GREAT BEND
PUBLIC SCHOOLS • USD 428

Barton County, 1809 24th Street, Great Bend, Kansas 67530

BOARD REPORT

June 8, 2026 **5:00 p.m.**

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

Board Members Mrs. Jacquie Disque, president; Mr. Aaron Emerson, vice-president; Mrs. Karen Lindberg, Ms. Barbara Thoren, Mrs. Sarah Schenek, Mr. Randy Wetzel, Mrs. Sara Williams

Communications

- Board Member Comments
  None
- USD 428 Education Foundation
  Mini grants were presented at a reception and orders will be placed for items granted. Foundation members will meet to discuss foundation business.

Recognitions / Presentations

- Perfect Attendance Bike Give-Away Program
  A special note of appreciation goes to Karen Shaner, Jane Isern, and several local donors and volunteers for providing twenty-nine bikes to the Perfect Attendance Bike Give-Away program. Over the past thirteen years, the group has organized and donated dozens of bicycles that have been given away as perfect attendance incentives to USD 428 elementary students. This year, 34 bikes were awarded across six elementary schools. Winners were also fitted with a new helmet from the Great Bend Pilot Club. Thank you to all the participants who make this program possible!

Approval of 2026-2027 Student Accident Insurance

The district provides student insurance for school-sponsored and supervised activities. The Board approved coverage through KERMP First Agency Student Accident for the 2026-2027 year. The plan has cost limitations on services, but has no deductible and a increased maximum benefit per claim from $25,000, to 5,000,000 as scheduled. Last year's fee was $25,510.10, and this years fee is $26,999.75.

Class 1: Base Accident PK-8 *($7.00 @ 1,977 students and athletic)*	$13,839.00
Class 1: Base Accident 9-12 *($11.25 @ 878 students and athletic)*	$9,877.50
Class 2: Catastrophic Accidents *($1.15 @ 2,855 students (non athletic)*	$3,283.25
Total	**$26,999.75**

Approval of 2026-2027 KASB Risk Management

The contract premium for KASB Risk Management Workers Compensation for 2026-2027 is $310,120. KASB offers a loyalty credit to participants who agree to a three-year agreement, providing a 10% savings in the first year, 5% in the second year, and 3% in the third year. USD 428's modification factor has increased 31.19% due to several significant claims, resulting in a higher premium. After applying the third-year 3% loyalty credit of $9,304, the premium for 2026-2027 amounts to $300,816. Last year's premium with credit was $137,159. The Board approved the $300,816 premium for the 2026-2027 school year.

Approval of 2026-2027 District Property Insurance Update

The Kansas Insurance Cooperative for Schools (KICS) insurance renewal quote for the 2026-2027 school year is not yet available, but it will reflect an approximate 2.4% increase. The final KICS invoice will be available for approval by the end of June at the year transfer meeting.

(HB 2299) Implementation of Board Policy JCDC- Student Personal Electronic Communication Devices

GBHS Principal Brock Funke presented an operational plan for the 2026–2027 school year to align Great Bend High School with Kansas House Bill 2299 (enacted March 2026) regarding student electronic devices. New Board policy JCDC (*Student Personal Electronic Communications Devices*) addresses this bill, and the policy has overwhelming support from faculty.

- The Policy: All personal communication devices—including smartphones, smartwatches, and earbuds—must be turned off and secured from the first morning bell until the final bell of the day. During the first few minutes of the first period, teachers will oversee students locking their devices in pouches. The pouches will be kept in their backpacks for the day, and unlocking stations will be strategically placed throughout the building for efficient dismissal traffic.

- Discipline: The progressive discipline framework and the upcoming expectations for staff and students will be listed in the student handbook, and for students violating the policy, displinimary measures will be enforced.

First Reading of BOE Policy

BOE members reviewed the 19 policies listed below, which were presented as first readings. The policies will be submitted to the BOE for action at the July meeting. (NT=New Title, TC=Title change)

Revision	DFE	Investment of Funds
Revision	EBBE	Emergency Drills
Revision	EE	Food Services Management
Revision/TC	GAAC	Sex-Based Discrimination
Revision	IDAD	Title I Programs Policy
Revision	IDAD	Title I Programs Regulation
Revision	IHF	Graduation Requirements
Revision	IIBGC	Staff Online Activities
Revision	JB	Attendance Records
Revision	JBC	Enrollment
Revision	JBCB	Foster Care Students Policy

Revision	JBCB	Foster Care Students Regulation
Revision	JBCC	Enrollment of Nonresident Students
Revision	JBD	Absences and Excuses
New	JCDC	Student Personal Electronic Communications Devices
Revision/TC	JGEC	Sex-Based Discrimination
Revision	JGFGA	Administration of Emergency Opioid Antagonists
Revision	JGFGAA	Stock Supply of Emergency Medication
Revision	JGFGBA	Student Self-Administration of Medication
Revision	JQKA	Foreign Exchange Student
Revision	JRB	Release of Student Records

2026-2027 Calendar Change

Mr. Thexton discussed negotiated calendar changes to the 2026-2027 school year that include moving two student days during Thanksgiving week to the end of the school year to allow a full week of no school. A survey was extended to family and staff, resulting in 80% in favor. The Board approved this calendar change along with the 2026-2027 IBB Consensus Summary under the consent agenda.

Approval of Elementary, Middle School, and High School Fees for 2026-2027

The proposed schedule of enrollment fees for students in grades PreK-12 is listed. The Board approved the following proposed fees for the 2026-2027 school year. Meal Prices will be presented at a later meeting, but before enrollment.

	2025-2026	Proposed 2026-2027	Difference
Pre-K / Kdg	$40.00	$40.00	No change
Grades 1-6	55.00	55.00	No change
Grades 7-8	55.00	55.00	No change
Grades 9-12	85.00	85.00	No change
Additional Fees *(do not qualify for free or reduced status)*			
HS/MS Activity Pass	$35.00	$35.00	No change
MS Technology Fee	5.00	10.00	***$ 5.00 increase***
HS Technology Fee	10.00	15.00	***$ 5.00 increase***

(Technology fees are required for all 7-12 students and do not qualify for free/reduced status)

Approval of 2025-2026 Mileage Reimbursement Rate

USD 428 offers mileage reimbursement to eligible parents and guardians for transporting students to and from their assigned attendance centers. Eligibility is based on completing the application for students who live 2.5 miles or more from the designated attendance center and reside outside the city limits of Great Bend but within the district's boundaries. Eighty-five families participated, transporting 141 students and covering a total of 160,576.6 miles. The Board approved a per-mile reimbursement-rate of 60 cents per mile.

Curriculum / Instruction Report

Assistant Superintendent JoAnn Blevins

- 2026 Summer School

Summer school is in session between June 1 and 28 throughout the district. Mrs. Blevins reported numbers are less this year due to busy student and family schedules.

- Summer Professional Development & Curriculum Work

Mrs. Blevins provided an update on licensed staff participation in summer professional development and curriculum work. Currently, 35 licensed staff members are scheduled to complete various district-offered opportunities, totaling 761 professional learning hours and 26 graduate credits. Additionally, 73 employees will attend the annual BLT workshop. Staff members also have the option to independently pursue college courses, external workshops, or conferences to further their professional growth.

- IXL Learning Supplement Update

IXL is a state-sponsored, online learning supplement designed to support classroom instruction for grades K–9 in Math, ELA, and Science. Procured for just under $32,000, the district will conduct a usage audit to monitor student engagement and evaluate the program's overall effectiveness.

- District Needs Assessment

Building Needs Assessments have been gathered to draft the 2026-2027 District Needs Assessment, which will identify district priorities to guide the budget for the upcoming year. The collected information is provided by the Building Leadership Teams (BLT) and Site Councils. Mrs. Blevins provided highlights of the results and will discuss the assessment again in July.

- Curriculum Meeting Minutes
  - Curriculum Steering Committee: Next meeting 9/8/26
  - Professional Development Council (PDC): Minutes 6/1/26, Next Meeting 8/17/26

Business and Operations Report

Assistant Superintendent John Popp

- District Inventory

The district inventory crew, led by Keith Moeder, uses scanners and software to document inventory and is expected to complete the district inventory in June or July. The district property insurance requires us to maintain a list of any item valued at $500 or more for accurate accounting in the event of a large-scale disaster.

- Student Withdrawal Report

Mr. Popp presented data and discussed trends among students who dropped out or withdrew from GBHS during the past school year, comparing them to previous years. Data is provided one year past graduation, and over the past five years, USD 428 has seen an increase in graduation rates, peaking in 2022; however, there was a graduation decrease in the classes of 2024 and 2025. Based on our demographics and location, USD 428 has exceeded the predicted post-graduation success percentage.

- Project Updates

Summer Projects

- District Camera System – Park and Riley are having new cameras installed. Their older cameras will be repurposed at Jefferson until new ones can be purchased.
- Summer Maintenance Projects – Summer crews are doing regular seasonal maintenance, including HVAC inspections, grounds upkeep, and deep cleaning of the facilities. Maintenance summer concrete projects include a driveway west of the DEC, GBHS south of the library doors, GBMS east handicap area, and areas at Eisenhower, Jefferson, and Lincoln.
- Larger summer projects include the GBMS parking lot, a classroom wall modification at Eisenhower, and GBHS pressbox improvements, GBHS HVAC.
- Roofing Projects: Park, GBHS Gym, PAC/Fieldhouse connection area, will be completed during the summer months.

- Firepanel replacements are being completed at GBHS, Park, Jefferson, and Riley Elementary Schools.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Khris Thexton

- Summer Meal Update

In June and July, USD 428 food service will provide a complimentary breakfast and lunch to all students up to age 18. Vouchers are available at each school, and families are encouraged to use this service, as the more students who use the program, the better the reimbursement program receives. Week one was down from last year; however, week two was up from the previous year.

- Capturing Kids' Hearts

Mr. Thexton announced that the founder and chairman of Capturing Kids' Hearts, Flip Flippen, will be the guest speaker at the annual back to school inservice day on August 13. Mr. Flippen is an engaging speaker who will help kick off the beginning of the school year by motivating all staff. USD 428 has utilized the CKH model since 2021, and has received outstanding recognition as being a National Showcase District.

- Personnel Report

Below is a summary of personnel details.

- 8 Retirements
- 23 Resignations
- 15 Transfers
- 21 new-to-district hires
- 22 not fully licensed staff
- 0 positions added
- 3 Yet to be filled; GBMS – Science, Special Services Speech Language, GBHS Assistant Principal

- Strategic Plan Update

USD 428 staff and community were surveyed to collect feedback on the district's offerings related to academics, preparation for life after graduation, and student health, both physical and mental. The survey results indicate the district mat

- KSDE Budget Workshop

Mr. Thexton and other administrative staff are planning to attend the annual KSDE Budget Workshop, scheduled for June 15 in Hutchinson, KS.

- Schedule Special BOE Meeting

Mr. Thexton scheduled a brief special BOE meeting at the District Education Center on June 30, for the board to approved the proposed expenditures, transfers, and closing balances for the 2025-2026 budget.

- USD 428 Staff Appreciation Night

On Wednesday, June 24, USD 428 employees are invited to Employee Appreciation Night at the Great Bend Bat Cats game. First pitch is at 7:00 p.m., and admission is free for everyone!

- Approval of Grants / Contributions

The BOE approved the grants and contributions noted below.

- Reward Incentive contributions for the following schools have been received.

School	Amount	Company
Eisenhower Elementary	$ 115.80	Box Tops for Education
Eisenhower Elementary	$ 55.00	Casey's Loyalty Program
Eisenhower Elelmentary	$ 498.94	Strawbridge Studios Reward Incentives
Riley Elementary	$ 161.34	Kroeger Rewards
Riley Elementary	$ 61.40	Casey's Loyalty Program

- Riley Elementary wishes to accept a $5,000.00 contribution from an anonymous donor to go towards playground enhancement.
- Riley Elementary wishes to accept $5,686 from varous contributors to go towards their fundraising campaign.

- USD 428 Food Service Department wishes to accept a cash donation of $65.00 from the GBHS Class of 1996 to go towards unpaid student meal balances.
- Barton County Special Services Director Ashley Riley wishes to accept a federal funds LEA (Local Education Agency) grant for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) VI-B Funds in the amount of $1,083,350.
- USD 428 has received $5,933 in contributions from various donors through the USD 428 Education Foundation for the Perfect Bike Giveaway.

Financial Report

Mr. Popp presented the warrants, financial report, travel summary, energy report, unencumbered cash balance details, and health insurance status to board members.

Executive Session

The Board recessed into executive session to discuss negotiated staff topics pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA.

Executive Session

The Board recessed into executive session to discuss the district emergency operations plan pursuant to the exception under KOMA for security matters to ensure the security of the school, its buildings and/or its systems is not jeopardized.

Consent Agenda

Board members approved the following items.

- Approval of BOE Meeting Minutes: May 11, 2026
- Acceptance of Bills and Financial Reports
- Personnel Report

  Licensed Resignations
  - ✓ Mrs. Katilyn Suss, teacher of Science at GB Middle School
  - ✓ Ms. Taylor Ellis, teacher of Special Education at Holy Family and CKCA

  Licensed Appointments
  - ✓ Mrs. Kristine Boepple, teacher of Science at GB High School
  - ✓ Ms. Kristi Mason, teacher of Science at GB High School
  - ✓ Mr. Omar Trujillo, Director of Band at GB High School
  - ✓ Ms. Taunya Buehler, teacher of English at GB Middle School
  - ✓ Dr. Sherri Brantley, teacher of English at GB Middle School *(first semester)*
  - ✓ Ms. Kyrian Keeling, teacher of Grade 4 at Eisenhower Elementary School
  - ✓ Ms. Janes McCormick, teacher of Grade 1 at Park Elementary School
- 2026-2027 Fees
- Acceptance of Negotiated Agreement
- Classified Pay Adjustment
- Director Contracts
- Administrative Contracts

Upcoming Events

Board members were reminded of the forthcoming events.

- BOE Special End of Year Meeting:7:30 a.m., on June 30, at the District Education Center
- BOE Regular Meeting: The next BOE regular monthly meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2026, at the District Education Center.

Adjournment

The Board of Education meeting was adjourned.