



Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

April 14, 2025

Board Recognizes 2024 Challenge Award-Winning Schools

The Board of Education celebrated four USD 470 schools for receiving 2024 Challenge Awards from the Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force. Adams Elementary, Arkansas City Middle School, Jefferson Elementary, and Roosevelt Elementary were each recognized for outstanding achievement in reading and math on the Kansas Assessment Program, especially among students who face significant challenges.

The Board commended the students, staff, and families for their dedication to academic growth and excellence.

Board Approves Easement Request near Middle School

The Board approved a utility and temporary construction easement requested by the City of Arkansas City. The easement will support sewer line installation for new development near the bypass and Kansas Avenue. District access and future use of the property will not be impacted.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- Bianca Tsosie-Behrens – SAT at Jefferson
- Julie Hadicke – Lunch Clerk/Office Aide at Jefferson (*retirement*)
- Jeannette McVey – SAT at Roosevelt (*retirement*)
- Leticia Morales-Leal – ESOL SAT at ACMS
- Kara Owens – 4th Grade at C-4
- Barbara Sherich – 7th Grade ELA at ACMS
- Alyssa Waggoner – Social Worker at Frances Willard

Reassignments/Transfers:

- Jerica Mueller – Building Sub to Certified Elementary Teacher

- Ryan Taylor – Asst. Principal at ACHS to Principal at ACHS

Hirings:

- Shannon Brough – Elementary Teacher
- Tiffany Nelson – HS Art Teacher
- Kyrstyn Price – Elementary Teacher
- Kirsten Siger –Elementary Teacher
- Ryan Swiggart – Elementary Teacher
- Jayna Taylor – Elementary Teacher
- Caique Camargo Trivelatoo Pereira – Data Manager

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board added an agenda item regarding additional security positions
- The Board accepted \$50 for the ACMS Business Class from the Cowley County Area Retired School Personnel.
- The Board accepted a trumpet, snare, and bells (approx. \$1,000) for the ACMS Band.
- The Board approved the official job description for the district's Human Resources Director position. The description outlines key responsibilities and qualifications aligned with the district's strategic goals.
- The Board approved a lease agreement with Galaxie Business Equipment Inc. for districtwide copier and printer services. The agreement includes equipment, maintenance, and toner for a total cost of \$201,309.60.
- The Board approved technology hardware purchases totaling \$332,775. Items include Chromebooks, projectors, and Windows desktops to support student learning and classroom instruction across the district.
- The Board approved the purchase of 65 MacBook Air laptops with AppleCare+ for certified staff. The total purchase cost is \$72,670 and supports the district's ongoing technology rotation plan.
- The Board approved continued membership in the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) and the KASB Legal Fund for the 2025-2026 school year. Membership provides access to training and legal services, among other things.
- The Board approved continuing the district's partnership with Greenbush Virtual Academy for the 2025-2026 school year. The program offers a virtual learning option for students who may benefit from an alternative educational setting.
- The Board approved a proposal from Wray Roofing to complete roof restoration work at Arkansas City High School this summer. The project will cost \$342,370.
- The Board approved a proposal from Boxman Lawn Service to install an irrigation system at Arkansas City High School for \$32,640. The project will

enhance the appearance and maintenance of the front lawn.

- The Board approved an additional security guard position.
- Dr. Ballard provided an overview of the 2025 Kansas legislative session, including key topics such as school funding, special education aid, graduation requirements, and proposed policy changes that may impact public education.
- Braden Smith updated the Board on student handbooks for the 2025-2026 school year. District teams are working collaboratively to revise policies related to attendance, cell phone use, and handbook formatting to ensure consistency and alignment with board expectations.
- The Board received an update on district safety efforts, including emergency response procedures, building access improvements, visitor management systems, and communication protocols. Ongoing work aims to enhance safety across all schools.
- The Board reviewed enrollment data and approved capacity guidelines for accepting non-resident students in the 2025-2026 school year. Availability varies by school and grade level, and a lottery process will be used to fill open seats if needed.
- The Board participated in four separate executive sessions – two for non-elected personnel, one for negotiations, and one for attorney-client privilege. No action was taken following the executive sessions.