Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

March 9, 2026

Celebrating Good News

At Monday night's Board of Education meeting, several student and staff accomplishments were celebrated. Students were selected for the Kansas Art Education Association Youth Art Month Exhibit, ACHS wrestlers earned strong finishes at the state tournament, and ACMS students placed second overall at Math Relays.

The Board also recognized the ACMS girls wrestling team for their League Runner-Up finish, the ACMS orchestra for earning top ratings in competition, and January's Top DAWGS staff members.

Technology Infrastructure Upgrades
The Board approved the purchase of network switches and wireless access points totaling $87,768. About 80% of the cost will be covered through the federal E-Rate program. The upgrades will help improve internet connectivity across district schools.

2026–27 School Calendar Approval
The Board also reviewed and approved the proposed 2026–27 school calendar. The calendar was developed by a committee of teachers, staff, and administrators and balances instructional time, professional learning, and alignment with Cowley College for students taking concurrent classes.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- Harlee Bullard – PreK SAT at Adams
- Sierra Burr – PreK Teacher at Adams
- Adam Dorsey – Assistant Principal at ACHS
- Melissa Dorsey – Academic Coach at Jefferson
- Aurora Gonzalez-Torres – SAT at Adamsf
- Matthew McGrew – Assistant Wrestling Coach at ACHS

- Ashley Perry – PreK SAT at Adams *(eff. 5-22-2026)*
- Beau Reed – Bus Aide

Reassignments/Transfers:

- None

Hirings:

- Brooks Badart – Elementary Teacher
- Amy Milliman – PreK Teacher
- Breanna Robb – Bus Aide
- Lillian Strohl – Elementary Teacher

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board accepted a $40 anonymous donation to support the YELL program at IXL Elementary.
- The Board approved the 2026–27 Head Start grant application and budget totaling $1,837,255. This funding helps provide early childhood education services for children and families in our community.
- The Board approved the purchase of Chromebooks and interactive classroom projectors to support teaching and learning across the district.
- The Board approved issuing a request for proposals for a new district-wide phone system. This will allow the district to review options and compare pricing before bringing a recommendation back to the Board.
- The Board discussed forming a committee to review proposals for a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for upcoming facility projects. The committee will review firms and bring a recommendation to the Board.
- The Board received a report on the Local Option Budget (LOB) percentage for FY 2026. State law allows districts to adopt the statewide average rate of about 32% without publishing a resolution or holding a protest petition.
- The Board also received an update on the student handbook review process. A committee of administrators and staff is reviewing the current handbook and gathering feedback. Draft updates are expected to be shared with the Board in April.
- The Board held two executive sessions to discuss non-elected personnel matters.
- The Board approved a contract with William Pfannenstiel to serve as the district's next superintendent, effective July 1, 2026.
- The Board also appointed Braden Smith as Assistant Superintendent of Business and Operations, effective July 1, 2026.