



Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

July 28, 2025

ACHS Activities Report Highlights

The Board received an update on ACHS activities, noting strong student participation across various programs. Band saw its highest enrollment in years and is preparing for a possible 2026–27 trip to Washington, D.C. Choir students recently traveled to Memphis and Nashville and are planning a spring trip to Dallas. STUCO is gearing up for back-to-school events, and KAY Club continues its service leadership work. ACHS also remains active in KSHSAA programs, such as forensics, debate, and scholars' bowl.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations:

- Daniell Boss – ESOL SAT at ACMS
- Mary Brantley – CSR Aide at ACMS
- Nikolette Morrissey – Building Sub at Adams
- Laura Shook – Building Sub at ACHS
- Maria Smith – SAT at Adams

Hirings:

- Nicole Rogers – Head Cheer Sponser at ACMS
- Kelsie Simpson – Bus Driver
- Matthew Soule – Head Boys Soccer Coach at ACHS

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board approved the 2025-26 Needs Assessment to guide budget decisions and support student success. Priorities include staffing, professional development, facility improvements, ESOL support, and phone-free initiatives.
- The Board approved updates to the district's recruitment and hiring policy (GACC), clarifying that administrators and the human resources director will lead most hiring efforts, while the Board approves final recommendations and participates in selecting key employment positions.

- The Board reapproved the district's Communicable Disease Policy, which aligns with state and federal guidelines and outlines procedures for managing student illness and school reentry.
- The Board has approved updates to the 2025-26 Substitute Handbook. These include revised pay rates, new contact details, and added professional standards to better support substitute teachers.
- The Board approved a special meeting on Thursday, Aug. 7, at 5:30 p.m. at the Middle School Auditorium to share information and gather community input on facility needs.
- The Board reviewed the preliminary 2025-26 budget plan, which includes a reduced total mill levy, continued investment in staffing and facilities, and alignment with state funding requirements. Final approval will follow state review.
- The Board reviewed procedures for the cell phone policy at ACMS and ACHS. Supported by Yondr pouches, the policy aims to reduce distractions and improve focus. Communication and implementation efforts are ongoing.
- The Board reviewed district efforts to promote independent reading through school-wide challenges, student choice, and creative incentives—moving away from programs like AR in favor of more engaging, equitable strategies.
- The Board held an executive session to discuss non-elected personnel.
- The Board changed Braden Smith's title from Director of Curriculum and Instruction to Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction.
- The Board held an executive session to discuss the potential acquisition of property (preliminary discussion).