

DURANT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

Durant School District, I-72, Bryan County, Oklahoma

Central Administration Office Conference Room

Monday, April 6, 2026 12:00 PM

I. Call to Order

President

II. Roll Call

Clerk of the Board

Attendance Taken at 12:00 PM.

Paul Buntz: Present

Jason Manous: Present

Joyce Northcutt: Present

Chaz Polk: Present

Janie Umsted: Present

III. Approval of the Consent Calendar**

Motion to approve items III.A. through III.H. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Joyce Northcutt, Passed.

Paul Buntz: Yea

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

III.A. Agenda

III.B. Minutes:

III.B.1. March 02, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

III.C. Treasurer's Report

III.D. Activity Accounts Report

III.E. Financial Reports

III.F. Encumbrances

III.F.1. Fiscal '26 General Fund Numbers 261020-261089 in the Amount of \$61,903.67

III.F.2. Fiscal '26 Building Fund Numbers 261025-261035 in the Amount of \$236,444.00

III.G. Child Nutrition Claim for Reimbursement

III.H. Transfer Capacity

IV. Reports:

IV.A. Mr. Moring to recognize the High School Powerlifting Team as 5A State Champions.

Coach Dills reflects on the powerlifting team's recent success at the state weightlifting meet. Thirteen athletes qualified, and the team won the regional championship for the second year in a row. Coach Dills states that although they are losing several seniors, they have younger athletes who show strong potential for the future.

At the state meet, the team faced tough competition, including strong rivals from Coweta, who were expected to win. Despite injuries and missing key athletes who normally contribute significant points, Coach Dills and his team adjusted their strategy and stayed competitive.

The team earned their victory in the deadlift event when they outscored their opponents by just a few points.

Coach Dills emphasizes the team's determination, strategic planning, and resilience. Despite setbacks, they found a way to win and achieve something significant, even if the athletes don't fully realize it yet.

IV.B. Mr. Moring to recognize the Middle School BPA for going to Nationals.

Mr. Perrin opens up by stating that this is the first year for the middle school to have the BPA (Business Professionals of America) and they have a great group of students. This is Ms. Clubb's first year heading up the program, and she has done a phenomenal job. Mr. Perrin is super proud of them as eight students have all placed in the top 3 at the state level and seven of them have qualified for nationals in May in Nashville.

Ms. Clubb states that the team is really excited about making it to Nationals, and it's really been something for this being the first year of this program at the middle school. She is proud of the hard work and time these students put into their efforts to make it this far.

IV.C. Mr. Moring to recognize Kasey Bennett as a Top Ten Finalist for the Oklahoma Teacher of the Year.

Some information about Kasey Bennett read by Mr. Moring:

Kasey Bennett is a STEM educator at Northwest Heights Elementary teaching grades K-4 with over 14 years of experience. Inspired by her educator parents, she transitioned from careers in banking, insurance, and training with the Choctaw Nation into education, starting as a

kindergarten assistant and advancing to roles including classroom teacher, virtual instructor, math interventionist, and STEM specialist.

She holds a master's in school administration and multiple certifications, presented at state conferences, and earned recognition including a nomination for the Siegfried Excellence in STEM Award and selection as a Top 10 finalist for Oklahoma Teacher of the Year. Known for her compassion and high expectations, Kasey is dedicated to empowering students to believe they can change the world. She lives on a ranch with her husband and daughter.

Northwest Heights Principal, Taylor Downs, emphasizes that STEM education is about creativity and problem-solving, not just technology or screens. He praises Kasey as an engaging, hands-on teacher whose classroom excites students and keeps them actively involved through projects like hydroponics and gardening. She is dedicated, supportive, and highly valued by both students and staff, making her a deserving top teacher of the year.

Kasey states that it has been an honor. The support from everyone has been incredible.

V. Comments from the Public (Pursuant to District Policy 2240, a copy of which is available upon request, Comments can be made only by District Patrons concerning items listed on the Agenda)

None.

VI. Board to Consider and Take Action on a Resolution Determining the Maturities of, and Setting a Date, Time and Place for the Sale of the \$4,110,000 General Obligation Combined Purpose Bonds of the School District

Approval is recommended of a resolution determining the maturities of, and setting a date, time and place for the sale of the \$4,110,000 General Obligation Combined Purpose Bonds of the School District. Motion to approve. This motion, made by Joyce Northcutt and seconded by Janie Umsted, Passed.

Paul Buntz: Yea

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

VII. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve a Resolution to the County Excise Board for the Approval of Temporary Appropriations for the 2026-2027 School Year

Approval is recommended for a resolution to the County Excise Board for the approval of Temporary Appropriations for the 2026-2027 School Year. Motion to approve. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Joyce Northcutt, Passed.

Paul Buntz: Yea

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

VIII. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve an Overnight Out-of-State Trip for the Durant High School Choir to Travel to New York City, New York from May 22–25, 2026 to Perform as a Choir and See the Sites.

Approval is recommended for twenty-seven students and twenty-one sponsors to travel to New York, New York to perform as a choir and see the sites from May 22-25, 2026. Motion to approve. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Joyce Northcutt, Passed.

Paul Buntz: Yea

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

IX. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve an Overnight Out-of-State Trip for the Durant Middle School BPA to Travel to Nashville, Tennessee to Attend the BPA Nationals Competition and Leadership Conference on May 6-10, 2026

Approval is recommended for the Durant Middle School BPA, seven students and 4 sponsors to travel to Nashville, Tennessee to attend the BPA Nationals Competition and Leadership Conference. Motion to approve. This motion, made by Joyce Northcutt and seconded by Janie Umsted, Passed.

Paul Buntz: Yea

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

X. Consideration and Vote on Personnel Recommendations

Other recommendations and resignations are pending, and if available, may be brought to the meeting

Motion to approve item X.A. through X.H. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Joyce Northcutt, Passed.

Paul Buntz: Yea

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

X.A. Resignations Received Since the Last Meeting of the Board of Education

Certified – Kenny Chaffin, Durant Public Schools
Certified – Tony Robinson, Durant High School
Certified – Helena Guidry, Durant Middle School
Certified – Jenilee Hitchcock, Durant Middle School
Certified – Donna Raile, Durant Intermediate School
Certified – Megan (Rose) Decker, Durant Intermediate School
Certified – Suzanne Caldwell, Northwest Heights Elementary
Certified – Jessica Manning, Northwest Heights Elementary
Certified – Leanna Olson, George Washington Elementary
Support – Duane Merideth, Durant Public Schools
Support – Misty Forbis, Durant High School
Support – Vickie Scott, Durant Intermediate School
Support – Diana Adams, Washington Irving Elementary
Support – Debra Riley, Washington Irving Elementary

X.B. Employment of Certified Personnel for the POSSE Choctaw Nation Summer School, Temporary Position for the 2026 Summer School Session

X.B.1. Activities Director for the 2026 Choctaw Nation POSSE Summer School Session – Shaunda Usry

X.C. Employment of Clerk of the Board for Durant Public Schools for the Remainder of the 2025-2026 School Year – LeAnna Chaffin

X.D. Employment of Minutes Clerk for Durant Public Schools for the Remainder of the 2025-2026 School Year – Katie Vanisacker

X.E. Employment of Certified Personnel for the 2025-2026 School Year

X.E.1. STEM Teacher at Durant Intermediate School, One-Year Temporary Position for the Remainder of the 2025-2026 School Year – Doreen Anderson

X.F. Employment of Certified Personnel for the 2026-2027 School Year

X.F.1. Severe and Profound Special Education Teacher at George Washington Elementary, Involuntary Reassignment from Fourth Grade Special Education, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Patty Dickinson

X.F.2. Fourth Grade Special Education Teacher at George Washington Elementary, Involuntary Reassignment from Fourth Grade Teacher, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Chelsea Frazer

X.G. Employment of Support Personnel for the 2025-2026 School Year

X.G.1. Enrollment Coordinator for Durant Public Schools, One-Year Temporary Position for the Remainder of the 2025-2026 School Year – Juanita Lemm

X.G.2. Golf Assistant Coach at Durant High School, Temporary Position for the 2025-2026 School Year – Terry Dupree

X.H. Additions to the Lists of Substitutes for the 2025-2026 School Year

Elizabeth San Millan

XI. Discussion, Consideration and Vote on Items of New Business

None

XII. Comments from the Superintendent

Mr. Moring addressed the retirement of Kenny Chaffin by stating that he has been the absolute perfect person to help him out and was just a rock of advice as well as a great, great man to work with in this role for the last two years. He is going to miss him greatly.

Mr. Moring also addressed Janie Umsted's appearance in the newspaper as one of the 2026 ladies in the news. He congratulated her on the accomplishment.

Mr. Moring presented Paul Buntz with a plaque as a token of appreciation for the wonderful job he has done as a board member and current board president. Mr. Moring states that Paul has been a steady, calm hand full of great advice, and thanks him for being very supportive of our schools.

Mr. Moring finishes up by letting everyone know that we have state testing season coming up, and spring sports are in full effect right now.

XIII. Comments from the Board

Board member Joyce Northcutt states that a long time ago, Brad Henry was governor and in his state of address he said that if you occupy space, you must serve. She states that board member Paul Buntz has done so and she is thankful. He has been part of the community, the city manager, part of his church and most importantly, he has served on this board of education. Joyce is honored to have served with Paul on different boards and thinks he is outstanding and that his time serving others is not finished.

Board member Paul Buntz states that it has been a great experience to serve on this school board. He has enjoyed his term as board member and president.

Board member Jason Manous thanks Paul Buntz for his time as vice president during Mr. Manous' term as president and all throughout the search for the new superintendent. He states that Paul was a very calming presence during some stressful times.

XIV. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Adjourn

Recommend adjournment of the meeting. Motion to adjourn at 12:33 PM. This motion, made by Paul Buntz and seconded by Jason Manous, Passed.

Paul Buntz: Yea

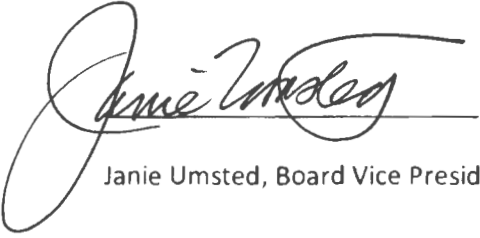
Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

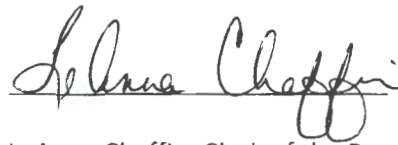
Chaz Polk: Yea

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Janie Umsted", written over a horizontal line.

Janie Umsted, Board Vice President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "LeAnna Chaffin", written over a horizontal line.

LeAnna Chaffin, Clerk of the Board

REGULAR MEETING

STATE OF OKLAHOMA)

COUNTY OF BRYAN)

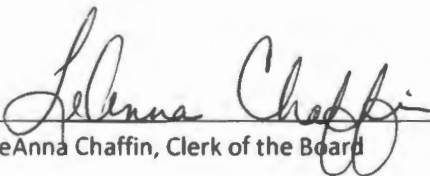
I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Education of Durant School District No. I-72 of Bryan County, Oklahoma, do hereby certify that prior to December 15th of the last calendar year the date, time and place of this regular meeting was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Bryan County, Oklahoma.

I also certify that at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, notice of the date, time, place, and agenda of this meeting was posted in prominent public view at the location of the meeting.

Witness my hand and seal of this school district this 6th day of April 2026.

School Seal:




LeAnna Chaffin, Clerk of the Board