Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

November 11, 2024

Approval of Fiscal Year 2024 District Audits
The Board approved the Fiscal Year 2024 District Audits, as conducted and recommended by BFR, C.P.A., LLC. The audit, which included reviews of certain federal and grantee accounts, provided insights into the district's financial health, with recommendations to enhance internal controls and practices.

Support for South Tennis Courts Resurfacing Project
The Board approved a $3,500 contribution to the Interlocal Tennis Association for resurfacing the south tennis courts at Arkansas City Middle School. This funding supports court maintenance through a partnership with the city, Cowley College, and the Recreation Commission, ensuring quality facilities for all.

Board Reviews State Assessments
The Board reviewed the 2023-2024 State Assessment Report, which showed gains in several grades and subjects, with some classrooms exceeding state averages. Despite these improvements, overall scores remain below the district's goals, highlighting areas for growth. The report emphasized that state assessments are one of multiple tools used to evaluate student learning, helping identify trends and guide curriculum and instructional strategies to support ongoing progress across the district.

USD 470 Earns Three Statewide Communication Awards
Alisha Call, USD 470 Director of Communications, recently accepted three statewide communication awards on behalf of the district, highlighting efforts to engage students, families, and staff.

PERSONNEL UPDATE
New Staff:

- Anel Giles-Obregon – ESOL SAT at ACMS
- Abigail McGuire – Library Aide at Adams/Roosevelt

- Cooper Pierce – Asst. Boys Basketball Coach (Rule 10) at ACHS

Resignations/Retirements:

- Angie Ruyle – Head Volleyball Coach at ACMS

Reassignments/Transfers:

- Lucia Lara – Food Service Clerk/Accts. Liaison to Financial Secretary at ACMS
- Kerri White – SAT at IXL to Lunch/Office Aide at IXL

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board approved a comprehensive Cardiac Emergency Response Plan for each school in the district. Developed by the Nursing Department, the plan meets legislative requirements for cardiac emergency preparedness, including training and response protocols to enhance student and staff safety.
- The Board authorized a three-year contract with BFR, C.P.A., LLC for annual audit services through 2027. The contract ensures continued compliance with financial reporting standards, supports internal control improvements, and includes consultations to maintain budgetary compliance.
- The Board discussed the upcoming release of RFPs for the district's Internet Access and Wide-Area Network (WAN) services, both eligible for E-Rate funding. These multi-year contracts, set to begin in 2025, aim to enhance network reliability and resilience, ensuring continuous access to essential resources across the district.
- The Board discussed the possibility of adding a Director of Human Resources position for the district. This role would support staffing, employee relations, and compliance efforts. While the addition could address workforce needs, it would require additional funding and office space adjustments. Further discussion will determine the feasibility and timing of this new position.
- The Board reviewed data on the district's Personal Electronic Device (PED) policy from the first 12 weeks. Elementary schools reported very few violations, while middle and high schools showed areas of improvement in compliance. The Board reviewed proposed course changes for the 2025-2026 school year to meet state Career & Technical Education (CTE) requirements and expand learning pathways for students.
- The Board discussed a proposal allowing students to wear certain cords and regalia representing academic, club, and activity achievements at commencement. Standards for eligibility and appearance will be developed to ensure consistency and appropriateness.
- The Board moved into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel.