

**Board of Education Minutes**  
**Wichita Public Schools - USD 259**  
**Wichita, Kansas**  
**March 10, 2023**

<b>Roll Call</b>	<p>The Board of Education of Unified School District No. 259, Sedgwick County, Kansas, met in special session in the Alvin E. Morris Administrative Center, Room 809, 903 S. Edgemoor, Wichita, Kansas, at approximately 11 a.m., on March 10, 2023 with President Sheril Logan presiding.</p> <p>Present: Diane Albert, Julie Hedrick, Ernestine Krehbiel, Sheril Logan, Stan Reeser, Hazel Stabler, and Kathy Bond.</p>
<b>Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance</b>	<p>The business portion of the meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.</p>
<b>Executive Session: Personnel matters</b>	<p>At approximately 11:00 a.m., Ms. Albert (Mrs. Bond) moved the Board recess into an executive session to review and consider applicants for the Superintendent’s position, pursuant to the non-elected personnel matter exception under the Kansas Open Meetings Act.</p> <p>The motion passed 7-0.</p>
<b>Reconvene Meeting</b>	<p>At approximately 12:00 p.m., Board President Logan reconvened the meeting.</p>
<b>Appointment of Kelly Bielefeld to Superintendent, effective July 1, 2023</b>	<p>Ms. Logan (Ms. Albert) moved to appoint Kelly Bielefeld to be the Superintendent of Schools for Unified School District 259 starting July 1, 2023, pending the negotiation of an employment contract, which will be on the Board agenda for the Board’s consideration at the April 10 Board meeting.</p> <p>Before proceeding with a vote on the above motion, Board President Logan read the following statement:</p> <p>“You are all well familiar with the profile document that the Board defined as we began the Superintendent search. It was developed through a strong and thorough stakeholder engagement effort. I want to thank all Board members for making this decision. The Board has taken their responsibility extremely seriously, and it has been my honor to serve with each of you through this important leadership moment.</p> <p>“Nearly 2,000 community and internal stakeholders have provided input into what we see in our next leader, including school administrators, teachers, union leaders, paraprofessionals, students, parents, business executives, faith community leaders, community advocates, and so many others. We really appreciate all the input we received from our stakeholders as to help us develop the profile for the Superintendent.</p> <p>“I want to thank our district leaders who have helped to navigate the Board through this process. Sean Hudspeth, our Chief Human Resources Officer, and Wendy Johnson, the head of our Strategic Communications department, have been absolutely outstanding support for us. I also want to thank our Superintendent Dr. Alicia Thompson, who will be retiring soon. Her leadership for the past almost six years has helped with our Every Child Future Ready Strategic Plan, which has brought us and our district and our community together through common goals.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><a href="#">Continued on next page &gt;&gt;&gt;</a></p>

**Appointment of  
Kelly Bielefeld to  
Superintendent, effective  
July 1, 2023**  
*(continued)*

"I cannot say enough for the internal candidates that we had apply for this position. They were extraordinary. It made our difficult decision even more difficult. I know we had a provision in our search process to go outside the district, but when we saw the caliber of the candidates that we had internally, we did not feel that we needed to move to an external search. Every one of these candidates prepared and spent hours working to be able to present to us and they should be applauded. We will not reveal their names because that's the confidentiality that this Board values.

"With this engagement and input from so many parties, we have been able to make today's announcement. Based on stakeholder engagement, this Board was focused on six overall areas during this interview process: student achievement, student behavior concerns, data analysis and decision making, relationship building, strategic planning, and budget outlook.

"Mr. Bielefeld brings analysis, experience, insight, and enthusiasm to tackle the difficult challenges ahead. He has a broad and robust experience in numerous K-12 academic areas that make him well-suited to tackle a diverse array of opportunities and challenges as our district moves forward. He has served in five school districts in Kansas, including Wichita, Clearwater, Derby, Renwick, and Goddard. He has been a teacher, principal, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, and in Wichita he was the Executive Director of College and Career Readiness. He has experience using data to drive student achievement, manage at-risk programs, create active community partnerships, and work on facility issues. He has facilitated special programs, managed licensure assessment, and directed curriculum and instruction.

"Since coming to Wichita public Schools in 2020, he has supported secondary schools with visionary college and career ready leadership, written and administered federal grants, created our Future Ready Center in cooperation with WSU Tech, created our Graduation Plus model, been active at the state and local level, and he has served on various internal leadership teams.

"For me, my selection came down to how highly respected he was in both the district and the community, a rich experience in perspective from other districts, the diversity of the jobs that he has held, the strength and vision he articulated about the desire to lead, and his plans for his first year on the job. He also facilitated major changes in the Career and Technical Education Program, has a strong community perspective he brings to our district, and has a track record of listening, inclusion, and action.

"Kelly Bielefeld is highly qualified and eager to lead. He brings perspective to this role as an educational leader, a parent, and a community leader. I firmly believe that Kelly Bielefeld is the right person to lead Wichita Public Schools into the future."

President Logan invited other Board members to comment on the proposed appointment.

Board member Ernestine Krehbiel said this was the hardest decision she has ever had to make in her life. All the candidates were so extraordinary. We can be so proud in Wichita that we have attracted and kept and used their brains, talent, and personalities. She said she had a tough time because it was a hard decision.

Board President Logan repeated the motion to appoint Kelly Bielefeld as the Superintendent effective July 1, pending negotiation of an employment contract.

The motion passed 7-0.

All Minutes are unofficial unless approved by the Board of Education.

<b>Appointment of Kelly Bielefeld to Superintendent, effective July 1, 2023</b> <i>(continued)</i>	Board President Logan invited Kelly Bielefeld to address the Board. Mr. Bielefeld said he believes in Wichita Public Schools and their amazing people. He will work hard with Dr. Thompson over the next months to transition. She has built a firm foundation to build on, and he is excited to take it from there. He thanked the Board and is very honored to accept the position.
<b>Adjournment</b>	Ms. Albert (Ms. Stabler) moved the meeting adjourn. The motion passed 7-0. At approximately 12:10 p.m., the meeting adjourned.