



John Duncan is a long-standing member of the Board of Trustees of the Public School Retirement System of the School District of Kansas City, Missouri. After his retirement from the School District in 1988, he became concerned there was only one retiree representative on KCPSRS's Board of Trustees. He took the initiative to run and became a representative of the retirees in January 1993. Mr. Duncan brings many years of experience to his position. He has served as president of many different area Boards, including The Ethnic Enrichment Commission, The Kansas City Association of School Retirees, The Guadeloupe Center, The Mayer's Prayer Breakfast – the list goes on.

Mr. Duncan is fascinated by history, and has experienced quite a personal and professional one throughout his life. He was born January 2, 1929 during the time of the Great Depression. Around the age of 11, his parents moved to the Kansas City area and he continued to live and be raised by his aunt and uncle in the St. Joseph, Missouri area.

Mr. Duncan met his future bride, Carol, in Junior High School. Together they attended various universities; including receiving their Master's Degrees from what is now known as University Central Missouri. After their marriage, although they had one biological son and adopted three daughters, they raised eight children altogether. They continue to remain happily married, enjoying being active in various organizations, and going dancing whenever the occasion presents itself.

As an educator, Mr. Duncan (and his wife, too) worked in many different demographics and fields. He began his career as a teacher at an elementary school in a small two-room school with an outhouse. Since agriculture was a class this city-boy would have to teach, he was lucky he guessed right when asked from which end a cow gets up. (The back, if you were wondering.) He was hired on the spot. He then moved on to become a Special Education teacher in the St. Joseph area, eventually becoming an Assistant Principal and then a Principal here in Kansas City, Missouri. He has taught everything from World History to Home Economics.

Mr. Duncan will be up for re-election in November 2008. He has enjoyed his many years on the Board. It is his hope the retirement fund will continue to improve, as it has done in the previous years (despite inflation and stock market fluctuations), as well as improvement in benefits for active and retired members of the Kansas City, Missouri School District, the Charter Schools of Kansas City, the Kansas City Public Library System, and the Public School Retirement System.

Reflecting on his past, Mr. Duncan left me with how his priorities have changed over time. He said, "The importance of things is determined by where you are at in time." Things that seemed terribly important as a younger person don't have the same meaning now that he is older. As I think about this statement, I agree totally. As a young person starting a career, starting a family, and everything thing that goes along with it, one is usually concerned with the here and now. However, it is important to remember, eventually the kids will grow up, move out, and retirement will be in the future.