Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

February 24, 2025

Board Celebrates Achievements and Honors

Arkansas City Public Schools is celebrating several remarkable accomplishments. ACHS Ag Teachers Kasie Bogart and Josie Messenger were nominated for the 2025 Nationwide Insurance Golden Owl Award for their outstanding impact on students and the community. Isaac Pieper and Adrianna Wixon were crowned Winter Homecoming King and Queen. ACHS head football coach Chet Pobolish was inducted into the Ohio Valley Athletic Conference Hall of Fame.

The district also recognized its January "Top DAWGS," including Margarita Francisco, Debbie Standerfer, Twilla Kahm, and Tara Woodmansee, for their dedication and excellence.

USD 470 is proud to announce the winners of the RESIST Essay Contest:

- **ACMS:** 1st place – Clarissa Whyde; 2nd place – Kenlee Chattam
- **ACHS:** 1st place – Brooklyn Gleason; 2nd place – Alizabella Meile

Board Approves Summer School Plans

The Board approved the 2025 Summer School schedule and budget. The program will run from June 2 to 27, Monday through Thursday, from 8 to 11 a.m. at Roosevelt Elementary, ACMS, and ACHS. It will include Kindergarten Success Camp, MindCraft for grades 1-8, and credit recovery for grades 9-12. Free meals will be provided.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- Ann Headrick – Academic Coach (Retirement)
- Ermelinda Andres Jose – ESOL SAT at ACHS
- Tim Porter – Principal at ACHS
- Katrina Stigers – ESOL SAT at ACHS
- Joshua Trisler – Technology Supervisor

OTHER BUSINESS

- ACHS administration, staff, and students reported to the Board about demographics, student experiences, and achievement goals. Highlights included statistics on student involvement, vocal music, FFA, and student council participation. The report also emphasized the school's efforts to improve school culture, graduation rates, leadership opportunities, internships, and dual-credit courses.
- The Board approved the KSDE State Audit for 2025, which reviewed USD 470's enrollment, funding, and compliance, including headcount, FTE, and weighted enrollment. It also examined expenditures for transportation, special services, and other programs.
- The Board reviewed and approved updates to several policies recommended by the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB). Key changes included:
    - **DFH – Fundraising Activities:** Outlines guidelines for school-related fundraising, emphasizing voluntary participation and restrictions on door-to-door sales for younger students.
    - **GAE – Complaints:** Establishes a clear process for employees to file complaints about school policies or decisions.
    - **ICA – Pilot Projects:** Supports pilot projects to test new instructional methods before district-wide implementation.
    - **IDACA – Special Education Services:** Ensures a free, appropriate public education for exceptional children per federal and state laws.
    - **JGFGAA – Stock Supply of Emergency Medication:** Allows schools to maintain and administer emergency medications like epinephrine and albuterol.
    - **JGFGBA – Student Self-Administration of Medications:** Permits eligible students to self-administer prescribed medications with proper authorization.
    - **KN – Complaints:** Establishes procedures for addressing general complaints at the lowest possible administrative level.
- The Board approved updates to the USD 470 Organizational Chart and the plans to make it more accessible.
- The Board approved the USD 470 Head Start Report and authorized the 2025-26 Head Start Program and Budget application process, totaling $1,837,255. This funding supports the district's Pre-K blended learning program and future goals for early childhood education.
- The Board approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with JAG-K for the 2026 fiscal year to continue the program at ACHS.

- The Board approved the proposal to allow cords and regalia at ACHS commencement. Eligibility will be based on a consistent, fair process for ACHS organizations. A detailed handbook will guide how students qualify for these honors.
- The Board approved Policy LBE, outlining USD 470's commitment to positive relationships with local law enforcement. The policy ensures officers follow proper procedures when visiting schools and clarifies the superintendent's role in resolving any conflicts.
- The Board approved the purchase of network equipment from Twotrees Technologies for $65,760. This includes network switches, access points, and distribution switches to support the district's technology infrastructure.
- The Board approved the fiber replacement project at Adams and Frances Willard Elementary Schools. Twotrees Technologies will complete the project for $25,750, enhancing connectivity and network reliability.
- The Board approved the purchase of elementary music instruments from West Music for $45,889.07. This purchase, supported by a Wilkins Foundation grant with matching district funds, will enhance the district’s music programs with high-quality, age-appropriate instruments.
- The Safety and Security Quarterly Report highlighted key prevention efforts, including increased site checks, vape sensor responsiveness, and student engagement through programs like Hope Squad, SADD, RESIST, and YELL. The report also noted fewer vape-related incidents and a continued focus on student safety and well-being.
- The Special Education Cooperative report provided updates on budget finalization, program priorities, and upcoming discussions regarding the gifted education program.
- The Board moved into executive session to discuss non-elected personnel.