Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

August 25, 2025

ACHS FFA representatives to receive national awards

Congratulations to ACHS FFA sponsor Kasie Bogart, who will receive the Honorary American Degree, and student Stetson Shook, who will receive the American FFA Degree at the National FFA Convention this October. These prestigious honors highlight the dedication and impact of our FFA program on both students and the broader agricultural community.

ACHS student selected for National SADD Leadership Council

ACHS student McKinley Huddleston was selected to serve on the 2025-2026 SADD National Student Leadership Council, representing Kansas and helping lead efforts to promote student health and safety nationwide.

ACHS students attend Boys/Girls State program

Five ACHS students attended Kansas Boys and Girls State this summer, gaining hands-on experience with government, leadership, and civic responsibility. Students included Kennedy Barnes, Mykaylee Goff, Swea Gootee, Genevieve Herrera, and Conner Harris. The American Legion-sponsored programs gave students opportunities to participate in elections, hold government roles, and develop leadership skills.

Board approves After School Program budget

The Board approved the 2025-26 After-School Program budget. The program will continue the MindCraft framework for grades 3–5 and provide academic support for grades 3–12, offering enrichment and tutoring opportunities throughout the school year.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations:

- Makena Watkins – Intensive English at Adams

Reassignments/Transfers:

- Alyssa Shultz – P.E./Locker Room Aide at ACMS to ISS Aide at ACMS

Hirings:

- Billy Bearden – Accompanist at ACMS
- Sarah Gepner – SAT at C-4
- Jesse Hernandez – Lunch/Office Aide at Roosevelt

OTHER BUSINESS

- Visitors Carl Bowman and Terry Newman asked questions and shared comments about the proposed bond issue.
- The Board received a report from Russel Gregory, Maintenance Supervisor. The maintenance team completed summer projects such as playground inspections, HVAC service, flooring and roofing updates, and storm cleanup, with fall work planned for concrete, electrical, HVAC, and facility upgrades
- The Board authorized the disposal of two older Suburbans deemed total losses following the June 17 hail storm.
- The Board held an executive session to discuss student safety and security matters.
- The Board approved the ACHS FFA Chapter's request to attend the National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, Oct. 27–31, 2025. Funding will support vehicles, registration, and lodging as students and sponsors represent Arkansas City on the national stage.
- The Board approved out-of-state travel for ACHS journalism students and sponsors to attend the National Journalism Conference in Nashville, Nov. 12–16, 2025. The trip will provide hands-on learning and collaboration with peers from across the country.
- The Board approved the 2025-26 After-School Program budget. The program will continue the MindCraft framework for grades 3–5 and provide academic support for grades 3–12, offering enrichment and tutoring opportunities throughout the school year.
- Principals reported on the launch of the new cellphone/PED policy supported by Yondr pouches. Early feedback shows students are adjusting well, with signs of improved focus and fewer classroom disruptions
- The Board approved the use of SuperEval, a cloud-based system, for administrator evaluations. The new format aligns with Kansas guidelines and emphasizes self-reflection, evidence-based conversations, and year-long growth.
- On the morning of September 8, 2025, preliminary enrollment stood at 2,834 students. The Board received updates on district totals, grade levels, and building counts ahead of the official Sept. 22 count
- Eric Burr presented a proposal for an Arkansas City High School Hall of Fame to

honor outstanding alumni. The program would recognize graduates for their contributions, inspire current students, and launch its first induction during Arkalalah 2026.

- The Board discussed dissolving the Lincoln Elementary petty cash account and allowing elementary schools to use debit cards tied to existing petty cash accounts. The change would make small purchases more efficient while maintaining current controls.
- The Board received an update on professional mold testing and remediation at ACMS. Identified areas have been treated, and air quality tests have been completed and sent for analysis. To ensure safe, healthy environments for students and staff, additional testing has been ordered for other areas of the middle school and the Technology Department offices
- District leaders reported continued progress on the upcoming bond election. Recent steps include presentations to community groups and site councils, formation of a campaign committee, and preparation for the State Board of Education’s review of the district’s state aid request.