



# Kyrene Governing Board UPDATE

**September 24, 2024**

The Kyrene Governing Board has laid the groundwork for a successful 2024-25 school year. Kyrene School District aims to share the work of our Board throughout the year, and this new bulletin spotlights recent Board actions and activities.

## **A Balanced Budget**

On July 9, the Governing Board adopted the 2025 fiscal year general budget of \$178,692,466. This year's budget includes \$13.3 million in new or updated technology, more than \$1 million in safety and security improvements, and \$3.5 million to upgrade and maintain our transportation fleet. School facility maintenance is always part of the budget as well and in 2024-25, improvements will range from new playfields and parking lots to new roofing and HVAC systems. This year's budget also includes a 2% increase for all teachers and staff, and the Board has additionally approved one-time stipends for eligible employees. Approving the annual budget is one of the Governing Board's primary functions, and the Kyrene Board continues to make compensation a priority in the budget approval process.

## **Diving into Data**

Last month, the Governing Board held a retreat for an in-depth analysis of student data from the 2023-24 school year, to ensure accountability and measure progress toward goals established in the Kyrene Strategic Plan: [\*Thrive! Ready for the Future\*](#). Specifically, Board members reviewed data pertaining to early literacy, academic progress, sense of belonging and equity. Data showed the most progress in the early literacy goal area, and district leaders shared efforts to support that goal, including funding smaller class sizes and training for teachers. In the area of academic progress, the Board reviewed data showing the percentage of students not only passing state assessments but also the percentage of students growing and the percentage on track to pass in the future. Student survey data was used to demonstrate progress toward increasing sense of belonging. Within the equity goal area, the Board examined the proportional representation of students in four key areas—suspensions, referrals, gifted placement, and advanced coursework—relative to

their proportion within the overall student population.

## New Curriculum

In addition to the district goals outlined in the strategic plan, each year the Kyrene Governing Board establishes its own set of goals to be measured annually. In 2023-24, the Board set and achieved a goal of adopting Kyrene's first-ever Social Emotional Learning and Wellness policy ([Policy 5-412](#)). Putting that policy into action, the Board then approved the adoption of a new middle school curriculum, *Character Strong*, which will help students grow skills in the areas of self-awareness, self-management, relationships, social awareness, and responsible decision-making.

Additionally, last spring the Board approved a new elementary science curriculum by *Discovery Education*, which teaches students to question, investigate and solve real-world science problems. All new curriculum is subject to a public review period prior to board approval. The Kyrene Board has stressed the importance of public review and encourages families, staff and community members to participate.

## Connect with Kyrene

The Kyrene Governing Board is made up of five members, each elected to serve a four-year term. Kyrene is grateful to the individuals who volunteer their time to serve in such an important capacity. Community members may contact the Board by sending an email to [governingboard@kyrene.org](mailto:governingboard@kyrene.org). A governing board is a collective body, and individual board member replies may not be representative of the entire board. Regular board meetings, study sessions and board retreats are open to the public and live streamed on the Kyrene website as well as the [Kyrene YouTube channel](#). For more information about Governing Board meetings, policies and responsibilities, visit the [Kyrene Governing Board](#) online.



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