Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

April 13, 2026

Board recognizes ACHS music success, celebrates attendance gains

The Board recognized ACHS music students for strong regional performances. In total, 135 students participated, with several earning top ratings. Multiple soloists and groups also qualified for the State Music Festival on April 26 at Salina South High School.

The Board also celebrated improved attendance across the district. Overall attendance has increased from 93.1% to 94.6%, and chronic absenteeism dropped from 29.5% to 16.2%.

Board moves forward with construction manager interviews

The Board approved the Construction Manager committee's recommendation and authorized interviews with Simpson Construction, McCowan-Gordon Construction, and Hutton Construction for the construction manager role. A final recommendation will return to the Board in May.

ACHS to Launch HOSA Chapter

The Board approved a new HOSA (Future Health Professionals) chapter at ACHS, starting next school year. This opens the door for more students to explore careers in health care.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- April Brown – SAT at Frances Willard
- Milinda Edwards – SAT at IXL
- Amanda Horsman – Girls Basketball Assistant Coach at ACHS
- Brook Wilson – 1st Grade at Frances Willard

Reassignments/Transfers:

- Julie Gray – 8th Grade ELA to 6th Grade Reading at ACMS
- Matthew Koehn – Social Studies at ACHS to Health Science at ACHS
- Tia Leaming – 4th Grade at Jefferson to 4th Grade at C-4
- Jordan McDowell – Counselor/Social Worker at ACHS to Counselor/Social Worker at Adams
- Amy Pinion – Principal at Frances Willard to Principal at C-4
- Lauren Rosales – Principal at Jefferson to Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Hirings:

- Shania Clair – Science at ACMS
- Josh Lanning – Assistant Principal at ACHS
- Sara Roberts – Elementary Teacher

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board accepted a $2,000 donation from Lisa Klaassen for the ACHS Choir and $22 from PEO Chapter ER for the Warm Hearts Fund.
- The Board received an update on the KESA Balanced Assessment Team, one of four teams supporting the district's accreditation work.
- The Board approved updated job descriptions and evaluations to keep roles clear and consistent across the district.
- The Board approved non-resident enrollment for 2026–2027, with 146 seats available district-wide.
- The Board approved replacing the Bulldog Stadium scoreboard, with installation planned before the Fall 2026 season.
- The Board approved new desks and chairs for the high school and middle school to replace older classroom furniture.
- The Board received an update on the ACHS/Cowley College dual credit program, including student performance and scheduling improvements.
- The Board discussed updates to Policy KBB (Social Media) to align with new state rules on staff and student communication. Communication will have to take place on district-approved and monitored platforms.
- The Board reviewed potential student handbook updates, including changes tied to new cell phone laws and a focus on consistent expectations and enforcement.