



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) June 5, 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 (*participated via Zoom*) **Absent:** Danielle Heikes
Bill Fletcher
Brandi Jonasson
Stephanie Makalous
Calley Malloy
Ashley Spaulding

Others Present: Alvie Cater, Assistant Superintendent of Administration & Communications
Steve Deghand, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities & Operations
Carrie Handy, Executive Director of Elementary Education
Lee Hanson, Director of Special Services
Dr. Frank Harwood, Superintendent of Schools
Michelle Hite, Director of Elementary Curriculum & Instruction/Accreditation
Dr. Joe Kelly, Director of Secondary Curriculum & Instruction/Title Programs
Rob Moser, Coordinator of Safety & Transportation
Brandon Riffel, Director of Technology
Brian Schwanz, Executive Director of Secondary Education
Julie Stucky, Director of Finance

Alvie Cater led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. He then briefly explained how the meeting would progress from one agenda item to the next.

President Spaulding asked if there were any changes for the Agenda. No changes were made.

Mrs. Stephanie Makalous moved to adopt the Agenda.

Mrs. Brandi Jonasson seconded.

Carried 6/0.

Board members thanked Superintendent Harwood for his service to the district and presented him with retirement gifts. Each board member and former board members John Gagnat and Kevin Makalous took a few minutes to share a special memory or thoughts about their time with Dr. Harwood.

GOOD NEWS.

Student Recognition. The Board recognized the Mill Valley High School Journalism program for being named the 2023 Kansas Scholastic Press Association State Journalism Champion in Class 6A. This is the program's fourth consecutive state title and its 12th Sweepstakes Championship since 2004. Students Ally Sul, Gabby Delplesh and Casey Cunningham were joined by Journalism teacher Kathy Habigar to receive a Certificate of Achievement.

Mill Valley Principal Dr. Gail Holder, was also recognized for being named by the Kansas Scholastic Press Association as the 2023 Administrator of the Year in recognition of school administrators who advocate for student journalism.

PATRON INPUT. President Spaulding opened the floor for patron input. No comments were made.

CONSENT AGENDA. President Spaulding asked the board if they had any changes for the Consent Agenda.

In reference to the desktop computer purchases identified in Consent Agenda item N, Stephanie Makalous asked about the use of the equipment. Brandon Riffel said it is mixed use by support staff (food service, custodial, administrative office staff, service center staff) and in specific student computer labs (Engineering Computer Labs, Technology Computer Labs and Business Labs). Superintendent Harwood said the student computer labs are for industry specific software that will not run well on the MacBook Airs.

Bill Fletcher asked to remove check number 61611 from Consent Agenda item "B. Approve bills and transfer of funds" for approval separately.

President Spaulding thanked Steve Deghand for maintaining the fee for the Johnson County Parks & Recreation (JCPRD) contract.

Mrs. Stephanie Makalous moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.

Mr. Rick Amos seconded.

Carried 6/0.

The following Consent Agenda items were approved:

1. Minutes of the May 1st regular meeting.

2. Payment of bills and issuance of checks numbered 61465 – 61471, 61475 – 61506, 61514 – 61520, 61527 – 61610 and 61612 – 61756.
3. Transfer of funds as follows:
 - a. \$10,255.69 from General (Fund 06) to State Pre-K (Fund 11)
 - b. \$214,468.70 from General (Fund 06) to At Risk (Fund 13)
 - c. \$45,466.64 from General (Fund 06) to Bilingual (Fund 14)
 - d. \$70,860.47 from General (Fund 06) to Virtual (Fund 15)
 - e. \$15,140.83 from General (Fund 06) to Parent Education (Fund 28)
 - f. \$934,180.56 from General (Fund 06) to Special Education (Fund 30)
 - g. \$151,383.20 from General (Fund 06) to Vocational Education (Fund 34)
4. Personnel recommendations as follows:

Resignations – Classified

Calley Brown, Center-Based Paraprofessional, The Bridge
Joel Cantwell, Lead Custodian, MCMS
Allison Crooks, Paraprofessional, CCE
Michelle Denney, Lead Secretary, MCMS
Brian Evans, Plumber Technician, Districtwide
Maria Fiscella, Paraprofessional, CTEC
Shallon Grammer, Center-Based Paraprofessional, BE
Ashton Hernandez-Cabanias, English Language Aide, SE
Grace Hough, Assistive Technology Assistant, Districtwide
Sara Jennings, Paraprofessional, MVHS
Robert Kindred, Rule 10 Head Bowling Coach, DHS
Austin Kumpe, Rule 10 Assistant Girls Basketball Coach, MVHS
Karla Leuenberg, Substitute Nurse, Districtwide
Danielle McCulley, Paraprofessional, CCE
Heather Meireis, Center-Based Paraprofessional, ME
Lisa O'Donnell, Lead Secretary, RE
Logan Porras, Paraprofessional, HE
Savannah Tasker, Paraprofessional, CTEC
Mara Waltz, Building Aide, MTMS
Kimberly Wheeler, Center-Based Paraprofessional, ME

Employment – Classified

Jenny Barnhart, Rule 10 Assistant Track Coach, MCMS
Kasidy Byrne, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, BE
Sheridan Christy, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, Districtwide
Nicole Damiano, Lead Secretary, HE
Jordan Diehl, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, CTEC
Jenny Flores, Student Nutrition Assistant, MCMS
Matthew Fugate, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, MVHS
Dominique Grizzle, Paraprofessional, SE
Kenna Hall, Rule 10 Head Volleyball Coach, DHS
Rheagan Handy, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, BE

Britton Haney, Rule 10 Assistant Band Specialist, MVHS
Cassidy Heidrick, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, CTEC
Anna Judd, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, CTEC
Waldo Margheim, Substitute Custodian, PRE
Noah Moreland, Substitute Custodian, Districtwide
Charlie Naramore, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, MVHS
Savannah Nicol, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, BE
Annalise Stottlemire, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, BE
Betty Taylor, Lead Custodian, MCMS
Lily Thompson, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, CTEC
Nancy White, Extended School Year Paraprofessional, CTEC

Resignations – Certified *(At conclusion of the 2022-23 school year.)*

Courtney Best, Speech Language Pathologist, HE
Meredith Carson, Kindergarten Teacher, ME
Shannel Congleton, 3rd Grade Teacher, CCE
Shelly Domnanish, Special Education Resource Teacher, MVHS
Erin Farr, 3rd Grade Teacher, BE
Megan Lee, English as a Second Language Teacher, RE
Elaine Mayer, English Language Arts Teacher, DHS
Jamie McKernan-Pollard, Special Education Resource Teacher, MVHS
Ryan Meara, English Teacher, DHS
Jacob Penner, Social Studies Teacher, DHS
Megan Schock, Special Education Resource Teacher, HE
Ryan Thies, Engineering Technology Teacher, MCMS
Tiffani Thompson, Vocal Music Teacher, MCMS
Alyssa Willisams, 5th Grade Teacher, RE

Employment – Certified *(Effective at the start of the 2023-24 school year.)*

Jennifer Brazil, Special Education Resource Teacher, HE
Peggy Brown, Special Education Resource Teacher, ME
Jessica Brummel, Band Teacher, MCMS
Julia Coehlo, Special Education Resource Teacher, RE
Angela Coleman, Gifted Facilitator, RE
Miguel Flores, 6th Grade Social Studies Teacher, MCMS
John Fulkerson, Boys Physical Education Teacher, MCMS
Anne Hartmann, 6th Grade English Language Arts Teacher, MCMS
Tina Keith, Social Studies Teacher, MVHS
Madison Langford, English Language Arts Teacher, DHS
Keri Lauxman, English Language Arts Teacher, DHS
Tammy McCalla, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, CTEC
Lauren Newstrom, Vocal Music Teacher, MTMS
Ryan O'Grady, 7th Grade Science Teacher, MCMS
Caleb Reid, Social Studies Teacher, DHS
Sean Riley, English Language Arts Teacher, DHS
Andrew Sachen, At-Risk Teacher, MVHS

Andrew Villaca, Vocal Music Teacher, MCMS

5. Reimbursement of moving expenses not to exceed \$10,000.00 for incoming superintendent Dr. Cory Gibson.
6. Revised board policy GAOE – Workers Compensation.
7. Recommended changes to the Classified Employee Handbook for the 2023-24 school year.
8. Facility Use Fees for the 2023-2024 school year and revised Facility Use/Rentals Administrative Guidelines.
9. Maintaining the Johnson County Park & Recreation Department (JCPRD) facility use fee at \$8.00 per space/per hour for the 2023-24 school year.
10. Waiver of Facility Use Fees to the cities of De Soto and Shawnee during the 2023-24 school year.
11. Award of the following bids:
 - Bart’s Electric for replacement of theatre lighting at Lexington Trails Middle School in the amount of \$230,000.00.
 - Overhead Door for replacement of original bathroom partitions at DeSoto High School in the amount of \$62,091.00.
12. An amendment to the agreement between USD 232 and k12itc to provide one onsite technician at an annual cost of \$72,000.00.
13. Purchase of 360 Dell small desktop computers, 120 Dell Precision workstations and 550 Dell 27” monitors from CDWG in the amount of \$738,000.00 and 425 Apple Mac Minis from Apple in the amount of \$423,070.50.
14. Acceptance of a donation from Interstate Studios in the amount of \$1,460.37 to Prairie Ridge Elementary School.
15. The following extended day trips:
 - De Soto High School Debate/Forensics, Grades 9-12, participate in the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) tournament, Phoenix, AZ, June 10-17, 2023.
 - Mill Valley High School Forensics, Grades 9-10, participate in the National Speech and Debate Association (NSDA) tournament, Phoenix/Mesa, AZ, June 11-15, 2023.
 - Lexington Trails Middle School Buglers Holiday Soloists, six students in Grades 6-8, perform with the Manhattan Municipal Band, City Park, Manhattan, KS, June 27, 2023.
 - Lexington Trails Middle School Band, Grades 6-8, perform during Band Director’s clinic/presentation at the Kansas Bandmasters Association, Wichita, KS, July 13, 2023.

Bill Fletcher declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Mrs. Ashley Spaulding moved to approve payment to Kansas Land Management, LLC in the amount of \$16,080.00 with check number 61611.

Mrs. Brandi Jonasson seconded.

Carried 5/0.

Bill Fletcher returned to the meeting at 6:24 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS.

Mill Creek/Lexington Trails Middle School Boundary Proposal. Alvie Cater, Assistant Superintendent of Administration & Communications, said it has been a couple of years since board member Bill Fletcher requested that if the board and administration were going to consider changing boundary lines it be done before homes are built and people are living in those areas. Mr. Cater said in April 2023 the board received information from the enrollment analysis that was conducted on current and projected district school enrollment, showing that growth taking place in Lenexa and other areas that feed into Mill Creek Middle School would necessitate an adjustment in middle school boundaries. Mr. Cater shared a map showing the current attendance area between Lexington Trails Middle School and Mill Creek Middle School and the proposed expansion of the Lexington Trails attendance area. He said most of this property is vacant; however, the administration has determined there are currently four students that reside in the proposed change for the Lexington Trails/Mill Creek boundary lines. Of the four students, one is a Senior who will not be affected by the change. There is one 8th grader and two kindergarten students. Mr. Cater said it is the administration's recommendation that the 8th grader be allowed to finish at Mill Creek Middle School, if the board approves the change, and that the two kindergarten students be grandfathered into Mill Creek Middle School and allow the families the option of Lexington Trails Middle School. In conclusion, Mr. Cater reminded the board that this boundary change is important because of the concentration of homes going in around 83rd Street and Cedar Niles. After all of the phases are done there will be close to 600 new single-family homes and 75 multi-family units in the area.

Ashley Spaulding asked if the two kindergarten students currently living in the proposed boundary change area chose to go to Lexington Trails Middle School would be eligible for busing. Mr. Cater said they would be. If they choose to go to Mill Creek Middle School they would be eligible for fare ride busing.

Mr. Rick Amos moved to approve the proposed change to the current Lexington Trails Middle School boundary, effective with the start of the 2023-24 school year.

Mrs. Stephanie Makalous seconded.

Carried 6/0.

Property & Liability Insurance Renewal. Julie Stucky, Director of Finance, said she issued a formal RFP in late February, with a deadline for proposals in late May. She said two companies responded to the RFP and noted that the insurance landscape regarding property and liability coverage is changing with many insurers getting away from insuring schools. She presented the board with proposals from CBIZ (\$814,093.32) and EMC Insurance Companies (\$863,513.00). She noted that the proposal from CBIZ does not include cyber insurance, but the proposal from EMC Insurance Companies does. She said CBIZ is the incumbent and has done an outstanding job customer service wise. However, she said in December 2022 the district experienced a loss due to

freezing pipes and she has not had a good experience with the CBIZ underwriters since then, with delays in receiving payment for the loses. Mrs. Stucky proposed the board accept the proposal from EMC Insurance at a higher rate, but lower deductible at \$75,000.00 for wind and hail (CBIZ has a deductible of \$250,000.00 for wind and hail). She said a year ago district properties were way undervalued at \$285,000,000.00. A new valuation was done and the updated value of district properties is \$422,000,000.00.

Ashley Spaulding asked if Mrs. Stucky had information from other districts that work with EMC. Mrs. Stucky said she has worked with EMC and the company is well known across the state for their customer service and handling of school district accounts.

Brandi Jonasson asked Mrs. Stucky to explain more about cyber insurance. Mrs. Stucky said that cyber insurance would cover in the event of scams or ransomware instances.

Stephanie Makalous asked if there was a limit on the cyber insurance. Mrs. Stucky said it was \$1 million.

Calley Malloy asked why there was an increase of \$229,000.00 from what CBIZ was charging in 2022 and has proposed for 2023. Mrs. Stucky explained that it has to do with the increase in valuation. Superintendent Harwood said it also has to do with there being a limited number of insurance agencies offering coverage to schools.

Superintendent Harwood said the district would continue to work with CBIZ on health insurance.

Mrs. Stephanie Makalous moved to accept a proposal from EMC Insurance Companies in the amount of \$863,513.00 annually for Property, General Liability, Educators Legal Liability, Auto, Umbrella and Cyber Protection insurance coverages for USD 232 beginning July 1, 2023.

Mrs. Calley Malloy Seconded.

Carried 6/0.

DISCUSSION ITEMS.

Orchestra. Brian Schwanz, Executive Director of Secondary Education, shared a PowerPoint presentation showing the Orchestra timeline from July 2022 to present and Interest Survey results with 512 responses showing the school and grade level children of responders are in. He showed slides with graphs: one showing that 69.6% of parents surveyed expressed "Interest" or "High Interest" in adding Orchestra to the district's Fine Arts program and one showing that currently 7.4% of respondents said they are participating in a strings program outside the school district. Mr. Schwanz said there will still need to be consideration given to the grade level to begin a program. He said the biggest challenge will be in finding spaces to store the instruments as they require climate controlled areas. In conclusion, Mr. Schwanz shared a timeline extending to 2024 when an Orchestra program could be implemented.

Dr. Joe Kelly, Director of Secondary Curriculum & Instruction/Title Programs, said in October/November the Teaching & Learning Department would bring a list of new course

proposals to the board for approval and orchestra could be a part of this if the board chooses to move forward. After it is approved he said the teaching position would be posted and then whoever is hired would begin formulating the curriculum maps for the course and look at resources and purchasing to make sure the program is up and running for the first day of school.

Stephanie Makalous asked when talking about courses if there was a certain grade level being targeted. Dr. Kelly said the administration will have to look at grade levels to decide where best to start. Superintendent Harwood said that this will be part of the board's approval with the course. Mr. Schwanz said if the board moves forward on an orchestra program Human Resources would like offer a contract to a teacher for the 2024-2025 school year and offer them a stipend to begin work on the program in the spring of 2024.

Brandi Jonasson asked if the district could not identify storage space if the program could get started. Mr. Schwanz said that the challenge could be with the double bases and the Cellos that are typically purchased by the schools. Students will usually rent violins and violas. Mrs. Jonasson asked if the district has a program for students that cannot afford to rent instruments. Mr. Schwanz said the district has instruments that they can provide to students who cannot afford to rent or buy them. Superintendent Harwood said part of the proposal will include purchase of instruments for the district to have on-hand. Mrs. Jonasson asked if a school PTO or Booster Club could do a fundraiser to buy instruments. Mr. Schwanz said that is something that could be considered.

Rick Amos asked if there was a break-down on age of the 7.4% of students currently in a strings program. Mr. Schwanz said there is not a break-down, but he guessed that most were secondary students.

Ashley Spaulding asked, based on other surveys the district has done, if the return rate (roughly 7% of students) on the Parent Interest survey was reasonable or would justify the district moving forward. Dr. Kelly said given the participation rate on this survey and the large number of people who responded that they were interested in pursuing orchestra it would be reasonable to move forward.

Bill Fletcher asked about total cost. Mr. Schwanz said a rough estimate would be \$350,000.00 for instruments and staffing. Mr. Fletcher asked how much impact this will have on other music programs in the district. Mr. Schwanz said in talking with the music directors they knew they would lose a few students, but in order to make the fine arts program stronger they felt a strings program was beneficial. Superintendent Harwood said there are districts much smaller that have successful orchestra programs and he did not think the high school band would see much of a change, but the middle school band might see more. He said the important part about storage is that if it requires the addition of space it would cost more.

Calley Malloy asked if it would be challenging to find a teacher. Mr. Schwanz said it would be, but he has already had a conversation with one individual who would be interested in coming to the district if USD 232 does start an orchestra program.

District Goals – 2022-2023 Update. Superintendent Harwood noted that this is the first year of the district’s five-year cycle with the Kansas Education System Accreditation (KESA). He updated the board on progress with the following Action Steps under each of the three district goals:

Achievement

- Fully implement collaborative teams focused on student performance and success (Communication and Basic Skills)
- Improve physical and mental health for all USD 232 students and staff (Physical and Mental Health)
- Ensure that every USD 232 graduate is prepared for their chosen future and has at least one relevant Market Value Asset (Postsecondary and Career Preparation)

Buildings & Budgets

- School Safety
- 2018 Bond completion and future planning
- Budget Plans based on the Kansas Legislatures school funding action and ESSER funding

Community Engagement

- Increase parent and community engagement (Families, Community and Business Partnerships)
- Improve diversity and engagement, including racial and ethnic, throughout the district (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion)

Superintendent Harwood noted that in talking with incoming superintendent, Dr. Cory Gibson, they should expect to see the next version of the goals in August, which will lead into needs assessment as the Board gets into the process of adopting the budget.

ALERTS. The following reports were included in the packet for this board meeting with notice that they will require future action by the Board of Education: 1. 2023-24 Organizational Items, 2. Mill Creek Middle School Start Time, End Time; and, 3. Special Education Resource Purchase.

President Spaulding declared a five-minute break at 7:03 p.m.

The Board returned to open session and President Spaulding called the meeting back to order at 7:08 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION.

Negotiations

Mrs. Ashley Spaulding moved to go into executive session at 7:08 p.m. for a period of 30 minutes with Frank Harwood, Alvie Cater, Brian Schwanz, Carrie Handy and Julie Stucky to discuss collective bargaining Negotiations pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA and return to open session at 7:38 p.m. at this location.

Mrs. Brandi Jonasson seconded.

Carried 6/0.

The Board returned to open session and President Spaulding called the meeting back to order at 7:38 p.m.

President Spaulding adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

July 10, 2023
Date Approved

Wendy S. Denham
Clerk, Board of Education

Spaulding
President, Board of Education