



October 25, 2016

Dr. Cynthia Lane
Superintendent
Kansas City, Kansas School District
2010 N. 59th Street
Kansas City, Kansas 66104

Dear Dr. Lane,

El Centro's Board of Directors enthusiastically supports the Board of Education's School Bond referendum slated for the November 8th ballot. At our October 15th board meeting, our Board of Directors voted to approve an endorsement for this school bond. As you know, El Centro was created in 1976 for the purpose of "assisting in meeting the needs of the Spanish-speaking and all other poor and low-income citizens in the struggle with poverty and economic depression". While our programs and leadership have changed over the past 40 years, we remain true to our original purpose.

The mission of El Centro – one we strive to meet and exceed at all times – is, "To strengthen communities and improve the lives of Latinos and others through educational, social, and economic opportunities". We are very concerned about the status of school funding in the state of Kansas, which keenly affects local school districts on a constant basis. In turn, this uncertainty of school funding affects our children and families and gives them new challenges for getting a quality education. We are encouraged by your plans to create facilities that prepare our students for a career or college pathway. To date, the district has successfully renovated or replaced 14 new facilities over the past eight years to provide quality learning for those attending the Kansas City Kansas School District. This bond will provide so much more!

One of the most important things for our families is that taxes will NOT increase; however, this bond issue WILL strengthen our community economically and create the learning environments needed for children to succeed in the 21st century. We will be proactive to both educate our families about this issue and also get them to the polls to vote for this important bond.

Sincerely,

Irene Caudillo
President & CEO



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