

BOARD OF EDUCATION
The School District of Independence

The Board of Education met in a Regular session Tuesday, July 8, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Board of Education Office, 201 North Forest Avenue, Independence, Missouri.

Members Present: Mrs. Carrie Dixon, President
Mr. Anthony J. Mondaine, Vice President
Mrs. Denise Fears, Treasurer
Mrs. Jill Esry, Director
Mr. Blake Roberson, Director
Ms. Wendy Baird, Director

Members Present by Videoconference: Mrs. Brandi Prunte, Director

Also Present: Dr. Cindy Grant, Interim Superintendent
Dr. Lance Stout, Mr. Kevin Lathrom, Dr. Pam Boatright, Dr. Randy Maglinger, Dr. Anthony Robinson, Ms. Megan Murphy, Ms. Amy Chappell, Mr. Greg McGhee, Dr. Brett Player, Mr. Todd Theen, Mr. Ken Jarnagin, Mr. Daryl Huddleston, Mr. Brad Kramer, Mr. Phong Nguyen, Ms. Erica Smith, Dr. Jill Stout, INEA, MSTa staff members, patrons and Mrs. Cammie Smith.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. Carrie Dixon, and minutes of the meeting were recorded by the secretary, Mrs. Cammie Smith. Mrs. Dixon welcomed those who were in attendance. Mrs. Dixon said there no requests to address the Board of Education.

Blake Roberson made the motion to approve the June 8, 2025 Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Wendy Baird and unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Denise Fears made the motion, second by Jill Esry, that the Board of Education approves the Consent Agenda as presented. Dr. Grant shared why there is an increase in the bills from last year, there is miscellaneous maintenance throughout the district. Denise Fears shared the sub services bid was not cost-effective last year, but appreciates the willingness to reconsider.

1. Minutes – June 10, 2025 and June 27, 2025
2. Approval of Bills(III. 2). Authorize the transfer of monies from the Incidental Fund to the Teachers Fund to meet the Teachers Fund obligations for the month and further approve the July 8, 2025 list of bills totaling \$25,619,509.83 as printed.
3. Approval to Let Bids for Temporary/Substitute Staff Services.

The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Dr. Grant shared The District's retention rate for the 2024-2025 school year was 90.8%, the districts retention rate continues to grow. Dr. Grant thanked Project Shine Volunteers for their efforts. Shared the Governor signed the 2026-year budget, the foundation formula is fully funded, transportation also had an increase and Career Ladder is continuing. Shared a Federal update as well. Mrs. Carrie Dixon presented Dr. Grant with the 2025 Governance Team Award. Mrs. Carrie Dixon also congratulated Denise Fears of her School Board Distinction Award. Denise Fears recognized Carrie Dixon for receiving that same award.

Several new business items were presented for the Board of Education's consideration.

Anthony J. Mondaine made the motion that the Board of Education approves the Alternative Methods of Instruction Plan (AMI) for the 2025-2026 school year. The motion was seconded by Wendy Baird. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Wendy Baird made the motion that the Board of Education approves the selection of Superintendent Search Firms. The motion was seconded by Brandi Prunte. Discussion if this needed to be amended, it was decided this is to select two firms to present to The Board in August, then vote to select one. They confirmed with Dr. Stout that he will request presentations from McPherson & Jacobson and MSBA. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Denise Fears made the motion that the Board of Education approves the Cash Management Resolution. The motion was seconded by Jill Esry. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Jill Esry made the motion that the Board of Education approves the cab services proposals for students requiring alternative transportation. The motion was seconded by Wendy Baird. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Wendy Baird made the motion that the Board of Education approves the purchase of laptops for teachers and staff. The motion was seconded by Denise Fears. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Anthony J. Mondaine made the motion that the Board of Education approves the proposal for restoration of the bleachers at the Crysler Stadium. The motion was seconded by Brandi Prunte. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

Jill Esry made the motion that the Board of Education approves the Districts white copy paper, color paper and cardstock for the 2025-2026 school term. The motion was seconded by Denise Fears. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board of Education.

There being no further business to come before the Board of Education, Wendy Baird made the motion, seconded by Jill Esry, to adjourn the meeting and go into closed session for legal §610.021 (1) and personnel §610.021(3) RSMo and §610.021(13) RSMo; issue. The motion was approved as follows:

Ayes: Carrie Dixon
 Anthony J. Mondaine
 Denise Fears
 Jill Esry
 Blake Roberson
 Brandi Prunte
 Wendy Baird

Nays:



Secretary



President