



Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

May 26, 2026

Good News:

The Board of Education recognized several student and staff accomplishments during the May 26 meeting.

ACMS and ACHS celebrated students who earned high school Spanish credit through the district's Spanish language proficiency assessments. This year, 25 ACMS students earned credit by demonstrating strong Spanish language skills.

The Board also recognized the April Top DAWGS recipients:

- Martha De Leon – ACMS Food Service
- Missy Dorsey – Jefferson Academic Coach
- Isaac Rogers – Transportation Bus Driver
- Sarah Yzquierdo – ACMS Math Teacher

In addition, several employees were recognized during the district's annual Staff Recognition Reception for their hard work, leadership, and impact on students and schools. Award recipients included Morgan Bahruth, Joshua Hay, Kerri Beard, Ariana Estrada, Lory West, and Tiffany Schandorf. The district also honored this year's retirees for their years of service to Ark City Schools.

ACMS Activities Update

ACMS Activities Director Zach Wiederstein shared the middle school Activities and Athletics report for the 2025-26 school year.

The report highlighted strong student involvement, with 84% of ACMS students participating in at least one activity, sport, fine art, or club this year. Students earned league championships and honors in wrestling, tennis, track, music, and leadership activities.

Wiederstein also shared updates on programs including KAY, Hope Squad, Student Council, band, choir, orchestra, and SADD/SAFE, along with growth in participation in vocal music,

cheer, girls' wrestling, and basketball.

ACHS Activities Update

ACHS Activities and Athletics Director Aaron Bucher shared the high school Activities and Athletics report for the 2025-26 school year.

The report highlighted student success across athletics, music, and performing arts, including state and league honors in track and field, wrestling, softball, choir, band, orchestra, and jazz band. More than 10 students also signed to continue athletics or activities at the college level.

Bucher also shared updates on student participation, hosted events, and upcoming projects, including the transition to the Bound activities platform and plans for a new stadium scoreboard and play clocks.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- Krystle Byers – Asst. Volleyball Coach at ACHS
- Nathaniel King – SAT at Adams
- Brittany Mayo – Asst. Boys Tennis Coach at ACMS
- Jordan McDowell – Counselor
- Micah Meza – SAT at Jefferson
- Kennedy Seymour – Custodian at ACHS
- Sara Walker – PreK SAT at IXL
- Teri West – 4th Grade at IXL

Reassignments/Transfers:

- Justin Anstine – Custodian at Roosevelt to Custodian at C-4 (*eff. 7/1/26*)
- Gena Crow – PreK at Adams to 1st Grade at Adams
- Judy Haynes – ELA at ACHS to FACS at ACHS
- Chad Hopkins – Counselor at ACHS to Counselor/Social Worker at Adams
- Nubia Tarin – Maintenance Tech to Custodian at Roosevelt (*eff. 7/1/26*)

Hirings:

- Roger Foltz – Counselor at ACHS
- Jaxon Jackson – Summer Mowing (*temporary*)
- D Kamier – Summer Mowing (*temporary*)
- Zephyr Leclair – Summer Mowing (*temporary*)

- Anders Linares – 8th Grade ILA at ACMS
- Blake McDonald – Head Girls Basketball Coach at ACHS
- Matt McGrew – Boys Wrestling Coach at ACMS
- Ashley Perry – SAT at Adams
- Garret Randel – Director of Maintenance (*eff. 7/1/26*)
- Colby Vardy – Summer Mowing (*temporary*)

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board held an executive session to discuss school safety and security matters.
- The Board approved the district's agreement with Seitz Law to continue serving as legal counsel for USD 470 during the 2026-27 fiscal year.
- The Board discussed possible updates to district policies and handbooks related to social media, staff communication, and student cell phone use. District leaders shared updated guidance from KASB and reviewed possible policy changes connected to new Kansas cell phone requirements and district expectations for online communication and personal devices.
- The Board discussed new Kansas student cell phone requirements that will begin in the 2026-27 school year. The new law requires students' phones and personal devices to be turned off and put away during the school day. USD 470 already uses YONDR pouches at secondary schools, so current practices are already closely aligned with the new requirements.
- District leaders shared an end-of-year enrollment update with the Board of Education. Enrollment has remained mostly stable during the 2025-26 school year, with a districtwide decrease of 14 students from the beginning to the end of the year. Adams, Jefferson, and ACMS all saw enrollment growth during the school year.
- District leaders shared plans for this summer's Curriculum Camp, scheduled for July 15-16. The work will focus on curriculum alignment and instructional planning as part of the district's ongoing KESA work. Ninety-eight teachers have signed up to participate, including many new teachers.
- The Board held an executive session to discuss non-elected personnel matters.