Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

December 22, 2025

Radio Lane Property and Cost Estimates

After reviewing cost scenarios prepared by McCownGordon Construction, the Board approved extending an offer of $460,000 for the former Ark City Medical Clinic at 510 W. Radio Lane and approved moving forward with a comprehensive renovation option designed to meet the district's current and future needs. The Radio Lane property would serve as a combined district office and technology facility, consolidating district operations, streamlining storage, and providing room for future growth.

Funding for the approved renovation option would come in part from bond funds and capital outlay. The Board and district leaders discussed the continued need to maintain and improve HVAC systems and other infrastructure across school buildings. The district also noted that securing a lower bond interest rate resulted in more than $3 million in savings, creating flexibility to consider additional projects as bond sales are completed and priorities are finalized.

District leaders also shared plans to sell the current district office, which would help offset project costs.

Superintendent Search Services

The Board discussed superintendent search services and reviewed proposals from four experienced organizations: the Kansas Association of School Boards, the Education Services and Staff Development Association of Central Kansas (ESSDACK) in partnership with the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center (Greenbush), the Kansas School Board Resource Center, and McPherson & Jacobson, a national search firm based in Omaha, Nebraska. Discussion included current challenges in the superintendent applicant pool and the importance of a structured, inclusive search process focused on identifying strong leadership

for the district's future.

After discussion, the Board approved contracting with ESSDACK/Greenbush to initiate the superintendent search. Dr. Chad Higgins will serve as lead consultant, with an estimated timeline of 8 to 12 weeks.

In Other Business:

- Donna Fagg addressed the Board about the former clinic property on Radio Lane, along with other property currently owned by the district.