Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

May 12, 2025

Board Recognizes ACHS Governor Scholars

The Board of Education recognized Arkansas City High School seniors Luther Abrams and Isaac Pieper for being named 2025 Kansas Governor's Scholars. This prestigious honor is awarded to graduating seniors who rank in the top one percent of their class statewide. The Board congratulated both students for their outstanding academic achievement and commitment to excellence.

Board Supports Development of Truancy Court

The Board of Education approved a collaborative effort with the Cowley County District Court to support the development of a Truancy Court. The program is designed to reduce chronic absenteeism through early intervention, accountability, and wraparound support services for students and families. The court will work with schools, counselors, and community agencies to address barriers to attendance and promote student success. An informational reference to the Truancy Court will be included in the district's student handbook.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- Carly Collins – Building Substitute at Roosevelt
- Karen Drake – 3rd Grade Replacement Teacher at IXL
- Nikki Kirk – Music Teacher at C-4 and Jefferson
- Rhonda Walker – Title I Aide at Sacred Heart
- Terrill Hankins – Head Boys Basketball Coach at ACHS

Reassignments/Transfers:

- Kaleb Klink – 5th Grade at Roosevelt to 6th Grade Science @ ACMS
- Ashley Legleiter – Science to Digital Media at ACHS
- Emily Mitton – Kindergarten at Adams to 6th Grade ELA at ACMS
- Leora Neises – 7th Grade Science to Academic Coach at ACMS
- Taylor Reeves – Counselor at Adams to 6th Grade Counselor at ACMS
- Charli Sumpter – 1st Grade at Jefferson to Counselor at Jefferson

Hirings:

- Molly Flavin – Elementary Teacher
- Hayley Kilpatrick – Elementary Teacher
- Anastasia Miller – Elementary Music Teacher
- Caitlyn Shelton – SAT at IXL
- Tiffany Shinneman – Director of Human Resources
- Hunter Trent – 6th Grade Social Studies at ACMS

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board accepted $50 in feminine hygiene products for ACMS from the Soroptimists of Arkansas City.
- The Board added an agenda item about graduation requirements and college classes and approved the Agenda as amended. Specifically, they discussed what processes are in place to monitor student progress and ensure timely communication with both students and parents if academic concerns arise.
- The Board of Education approved updates to the 2025–2026 student handbooks and administrative guidelines. Revisions were made based on input from staff, district leaders, and other stakeholders to improve clarity, consistency, and student support. One key change is that cell phones will not be allowed out during the school day. Specific procedures for implementation will be finalized at a later date.
- The Board of Education reviewed a report from the Gifted Education Committee with ideas to improve support for high-achieving students. The plan focuses on helping teachers and students start the year with clear expectations, offering more advanced learning options, and encouraging teamwork between teachers and students. The Board approved continued work on these ideas to better meet the needs of gifted learners across the district.
- The Board of Education approved the purchase of PowerSchool Analytics and Insights, a new software tool that will help staff better track and understand student data. This program brings together information about attendance, behavior, grades, and more in one place. It will support the district's ongoing work to improve student learning, set goals, and provide the right help to students who need it.
- The Board of Education reviewed draft needs assessments for each school in the district. These assessments help identify what schools need to better support student learning, such as updates to curriculum, staffing, and facilities. The information will be used to help guide future planning and budget decisions.
- The Board of Education received an update on recent state legislation that may affect public schools. Topics included curriculum requirements and updates to

the Kansas Open Meetings Act. District leaders will continue to monitor changes and provide updates as new information becomes available.

- The Board of Education discussed legal services for the 2025–2026 school year. Board attorney J.T. Seitz has served in this role since July 2024. The Board plans to explore options for continuing legal support to help with school governance and district matters.
- The Board of Education received an update on the district's intercom replacement project. Work is underway to upgrade systems at Arkansas City High School, following the completed installation at Frances Willard Elementary. The project is being done in phases and is supported by state safety grant funds. The goal is to improve communication and safety across all school buildings.