Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

February 10, 2025

Board Recognizes Body Venture Success

The Board recognized the work of Rosann Meier and multiple volunteers for coordinating a successful Body Venture exhibit for students. 520 students in grades 2-4 recently participated in the Body Venture exhibit at the middle school. This hands-on experience, created by KSDE Child Nutrition & Wellness, featured 11 interactive stations that helped students learn about healthy eating, staying active, and how their bodies work—all while practicing the motto: *Eat Smart. Play Hard.*

The event also engaged 71 staff members and 43 volunteers, with setup and teardown support from Cowley College students, ACHS ACES students, and ACHS athletes from softball, football, and wrestling.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- Daniel Lim – English at ACHS
- Julie Long – Kindergarten at Roosevelt
- Janice Miller – Counselor at Jefferson *(Retirement)*
- Alyssa Montgomery – Music at FW/IXL
- Genevieve Potelle – ELA at ACMS
- Kirsten-Ann Smith – SAT at IXL
- Eshia Topper – Warehouse *(Retirement)*
- Skyla Walker – Bus Driver

Transfers/Reassignments:

- Jackie Gonzales – Asst. Principal at Adams to Principal at Roosevelt
- Eric Swanson – Social Studies at ACMS to Asst. Principal at Adams

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board accepted an $800 grant for IXL Elementary's YELL program from the Credit Union of America.
- Board members added two discussion items to the Agenda: Local Law Enforcement Presence in the Schools and Human Resources before approving the Agenda and Consent Agenda
- The Board recognized the upcoming FFA Week and Ark City FFA's Build-A-Bowl breakfast event from 7:30-8 a.m. on Feb. 20.
- Eric Burr, USD 470 Safety/Security Coordinator shared that Mayor Beeson proclaimed February 13 as the Day of Hope. Ark City's Hope Squads hope their activities will raise awareness for mental health, foster peer-to-peer connections, spread hope, and ultimately prevent suicide.
- The Board tabled changes to the following policies: DFH—Fundraising, GAE—Complaints, ICA—Pilot Projects, IDACA—Special Education Services, JGFGAA—Stock Supply of Emergency Medication, JGFGBA—Student Self-Administration of Medication, and KN—Complaints.
- The Board tabled updating the district organizational chart until the next meeting.
- The Board approved waiving textbook and course fees for the 2025-2026 school year.
- The Board authorized a 60-month contract with Ideatek Telcom for Fiber Internet Access (WAN) at a total cost of $618,000. The contract will be paid in monthly installments of $10,300 before E-rate reimbursement.
- The Board approved a 36-month contract with Ideatek Telcom for district-wide internet services. The total cost is $82,800, payable in monthly installments.
- The Board authorized the Business Office to release a Request for Proposals (RFP) for printer and copier replacements and a service lease agreement.
- The Board approved a Request for Proposals (RFP) for designated technology hardware and equipment.
- Jeremy Gilson from Gallagher shared his role in brokering insurance for the district and some potential scenarios that could lessen the financial impact on employees.
- The Board approved developing a policy regarding the presence of law enforcement in Ark City schools and for Dr. Ballard to contact the Cowley County Sheriff's Office.
- The Board discussed the district's Gifted Education Program including possible ways to strengthen it and help ensure students receive appropriate services and opportunities for growth. The Board also authorized forming a committee comprised of Board members, administrators, teachers, and students to study this topic.

- The Board reviewed plans for the 2025 summer school program. Due to reduced funding, adjustments may be made while maintaining the focus on targeted interventions and project-based learning for K-12 students from June 2 to 27.
- The Board discussed the 2025-26 JAG-K program, noting anticipated cost increases due to a new fee structure. Despite rising expenses, the program remains an approved “at-risk” intervention, with 104 students currently enrolled at Ark City High School.
- The Board discussed potential updates to the student attendance policy, including aligning with Kansas Compulsory Attendance laws, defining absence thresholds, and implementing measures such as parent notifications and attendance-based activity eligibility.
- The Board authorized the development of a committee to hire a human resources director.
- Jacinda Kinzie recognized everyone who helped make Homecoming a great one.
- The Board discussed potential future Board agenda items.
- The Board moved into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel.
- Authorized Dr. Ballard to extend contacts or working agreements, as approved by the Board.