Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

April 27, 2026

Board Recognizes Student and Staff Achievements

The USD 470 Board of Education took time at the meeting to recognize several student and staff accomplishments.

ACHS music ensembles earned '1' ratings at the State Large Group Music Festival, the highest possible honor. The Board also recognized Kansas CTE Scholars, Mr. Stinemetze, being inducted into the Southwestern College Halls of Fame, and the athletic director, Aaron Bucher, for outstanding leadership.

Student Handbooks Approved

The Board approved updates to the 2026–2027 student handbooks. Changes focus on aligning language across grade levels, clarifying expectations, and supporting consistent implementation in all schools.

Updates include clearer guidance around attendance practices and student expectations, along with continued review of areas such as personal device use. No major policy changes were made at this time.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- Anel Giles-Obregon – ESOL at ACMS (eff. 6/25/26)
- Russel Gregory – Director of Maintenance
- Jesse Hernandez – Lunch Clerk at Roosevelt (eff. 5/21/26)
- SaFira Liles – Library Aide at Frances Willard and IXL

Reassignments/Transfers:

- Shannon Brough – 3rd Grade at Frances Willard to Academic Coach at Jefferson
- KayLeigh Milby – SAT at Frances Willard to Elementary Teacher
- Madison Scheurich – Intensive English SAT at IXL to Elementary Teacher

Hirings:

- Jessica Beeson – Elementary Teacher
- Megan Hay – Social Studies at ACHS
- David Hinton – Asst. Principal at Adams
- Mandy Hinton – Elementary Teacher
- Jim McNickle – Bus Driver
- Renee Sweetwood – Principal at Jefferson

OTHER BUSINESS

- Jeff Shaw spoke to the Board and shared his interest in bringing the Accelerated Reader program back to Ark City schools.
- The Board approved amending the agenda to include an executive session to discuss non-elected personnel.
- Jefferson Elementary staff and students shared a report with the Board on the need for a new playground structure. The presentation included input from students, staff, and stakeholders, as well as current safety concerns.
- The Board approved year-end budget steps and scheduled a special meeting at noon on Tuesday, June 30, to finalize the closeout of Fiscal Year 2026.
- The Board reviewed a report on meal prices, including history, costs, and federal requirements. Any updates will return for approval before the 2026–2027 school year.
- The Board reviewed results from the USD 470 staff climate survey. Staff reported strong relationships with supervisors and clear expectations. The survey also pointed to areas to improve, including district alignment, student behavior systems, and support for workload and retention.
- The Board reviewed a report on how students are using devices across the district. Most screen time supports learning, but some off-task use and differences between classrooms were noted. The district plans to form a team to create clear, consistent guidance moving forward.
- The Board discussed the next steps for a districtwide strategic plan. The process would include input from staff, students, families, and the community to set clear priorities for the next 3–5 years.
- Approved changing Will Pfannenstiel's title to Interim Superintendent, effective immediately, and adjusting his daily pay rate to reflect that.