



USD 497 News Release

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May 27, 2025

Lawrence Board of Education Approves Business Items

During Monday's meeting, the Lawrence Board of Education approved several business items as part of its consent agenda, including the purchase of two curriculum resources. The district's Literacy Leadership Team recommended the adoption of a dedicated handwriting program resource, Handwriting Without Tears, which is aligned with the Structured Literacy approach. The purchase will not exceed \$70,000 and will be paid from the Student Materials Revolving Fund.

In addition, after a rigorous curriculum review process, secondary English Language Arts teachers recommended an extension of the use of myPerspectives as their curriculum resource. The purchase extends the original six-year license for one year at a cost of \$24,240, also from the Student Materials Revolving Fund.

The board approved two Capital Outlay Fund purchases: a \$46,458 contract with Jayhawk Fire Sprinkler, Co., Inc. for sprinkler head repairs at multiple buildings, and the purchase and installation of software and controllers to replace obsolete HVAC system controls at the Educational Support Center in the amount of \$38,700 from Charles D. Jones Co.

Due to the board's recent approval of the purchase of new MacBooks for staff and high school students, members approved the disposal of surplus technology devices through Synetic Technologies.

"They offer something that has been asked for in our community, a buy-back program," said Past President Shannon Kimball.

The buy-back program will be offered via Shopify during a two-week window in June. It will include 2020 M1 MacBooks with the cost per device ranging from \$350 to \$400 with a 90-day warranty.

Federal Legislative Update

Kimball shared information about a proposed federal bill being debated in Congress that would create a national school voucher program using the tax code, incentivizing private donations for scholarships to cover private school tuition and other expenses through tax credits. Read more about it in this [NPR report](#).

School Board Filing and Primary Election Deadlines

Superintendent Dr. Jeanice Kerr Swift shared a reminder that the deadline to file as a candidate for the Lawrence Board of Education is June 2. The terms of Kimball, President Kelly Jones, and board member Bob Byers are ending. Should enough candidates file to warrant a primary, the registration deadline to vote in the August Primary Election is July 15. Read the entire [Superintendent's Report](#) on our website.