Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

July 14, 2025

Board Approves 2025-2026 Health Insurance Plans

The Board approved health and ancillary benefit plans for USD 470 staff for the 2025-2026 school year. The district will continue offering medical coverage through Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, with both PPO and high-deductible options available.

There will be a slight 1.9% increase in medical insurance costs and a 0.10% increase in dental. To help offset these changes, the district will increase its monthly contribution toward employee health insurance from $440 to $470 for those who choose to participate.

Dental, vision, and other voluntary benefits will remain available to support the well-being of staff and their families.

Board Approves Tentative Master Agreement

The Board approved the tentative master agreement for the 2025-2026 school year, pending a vote by certified staff. The proposed agreement allows for step and column movement, includes a $250 increase to the non-indexed base salary (now totaling $2,750) and a $1,100 increase to the indexed base salary. It also adds a new salary column for M+45 and two weeks of paid parental leave among other things. The total base salary for certified staff will be $53,270, reflecting a 3.9% overall increase in cost to the district.

The agreement was developed in partnership with the Arkansas City Teachers Association (ACTA) and outlines salaries, benefits, and working conditions for certified staff. Final approval is contingent on the outcome of the faculty vote.

Board Approves Pay Increases for Classified and Administrative Staff

The Board approved 3.90% overall pay increases for both classified and administrative staff for the 2025-2026 school year. This includes a 3.55% salary increase and a 0.35% increase in the district's insurance contribution ($30 per month).

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations:

- Parker Butler – Maintenance
- Mark Wyckoff – Buildings and Grounds Supervisor at ACHS

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board elected Jon Oak to continue serving as Board President and Jamie Pieper to continue serving as vice president.
- The Board appointed Board members to serve as representatives to the following:
    - Cowley County Special Services Cooperative – Jamie Pieper; Chad Giles (alternate)
    - PTO/Board Liaison – Lori Barnes; Jamie Pieper (alternate
    - Board/Teacher Panel – Jon Oak and Bob Squires
    - KASB Governmental Relations Network – Jon Oak; Jamie Pieper (alternate)
    - Head Start Policy Council – Jon Oak; Jacinda Kinzie (alternate)
    - ACE Fund – Jacinda Kinzie
    - Insurance/Benefits Oversight Committee – Bob Squires
- The Board appointed the following district representatives:
    - KPERS – Amanda Moberly
    - Food Service – Will Pfannenstiel
    - Free and Reduced Meals Hearing Officer – Will Pfannenstiel
    - Agent for Receipt Vouchers – Will Pfannenstiel
    - ACHS Activity Fund Agent – Shannon Hills
    - ACMS Activity Fund Agent Lucy Lara
    - Freedom of Information Officer – Will Pfannenstiel
    - District Hearing Officers – Will Pfannenstiel, with all district administrators serving as alternates
    - District Appeal Hearing Officers – Will Pnannenstiel, with all district administrators serving as alternates
    - Civil Rights Officer – Will Pfannenstiel
    - Section 504 Coordinator – Will Pfannenstiel
    - Title IX Officer – Tiffany Shinneman
    - Board Treasurer – Vicki Webb
    - Deputy Treasurer – Sissy Kingsbury
    - Board Clerk – Sissy Kingsbury
    - Deputy Clerk – Vicki Webb
    - Truancy Officers – All principals and assistant principals

- The Board approved holding regular meetings on the second and fourth Monday of each month, except in December which will each have only one meeting. March's second meeting will be the fifth Monday (March 30).
- The Board designated the following:
    - Depositories of district funds – Community National Bank & Trust, RCB Bank, The Stock Exchange Bank, and Union State Bank.
    - Official publication – The Cowley Courier-Traveler
- The Board adopted Resolution 25-02, which allows the district to waive the use of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for the 2025-2026 school year.
- The Board approved a 1,116-hour school year calendar for 2025-2026 to meet state requirements.
- The Board authorized the district to pay bills, as needed, to avoid penalty and interest.
- The Board approved its warrant review schedule.
- The Board authorized the following petty cash limits:
    - Elementary – $250
    - Middle School – $750
    - High School – $1,000
    - District Office – $1,000
- The Board approved a resolution to let staff use district credit cards for school-related expenses.
- The Board adopted Home Rule Resolution 25-03, which gives the district more local control in making decisions.
- The Board approved setting the district's Local Option Budget (LOB) at the statewide average of 32.2% for the 2025-2026 school year. The LOB is a key part of the district's funding and helps support staff salaries, student programs, and day-to-day operations.
- The Board approved a set of policy adoptions and revisions recommended by the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB). These updates help ensure district policies remain current, aligned with state and federal laws, and reflective of best practices in education.
    - JBCD–Enrollment of Military Students
    - JFGFB–Supervision of Medications
    - JH–Student Activities
    - KBC–Media Relations and Usage
    - KGB–Concealed Observations
    - KN–Complaints
- The Board approved the purchase of student desks and chairs for secondary schools, totaling $29,582.50.

- The Board accepted the fuel bid from Waldeck Fertilizer for the 2025-2026 school year. The agreement sets pricing at $0.15 per gallon over wholesale rack pricing for both unleaded and dyed diesel fuel.
- The Board reviewed the updated USD 470 Substitute Handbook, which now includes revised contact information and a new section on professional standards.
- The Board reviewed the budget schedule for the 2025-2026 school year, including the timeline for publication, hearings, and final adoption.
- The Board reviewed the 2025-2026 building and district needs assessments, which help identify areas for improvement in student achievement, resource allocation, and overall school performance. These assessments are used to guide budget planning and support data-driven decision-making across the district.
- The Board reviewed options for a new personnel records software system to improve efficiency, accuracy, and security in managing employee information. Upgrading the system will help streamline HR processes and better support staff across the district.
- The Board participated in an executive session to discuss employer-employee negotiations.
- The Board participated in an executive session to discuss non-elected personnel.