

**Andover Board of Education Notes**  
**Jan. 8, 2024**

**Good News:** The Board recognized Lacey Woods, culinary arts teacher at Andover Central High School, for being named the 2023 Kansas ProStart Teacher of the Year. The award is given by the Kansas Restaurant and Hospitality Association and goes to teachers who “demonstrate a strong commitment to the ProStart program, their students and the restaurant industry.”

The Board also recognized Paden Town, music teacher at Sunflower Elementary School, who was named Outstanding Elementary Music Educator for the Southcentral Region by the Kansas Music Educators Association.

**Peer mentoring:** High school counselors [presented their plan](#) to add a peer mentoring program as part of the schools’ counselor aide roles for the 2024-25 school year. The student leadership program was developed by the National Association of Peer Program Professionals. Peer mentoring involves students acting as mentors for freshman and sophomore students. This is an application-only program, and all peer mentors will receive training.

**Open enrollment:** Jeremy Boldra, assistant superintendent for human resources, [presented a timeline](#) for implementation of the state-required nonresident student law, including major tasks that must be completed in the process.

**Audited financial report:** Clayton Hubbel of BFR CPA, LLC, presented the [district’s annual audited](#) financial report for the 2022-23 year. There were no significant findings to report. The Board approved the report.

**LED upgrades:** As part of temporary bonds issued in 2023 and tied to the 2017 bond election, the Board approved spending \$19,600 with Stanion Wholesale Electric for flat-panel LED lights. These efficient lights will save the district energy costs over time.

**Device refresh:** The Board voted to spend \$623,396.96 for new technology devices for students and staff based on the district’s technology refresh schedule. The request was for Chromebooks, laptops and desktops for Andover Central Middle School, Robert Martin Elementary School, journalism labs and middle and high school student devices.

**Calendar approval:** The Board voted to change March 29, 2024, from a professional learning day to a day that school is not in session, as agreed to during the negotiation process with the Andover Education Association. The Board also approved the [2024-25 district calendar](#).

***Early Learning change:** The Board voted to [retire the 5-year-old Early Learning program](#) and encourage 5-year-olds to enroll in kindergarten classes, which aligns with best practices from research and guidance from the Kansas State Department of Education. This will open additional opportunities for 4-year-olds to attend Early Learning. This change had the support of all Early Learning teachers.*

**Superintendent’s report:** Superintendent Brett White reported that Protect Young Eyes will give an Internet safety presentation at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 31, at the Andover High School Performing Arts Center. This presentation is free and open to the public.