Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

April 28, 2025

Board Recognizes February and March Top DAWGS

The Board of Education recognized the February and March Top DAWGS — outstanding staff members nominated by their peers for consistently going above and beyond to support students, colleagues, and the community.

- Kerri Beard – 8th Grade Social Studies, ACMS
- Lacy Colquhoun – School Nurse
- Titus Hale – Bus Driver
- Jessica Winegarner – 3rd Grade, Adams Elementary

Board Celebrates State Music Success

The Board of Education recognized the outstanding achievements of Arkansas City High School's large vocal and instrumental ensembles at the State Large Groups Music Festival.

All four ACHS groups, Orchestra, Women's Choir, Symphonic Choir, and Concert Band, earned "I" ratings, the highest possible score at the state level.

Congratulations to our talented students, directors, and staff for their hard work and success!

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- Reagan Evans – Agriculture at ACHS
- Twilla Kahm – Secretary at ACMS *(Retirement effective 9/1/2025)*
- Angellina King – 3rd Grade at Frances Willard
- Christopher Meyer – 6th Grade Counselor
- Josie Patterson – 6th Grade Science
- Alejandro Ramos – 3rd Grade at Jefferson

Hirings:

- Terril Hankins – Building Substitute and Head Boys Basketball Coach at ACHS

- Mary Harper – Elementary Music

OTHER BUSINESS

- C-4 Elementary highlighted strategies used to support students before, during, and after state assessments. Staff shared how parent partnerships, buddy classrooms, and staff involvement help encourage student success.
- The Board of Education approved renewing the food service contract with Compass Group USA, Chartwells Division, for the 2025-26 school year. Management fees will stay the same, and meal prices will be adjusted based on national food costs.
- The Board set a planning session for June 4 at 5:30 p.m. at the Avery Learning Center. The session will focus on setting goals, reviewing progress, and planning priorities for the 2025-26 school year.
- The Board approved plans to keep the regular June 9 and June 23 meetings for budget business. A special meeting will also be held on Friday, June 27, if needed, to complete the fiscal year close-out.
- The Board of Education received an update on proposed changes to the 2025-26 student handbooks. Work continues on two main areas: a possible bell-to-bell cell phone policy and a new attendance guide to better support students, families, and staff.
- The Board reviewed new state legislation affecting curriculum and open meetings. One new law requires showing a fetal development video in certain health courses. Another clarifies requirements for live-streaming public meetings under the Kansas Open Meetings Act.
- The Board reviewed breakfast and lunch pricing trends from 2011 to 2025. Student meal prices have stayed very steady over the past decade. Breakfast prices for students barely changed from 2011 to 2020, and lunch prices increased by less than 60 cents during that time. Adult meal prices rose more significantly, mainly due to higher food and labor costs, with adult lunch prices moving from $3.00 in 2011 to $4.86 in 2025.
- The Board learned about a new data analytics tool called PowerSchool Analytics and Insights. The tool would help staff track student progress, attendance, and behavior in real time, supporting efforts to improve learning and meet district goals.
- The Board held an executive session to discuss non-elected personnel. No action followed.