Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

August 11, 2025

ACHS Groups Selected for State Performance

The ACHS Bulldog Jazz Ensemble and Arkettes have been invited to perform at the 2026 Kansas Music Educators Association In-Service Workshop in Wichita. This is a prestigious honor and an opportunity to showcase our talented students to audiences from across the state.

Board to Publish FY2026 Budget

The Board of Education approved publishing the proposed USD 470 budget for fiscal year 2026. The plan keeps required state funding levels, supports school safety, building upkeep, special education, and competitive wages. The total mill levy will be lower than last year, which means local taxes will drop by about $568,800 (primarily due to USD 470 making a final bond payment). State law requires the budget to be published before it can be approved. A public hearing will be held Aug. 25 before the Board takes final action.

Board to Call Bond Election

The Board approved a resolution to hold a bond election that will give voters two options for funding school facility safety and improvement projects. Option 1 would keep the mill levy rate the level with our previous 10-year average, and focus on major improvements at Arkansas City Middle School, along with other upgrades such as improved HVAC systems, roof replacements -in multiple buildings. We will also address infrastructure enhancements, and controlled entries at select locations. Option 2 would include all of those improvements plus the construction of a new 9-classroom Pre-K Center to support early learning and help increase and free up classroom space at our elementary schools.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations:

- Jennifer Determan – SAT at Frances Willard

Reassignments/Transfers:

- Bryson Hasty – Maintenance at ACHS to Buildings and Grounds Supervisor at ACHS
- Michelle Ozbun – Secretary at Roosevelt to Executive Secretary at ACMS

Hirings:

- Ermelinda Andres Jose – Elementary SAT
- Lisa Bagg – ESOL SAT at ACMS
- Misty Birdwell – ESOL SAT at ACMS
- Milinda Edward – Elementary SAT
- Kaley Gallegos Mendoza – ESOL SAT at Adams
- Jacie Graham – Elementary SAT
- Shelby Inasy – Elementary SAT
- Dana Jewers – Building Substitute at ACHS
- Sherita LaCross – Elementary SAT
- Luis Leon – ESOL SAT at ACMS
- Travis Majors – Maintenance
- Jim McNickle – Temporary CDL Trainer
- Delaney Ray – Health Aide
- Debra Richardson – 4th Grade at C-4
- Crystal Snyder – Elementary SAT
- Makena Watkins – Intensive English at Adams
- Ashley Whatley – Maintenance
- Tammy Wise Beach – Custodian at ACMS

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board accepted a $1000 Head Start/Preschool Development Grant.
- The Board approved disposing of four buses damaged in the June hailstorm. The buses are 2007 models (or older) and are total losses due to hail.
- The Board approved continuing to hold its second monthly meeting at different school buildings throughout the year. This allows board members to visit schools across the district and connect with students and staff. The schedule is posted on the BOE webpage.
- The Board approved plannning for the ACHS Marching Band to perform at the National Veterans Day Parade in Washington, D.C., in November 2026. The early approval allows time for fundraising and travel preparations.
- Safety and Security Coordinator Eric Burr shared a readiness report outlining measures for the new school year. Highlights include physical safety upgrades, expanded security staffing, a new visitor management system at secondary schools, and enhanced property monitoring.
- Administrators are preparing for the 2025-2026 After-School Program, which will run Oct. 13–March 13. The program will continue to provide academic support in literacy, math, and social-emotional learning at the elementary and middle school levels, with tutoring available for high school students.

- As of Aug. 6, district enrollment stands at 2,865 students, consistent with recent years. Arkansas City High School is reporting its highest enrollment in 12 years. Outreach is underway to connect with families who have not yet completed enrollment before the official Sept. 20 count.
- The Board reviewed *SuperEval*, a cloud-based platform for evaluating district administrators. The tool supports reflective practice, aligns with leadership standards, and streamlines the evaluation process to promote professional growth and continuous improvement.
- The Board reviewed 2024–2025 ACT results for Arkansas City High School, which show continued improvement and a narrowing gap with the state average. Plans for 2025–2026 include targeted skill development in English and math, dedicated ACT prep sessions, and integration of ACT-style practice into regular instruction.
- The Board discussed the upcoming Kansas Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly, set for Nov. 15 in Wichita. Delegates will vote on legislative priorities and elect the KASB President-Elect Designee. The Board will name its delegate and alternate at the Aug. 25 meeting.
- The Board expressed interest in receiving monthly reports from directors.
- The Board met in executive session to discuss non-elected personnel.
- The Board met in executive session to discuss the preliminary property acquisition.
- These executive sessions did not result in action.