



# NEWS RELEASE

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## State Auditor Releases Report to the Public

Missouri State Auditor Susan Montee delivered the findings of a 52-page state audit at a public meeting at the Liberty Public Schools District Administration Office on Thursday evening.

Some of the areas examined by the auditors include district finances, compensation and travel allowances, bidding and contracts, and real estate transactions. The audit report mainly focuses on administrators who are no longer employed by the district.

The district recognizes that in some instances proper controls were not in place prior to the state auditor's report and the Westbrook procedures audit conducted in 2008. Responses from the district included in the audit report clearly point toward the many accomplishments achieved by the Board of Education, the Board appointed Audit and Finance Committee, and the administration during the past year. New policies and procedures have been adopted and implemented by the Board, and internal controls such as accounting, travel, and purchasing procedures have been improved.

"Together, with the administration, we continue to identify ways to create a sustainable financial future for our district," said Bren Abbott, Liberty School Board President. "We have made a great deal of progress by providing greater accessibility to financial data, and we have improved communications internally and externally. An effective school board is accountable to the public. It is our desire to continue to restore public trust and confidence in our district."

"It is important for our patrons to know we are committed to being good stewards of their taxpayer dollars," said Mike Brewer, Superintendent of Schools. "As a fast-growing organization, we will continue to examine our processes and look for ways to improve them. The completion of this audit is an important step in the healing process of our district and community. There have been many distractions over the past two years, but we have never lost our focus on teaching and learning."

During her presentation, state Auditor Montee said, "I feel positive about some of things happening in the district now as a result of the state audit and the Westbrook audit. I'm hopeful things are going to improve - alot of things have already been changed. I think the district is on the right track now."

To review the complete audit report, click on <http://auditor.mo.gov/press/2009-72.pdf>.

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