



Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

After School Program

The Board has approved the 2024-2025 budget for the After School Program (ASP). Here's an overview of the plans:

- **Elementary Schools:** ASP will follow a "MindCraft-style" approach, encouraging inquiry-based learning to boost student engagement.
- **Middle and High Schools:** The focus will be on offering targeted academic support in core subjects.
- **Schedule:**
 - **Elementary and Middle Schools:** ASP will run from October 15, 2024, to March 6, 2025, every Tuesday through Thursday unless otherwise noted.
 - **High School:** Homework help will be available five days a week before school and three days a week after school.

KESA 2.0

Since 2016, the Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) has been used to oversee school accreditation. In July 2024, the State Board of Education introduced KESA 2.0 which focuses on compliance, school improvement, and student outcomes. Each of these areas is evaluated to measure district performance.

For this accreditation cycle, the district is concentrating on aligning lessons, instruction, and materials with Kansas standards. This ensures students from Pre-K to 12th grade develop interpersonal, intrapersonal, and cognitive skills.

To support these efforts, the district formed a District Leadership Team (DLT) of 10 staff members, along with five teams focused on Balanced Assessments, Stakeholder Engagement, MTSS, Physical and Mental Health, and Post-Secondary Success.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

New Staff:

- Krystle Byers – Asst. Volleyball Coach (Rule 10) at ACHS
- Neolamae Donaldson – Bus Aide
- Brett Munson – Asst. Wrestling Coach (Rule 10) at ACMS
- Tell Pfannenstiel – Temp Maintenance
- Nathan Spencer – ISS Aide at ACHS

Resignations/Retirements:

- Angela Baker – SAT at Jefferson
- Martha Garcia – SAT at Adams
- Chloe Pratap – Nurse Assistant

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board accepted gifts including school supplies for the ACMS ESL Classroom from Josh and Megan Hay, Clothing for Adams Elementary from Rena Brammer, school supplies for the district from Trinity Episcopal Church, \$1000 for ACHS FCA from First Baptist Church, and \$660 for ACHS Choir from the Barbara Miller memorial.
- The Board authorized the ACHS FFA Chapter to travel to the 2024 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, IN this October and appropriated \$9,810 in funding to support travel, registration, and lodging for participants.
- The Board approved the purchase of computer carts from Two Trees for a total of \$87,180.
- The Board authorized the district to make any relevant changes to the Head Start Program to meet all updated performance standards. The new performance standards provide clear requirements for Head Start wages/benefits, better integration of mental health supports across Head Start programming, strengthening child health and safety supports, and enhancing family engagement services.
- A safety/security progress report was shared with the Board. Key topics included: professional development, Crimestoppers, security presence in buildings and school events, and the new “Every Choice Matters” campaign which will help educate students and families on a variety of topics such as vaping, THC, opioids, bullying, suicide prevention, violence in relationships, online safety, and more.
- Casey Bellew, Food Service Director, reported to the Board about some areas she and her Chartwells team have been focused on including offering a variety of food options, increasing the number of hot food choices at 2nd Chance Breakfast, eliminating high-caffeine energy drinks, student engagement, and

more. She also explained what components make up an approved meal and highlighted the fresh salad bars.

- The Board received a current enrollment report. The current headcount is 2901. The official count day is September 20.