



Superintendent Report to the Board of Education

Monday, July 28, 2025

Hello, Members of the Board, Staff and Community,

We are watching our countdown clock closely, (it now reads just 15 days), and continue moving at a very brisk pace to prepare for the start of this upcoming school year. Many thanks to all our staff who continue to support and move important work forward during this July countdown time.

Update on Hiring

We continue to interview and hire key positions across the district every day as we gain on the task to ensure a quality educator in front of every child.

Update on ESP Negotiations



Ms. Ryan shares that she met with the Classified Negotiations team to exchange notice letters outlining the topics for upcoming negotiations. Key topics include salary, benefits. The team is also transitioning to the term *Education Support Professionals (ESPs)* instead of *Classified Staff*, aligning with the language promoted by the National Education Association (NEA).

Benefits

Open Enrollment is August 1-13. We are excited to be utilizing ParentSquare as a supportive and smooth tool for contacting staff via text and email. Multiple open labs have been scheduled for staff to attend and receive assistance.

All School & District Leaders Complete Title IX Development

Title IX Training

While students and families are away for the summer, our LPS team is working behind the scenes to prepare for their return in August.

On July 23, 2025, Lisa Walker, expert in Title IX and Assistant Superintendent of Federal Programs at KCKPS, delivered a required Title IX training to all administrators. In addition to the comprehensive training, participants received updated systems, protocols, and forms for conducting initial screenings and submitting incident reports.

The session was of high quality, and we received immediate, positive feedback from principals, who found the information and resources highly beneficial to their daily work in the field.

We will continue our work this year to refine and improve district systems and alignment across key areas, with Title IX as one area of focus.

These training sessions are essential to everything we do as a district, including our number one priority: staff and student safety.

Upcoming Orientation and Professional Development Dates

Orientations - Orientation and new hire events are in full swing. We have one more certified orientation and three large classified orientations scheduled at the beginning of August.

- Upcoming CE New Hire Orientations: July 31, August 11
- Upcoming CL New Hire Orientations: August 1, August 8, August 14
- Student Teacher/Intern Orientation: August 7

Upcoming Professional Development Planning and Organization -

- Administrative PD: July 29-31
- New Staff Induction: August 1-5
- Certified District-wide PD: August 8
- Classified PD: August 11

LPS Podcast with FSHS Senior Alex Kerr

We were delighted to welcome Alex Kerr— a senior at Free State High School running for Lawrence City Commission, to our LPS podcast this week. His story is inspiring: his commitment to public service, his thoughtful insights into the needs of Lawrence, and his care for our local community.



Cans for Community Donates \$1,000 to LSF

Cans for the Community, a local volunteer-run organization that turns recycled aluminum cans into real impact! Their generous \$1,000 donation to the Lawrence Schools Foundation in support of our school supply drive was matched by generous donor Bo Killough, bringing the total gift to \$2,000!

Free Summer Meals 2025 Stats

According to our Nutrition and Wellness team* (Thanks, Julie Henry!), at nine different sites across Lawrence, our 2025 summer meal service has packed, delivered, and served an estimated:

- **51,700 breakfasts;**
- **1,755 snacks;**
- **and 54,500 lunches.**

That's over **105,000 meals!** served in support of our students and families this summer. Many thanks to our food and nutrition team and to all the many community volunteers who helped make this important outreach, which is a 'game changer' for students and families, a reality.

**These stats are as of Thursday, July 24.*

Facilities and Operations

We are sharing an update from the Facilities and Operations Team, who are on a full press to have buildings sparkling and ready for school opening. Their summer work can go unnoticed, so we share a shout out to Dr. Englebrick and the team for their diligence, and share a detailed report of their progress here.

- Participated in construction progress meeting,
 - Asphalt and Concrete - Projects are moving forward slowly.

- HVAC - All projects are going well
 - ESC - units are working, thermostats to be replaced
 - LMCMS - Project to be complete 8/1/25
 - F&O Mechanic Shop - Estimated completion date 8/1/25

- Building Exteriors
 - BMMS - on schedule
 - New York - near completion
 - Kennedy - 60% complete

- Roofing
 - LHS - near complete, however repair is needed to the roof drain
 - New York - ready for punch list
 - Schwegler - 90% complete
 - Woodlawn - metal trim is to be completed next week
 - ESC - roof is 90% complete
 - Pinckney - to be completed 8/1/25
 - Hillcrest - 25% complete will be completed 8/1/25

- Sunflower Solar Installation - working with the contractor to make final adjustments to the solar installation due to roofing issues

- Pinckney Classroom Studio Apartment - project is ready for Punch List

- F&O Additional Office Space - estimated completion date 8/1/25

- Visited the construction projects as follows:
 - Conducted a site visit and review of the auditorium hall at WMS.
 - Conducted a site visit and review of concrete and asphalt work at Sunflower.
 - Conducted a site visit and review of concrete and asphalt work at LHS.
 - Conducted a site visit and review of concrete and asphalt work at Kennedy.
 - Conducted a site visit and review of concrete and asphalt work at Cordley.
 - Reviewed progress of F&O office additions.
 - Conducted a site visit and reviewed progress of roofing repairs at LHS.
 - Conducted site visit to monitor the status of exterior cladding installation at BMMS.

- Held F&O supervisor project review meeting.
- Responded to and resolved cafeteria flooring issues at Quail Run
- Participated in architectural meeting on future projects
 - Athletics
 - Playgrounds
 - Furniture
 - Technology (Video)
 - Food service at LHS and FSHS
- Instructional space allocation

Upcoming Dates

July 29

School & District Leaders

August 7th

Welcome Back for All Staff

August 8th

All-Day District Professional Development

August 12th

K, 6, and 9 Transition Day; AM Only

August 13th

First Day of School 2025-26 (K-12)

(Early Dismissal Schedule)

An annual highlight of exciting back-to-school dates is the Lawrence Schools Foundation KIDS Expo, coming up on Saturday, August 9, 2025.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this report, and for the honor of serving the Lawrence Public Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanice Kerr Swift". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeanice Kerr Swift
Superintendent of Schools
Lawrence Public Schools