



Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

June 8, 2026

Good News:

The Board recognized Arkansas City High School's state track and field qualifiers for their outstanding performances at the KSHSAA 5A State Track & Field Championships.

Senior Karson Palmer finished as state runner-up in both shot put and discus, earning silver medals in each event. Harper Webb earned state runner-up finishes in the 100-meter and 200-meter dashes and placed fourth in the 400-meter dash. Gabby Banta placed fourth in the discus. Together, the three Bulldogs brought home six state medals.

Board Approves Tentative Agreement with ACTA

The Board approved a tentative negotiated agreement between the school district and the Arkansas City Teachers Association (ACTA) for the 2026-27 school year. The tentative agreement reflects the collaborative work of the district and ACTA negotiations teams and establishes terms and conditions of employment for certified staff. The agreement will now be presented to ACTA members for a vote.

Highlights of the tentative agreement include:

- Continued step and column movement on the salary schedule.
- An increase in the non-indexed salary amount from \$2,750 to \$3,000.
- A revised school calendar that provides students and staff with the full week of Thanksgiving Break and reduces the certified staff contract year by two days.
- A flexible workday option allowing certified staff to work remotely or on-site on the final workday of first semester.
- An increase in the paid leave buyback rate for certified staff from \$100 to \$130 per day.
- Updates to several supplemental contracts.
- Removal of Section R: Early Retirement/Phase-out Option

The tentative agreement has an estimated cost increase of 1.89% and will be presented to

ACTA members for a vote before becoming final.

Bond Construction Update

Representatives from McCownGordon Construction and Schaefer Architecture provided an update on several bond projects currently being designed.

The update included plans for new secure entrances and office renovations at Adams and Roosevelt elementary schools, along with the first phase of the district's technology infrastructure improvements. These projects are intended to improve school safety, visitor check-in procedures, and district technology systems.

McCownGordon shared that bids for several projects are expected to be received this month, with recommendations likely coming to the Board in July. Construction at Adams and Roosevelt is expected to begin during the 2026-27 school year. Work on the Arkansas City Middle School renovation and addition, as well as the new Early Childhood Center, will follow as the district continues moving forward with its bond projects.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- None

Reassignments/Transfers:

- None

Hirings:

- LaDawna Knighten – Academic Coach at ACHS

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board held an executive session to discuss non-elected personnel.
- The Board scheduled a special meeting for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, June 15 to discuss non-elected personnel.
- The Board approved the district's workers' compensation insurance renewal through KASB for the 2026-27 school year. The annual premium will increase from approximately \$90,500 to \$143,300. The program also provides safety training, risk management support, and legal assistance related to claims.

- The Board approved moving forward with the request for proposals process for a new playground at Jefferson Elementary. A recommendation is expected to come before the Board later this summer.
- The Board approved applying for the Kansas Safe and Secure Schools Grant to help support the ongoing replacement of the Arkansas City High School intercom system and other school safety improvements.
- The Board approved the district's annual property, liability, and student accident insurance renewals for the 2026-27 school year. Property and liability insurance will increase by approximately 12%, from about \$522,600 to \$584,600. Student accident insurance will increase by about 3% to approximately \$37,300.
- The Board approved Assistant Superintendent Braden Smith as the district's authorized representative for state and federal school meal programs, allowing him to complete required paperwork on behalf of the district.
- The Board reviewed the proposed meeting calendar for the 2026-27 school year. Regular meetings are generally held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, at 5:30 p.m., with several meetings taking place at schools throughout the district.
- The Board reviewed a first reading of policy updates recommended by the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB). The proposed changes include updates related to attendance, graduation requirements, staff use of social media, student cell phones, and other areas affected by recent changes in state and federal law. The policies will return to the Board for additional review and possible approval at a future meeting.