**Superintendent’s Report for BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Lee A. Tolbert Community Academy, Dr. Donnie Mitchell (Superintendent)

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1. For several months the Missouri Legislature has considered an open enrollment bill. This bill would allow families to transfer to any school of their choice without necessarily meeting residential requirements. In our opinion, this bill would unfairly target and harm urban schools. Last week, the legislature decided that this bill would not move forward and at the present time is not being considered. We are excited about that and I will keep the BOE posted as to any future developments.
2. Last week I had the pleasure to represent our school in Washington DC with the Educational Leadership Policy Program. This visit allowed me to participate in advocacy for public schools and the programs we need to ensure our students (at LATCA) receive support on the state and federal level for educational equity. Summary of visits include:
	1. **National Education Association** – conversation around what we can do to address the teacher shortage and compensation support at the federal level.
	2. **National Association of Elementary School Principals** – conversation around how we can assist colleges and creating teacher education prep programs that go deep enough to give students the skills needed for effective teaching, but also how we cannot make requirements as hard to encourage more o enter into the education field.
	3. **National Association of Secondary School Principals** – similar conversation above but also tips on the verbiage and language to use while meeting with representatives on capitol hill around educational support.
	4. **National School Board Association** – conversation around advocacy.
	5. **United States Department of Education** – conversation around career and technical education support as well as supporting increasing minority engagement in pursuing careers in education. Also spoke to potential areas to increase financial support for teacher salaries.
	6. **United States Department of Agriculture –** conversation around the federal school lunch program and potential changes and cuts. Heavy discussion on universal school lunch being free for all students as many school districts are incurring debt from unpaid student lunch bills. Discussion was also had that school districts need to make themselves aware that shifts in policy could result in funding decreases.
	7. **Office of:** **Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver, Congressman Sam Graves, Senator Josh Hawley and Senator Erick Schmidt. –** in these separate meetings the same conversations were held…how to encourage people to get into the field of education and how to boost support for loan forgiveness programs. We also discussed that over 100,000 teaching jobs have been unfilled this school year due to rapid decreases in individuals leaving the education profession.