug Flowers	Director of Human Resources
Chris Silcott	Director of Operations and Warehousing
Dr. Sandy Steggall	Director of Secondary Education
Denise Colhour	Director of Special Services
Jenny Gaddie	Assistant Director of Special Services
Dr. Jake Long	Assistant Director of Student Services
Dr. Kendra Lau	Director of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION

Beery Johnson	Principal	Benton High School
Roberta Dias	Principal	Bode Middle School
Dr. Deborah Stephens	Principal	Central High School
Mike Otto	Principal	Coleman Elementary School
Jeremy Burrigh	Principal	Colgan Alternative Resource Center
Terri Deayon	Principal	Edison Elementary School
Kimberly Siela	Principal	Ellison Elementary School
Joni Owens	Principal	Field Elementary School
Heather Gladhart	Principal	Hall Elementary School
Dr. Dennis Merritt	Director	Hillyard Technical Center
Dr. Kevin Carroll	Principal	Hosea Elementary School
Lacey Adams	Principal	Humboldt Elementary School
Jeaneen Boyer	Principal	Hyde Elementary School
Dr. Tyran Sumy	Principal	Lafayette High School
Dr. Jasmine Briedwell	Principal	Lake Contrary Elementary School
Dr. Julie Gaddie	Principal	Lindbergh Elementary School
Dr. Suzanne Tiemann	Principal	Mark Twain Elementary School
Lindsay Minson	Principal	Noyes Elementary School
Brad Owings	Principal	Parkway Elementary School
Tara Wells	Principal	Pershing Elementary School
Sarah Gerving	Principal	Pickett Elementary School
Precious Kurth	Principal	Robidoux Middle School
Dr. Jennifer Patterson	Principal	Skaith Elementary School
Dr. Lara Gilpin	Principal	Spring Garden Middle School
Jason Callaway	Principal	Truman Middle School
Betty Wymore	Director	Webster Learning Center

2014-2015

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION

Dr. Fred Czerwonka	Superintendent of Schools
Beau Musser	Chief Financial Officer
Rick Hartigan	Chief Operating Officer
Joey Austin	Director of Communications
Tim Ellis	Director of Data Management
Dr. Brian Shindorf	Director of Elementary Education
Doug Flowers	Director of Human Resources
Chris Silcott	Director of Operations and Warehousing
Dr. Sandy Steggall	Director of Secondary Education
Denise Colhour	Director of Special Services
Dr. Jake Long	Director of Safety and Transportation
Dr. Kendra Lau	Director of Research, Evaluation, and Assessment

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION

Beery Johnson	Principal	Benton High School
Roberta Dias	Principal	Bode Middle School
Lacey Adams	Principal	Carden Park Elementary School
Dr. Deborah Stephens	Principal	Central High School
Heather Gladhart	Principal	Coleman Elementary School
Jeremy Burrigh	Principal	Colgan Alternative Resource Center
Terri Deayon	Principal	Edison Elementary School
Kara Anderson	Principal	Ellison Elementary School
Joni Owens	Principal	Field Elementary School
Dr. Dennis Merritt	Director	Hillyard Technical Center
Dr. Kevin Carroll	Principal	Hosea Elementary School
Jaimee Lawrence	Principal	Humboldt Elementary School
Jeaneen Boyer	Principal	Hyde Elementary School
Dr. Tyran Sumy	Principal	Lafayette High School
Dr. Jasmine Briedwell	Principal	Lake Contrary Elementary School
Dr. Julie Gaddie	Principal	Lindbergh Elementary School
Dr. Suzanne Tiemann	Principal	Mark Twain Elementary School
Mike Otto	Principal	Oak Grove Elementary School
Brad Owings	Principal	Parkway Elementary School
Tara Wells	Principal	Pershing Elementary School
Sarah Gerving	Principal	Pickett Elementary School
Precious Kurth	Principal	Robidoux Middle School
Dr. Jennifer Patterson	Principal	Skaith Elementary School
Dr. Lara Gilpin	Principal	Spring Garden Middle School
Jason Callaway	Principal	Truman Middle School
Betty Wymore	Director	Webster Learning Center

Members of the Board of Education: 1994-2015

1993-1994	President Vice President Member Member Member Member	Mr. Ed Murphy Mr. Bill Tarpley Dr. Jane Frick Dr. Robert Paolillo Mr. David Mejia Mr. Larry Morrow
1994-1995	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mr. Bill Tarpley Mr. David Mejia Dr. Jane Frick Mr. Larry Morrow Mr. Ed Murphy Mr. Daniel Kellogg Mr. David Liechti
1995-1996	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mr. Bill Tarpley Mr. David Mejia Dr. Jane Frick Mr. Larry Morrow Mr. Ed Murphy Mr. Daniel Kellogg Mr. David Liechti
1996-1997	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mr. Larry Morrow Mr. David Liechti Mr. David Hornaday Dr. Teresa Humphreys Mr. David Mejia Mr. Ed Murphy Mr. Bill Tarpley
1997-1998	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mr. Larry Morrow Mr. David Liechti Mr. David Hornaday Dr. Teresa Humphreys Mr. David Mejia Mr. Ed Murphy Mr. Bill Tarpley

Members of the Board of Education: 1994-2015

1998-1999	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mr. David Liechti Mr. David Hornaday Mr. Byron Bud Baker Mr. Leo Blakley Dr. Teresa Humphreys Mr. David Mejia Mr. Ed Murphy
1999-2000	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mr. David Liechti Mr. David Hornaday Mr. Byron Bud Baker Mr. Leo Blakley Dr. Teresa Humphreys Mr. David Mejia Mr. Ed Murphy
2000-2001	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mr. David Hornaday Dr. Teresa Humphreys Mr. Byron Bud Baker Mr. Leo Blakley Mr. David Mejia Mr. Ed Murphy Mrs. Diane Watson
2001-2002	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mr. David Hornaday Dr. Teresa Humphreys Mr. Byron Bud Baker Mr. Leo Blakley Mr. David Mejia Mr. Ed Murphy Mrs. Diane Watson
2002-2003	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Dr. Teresa Humphreys Mr. Leo Blakley Mr. Byron Bud Baker Mr. David Hornaday Mr. David Mejia Mr. Ed Murphy Mrs. Diane Watson

Members of the Board of Education: 1994-2015

2003-2004	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Dr. Teresa Humphreys Mr. Leo Blakley Mr. Byron Bud Baker Mr. David Hornaday Mr. David Mejia Mr. Ed Murphy Mrs. Diane Watson
2004-2005	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mr. Leo Blakley Mrs. Diane Watson Mr. David Hornaday Mr. Bob Hughs Dr. Teresa Humphreys Mr. Ed Murphy Mr. Martin Rucker
2005-2006	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mr. Leo Blakley Mrs. Diane Watson Mr. David Hornaday Mr. Bob Hughs Dr. Teresa Humphreys Mr. Ed Murphy Mr. Martin Rucker
2006-2007	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mrs. Diane Watson Mr. Martin Rucker Mr. Leo Blakley Mr. David Hornaday Mr. Dennis Snethen Dr. Teresa Humphreys Mrs. Barbara Moore
2007-2008	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mrs. Diane Watson Mr. Martin Rucker Mr. Leo Blakley Mr. David Hornaday Mr. Dennis Snethen Dr. Teresa Humphreys Mrs. Barbara Moore

Members of the Board of Education: 1994-2015

2008-2009	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mrs. Diane Watson Mr. Martin Rucker Mr. Leo Blakley Mrs. Sarah Siemens Mr. Dennis Snethen Mrs. Barbara Moore Ms. Susan Wagner
2009-2010	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mrs. Diane Watson Mr. Martin Rucker Mr. Leo Blakley Mrs. Sarah Siemens Mr. Dennis Snethen Mrs. Barbara Moore Ms. Susan Wagner
2010-2011	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mrs. Barbara Moore Ms. Susan Wagner Dr. Dan Colgan Mr. Brad Haggard Mrs. Sarah Siemens Mr. Dennis Snethen Mrs. Diane Watson
2011-2012	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mrs. Barbara Moore Ms. Susan Wagner Dr. Dan Colgan Mr. Brad Haggard Mrs. Sarah Siemens Mr. Dennis Snethen Mrs. Diane Watson
2012-2013	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Dr. Dan Colgan Mr. Brad Haggard Mrs. Chris Danford Mrs. Sarah Siemens Mr. Dennis Snethen Mr. Martin Rucker Ms. Susan Wagner

Members of the Board of Education: 1994-2015

2013-2014	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Dr. Dan Colgan Mr. Brad Haggard Mrs. Chris Danford Mrs. Sarah Siemens Mr. Dennis Snethen Mr. Martin Rucker Ms. Susan Wagner
2014-2015	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mr. Brad Haggard Mr. Martin Rucker Dr. Dan Colgan Mrs. Chris Danford Mrs. Kappy Hodges Mr. Dennis Snethen Mrs. Lori Prussman
2015	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mr. Brad Haggard Mr. Martin Rucker Dr. Dan Colgan Mrs. Chris Danford Mrs. Kappy Hodges Mr. Dennis Snethen Mrs. Lori Prussman
2015	President Vice President Member Member Member Member Member	Mr. Brad Haggard Mr. Martin Rucker Mr. Eric Bruder Mrs. Chris Danford Mrs. Kappy Hodges Mr. Dennis Snethen Mrs. Lori Prussman