Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

May 11, 2026

Good News: Board Recognizes March Top DAWGS

The Board of Education recognized four staff members as March Top DAWGS. These employees were nominated by their peers for going above and beyond for students, coworkers, and the school community.

Those recognized were:

- Karina Carillo, Arkansas City High School
- Jackie Rico, Arkansas City Middle School
- Pam Walker, IXL Elementary
- Martha Wiederstein, Roosevelt Elementary

KESA Update: MTSS Team Report

The Board of Education received an update on the district's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), a framework used to identify student needs early and provide academic, behavioral, and social-emotional support.

District leaders shared progress made with support from the Kansas Technical Assistance System Network (TASN), including the development of a districtwide MTSS guide that will be implemented next fall. Staff have also received weekly, bite-sized professional development focused on using student data to monitor progress and provide timely support when students need extra help.

The district will continue this work next year with an increased focus on strengthening instruction and improving student outcomes.

Board Selects Construction Manager

The Board of Education approved McCown-Gordon Construction as the district's Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for upcoming bond projects.

A selection committee interviewed three companies and ranked McCown-Gordon the highest with a score of 86.5. The company will work with the district throughout the planning and construction process to help manage costs, timelines, and project quality.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- Rachel Banta – 1st Grade at Adams
- Jocelyn Corley – Academic Coach at ACHS
- Kristeen Gard – FACS Teacher at ACHS *(retirement)*
- Jaden Helms – Boys Wrestling, Girls Wrestling, Asst. Track at ACMS
- Rachel McFarland – 4th Grade at Jefferson
- George Reeves – 4th Grade at Frances Willard
- Laurie Waldorf – Lunch Clerk at C-4 *(retirement)*
- Sarah Yzquierdo – Asst. Girls Wrestling at ACMS

Reassignments/Transfers:

- Allison Befort – SAT at Adams to Guidance Counselor at ACHS
- Blythe Quint – Kindergarten at Frances Willard to Head Start Transition Coordinator

Hirings:

- Molly Flavin – Asst. Danceline Coach at ACHS
- Elizabeth Terry – Elementary Teacher

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board accepted an $800 donation from Credit Union of America to support the Boost Self-Esteem and Hair Care Group at IXL Elementary.
- The Board received the monthly Head Start report, which included enrollment, attendance, and program updates.
- The Board approved a proposal to establish a Show Choir Club at Arkansas City High School beginning in the 2026-27 school year.
- The Board approved Arkansas City High School student Hadley Musson and FFA Advisor Josie Messinger to attend the National FFA Next Gen: Agribusiness Systems – Ag Sales and Finance Conference in Chicago in June.

- The Board of Education approved a one-year addendum renewing the district's food service contract with Chartwells for the 2026-27 school year. The district is in year four of a five-year contract.
- The Board of Education approved a new phone system for all district buildings. The new system will replace the district's current phones and provide more reliable service, better 911 features, and improved support for schools and offices.
- District leadership and the Board discussed the process for developing a new district strategic plan and setting Board goals for the 2026-27 school year. The work will include input from staff, families, and community members to help shape district priorities and guide future decisions.
- The Board of Education reviewed proposed updates to Board Policy KBB and the district's Social Media Handbook. The changes are designed to align with new state laws and provide clearer guidance for how staff communicate with students using social media and other digital platforms.
- The Board of Education reviewed the district's agreement for legal services as part of its annual contract renewal process.
- The Board of Education discussed the future of virtual learning in USD 470, including the possible launch of the Bulldog Virtual Academy. The goal is to continue offering a flexible learning option for students while expanding local control and keeping more resources within the district.