

To: Fellow Boone County Retiree
Subject: Annual MRTA Legislative Days -current plans
From: Legislative Committee

Because of recently initiated new security measures enacted in the Capital Building, our traditional Legislative Days have been modified.

Instead of the usual expected 1000+ participants with a chicken dinner being served and buses being provided, plans are to hopefully have approximately 200-250 retired educators visit the Capital on February 15. Everyone is welcome, but bus transportation and meals are attendees' responsibility.

Below are the recommendations of the Boone County Legislative Committee:

1. All members should communicate (via email or letter writing) with their legislator on February 15. If you want to go to Jefferson City on February 15, make arrangements with others to car pool and wear RED. Please note the directions on finding your legislator's address on the attached information from MRTA.
2. Please refer to the attached information from MRTA as you communicate with your legislator. In writing your legislator, please keep these few things in mind:
 - a. Select a few of the issues from the attached "MRTA Issues of Importance 2017 Legislative Sessions" that interest you to use in writing your legislator.
 - b. Correspondence should be "in your own words"-no form or copied letters.
 - c. Thank your legislator for their support.
3. Below are some talking points:
 - Charter Schools Closed- since the inception of charter schools, 59 charter schools have been established in Missouri. **Of these 21 failed and eventually closed costing taxpayers over \$600,000,000.** (very expensive trial effort)
 - Misappropriation of Funds- Within recent years, five Missouri charter schools have been guilty of misappropriation of state and federal funds for having falsely reporting inflated attendance. The Missouri state auditor issued a formal audit on three charter schools. The director of the fourth charter school is serving time in federal prison for misappropriation of funds. The fifth school was found co-mingling state and federal dollars with their private money.
 - Lack of Academic Performance- In looking at the 2016 APR (Annual Pupil Performance) that DESE compiles for all Missouri school districts, we find that some charter schools are still under performing. Examples of which are:
 - A) Confluence charter school in St. Louis has been in operation for 13 years receiving over **\$331,000,000** in taxpayer dollars, but the APR they have been able to achieve is 54.6% in 2016.
 - B) Genesis charter school in Kansas City is similar. Very poor performing while receiving **\$54,000,000** in state and federal funds and only able to achieve an APR of 48.1% in 2016.
 - C) Benjamin Baneker charter school in Kansas City has been a poor performing charter school in for over 16 years. From 2001-2015 the charter board of Baneker charter school received close to **\$44,000,000** in state and federal funds and were only able to achieve an APR of 46.9% in 2016.

Summary: The question remains how can we expand charter schools when the current charter system has spent over **ONE BILLION DOLLARS** in failing schools.