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Board of Education Minutes
Wichita Public Schools · USD 259
Wichita, Kansas
March 4, 2024

Roll Call	The Board of Education of Unified School District No. 259, Sedgwick County, Kansas, met in regular session in the Wichita High School North Lecture Hall, 1437 Rochester, Wichita, Kansas, at approximately 6 p.m., on March 4, 2024, with President Stan Reeser presiding. Present: Diane Albert, Julie Hedrick, Ngoc Vuong, Melody McCray-Miller, Stan Reeser, Hazel Stabler, and Kathy Bond.
Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance	The business portion of the meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance by the Jardine Middle School JROTC Cadets.
Student Success	
Good News	Battle of the Books 2024 and the Wichita Big Read Contact(s): Gail Becker The 29th annual Battle of the Books competition was held January 17th-25th at AMAC, with 50 elementary schools participating. This event was organized and directed by Library Media and Textbook Services and produced by Media Productions. Information and books will be shared for the upcoming Wichita Big Read. This is the 16th year WPS has partnered with the Wichita Public Library for this event. Magnet Schools of America Recognition Contact(s): Jesse Milne, Phyllis Cottner Every year, Magnet Schools of America (MSA) selects a handful of schools from hundreds of applicants to receive their Merit Award of Distinction. The Merit Awards are based on adherence to MSA's five pillars of magnet schools which are Diversity, Innovative Curriculum and Professional Development, Academic Excellence, High-Quality Instructional Systems, and Family and Community Partnerships. This year, WPS had three buildings receive an award for Merit School of Distinction! Brooks Center for STEM and Arts won the award for the second time while Earhart Environmental Magnet and McLean Science and Technology Magnet both won for the third time. In addition to the Merit Award of Distinction, which is the second highest honor from MSA, the organization also bestows a Merit Award of Excellence to a very exclusive and elite class of magnet schools. Through 10 years of applying for these MSA distinctions, no WPS school had ever won the coveted Excellence category until last year when Mayberry Cultural and Fine Arts Magnet received it. This year not only did Mayberry achieve Excellence again but was joined by Hyde Leadership and International Studies and Allison Traditional Magnets as the best of the best magnet schools in the nation.

Public Communications	1. Audrey Garvey, 1835 N. Richmond, Wichita, KS 67203. Topic: School calendar. 2. Samuel Brucks, 500 S. Topeka, Wichita, KS 67202. Topic: Employee benefits. 3. Ruth Lehman, 1520 E. Fortuna, Wichita, KS 67216. Topic: School closures. 4. Kasheema Ford, 1610 S. Dodge, Wichita, KS 67203. Topic: School closures. 5. Candida Jeronimo, 1222 N. Cleveland Ave., Wichita, KS 67214. Topic: School closures. 6. Thomas Montiel, 2016 S. Elizabeth St. #802, Wichita, KS 67213. Topic: School closures. 7. Esau Freeman, 601 N. Terrace, Wichita, KS 67208. Topic: School closures. 8. Araceli Amador, 3324 S. Euclid, Wichita, KS 67217. Topic: School closures. 9. Maritza Andraba, 3302 W. 33rd St. S., Wichita, KS 67217. Topic: School closures. 10. Josephine Gomez, 1134 N. Waco, Wichita, KS 67203. Topic: School closures. At approximately 7:36 p.m., Mr. Reeser left the Board table. At approximately 7:38 p.m. Mr. Reeser returned to the Board table. At approximately 7:38 p.m., Mr. Vuong left the Board table. At approximately 7:40 p.m., Mr. Vuong returned to the Board table.
Operations	
Proposals for Closing Schools, Boundaries, and Reassignment Appendix 1	This agenda item includes public comment from the individuals listed below: Speaker: Samantha Stillman, 1023 N. Coolidge, Wichita, KS 67203. Speaker: Amanda Miller, 1222 N. Cleveland, Wichita, KS 67214. Speaker: Miles Montiel, 3322 S. Mt. Carmel, Wichita, KS 67217. Speaker: Lily Montiel, 3322 S. Mt. Carmel, Wichita, KS 67217. Speaker: Lisha Watts, 930 N. Market St. #211, Wichita, KS 67214. Speaker: Savannah Paschal, 3711 S. Eisenhower Ct., Wichita, KS 67215. Speaker: James Barfield, 2131 N. Edgemoor, Wichita, KS 67208. Speaker: Ashley Hawley, 3348 S. Sheridan, Wichita, KS 67217. Speaker: Emma Hawley, 3348 S. Sheridan, Wichita, KS 67217.

Proposals for Closing Schools, Boundaries, and Reassignment Appendix 1 *(continued)*	Susan Willis, Chief Financial Officer, briefed the Board. At their July 31, 2023, regular meeting, the Board of Education received information regarding the district's facility conditions, needs, and enrollment forecasting. On October 2, 2023, the Board approved retaining Cooperative Strategies, LLC, for the purposes of facility master planning services. Cooperative Strategies subsequently reported back to the Board on December 11, 2023, regarding the state of the district's various facilities. This report considered the age of each building, deferred maintenance, and historical and projected enrollment trends. At that same meeting, the Board approved a five-year strategic plan for the district. This strategic plan was developed in collaboration with district students, staff members, and community partners through online surveys, public meetings, and expert contributions. The strategic plan is intended to chart a path forward for the district through the 2028-29 school year. Thorough surveys and various feedback tools were employed with staff, students, and community to set priorities around initiatives to retain after pandemic relief funding ends in September 2024. Input revealed a desire to do what is best for district students. Staff voiced specific concerns about job cuts, salary freezes and possible loss of student social emotional and behavior supports in the classroom. The feedback emphasized a priority for appropriate staffing, and an acknowledgement that cuts in services and programs are necessary to keep teachers and other staff members. At the January 22, 2024, regular meeting, district staff projected the need to reduce expenditures by $42 million to balance the 2024-25 budget. This is due to declining enrollment since 2016, specifically the 5% drop in enrollment following the COVID-19 school shutdown of 2020, and the expiration of COVID-19 pandemic relief funding. Through non-school budget cuts, attrition, and administrative reassignment, expenditures were reduced by $9 million, but $33 million in spending reductions are still needed. After receiving this information, the Board charged administration with identifying potential building closures. On February 12, 2024, administration identified the following buildings: Hadley Middle School, Jardine STEM and Career Explorations Academy Magnet Middle School, Clark Elementary School, Cleaveland Traditional College and Career Readiness Magnet Elementary School, Park Elementary School, and Payne Elementary School. The Board subsequently voted to schedule a public hearing for February 29, 2024 and directed staff to publish a notice to comply with Kansas law. The Wichita Eagle published the notice in Appendix 1a of this agenda on February 14 and February 18. This hearing provided for extensive public comment on proposed school closings, and an opportunity for the Board of Education to discuss and respond.

Proposals for Closing Schools, Boundaries, and Reassignment Appendix 1 *(continued)*	The Board also held public listening sessions on February 21, February 22, and February 26. These listening sessions provided additional opportunities for public dialogue beyond the minimum requirements of Kansas law. During these meetings, boundary adjustment proposals for all recommended closing and welcoming schools were shared. It was also during these sessions that the public was given the opportunity to provide feedback on all the boundary proposals included in the recommendation. The complete presentation is included in the archival copies of this BOE Agenda and Minutes. This presentation was for the Board's information. At approximately 8:45 p.m., Board President Reeser announced a ten-minute break. At approximately 8:55 p.m., Board President Reeser reconvened the meeting. Ms. Albert (Ms. Hedrick) moved the Board approve Resolution 2024-01 found in Appendix 1b affecting the following schools: Hadley Middle School, Jardine STEM and Career Explorations Academy Magnet Middle School, Clark Elementary, Cleaveland Traditional College and Career Readiness Magnet Elementary School, Park Elementary School, and Payne Elementary School. The motion passed 5-2, with Mr. Vuong and Ms. McCray-Miller voting no. At approximately 10:10 p.m., Ms. Stabler left the meeting. Fabián Armendáriz, Director of Operations, briefed the Board. School boundary changes are necessitated by closing six attendance centers. New attendance boundaries prioritized the following: minimal system disruption; minimal feeder pattern changes; proximity to closed schools; building capacity; enrollment projections; and minimizing student crossing major roads and highways. The complete presentation is included in the archival copies of this BOE Agenda and Minutes. This presentation was for the Board's information. Ms. Albert (Mrs. Bond) moved the Board approve Administration's final boundary proposal effective August 1, 2024. The recommended proposal includes boundary adjustments for five middle schools (Hamilton, Marshall, Mead, Pleasant Valley, Wilbur) and ten elementary schools (Allen, Beech, Caldwell, Harry Street, Irving, Lawrence, Linwood, Stanley, Washington, Woodman). The motion passed 6-0, with Ms. Stabler absent.

Education	
FutureReady Centers: Manufacturing and Healthcare Report	Timothy Hamblin, Director of Career and Technical Programs, and Eric Shipman, Principal of the FutureReady Center, briefed the Board. Within our district we have two FutureReady Centers (FRCs): one is designed to teach WPS students about careers in manufacturing, the other to teach and prepare WPS students for careers in the Healthcare industry. This presentation described programming offered at each FRC as well as historical, current, and projected future enrollment data. At approximately 11:15 p.m. Mr. Reeser left the Board table. At approximately 11:24 p.m., Mr. Reeser returned to the Board table. The complete presentation is included in the archival copies of this BOE Agenda and Minutes. This presentation was for the Board's information.
Consent: Disposal of Routine Business	Mr. Reeser (Ms. Hedrick) moved the Board of Education approve the following items of routine business. The motion passed 6-0, with Ms. Stabler absent
Human Resources Report Appendix 2	Board approval.
Monthly Finance Report: January 2024 Appendix 3	Provided for the Board's information. No action is requested.
Purchasing Consent Appendix 4	Board approval.
Heat Exchanger Replacement – Mead Middle School	Approve the purchase and install of two (2) heat exchangers through Midwest Machinery KC, Inc., for Mead Middle School, in an amount not to exceed $54,814.
Node Room Assessment – Information Services and Technology	Enter into a contract with Basis Consulting Engineers, LLC, for Node Room Assessments, in an amount not to exceed $117,800.
Print Shop Boiler System Modification – School Service Center	Enter into a contract with The Waldinger Corporation for Print Shop Boiler System Modification at the School Service Center (SSC), in an amount not to exceed $164,050.
Sewer Line Improvements and Repairs – South High School	Enter into a contract with Kruse Corporation for necessary repairs to the sewer main at South High School, in an amount not to exceed $41,120.
Wall Carpet Removal – Beech Elementary School	Enter into a contract with Van Asdale Construction, LLC, for Wall Carpet Removal at Beech Elementary School, in an amount not to exceed $126,170.
Verizon Innovative Learning Lab Grant Appendix 5	Approve the memorandum of understanding for the Verizon Innovative Learning Lab at Coleman, Curtis, and Hamilton Middle School.
BOE Meeting Minutes for February 12, and February 29, 2024 Appendix 6	Board approval.

Legal Services: Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch, LLC and McDonald Tinker PA	Authorize payment for legal services and expenses for Civil Litigation and Workers' Compensation under the school district's self-insured programs for January 2024 in the amount of $10,156.33 to Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch, LLC and the amount of $8,230.39 to McDonald Tinker PA.
Proposed Policy Revisions by Consent Appendix 7	Board approval. Policy: 6333 Title: Graduation Rule and Diplomas Person Responsible: Loren Hatfield
EverDriven – Additional Appendix 8	Approve an additional $700,000 for continued use through the remainder of the fiscal year, totaling $1.7 million for the 2023-24 school year.
Reports	
United Teachers of Wichita (UTW)	Katie Warren, UTW President. Topic: State-level education funding.
Superintendent	- Thanked Board members for attending recent listening sessions. - Recognized district magnet schools for their recent national awards. - Also recognized Heights senior Angel Yanes for receiving a $30,000 Wallace Scholar award to attend Wichita State. - Reports the state 6A basketball tournament begins this week at Koch Arena and several district high schools are competing. - Announced that no executive session will be held at the meeting, and instead a BOE special meeting for the purposes of executive session will occur after Spring Break.
Board of Education	Melody McCray-Miller - Reports that BOE Policy 1160 – Diversity, Equity, and Accountability Committee may need to be updated in light of actions taken at this Board meeting.
Miscellaneous	
New Business	None submitted.
Board of Education Requests	Stan Reeser - Request that district leadership prepare a proposal for a new board policy creating a new and updated Diversity, Equity, and Accountability committee, which will assist the school district in monitoring and promoting diversity and equity in district schools and district programs. The proposed policy should describe the objectives, outcomes, and composition of that committee, which will report to the superintendent. Ngoc Vuong - Indicated he had a similar request he would bring later to the Superintendent.
Adjournment	Mr. Reeser (Ms. Bond) moved the meeting adjourn. The motion passed 6-0, with Ms. Stabler absent. At approximately 10:35 p.m., the meeting adjourned.