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October 28, 2016

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

Dear Dr. Lane,

I am writing to offer my heartfelt endorsement of the no-tax increase bond referendum that the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools (KCKPS) has placed be on the November 8, 2016 ballot. I believe this bond represents a tremendous opportunity to continue to improve schools for all students in the Kansas City, Kansas community, all while keeping tax rates the same.

You and the KCKPS Board of Education have a history of making significant improvements to your schools, and doing it in a fiscally responsible manner. Over the past eight years, you have built or renovated 14 buildings, including four new schools, a new library, and a new central office and training center. Through effective planning and sound fiscal management, you have been able to make these improvements using existing Capitol Outlay funds. You managed this during a time of economic recession, and your insistence on not adding to the economic burden of taxpayers in our community is to be commended.

The November 8 bond referendum represents a critical next step in your work. As you strive to graduate each student Diploma+, prepared for college and careers in a global society, it is critical that you are able to continue your improvement efforts. This bond will provide this community with four brand-new schools, safety and security enhancements that touch <u>every</u> school, renovations to provide flexible spaces to support career academies at every high school, and career exploration at every middle school, new kitchens and playgrounds for schools that need them, along with attention to many other facilities needs. These improvements are critical for the continued success of students in KCKPS.

Passage of this bond referendum will also provide significant economic benefit to this community, pumping $307 million into the Kansas City, Kansas economy, supporting an estimated 933 jobs, $105 million in salaries for area workers, and $27 million in local sales and spending. The planning that you and the Board of Education have done, which will bring these economic benefits **without** increasing taxes for community residents, mean that this bond referendum is a win-win for all Kansas City, Kansas residents.

I am excited about what this bond referendum will provide for the future of Kansas City, Kansas, and I offer a full and unqualified endorsement of the November 8 bond referendum. I encourage everyone to join me in voting "Yes" for our schools.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Mark R. Holland

Dr. Mark R. Holland, Senior Pastor
5010 Parallel Parkway • Kansas City, Kansas 66104
Phone: 913.287.8500 • **Fax:** 913.287.4322 • www.TrinityKCK.org