



Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

May 27, 2025

Board Reviews District Assessment Plan

The Board reviewed updates to the district's assessment plan. Following a full evaluation, the district will use FastBridge as its primary assessment tool and will discontinue the use of NWEA MAP. FastBridge better aligns with state requirements, especially for dyslexia screening, is more cost-effective, and provides useful data for teachers without taking up too much instructional time. Staff will receive training and support to ensure a smooth transition.

Board Recognizes April and May Top DAWGS

The USD 470 Board proudly honored the April and May Top DAWGS—our Team of Outstanding Professionals Doing Amazing Work and Growing Stronger. Peers nominated these staff members for going above and beyond in service to students, colleagues, and the community.

April Honorees:

- Nettie Camp – Paraeducator, ACMS
- Logan Caywood – Choir Director, ACHS
- Nikki Kirk – Music Teacher, C-4 and Jefferson
- Cheyenne Richardson – Food Service, Roosevelt

May Honorees:

- Laura Hasty – Custodian, Frances Willard
- Ann Headrick – Academic Coach, ACMS
- Emily Pendergrass – Food Service, ACHS
- Emily Soule – Kindergarten Teacher, IXL

Board Recognizes Arkansas City High School for Earning All-Star Status

Arkansas City High School has been named a 2025 Apply Kansas All-Star High School by the Kansas Board of Regents. This honor recognizes schools that support students in planning

for life after graduation. To earn All-Star status, schools must host a college application event, a FAFSA completion session, and a Senior Signing Day celebrating all postsecondary paths. ACHC is among 217 Kansas high schools recognized this year.

Head Start Celebrates 60 Years

The USD 470 Board of Education recognized the 60th anniversary of the Head Start program. Since 1965, Head Start has provided early learning, health, and family support services to millions of children nationwide. The program continues to play a vital role in preparing young learners for success, and USD 470 is proud to be part of its ongoing legacy.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- Maria Domingo – SAT at Adams
- Donna Harris – Custodian at ACHS
- Jesses Hernandez – Cheer Coach at ACMS
- Sarah Kieffer – SAT at Adams
- Jim McNickle – Bus Driver
- Julia Miner – Intensive English SAT at Adams
- Timothy Nissen – Bus Driver
- Alma Shelton – 2nd Grade Replacement Teacher at Jefferson
- Alexis Smith – Asst. Cheer Coach at ACMS

Hirings:

- Lindsay Bass – High School Ag
- Stephanie Bloyer – 7th Grade ELA at ACMS
- Cristine Noland – Gifted at ACMS
- Sarah O’Rear – Assistant Principal at ACHS
- Mallyssa Sisson – 7th Grade Science at ACMS
- Shannon Sultz – Counselor/Social Worker

OTHER BUSINESS

- David Stinemetze addressed the board and recommended delaying the implementation of a bell-to-bell cell phone policy at the high school. He said the current policy is effective when enforced and doesn’t significantly impact class time, while the proposed update could take more time to manage and reduce learning time.
- The Board accepted a snare drum and mallets for ACMS from Braden and Larry Floyd.
- The Board approved retaining J.T. Seitz as legal counsel for USD 470 for the 2025-2026 school year with an increase in retainer fee. The hourly rate will remain the same.
- The Board voted to discontinue livestreaming its meetings during the 2025-2026 school year. The decision follows updated guidance related to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, which adds new requirements for public bodies that choose to stream

meetings.

- The Board approved Arkansas City High School to host the 2026 KSHSAA State Large Group Music Festival on Thursday, April 16, 2026. That day will be a non-attendance day for ACHS students.
- The Board approved continuing the use of the USD 470 Cardiac Emergency Response Plans as presented.
- The Board heard an update on ongoing planning between USD 470 and Cowley College. The partnership aims to expand dual credit options for high school students, improve communication about college course requirements, and create a stronger college-going culture. Leaders are exploring ways to provide a dedicated classroom space for college courses at ACHS and plan to continue offering enrollment events and support for students and families.
- The Board received an update on student enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year. Overall, enrollment remained steady this year, with only a slight decrease of three students. Several schools, including Adams, IXL, Jefferson, Roosevelt, and ACMS, saw growth. The district expects stable numbers going into the 2025-2026 school year.
- The Board reviewed the Arkansas City Middle School spring activities report. This year, 67% of ACMS students took part in a club, sport, or activity. The school celebrated many wins, including league championships in football, wrestling, and golf. Band, choir, and theater groups also earned top honors. Students were recognized in spelling, orchestra, and community service. The report showed strong participation and a positive culture of involvement at ACMS.
- The Board reviewed updates to the Classified Staff Handbook. A committee of employees from across the district helped recommend changes, including a new section required by state law. The added language explains that injuries during optional social or recreational events, where attendance is not required, are not covered under workers' compensation.
- The Board discussed options for a new evaluation system for administrators. The proposed tool, SuperEval, is an online platform that helps with goal-setting, feedback, and performance reviews. It can be customized to align with district goals and is already used in other Kansas school districts. The goal is to improve communication, support growth, and ensure accountability.