Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

October 28, 2024

Date set for ACHS Graduation

The Board has set Saturday, May 10, 2025, as the date for ACHS graduation. The ceremony will begin at 7 p.m.

IXL Elementary introduces the "YELL" Program

IXL Elementary administration and staff presented to the Board how the school enhances students' social-emotional learning and impacts the overall education experience. The newly formed YELL (Youth Empowered by Life Lessons) program at IXL Elementary focuses on building essential soft skills, particularly for boys. It complements the Haircare/Self-Confidence program, which began last year and is geared toward girls. YELL provides students with leadership, communication, and accountability opportunities. In a recent activity, students learned proper handshakes and introductions, followed by a field trip to the Ark City Senior Citizen Center, where they practiced these skills by engaging with seniors through games and conversation. Both programs aim to empower students with practical life skills that support their personal and academic development.

BOE Policy GAF – Staff-Student Relations Gets an Update

The Board approved updates to BOE Policy GAF – Student-Staff Relations to provide clearer guidelines. While staff must still maintain professional relationships with students and romantic or sexual conduct remains prohibited, the updated policy includes these key changes:

- **Expanded Investigative Authority:** Administrators, security officers, and other personnel designated by the superintendent can now investigate student conduct violations.
- **Mandatory Presence:** A second authorized person must be present during any investigation of staff-student relations.
- **Sensitive Matters Protocol:** For gender-sensitive issues, at least one investigator must be the same gender as the student.
- **Health and Safety:** This may also address issues of student health and safety.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

New Staff:

- David Boxman – Interim Head Boys Basketball Coach at ACHS

Resignations/Retirements:

- Tammy Wise Beach – Lunch/Office Aide at IXL
- James Bell – Rule 10 Coach at ACMS

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board amended the Agenda to add another executive session to discuss non-elected personnel and approved the Agenda as amended
- The Board heard from Brandon Pride, who requested that students in school clubs be able to wear chords at the graduation ceremony. The Board and district administration look forward to exploring that option at the next meeting.
- The Board heard from Mickey Schmith about The 40 Friday Club.
- The Board accepted $700 in clothes for students across the district from Soroptimist of Ark City.
- The Board honored Aspen Colquhoun for placing 14th at the Girls 5A State Golf Tournament. They also acknowledged the participation of district staff and students in the Arkalalah festivities.
- The Board elected Jon Oak to represent USD 470 as the delegate for the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) 2024 Delegate Assembly. The other Board members will serve as alternate delegates if needed.
- Braden Smith, Director of Curriculum and Instruction updated the Board on the district's implementation of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS).
- Eric Burr, Safety and Security Coordinator, provided an update on upcoming security assessments, outlined staff responsibilities, and shared progress on preventative measures.
- Aaron Bucher, ACHS Athletic/Activities Director, and Mr. Wiederstein, ACMS Athletic/Activities Director, provided updates on the current status and plans for sports and activities at the high school and middle school. Both reported steady participation and discussed improvements to facilities and programs to better serve students.
- The Board participated in Executive Sessions to discuss non-elected personnel.
- The Board approved adding general comments from the Board to the Agenda moving forward.