



Unified School District 232

De Soto – Shawnee – Lenexa – Olathe
www.usd232.org

USD 232 BOARD OF EDUCATION

OFFICIAL MINUTES -- REGULAR MEETING

Administrative Office (35200 West 91st Street, De Soto, Kansas)

October 2, 2023

YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/@usd232>

The Board President, Ashley Spaulding, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum of the Board was present. Attendance was as follows:

Board Members Present: Rick Amos
Bill Fletcher
Danielle Heikes
Brandi Jonasson
Stephanie Makalous
Calley Malloy
Ashley Spaulding

Others Present: Alvie Cater, Assistant Superintendent of Administration & Communications
Steve Deghand, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities & Operations
Wendy Denham, Board Clerk/Executive Assistant to the Superintendent
Dr. Cory Gibson, Superintendent of Schools
Lee Hanson, Director of Special Services
Tara Harmon-Moore, Coordinator of Health Services
Michelle Hite, Director of Elementary Curriculum & Instruction/Accreditation
Rob Moser, Coordinator of Safety & Transportation
Sam Ruff, Principal, De Soto High School
Brian Schwanz, Executive Director of Secondary Education
Julie Stucky, Director of Finance

Alvie Cater led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent Gibson referred board members to the empty chair at the front of the room and asked them to envision a student they know sitting in the chair and keep the student in mind as they make decisions this evening.

President Spaulding asked if there were any changes for the Agenda.

Bill Fletcher asked to add, "Proposal of a study to freeze school taxes for seniors over 65" as an Action Item. He also asked to add "Proposal of a study to look at increasing teacher and staff salaries" as an Action Item.

Mrs. Danielle Heikes moved to adopt the Agenda as amended.

Mr. Rick Amos seconded.

Carried 7/0.

GOOD NEWS. The Board recognized the following students and staff members for outstanding accomplishments this past spring:

- Mill Valley High School Senior Ella Hansen, 2023 Girls Kansas State 6A Swim and Dive Champion. Ella finished first place in the 100-yard Butterfly. Her finals time was :54.36 which also tied the 6A state record in the event. She is also being named a National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association All-American, meaning her time in the 100 Butterfly was one of the top 100 fastest times in all of high school girls swimming throughout the entire country last season. As a state champion she will be recognized by the Women's Intersport Network for Kansas City at the upcoming Women's Sports Awards – the largest event in the country commemorating National Girls and Women in Sports Day.
- Mill Valley Junior Jayden Woods, 2023 Kansas Class 6A Track & Field State Champion in Discus. He threw a school record, 170 feet 3 inches, in the discus on his first throw at the state meet. Jayden is also a highly rated football recruit from his class and was named the defensive player of the year last year as a Sophomore. He was also on the wrestling team.
- The Mill Valley High School Girls Soccer Team who won the 2023 Kansas Class 6A State Championship, its first state title in program history. The Jaguars finished the season 19-2-0.
- De Soto High School Junior Ella Capling, 2023 Kansas Class 5A Track & Field State Champion in the Ttriple Jump with a jump of 38 feet, 6.5 inches. She also took third in the girls Long Jump. As a state champion she will be recognized the the Women's Intersport Network for Kansas City at the upcoming Women's Sports Awards – the largest event in the country commemorating National Girls and Women in Sports Day.
- The Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) selected De Soto High School as the winner of the KSHSAA Performing Arts School of Excellence for the 2023-24 school year. To earn the designation as the Performing Arts School of Excellence, KSHSAA assessed schools that achieved remarkably high scores in debate, speech, music, and theatre throughout the 2022-23 academic year. The committee selected one winner (DHS), six finalists and 11 commended schools across the state. Congratulations were extended to Performing Arts teachers Phillip Kaul, Matt Bradford, Amanda Sweet, Mindy Fry and Will Mercer.

Student Athletes were joined by their coaches to receive a Certificate of Accomplishment.

In conclusion a video was shared showing employee recognition by Superintendent Gibson and building leadership of the following staff members for outstanding service in their district roles: Belmont Elementary School - Katie Lamons, 4th grade teacher, and Mitch Brandenburg, Special Education Paraprofessional; Cedar Trails Exploration Center – Millie Laughlin, Bioscience Instructor, and Kathy Eckman, Paraprofessional in the Early Childhood Program.

PATRON INPUT. President Spaulding opened the floor for patron input. With no requests to speak submitted, she moved onto the next agenda item.

CONSENT AGENDA. President Spaulding asked the board if they had any changes for the Consent Agenda. No changes were made.

Mrs. Calley Malloy moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Rick Amos seconded.

Carried 7/0.

The following Consent Agenda items were approved:

1. Minutes of the September 11th regular meeting.
2. Payment of bills and issuance of checks numbered 62429 – 62450 and 62458 – 62605.
3. Transfer of funds as follows:
 - a. \$244,454.79 from General (Fund 06) to At-Risk (Fund 13)
 - b. \$25,081.23 from General (Fund 06) to Bilingual (Fund 14)
 - c. \$794,086.78 from General (Fund 06) to Special Education (Fund 30)
 - d. \$36,575.49 from General (Fund 06) to Vocational Education (Fund 34)

4. Personnel recommendations as follows:

Resignation – Certified

Ken Gandy, Residential Carpentry, DHS (*Effective at the end of the 2023-24 school year.*)

Resignations – Classified

Bonnie Andrews, Center-Based Paraprofessional, The Bridge

Mickaela Gude, Center-Based Paraprofessional, The Bridge

John Hecke, Student Nutrition Assistant, RE

Ann Karns, Student Nutrition Assistant, DHS

Zachary Stephens, Evening Custodian, DHS

Debbie Umbarger, Student Nutrition Assistant, MTMS

Employment – Classified

Allison Danielson, Part-Time Lead Secretary, MCMS

Lindsay Ford, Center-Based Paraprofessional, ME

Elisha Howard, Paraprofessional, SE

Sarah Krumsick, Substitute Nurse, Districtwide

Tona Leiker, Substitute Nurse, Districtwide

Laura Marx, Paraprofessional, ME

Bradley McCloud, Custodian, DHS

Herschel McWilliams, Rule 10 Jazz Band Director, MTMS

Rebecca McWilliams, Substitute Student Nutrition Assistant, Districtwide

Marcus Rhodes, Rule 10 Assistant Boys Basketball Coach, MVHS

Sheila Stafford, Part-Time Custodian, MVHS

Sarah Stanclift, Part-Time Paraprofessional, BE

Amanda Tofflemire, Substitute Nurse, Districtwide
Corey Wolff, Substitute Custodian, Districtwide

5. Declared list of secondary science materials as surplus.
6. Start-up of The Panther Pride Club for students at Lexington Trails Middle School.
7. The following extended day trips:
 - Mill Valley High School Digital Media Students, Grades 10-12, attend the Association of Scholastic Broadcast 4-State Fall Film and Broadcast Contests, Missouri State University, Springfield, MO, November 3-5, 2023.
 - Mill Valley High School Cheer, Grades 9-12, compete at NCA Cheer High School Nationals, Kay Bailey Arena/Omni Hotel, Dallas, TX, January 19-22, 2024.
 - Mill Valley High School Silver Stars Dance Team, Grades 10-12, compete in the National Dance Alliane Dance Team Nationals, Hilton Orlando, Orlando, FL, March 6-11, 2024.

ACTION ITEMS.

Approval of ESSER III Plan Modifications. Superintendent Gibson provided an overview of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) expenditures and proposed adjustments to the current plan. He shared a chart showing staffing and programs that were implemented for ESSER II and III; including positions transitioning to the General Fund/At Risk in 2024, positions under consideration for 2024-2025, and requested changes to ESSER III. The third and final round of ESSER funding was provided as a means to assist school districts in their efforts to support students and staff during and after the pandemic. Dr. Gibson explained that there are 16 authorized uses for ESSER III funding and modifications of the district's plan may require a review by the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and formal approval by the State Board of Education. He said there is approximately \$750,000 in ESSER funds the district has not yet applied for and this is the time of year to apply, as the funds must be spent prior to September 2024. Dr. Gibson said district leaders provided an opportunity for building and department leaders to recommend initiatives (one-time expenditures) that could best support students and staff members. The initiatives chosen align with previously identified needs and meet the definition as an authorized use of funds. In conclusion, he said with board approval of the recommended adjustments to the district's current ESSER III plan he will apply to the state to seek the funds and then come back to the board in November with a proposal for handling of disbursement of employee premium pay. Board members were given an opportunity to ask questions.

Mr. Rick Amos moved to approve modifications to the USD 232 ESSER III Plan as recommended.

Mrs. Brandi Jonasson seconded.

Carried 7/0.

The Board approved the following adjustments to the district's current ESSER III Plan:

- A phase-in plan of ESSER funded positions (transitioning some to at-risk funding)
- Expansion of Before/After School Programs at the middle level;

- Supporting professional development and collaboration time for Special Education team members; and
- An additional premium (retention based) payment for all qualifying staff in the spring of 2024.

Review KASB Delegate Assembly Information/Appoint Delegate. Superintendent Gibson said several members of the USD 232 Board of Education would be attending the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) Annual Convention in early November. This convention provides opportunities for board members to engage in meaningful professional learning alongside colleagues from around the state. He said that as part of the convention, one board member could be appointed to represent the district in the KASB Delegate Assembly. The district's delegate will provide input and cast votes on behalf of the district as it relates to KASB's legislative positions.

Mrs. Ashley Spaulding moved to appoint Brandi Jonasson to serve as the USD 232 delegate at the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) Convention.

Mrs. Stephanie Makalous seconded.

Carried 7/0.

Review of Proposed Policy/Schedule Public Hearing to Consider Enrollment Policy for Nonresident Students. Alvie Cater, Assistant Superintendent of Administration & Communications, presented background on a new state law passed during the 2022 legislative session. This statute requires each Board of Education in the state to adopt a policy on or before January 1, 2024, the purpose of which is to provide guidance to school districts in determining capacity to accept nonresident students in each grade level. Mr. Cater then explained the process to adopt the new policy which will include a public hearing, steps the district will have to take to determine enrollment capacity, the application process and non-resident student continued enrollment/denial for continued enrollment. Mr. Cater then reviewed revisions to board policy JBC – Enrollment and the proposed new policy JBCC – Enrollment of Nonresident Students.

President Spaulding asked if a student who is not in good standing and unenrolled is eligible to apply to enroll as a nonresident student the following year. Mr. Cater said state statute does not address this, so there is not anything to prohibit them from applying the following year.

Danielle Heikes noted that the School Year Transition Waiver allows a student who moves out of the district to finish the current school year. She said that now a student completing their Junior year as a resident and moving out of district the summer before their Senior year will have to apply as a nonresident and go through the lottery process which may result in them not being eligible to return to the district. Mr. Cater said that in talking with legal counsel at KASB it was determined that the state law does not make provision for this group of students.

Vice President Makalous asked what would happen if the board chose not to hold a hearing, noting that the statute is not thought through. Superintendent Gibson said when a board does not comply with state statute anyone could sue the district leading to financial or other implications. Secondly, he said anytime a district is found to be in non-compliance it could lose accreditation status which has implications for all students.

Danielle Heikes asked if this policy could be reviewed annually. Superintendent Gibson said it could and he has spoken with some legislators who may be starting to understand the complexity they have tossed upon growing districts. He encouraged people to speak to their legislators with the hope that they could make a change to the policy in early January and set it right.

President Spaulding asked if there is something the board can do to say it does not agree with this policy. Superintendent Gibson said the Board could consider passing a Resolution to say collectively this is something the board disagrees with. She said she would be in favor of a Resolution and Calley Malloy suggested that maybe the district join the other Johnson County districts in signing a Resolution.

Mr. Cater then said school districts are prohibited from charging tuition or fees to nonresident students except for fees otherwise charged to every student enrolled and attending in the district and shared reasons districts are prohibited from admitting or denying enrollment based upon: Ethnicity, National Origin, Gender, Income Level, Disabling Condition, Proficiency in the English Language, Measure of Achievement, Aptitude and Athletic Ability. He said a district is not required to provide transportation to nonresident students; however, he noted that language was included in the proposed policy that states "unless otherwise required to do so by state and/or federal law." With regard to the Kansas High School Activities Association (KSHSAA), he said nonresident students would be subject to policies and requirements of KSHSAA. In conclusion Mr. Cater shared a policy adoption timeline and noted that this evening the board is asked to consider approving publication of the Notice of Hearing on the policy for non-resident students.

Danielle Heikes suggested the Board move adoption of the policy to December. Mr. Cater said the Board could do the public hearing in November and then take action in December.

President Spaulding asked what would happen if the Board did not adopt the policy. Mr. Cater said the Board needs to have the policy in place to stay in compliance with state law.

Rick Amos asked if there is a consensus that districts have a consistent lottery process. Mr. Cater said there is a group of districts that is collaborating. He said he would advocate for recording the lottery process so that if it is challenged the proof of how it was conducted could be shared.

Brandi Jonasson asked if there was somewhere the district could post information on this so it reaches more families before the hearing in November. Superintendent Gibson said this might be an opportunity for Alvie to produce a video sharing information on the policy to share.

Bill Fletcher asked what gives the state authority over the school district. Superintendent Gibson said Kansas has Home Rule in existence. He said it only applies to those things the state has not decided for school districts. In the case of the nonresident enrollment policy the state has decided on it so the district could not override the state.

Calley Malloy asked if the Board could set the enrollment capacity for each classroom. Mr. Cater said they could, but the district will need to have documented trends for enrollment.

Mr. Rick Amos moved to approve publication of the Notice of Hearing – USD 232 Policy for Enrollment of Nonresident Students in the district's official newspaper stating that the Board will hold a public hearing on the policy on November 6, 2023, 6:00 p.m., at the USD 232 Administrative Office, 35200 West 91st Street, De Soto, KS.

Mrs. Stephanie Makalous seconded.

Carried 7/0.

Proposal of a study to freeze the taxes on seniors over 65. Bill Fletcher asked if the Board could freeze school property taxes on patrons when they reach the age of 65. He suggested a study to see how many seniors are in the district and would qualify for this. Superintendent Gibson said he would investigate to see what would be allowed in Kansas regarding this question.

Proposal of a study to look at increasing teacher and staff salaries. Bill Fletcher said he would like to see if there is a way to cut costs, find extra money, to raise teacher and staff salaries and eliminate steps in the teacher salary schedule. President Spaulding asked Superintendent Gibson to look at ways to identify efficiencies in order to raise salaries.

Brandi Jonasson suggested that as a subset she would like to see the district look at raising the salaries of paraprofessionals. Superintendent Gibson reminded the Board that the district is already subsidizing Special Education from its general fund.

DISCUSSION ITEM.

Graduation Task Force. Brian Schwanz, Executive Director of Secondary Education, shared the names of the district's Graduation Task Force members (Brian Schwanz, Joe Kelly, Gail Holder, Sam Ruff, Trish Chandler, Chrissy Johns, Cindy Swartz and Ceresa Schaffer). He explained that in June of 2021 the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) convened the Graduation Requirements Task Force to conduct an evaluation of Kansas high school graduation requirements in order to better meet the needs of students in the 21st century and reach the State Board of Education's mission to lead the world in the success of each student. Mr. Schwanz then shared a timeline for updating USD 232's graduation requirements starting with the Class of 2028. He reviewed the current KSDE graduation requirements (a total of 21 credits), current USD 232 graduation requirements (a total of 25 credits), KSDE graduation requirements starting with the Class of 2028 (the state made several adjustments, but will continue to require a total of 21 credits to graduate), Post Secondary Assets – Career & Real-World Examples, Post Secondary Assets – Academic Examples and additional information from KSDE on Post Secondary Assets.

President Spaulding asked to see what percent of district graduates achieve the Kansas Board of Regents Curriculum. Alvie Cater said the administration can get the board information on what is required of students to be a Board of Regents curriculum completer.

Mr. Schwanz then shared a Side by Side Comparison showing Current USD 232 graduation requirements, new KSDE graduation requirements and potential USD 232 graduation requirements; with changes in requirements in Technology, STEM Elective, General Elective, Financial Literacy and Post Secondary Assets.

In conclusion, Mr. Schwanz highlighted discussions the USD 232 Graduation Task Force has had to date.

Calley Malloy asked if a student obtains the 25 credits early is still eligible to walk at graduation. Mr. Schwanz said they were.

Danielle Heikes asked why the district does not offer the same courses at both high schools. Mr. Schwanz said the district does try to do this and is considering offering some courses at Cedar Trails allowing students from both high schools to participate.

Vice President Makalous said she would like to see some student input on the credits the district requires for graduation. Mr. Schwanz said this could be added as an agenda item to the Student Advisory Committee.

President Spaulding declared a five-minute break at 7:44 p.m.

The Board returned to open session and President Spaulding called the meeting back to order at 7:49 p.m.

ALERT. The following report was included in the packet for this board meeting with notice that it will require future action by the Board of Education: 1. HVAC Replacement at Mize and Riverview Elementary Schools.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Non-Elected Personnel.

Mrs. Ashley Spaulding moved to go into executive session at 7:50 p.m. for a period of ten minutes with Cory Gibson to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and return to open session at 8:00 p.m. at this location.

Mrs. Danielle Heikes seconded.

Carried 7/0.

Cory Gibson joined the executive session at 7:55 p.m.

The Board returned to open session and President Spaulding called the meeting back to order at 8:00 p.m.

President Spaulding adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

November 6, 2023
Date Approved

Wendy S. Benham
Clerk, Board of Education

Spaulding
President, Board of Education