Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

June 9, 2025

Board Recognizes ACHS State-Level Athletes

The Board celebrated several ACHS athletes for their outstanding performances at the state level! Special recognition went to participants in tennis and track, including Dawson O'Donnell, Karson Palmer, Owen McAnulty, Gabby Banta, Kinzie Perdue, Saliyah Henderson-Johnson, Khaliyah Evans, and Kierslynn Waggoner.

Board Approves New Assessment Plan

The Board approved the district's updated assessment plan and the adoption of FastBridge as the new K–12 interim assessment tool. This change ensures compliance with state requirements, including dyslexia screening, and will provide more meaningful, real-time data to support classroom instruction. The switch to FastBridge also significantly reduces costs, from $14 per student to just $4, while minimizing classroom disruptions and maintaining a strong instructional focus. Professional development will be provided at Curriculum Camp, and teachers are encouraged to attend.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Reassignments/Transfers:

- Shawna Hovey – Health Aide to Secretary at Adams

Hirings:

- Nicole Dawson – Elementary Counselor/Social Worker
- Aaron Johns – Custodian at ACHS
- Anthony Rider – Security Guard
- Emerson Talkington – Elementary Music

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board approved updates to the Classified Handbook for the 2025-2026 school year. A team of staff helped review and revise the handbook to better reflect current practices and policies. Changes include updates to align with board policy, revised coverage amounts, and new language recommended by the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) Workers' Compensation program.
- The Board approved renewal of the district's workers' compensation insurance through KASB, resulting in a savings of more than $41,000 compared to last year.
- The Board reviewed out-of-state travel proposals for ACHS vocal music and social studies students. The trips, planned for Dallas and Washington, D.C., respectively, would offer students valuable educational and cultural experiences. No district funding was requested at this time.
- The Board reviewed current hiring practices and discussed possible adjustments to clarify roles in the selection process. The conversation emphasized maintaining board oversight while allowing flexibility for administrative teams to make personnel decisions.
- The Board reviewed proposed policy updates from the Kansas Association of School Boards, including two new policies and several revisions to ensure compliance with state and federal guidelines. Final recommendations will be brought forward for consideration at a future meeting. Policies under review include:
    - **BBC** – Board Committees
    - **CN** – Public Records
    - **DFE** – Investment of Funds
    - **DFH** – Fundraising Activities
    - **GAACB** – Employee Whistleblower *(new)*
    - **IB** – School Site Councils
    - **JB** – Enrollment
    - **JBCD** – Enrollment of Military Students *(new)*
    - **JGFGB** – Supervision of Medications
    - **JH** – Student Activities
    - **KBC** – Media Relations and Usage
    - **KGB** – Concealed Observations
    - **KM** – Visitors to the School
    - **KN** – Complaints
- The Board discussed upcoming updates to the district's emergency procedures to enhance safety across all schools. Summer work will focus on revising protocols, updating signage, improving site security, and planning professional development. Input will help guide this work, with detailed recommendations to follow later this year.

- The Board reviewed results from the annual Staff Climate Survey. Highlights included strong ratings for staff collaboration, student care, and supervisor support. Areas for growth included consistency in managing disruptions, communication of expectations, and classified staff compensation. The district will use the feedback to guide improvement efforts moving forward.