

## Andover Board of Education Notes

Oct. 9, 2023

**Good News:** The Board recognized Katelyn Barnes, a senior at Andover Central High School, for being named a National Merit Semifinalist by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Semifinalists represent approximately the top 1 percent of seniors who took the PSAT/NMSQT exam during their junior year.

The Board also recognized the district's two Kansas Horizon Award nominees. Kiara O'Dea teaches French at Andover High School, and Brianna Oglesby teaches kindergarten at Prairie Creek Elementary School. The Horizon Award recognizes annually 32 exemplary teachers in the state who are beginning their second year in the classroom. Statewide awards will be announced in January.

**REWARDS reading program:** Andrea Lehning, special education teacher at ACHS, and Amanda Grier, ACHS principal, described how the use of the REWARDS reading program in special education resource time has improved student comprehension and vocabulary. The Board also awarded Lehning its Character Champion award for her impact on school culture at ACHS, particularly for caring for an ailing colleague over the summer.

**Technology and learning:** Jill Lachenmayr, assistant superintendent for academic affairs, and others presented about how new [technology is affecting the learning environment](#) at our schools. They discussed plagiarism, cell phone management and artificial intelligence. They explored the need for students to learn about and use AI while understanding the ethical implications of AI. This includes some policy and handbook changes that will need to occur to keep up with current technology.

**Transportation update:** Richard Bell, executive director of operations, provided an update on the [transition to First Student](#) as the district's transportation provider. All new buses have arrived, and First Student has hired 47 drivers and 12 bus monitors. The First View parent app is still in the process of being implemented due to a delay in technology delivery.

**Enrollment policy:** Superintendent Brett White presented on a [proposed policy](#) to comply with a [new state law](#) requiring districts to accept nonresident students when there is capacity in schools. The policy is largely based on language from the new law, with capacity numbers to be determined in the spring. The Board will hold a public hearing on the policy at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, at District Office. The Board is scheduled to take action on the policy at its Dec. 11 meeting.

**Mechanical systems agreement:** The Board voted to approve a contract with Building Controls & Services in the amount of \$143,368 to provide preventative maintenance service to all district boilers, chillers and commercial domestic hot water systems to ensure that systems operate effectively, reliably and efficiently.

**Additional bond allocation:** The Board previously had approved issuing additional temporary bonds that were part of the 2017 voter-approved bond election. These funds can only be used for purchases or repairs associated with the buildings or projects defined in the election language. The Board approved spending those funds on the following projects:

- Cottonwood Elementary Monument Sign: The monument sign at CES features two marquee boxes and an old faded building identification sign. This project would remove those items

and retrofit the area occupied by the marquee boxes with a backlit LED sign. Images are included in the attached files.

- Sunflower Elementary Boiler: The boiler at Sunflower is original to the building and is due for replacement due to age and operating condition. This project would replace the old inefficient boiler with two high efficiency condensing boilers. This will reduce natural gas consumption as well as provide redundancy in the heating system should one boiler be out of service.
- ACHS Tennis Courts: The four courts behind ACHS are long past due for resurfacing. These courts are available for public use as well as used by ACHS and ACMS for practices and competitions when the district tennis complex is beyond capacity. Resurfacing is recommended every 6-8 years.
- AMS, ACMS and ACHS Bleacher Repairs: We asked School and Office Products Inc. (SOPA) to conduct inspections of gym bleachers at all secondary schools and build a recommendation for maintenance or replacement. At AMS the gym A bleachers are difficult to open and close due to being out of alignment and having rollers and other parts that need replacement. This quote addresses the issues found. SOPA does not recommend replacement for this set of bleachers at this time. At ACMS there are some damaged sections of skirting and some operational issues to repair. SOPA also does not recommend replacement of this set of bleachers. At ACHS there are a significant number of worn out frame rollers causing uneven rollout. There are also skirting and plug issues that need to be corrected. SOPA also does not recommend replacing this set of bleachers. Ongoing annual inspections and repairing issues found should yield many more years of service. Reports and quotes for other bleachers are forthcoming and recommendations will be presented at a future meeting.

**Superintendent's report:** Superintendent Brett White updated the Board on Foundation for Andover Schools educator grant applications, which are being accepted this month. He told the Board the Andover State of the Community lunch would be at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 17.