Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

January 26, 2026

Good News Report

The Board recognized December Top DAWGS for their dedication to students and colleagues, and celebrated Chloe Cales, an Arkansas City High School sophomore, who was elected KAY Region 6 president. The Board also congratulated Logan Caywood, ACHS choir director and CMA Foundation Music Teachers of Excellence Award semifinalist, MJ Harper, who recently served as a SEKMEA Middle School Choir Clinician, and Anthony Moore, ACHS senior, for being selected for the all-state honor orchestra.

Bond Sale Update

The Board approved the sale of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2026. The bond sale drew strong interest from investors, which allowed interest rates to be lowered. The final true interest cost is expected to be about 4.43%, well below the 5.08% rate shared with voters, reducing overall costs for the district.

KASB Policy Updates

The Board approved several policy updates recommended by the Kansas Association of School Boards to keep district policies current, aligned with state law, and consistent with best practices.

- **IIBE – Use of Artificial Intelligence:** Establishes guidelines for the appropriate use of AI by staff and students.
- **IKD – Religion in Curriculum or School-Sponsored Activities:** Updates guidance related to religious content in schools.
- **IKDA – Religious Objections to Activities:** Clarifies parent notification and opt-out procedures.
- **JBCC – Enrollment of Nonresident Students:** Updates procedures related to nonresident enrollment.
- **JDDC – Bullying Plan:** Updates the district's bullying prevention framework.
- **JQI – Adult Students:** Clarifies placement decisions for adult students seeking a diploma.

The following policies were tabled for further discussion:

- **IKB – Controversial Issues:** Reinforces expectations for addressing controversial topics in the classroom.
- **KM – Visitors to the School:** Updates visitor procedures, including guidance related to law enforcement.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- Bryanna Butler – Bus Aide
- Shila Greathouse – Student Assistance Team (SAT) at Jefferson
- Aubrey Stangl – Bus Aide

Reassignments/Transfers/Other:

- None

Hirings:

- Chelsea Crull – SAT at C-4
- Phillips Lewis – Middle School Custodian
- Nicole Harper – Middle School Assistant Track Coach

OTHER BUSINESS

- Board members approved committee and warrant review assignments for the coming months to support ongoing governance and financial oversight responsibilities.
- The Board authorized the district to release a Request for Proposals for E-Rate Category 2 network equipment. The project will continue the district's multi-year replacement cycle for internal network infrastructure, with the federal E-Rate program expected to cover 80% of eligible costs.
- The Board approved proposed non-CTE course changes at Arkansas City High School for the 2026–2027 school year. Approved additions include Non-Competitive Debating and Speaking, Fundamental Geometry, and U.S. Wars and Military Conflicts. The Music Appreciation course was approved for removal as part of the annual course review process.
- The Board received an update on current state legislative activity, including bills related to school calendars, student device use, mental health services, and education funding.
- Administrators shared a preliminary master schedule outlining the anticipated timeline for bond-funded construction and renovation projects across the district. The schedule will continue to be refined as planning progresses.
- The Board reviewed conceptual designs for secure entry improvements at Adams and Roosevelt elementary schools. The designs focus on improving visitor management

and aligning with best practices for school safety.

- The Board reviewed planned technology purchases for the 2025–2026 school year, including student and staff device replacements and instructional technology. Items reviewed align with the district's established technology rotation cycles.
- The Board received an overview of the district's Driver's Education program, including participation trends, proposed instructional resource updates, and a discussion on awarding elective credit for summer Driver's Education.
- The Board held executive sessions related to non-elected personnel and a complaint.
- The Board approved a one-year contract extension for all building administrators, on the current terms.