

Andover Board of Education Notes
Sept. 11, 2023

Revenue neutral rate and budget hearing: Sherame Kneisel, chief financial officer, presented about the district's proposal to exceed its [revenue neutral rate](#) and about its proposed budget before hearing community feedback and answering questions. Taxing authorities are required by the state to hold a hearing and vote if their tax revenue will exceed that of the previous budget year. Because the district's assessed valuation has increased, it is able to decrease its overall mill levy by approximately 1.17 mills to 66.169. The Board voted 5-1 to approve exceeding the revenue neutral rate.

Kneisel then presented about the [proposed 2023-24 budget](#), which includes approximately:

- \$44 million from the state's General Fund
- \$13.4 million in Supplemental General Fund (local option budget)
- \$8 million in Capital Outlay
- \$15.7 million in bond and interest payments

Spotlight on Learning: Jill Lachenmayr, assistant superintendent for academic affairs; Traci Holder, director of instruction and intervention; and Jake Sims, multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) coordinator presented about the [Andover Instructional Framework and curriculum alignment](#). This includes:

- Emphasizing that MTSS is about strengthening foundational curriculum, not just about intervention.
- A partnership with the Kansas Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) to strengthen instructional leadership, align curriculum and implement reading teams.
- Transitioning to FastBridge as the district's assessment tool.
- Cohesive curriculum in which there is a school-wide agreement and common understanding of essential content.

Health insurance update: Jala Miller with IMA presented about the district's health care plan for 2024. The Blue Cross Blue Shield proposed rate would have increased district costs by \$660,464, or approximately 17.4%. IMA requested options from the open market. Gravie/Aetna proposed a plan that would decrease rates by \$9,373, or approximately 0.7%.

Enrollment and staffing report: Jeremy Boldra, assistant superintendent for human resources, presented on [projected enrollment and staffing](#) for the 2023-24 school year. As of Sept. 6, elementary in-person FTE enrollment was down 23 students overall from 2022-23, middle school enrollment was up 17 and high school enrollment was down 41, for a total decrease of 47 students. The state's count day is Sept. 20, but final numbers won't be available until after an audit by the Kansas State Department of Education in the spring.

Budget adoption: The Board voted to approve its [2023-24 proposed budget](#).

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Brett White reported that the district hosted training for the Butler County Special Education Interlocal administrative team on Sept. 6.