Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

March 23, 2026

Celebrating Good News

The Board of Education took time at the March 23 meeting to celebrate great things happening across USD 470.

The Arkansas City High School Jazz Band was recognized for earning State runner-up at the Kansas Bandmasters Association Championship. Their hard work and talent truly stood out.

The Board also recognized our February Top DAWGS: Maria Mendez (Adams), Sarah O'Donnell (ACHS), Deb Richardson (C-4), and Anna VanDyke (Transportation). Each was nominated by their peers for going above and beyond for students and staff.

We are proud of these students and staff, and the positive impact they make across our schools.

Adams Elementary Spotlight

The Board heard a special report from Adams Elementary about the school's fine arts program.

Staff shared how music and the arts help students build confidence, grow creativity, and work as a team. These programs also support learning in other subjects.

The presentation featured a performance by students in the after-school music exploration class.

JAG Program Approved

The Board approved continuing the JAG program at Arkansas City High School for the next school year.

This program helps students stay on track, build confidence, and learn skills they will use after high school. It also provides extra support as students plan for their future.

More than 100 ACHS students take part in JAG each year and benefit from the program.

Planning for Bond Projects

The Board approved the creation of a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) committee to guide future facility projects.

This committee will include district staff, school leaders, and community members. They will review proposals and recommend the best partners for upcoming work.

This step helps ensure projects are well planned, cost-effective, and meet the needs of our schools and community.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- Cindymarie Townsed – SAT at C-4

Reassignments/Transfers:

- Eric Swanson – Asst. Principal at Adams to Math Teacher at ACHS

Hirings:

- Antonia Villa – Elementary Principal

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board accepted $25 from Double Take Estate for the Warm Hearts Fund.
- The Board approved continuing its membership with KASB to provide training and resources for Board members and district leadership.
- The Board approved a lease-purchase agreement to replace school buses, helping ensure students have safe, reliable transportation each day.
- The Board approved proceeding with a request for proposals (RFP) to replace the shade structures at the South Athletic Complex.
- The Board approved the purchase of new laptops for staff as part of the district's regular technology update cycle.
- The Board received an update on state legislation, including a cell phone bill that may affect how staff communicate with students, and early budget projections for the 2026–2027 school year.
- The Board reviewed options for replacing the Bulldog Stadium scoreboard.

- The Board reviewed updates to job descriptions and evaluation tools to ensure they align with current roles and responsibilities.
- The Board reviewed student attendance data and saw improvement across the district. They also talked about ways to continue supporting students, including a new Attendance Guide for Staff. This guide helps ensure a clear, consistent approach to improving student attendance.
- The Board held two executive sessions to discuss non-elected personnel.
- The Board held an executive session to discuss negotiations.