Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

January 13, 2025

Board Approves RFP for Elementary Music Instruments

The Board approved issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for new elementary music instruments, funded by a grant from the Wilkins Foundation with matching district funds. These instruments will enhance the district's music programs and support students' music education.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

New Staff:

- Courtney Chavez – Head Custodian at ACMS
- Lexi Hasty – SAT at Frances Willard
- Tedra Levan – SAT at Frances Willard
- Katie McEachern – SAT at Jefferson

Reassignments/Transfers:

- Tell Pfannenstiel – Full-time Maintenance (from part-time)

Resignations/Retirements:

- Queiko Fernandez – ESOL at ACMS
- Tania Fuentes – 2nd Grade Teacher at Frances Willard
- Peggy McAdam – SAT at Adams

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board amended the Agenda to include a discussion item about Cowley College Dual Credit classes and communication.
- The Board accepted $870 in pizzas from Domino's for ACMS, $75 gift bag for ACHS, $870 for stationary bikes for PreK classrooms from RISE Cowley County, $250 toward past-due lunch accounts from Community National Bank, and $500 for YELL at IXL Elementary from Casey Davis.

- Dr. Ballard read the Governor's proclamation declaring January School Board Recognition Month.
- The Board adopted Resolution 25-1 confirming the Board's earlier decision to elect board officers at the first board meeting in July of each year.
- The Board approved issuing Requests for Proposals (RFPs) for E-Rate Category 2 network equipment and fiber replacements at Adams and Frances Willard schools, with final approval of the selected proposals returning to the Board.
- The Board tabled action on the KSDE audit until February due to a scheduling issue with the auditor.
- The Board reviewed KASB's mid-year recommendations for updates to USD 470 board policies.
    - The proposed revisions cover 11 existing policies:
        - BBA – Board Powers and Duties
        - BBE – School Attorney
        - CN – Public Records
        - GAAC – Sexual Harassment
        - GAACA – Racial and Disability Harassment of Employees
        - GAAD – Child Abuse
        - GAAF – Emergency Safety Interventions
        - GAOE – Workers Compensation
        - IDCE – College Classes
        - JBC – Enrollment
        - JDD – Suspension and Expulsion Procedures
    - Two new policies were recommended:
        - JDC – Probation
        - IFBH – Use of Electronic Devices in School
    - Additionally, two policies are recommended for deletion:
        - BBBD – Board Member Development
        - GAO – Evaluation of Licensed Employees
    - Five existing forms are also recommended for revisions:
        - CN-1 – Public Records Request Form
        - GAAC-1 – Sexual Harassment Complaint Form
        - GAOE-1 – Workers Compensation Report Form
        - JBC-1 – Enrollment Appeal Form
        - JDD-1 – Suspension/Expulsion Appeal Form
- The Board reviewed the district's attendance policy (JB), highlighting the critical role of regular school attendance in academic achievement, personal development, and overall well-being. Key areas of focus include enhancing communication with families, promoting positive attendance habits, and revising

disciplinary guidelines related to attendance. With feedback from the handbook committee and the Board, additional updates will be included in the 2025-2026 student handbooks.

- The Board reviewed the district's student handbooks, focusing on aligning them with current policies and addressing key areas such as screen time, attendance, and disciplinary measures. After further input from stakeholders, proposed updates will be presented for approval in March.
- The Board received an update on the Head Start program, including completing an on-site review involving staff, parents, and Board members. As the designated Head Start grantee, the district is now preparing for the next steps in the FY2026 grant process.
- The Board discussed CTE and dual credit courses and what students do on the days those college courses aren't offered.
- The Board discussed communication between district administration and the Board.
- The Board discussed the Accelerated Reader program
- The Board moved into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel.