



# Unified School District 232

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

## USD 232 BOARD OF EDUCATION

### OFFICIAL MINUTES --REGULAR MEETING

YouTube channel: <https://bitly.com/usd232youtube>

June 1, 2020

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

**Board Members Present:** Rick Amos – via Zoom  
Bill Fletcher – via Zoom  
John Gagnat – via Zoom  
Danielle Heikes – In Person  
Stephanie Makalous – via Zoom  
Ashley Spaulding – via Zoom  
Rachele Zade – via Zoom

**Others Present:** Gerri Balthazor, Principal, Mize Elementary School – via Zoom  
Alvie Cater, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative & Educational Services  
Wendy Denham, Board Clerk/Executive Assistant to the Superintendent  
Dr. Frank Harwood, Superintendent of Schools  
Ken Larsen, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations  
Clark McCracken, Principal, Lexington Trails Middle School  
Brandon Riffel, Director of Technology

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

President Heikes asked if there were any changes to the Agenda or Consent Agenda.

Bill Fletcher asked to remove check number 51489 from Consent Agenda item “C. Approve payment of bills and transfer of funds (if appropriate)” for approval separately.

*Mrs. Danielle Heikes moved to adopt the Agenda and approve the Consent Agenda as amended.*

*Mrs. Rachele Zade seconded.*

*Carried 7/0.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Rick Amos - Yes*

*Bill Fletcher – Yes*

*John Gagnat - Yes*

*Danielle Heikes – Yes*

*Stephanie Makalous – Yes*

*Ashley Spaulding – Yes*

*Rachele Zade - Yes*

The following Consent Agenda items were approved:

1. Minutes of the May 4<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.
2. Payment of bills and issuance of checks numbered 51418 – 51434, 51437 – 51488, 51490 - 51559 and 51565 – 51678.
3. Transfer of funds as follows:
  - a. \$600,000.00 from General (Fund 06) to Special Education (Fund 30)
  - b. \$330,000.00 from LOB (Fund 08) to Special Education (Fund 30)
  - c. \$4,000.00 from LOB (Fund 08) to State Pre-K (Fund 11)
  - d. \$214,000.00 from LOB (Fund 08) to At-Risk K-12 (Fund 13)
  - e. \$36,000.00 from LOB (Fund 08) to Bi-Lingual (Fund 14)
  - f. \$1,000.00 from LOB (Fund 08) to Drivers Education (Fund 18)
  - g. \$19,000.00 from LOB (Fund 08) to Parents as Teachers (Fund 28)
  - h. \$166,000.00 from LOB (Fund 08) to Vocational Education (Fund 34)
4. Personnel recommendations as follows:

Resignations – Classified *(At the conclusion of the 2019-20 school year.)*

Brenda Barger, Paraprofessional, SE

Joshua Brown, School Psych Paraprofessional, LTMS

Megan Brown, School Psych Paraprofessional, MVHS

Janice Church, Student Nutrition Assistant, DHS

Ashlee Cronkright, Paraprofessional, ME

Kimberly Gadwood, Rule 10 Assistant Track Coach, DHS

Connie Gramke, Paraprofessional, MVHS

Janice Morris, Lunchroom Aide, PRE

Jaclyne Putney, Paraprofessional, BE

Cameron Wiggins, Paraprofessional, MVHS

Retirement – Classified *(At the conclusion of the 2019-20 school year.)*

Carolyn Irish, Paraprofessional, MVHS

Employment – Classified *(Effective for the 2020-21 school year.)*

Becky Becker, Rule 10 Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach, MVHS

Ariel Everett, School Psych Practicum Student/Paraprofessional, Location TBD

Dustin Parks, Rule 10 Assistant Girls' Basketball Coach, DHS

Resignations – Certified *(At the conclusion of the 2019-20 school year.)*

Tracy Brill, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, SE

Loralea Hubert, Early Childhood Special Education Teacher, BE  
Kara Lindenmeyer, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher, MTMS  
Larry Oder, Math Teacher, MVHS  
Abigail Spencer, Reading Specialist, RE  
Miranda Young, Engineering Teacher, DHS

Employment – Certified (Effective for the 2020-21 school year.)

Amanda Hartegan, School Counselor, CCE  
Brian Kirkpatrick, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Pathways Teacher, MCMS  
Elaine Mayer, English Teacher, DHS  
Cathryn Monroe, Social Studies Teacher, DHS  
Kaitlyn Morrell, Counselor, DHS  
Andrew Pinnell, Special Education Resource Teacher, DHS

5. One (1) wheelchair declared as surplus.
6. An increase of \$0.05 in all student paid meal prices and \$0.10 in adult meal prices with the start of the 2020-21 school year.
7. Execution of a partial buy-out option on the 2016 technology device lease for Apple and Dell devices from First American Equipment Finance in the amount of \$90,930.53.
8. Post-lease services not to exceed \$54,440.00 from Synetic Technologies for all remaining technology devices that are at end of lease and will not be retained by USD 232.
9. Acceptance of a donation from the De Soto Quarterback Club in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the De Soto High School Cross Country program.

Bill Fletcher declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

*Mrs. Rachele Zade moved to approve payment to Kansas Land Management, LLC in the amount of \$14,269.80 with check number 51489.*

*Mr. John Gaignat seconded.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Rick Amos – Yes*

*John Gaignat – Yes*

*Danielle Heikes – Yes*

*Stephanie Makalous – Yes*

*Ashley Spaulding – Yes*

*Rachele Zade - Yes*

*Carried 6/0.*

Bill Fletcher returned to the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS.

**Mize Elementary – Permission to accept donation.** Gerri Balthazor, Principal of Mize Elementary, explained that she did research and talked with a local company about a new marquee for Mize. She said that after seeking bids Golden Rule Signs out of Kentucky came in at \$10k less than the local

company. Mrs. Balthazor explained that the school decided to raise money to fund the new marquee to aid volunteers in changing out messages on the marquee which has been challenging with weather and a poor latch on the existing marquee. She said that Golden Rule will obtain necessary permits through Shawnee. In visiting with Brandon Riffel, Director of Technology, it was decided the 10 mm sign which costs \$29k, would be the best option for the school. Mrs. Balthazor said that the Mize PTO raised the funds and is offering to donate them for this purchase.

Superintendent Harwood noted that the administration is not opposed to moving forward with this project. He said it is being brought to the board for approval separate from Consent Agenda items because another school may want a digital marquee but may be within city limits that prohibit electronic signs. He also noted that some schools have the ability to raise more funds than others and the district cannot pay for the upgrades at every school. In addition, he noted that if this is approved any future repairs would have to be paid for by the Mize PTO.

Ashley Spaulding asked if the local company was shown the best offer and given an opportunity to match it. Mrs. Balthazor said they weren't, but she could do that if directed to. She also noted that with Golden Rule Signs it isn't necessary to purchase a data plan which was a part of the local company's bid.

Bill Fletcher asked if the sign could be broken if someone were to throw a rock at it. Mrs. Balthazor said it will have a protective case around it.

Danielle Heikes asked if the digital sign would use the existing base. Mrs. Balthazor said it would, but the actual sign would be larger. Mrs. Heikes asked if it could be done during the summer months. Mrs. Balthazor said they informed her it would be 12-14 weeks to get it going and they were running a bit behind so not likely. Mrs. Heikes also asked if construction of it would impede traffic flow. Superintendent Harwood said it wouldn't.

Stephanie Makalous asked if there were ongoing annual fees and how the Board is assured that the PTO will have funds to pay for repairs if needed. Mrs. Balthazor said the PTO funds can change from year to year so there isn't a guarantee. Mrs. Makalous asked if there is a written agreement with the PTO. Mrs. Balthazor said they don't have anything in writing, but she can certainly ask them for it. She also said that in talking with Mr. Riffel and staff at Golden Rule she was told that this sign could last a good 15-20 years. Superintendent Harwood said that if the sign were to be hit by a car it would be covered by the district's insurance since it is on district property. Mrs. Balthazor said there is no annual fee. It is run through a Cat 5 cable and a device on top of the building that would communicate with the sign.

Bill Fletcher asked who would be responsible for maintenance on the sign. Mrs. Balthazor said there is a 5 year warranty and Golden Rule Signs would be the ones to do warranty work. Brandon Riffel, Director of Technology, said these panels are really modular with parts that can be removed and mailed out for repair easily. Mr. Fletcher mentioned that one of the facilities guys should be there when it is installed and Mr. Riffel agreed.

*Mr. John Gagnat moved to accept a donation from the Mize Elementary Parent Teacher Organization in the amount of \$29,437.16 to Mize Elementary School for the purchase of a new marquee.*

*Mr. Bill Fletcher seconded.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Rick Amos – Yes*

*Bill Fletcher – Yes*

*John Gagnat – Yes*

*Danielle Heikes – Yes*

*Stephanie Makalous – Yes*

*Ashley Spaulding – Yes*

*Rachele Zade – Yes*

*Carried 7/0.*

**Bond Sale.** Ken Larsen, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, introduced the district's bond advisor, David Arteberry from Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc. The Board is issuing \$35 million in new bonds to continue bond projects in Phase II and also refunding \$19,920,000 of existing bonds (Series 2010A) to take advantage of low interest rates. Mr. Arteberry reviewed bid results, noting eight competitive bids were received on the new bond sale with the award going to Robert W. Baird & Co. who offered the lowest total interest rate of 1.916 percent.

*Mrs. Danielle Heikes moved to adopt a Resolution authorizing and directing the issuance, sale and delivery of general obligation improvement bonds, Series 2020-A, of Unified School District No. 232, Johnson County, Kansas (De Soto); providing for the levy and collection of an annual tax for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on said bonds as they become due; making certain covenants and agreements to provide for the payment and security thereof; and authorizing certain other documents and actions connected therewith.*

*Mr. Rick Amos seconded.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Rick Amos – Yes*

*Bill Fletcher – Yes*

*John Gagnat – Yes*

*Danielle Heikes – Yes*

*Stephanie Makalous – Yes*

*Ashley Spaulding – Yes*

*Rachele Zade – Yes*

*Carried 7/0.*

Mr. Arteberry said that ten competitive bids were received on the Series 2010A bond refunding with the award going to KeyBanc Capital Markets who offered the lowest total interest rate of 1.538 percent. He said the district will realize \$4,002,384 in interest cost savings with this refund.

*Mrs. Ashley Spaulding moved to adopt a Resolution authorizing and directing the issuance, sale and delivery of general obligation refunding bonds, Series 2020-B, of Unified School District No. 232, Johnson County, Kansas (De Soto), for the purpose of providing funds to refund a portion of the issuer's outstanding general obligation bonds; providing for the levy and collection of an annual tax for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on said bonds as they become due; making certain covenants and agreements to provide for the payment and security thereof; and authorizing certain other documents and actions connected therewith.*

*Mrs. Rachele Zade seconded.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Rick Amos – Yes*

*Bill Fletcher – Yes*

*John Gaignat – Yes*

*Danielle Heikes – Yes*

*Stephanie Makalous – Yes*

*Ashley Spaulding – Yes*

*Rachele Zade – Yes*

*Carried 7/0.*

**Proposed Secondary Course Modification – Coed PE Proposal for LTMS.** Clark McCracken, Principal of Lexington Trails Middle School, said that he is requesting that Lexington Trails offer co-ed physical education. Following are key points he made on the proposal:

- It will open up the exploratory schedule so that each student gets to take the classes they signed up for.
- Every incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grader would be able to take Computers 6, which in the past has been limited to 100 students per year.
- 113 7<sup>th</sup> graders signed up for Computers 7, the proposal would allow all of them to take the class they want.
- The proposal would balance class sizes throughout the day by allowing the school to offer sections each hour.
- The number of students in the gymnasium at a time would be cut in half, allowing for more space to exercise and participate in physical education.

He said there is a plan in place to make sure there is a female staff member present in the girls' locker room and Mrs. Slater, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director and Certified PE Teacher, or the school nurse, Mrs. Leggatt, would co-teach the female sections of the human growth and development portions of the PE curriculum. In conclusion, Mr. McCracken said that he shared this proposal with Lexington Trails parents and hasn't received any negative feedback. Superintendent Harwood added that Mrs. Slater is currently ½ time Associate Principal and ½ time PE teacher. With the proposal, he said that Mrs. Slater will be moved to a full-time Associate Principal.

Rachele Zade asked if the female staff member in the locker room will be the same staff member throughout the year or change. Mr. McCracken said they are looking to get the same person for morning and the same person for afternoon to do this throughout the year.

Stephanie Makalous asked if they will take into consideration how many boys and girls will be in a classroom. Mr. McCracken said their counselor does a great job of setting up student schedules and said the goal is to have 15 boys and 15 girls in each class; or maintain the classes with a minimum of 12 and maximum of 17 of either gender.

Danielle Heikes noted that she was initially opposed and wasn't sure how it would work, but after visiting with Mr. McCracken and Dr. Harwood she really got on board and feels like it's a great option for the school.

*Mrs. Danielle Heikes moved to approve modification to the Lexington Trails Middle School Physical Education course to make it Co-Ed for grades 6, 7 and 8.*

*Mrs. Stephanie Makalous seconded.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Rick Amos - Yes*

*Bill Fletcher - Yes*

*John Gagnat - Yes*

*Danielle Heikes - Yes*

*Stephanie Makalous - Yes*

*Ashley Spaulding - Yes*

*Rachele Zade - Yes*

*Carried 7/0.*

#### DISCUSSION ITEM.

**District Goals – 2019-20 Review.** Superintendent Harwood informed board members about progress that was made during the 2019-20 school year on strategies and action steps identified under each district goal (Achievement, Buildings & Budgets and Community Engagement). Under Achievement work was done on MTSS, Individual Plans of Study, and One Device per learner. Under Buildings & Budgets work was done on the Bonds (Phases II and III) and building a multi-year General Fund budget. Under Community Engagement work was done on One Device per Learner, the student wellbeing series, the USD 232 Education Foundation, and providing information to the public. Superintendent Harwood noted that he will have preliminary 2020-21 goals to give the Board in July for approval in August.

**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. 2020-2021 Organizational Items; and, 2. Revisions for the 2020-2021 Classified & Health Services Employee Handbook.

**FYI REPORTS.** The following informational reports were included in the packet for this board meeting: 1. 2020-2021 Student Nutrition A la Carte Beverages; and, 2. Kansas Education Systems Accreditation Outside Visiting Team Report.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION.

##### **Negotiations.**

*Mrs. Danielle Heikes moved to go into executive session at 6:55 p.m. for a period of ten minutes with Frank Harwood, Alvie Cater, Ken Larsen, Brian Schwanz, Carrie Handy, Sam Ruff and Kris Meyer to discuss Negotiations pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA and return to open session at 7:05 p.m. at this location.*

*Mrs. Ashley Spaulding seconded.*

*Roll Call Vote:*

*Rick Amos – Yes*

*Bill Fletcher – Yes*

*John Gagnat – Yes*

*Danielle Heikes – Yes*

*Stephanie Makalous – Yes*

*Ashley Spaulding – Yes*

*Rachele Zade – Yes*

Carried 7/0.

The Board returned to open session and President Heikes called the meeting back to order at 7:05 p.m.

President Heikes adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

July 13, 2020  
Date Approved

Wendy S. Denham  
Clerk, Board of Education  
Christy Heikes  
President, Board of Education