Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

July 13, 2026

Board Approves Student Cell Phone Policy

The Board approved KASB-recommended policy JCDC: Student Personal Electronic Communication Devices, which aligns with the requirements of Sub. for House Bill 2299. The policy largely reflects practices already in place across the district. The Board and administration expect the policy to be consistently enforced to provide a safe, focused learning environment for all students.

Staff Online Activities Policy Tabled

The Board tabled action on policy IIBGC: Staff Online Activities for additional review. The proposed policy aligns with the requirements of Sub. for House Bill 2299 by prohibiting private communication with students through social media and requiring school-related communication to occur through district-approved, monitored communication platforms. Board members requested additional clarification on portions of the policy before taking action.

Jefferson Playground Structure to be Replaced

The Board approved the replacement of a playground structure at Jefferson Elementary. The project will provide students with a safer, updated play space while replacing one of the district's oldest playground structures.

The Jefferson playground has reached the point where replacement is needed. Installation of the new structure is expected next summer. As the district continues to evaluate its facilities, playgrounds at other schools will also be assessed and considered for future replacement as funding allows.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- LaDawna Knighten – Academic Coach at ACHS

Reassignments/Transfers:

- Sarah Hunsaker – 7th Grade ILA to Academic Coach at ACHS
- Rebecca Morse – 6th Grade ELA to 7th Grade ILA

Hirings:

- Aaron Hollins – Asst. Girls Basketball Coach at ACHS
- Trevor Pierce – Summer Painter (temporary)
- Amy Riel –Asst. Girls Basketball Coach at ACHS
- Laynee Roberts – Summer Painter (temporary)
- Karen Rogers – ELA at ACHS

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board authorized the district to apply for the federal Student Violence Prevention Program (SVPP) grant to support upgrades to district intercom, public address, and emergency communication systems. Any grant award and required district match will be brought back to the Board for separate approval.
- The Board approved a contract with Titan Environmental Services for asbestos abatement at Adams and Roosevelt elementary schools before bond construction begins.
- The Board accepted the district's 2026-27 fuel bid from Waldeck Fertilizer to provide gasoline and diesel for district vehicles and school buses.
- The Board accepted gifts, including a $600.98 Pizza Ranch YELL fundraiser donation for IXL Elementary and a U.S. flag and military certificate donated to Arkansas City High School.
- The Board received the district's first monthly department reports, providing updates on completed work, current priorities, and upcoming projects.
- The Board heard from ACTA representative Brandon Pride about Sub House Bill 2299.
- The Board heard from Orchestra teacher Alicia Kerwood about a proposed Arkansas City High School orchestra trip to Chicago during spring break 2028. Formal approval will be considered at a later date.
- The Board elected Jon Oak to continue serving as Board President and Jamie

Pieper to continue serving as vice president.

- The Board appointed Board members to serve as representatives to the following:
    - Cowley County Special Services Cooperative – Jamie Pieper; Chad Giles (alternate)
    - PTO/Board Liaison – Lori Barnes; Jamie Pieper (alternate)
    - Board/Teacher Panel – Jon Oak and Lori Barnes
    - KASB Governmental Relations Network – Jon Oak; Jamie Pieper (alternate)
    - Head Start Policy Council – Jon Oak; Jacinda Kinzie (alternate)
    - ACE Fund – Jacinda Kinzie
    - Insurance/Benefits Oversight Committee – Levi Anstine
- The Board appointed the following district representatives:
    - KPERS – Amanda Moberly
    - Food Service – Braden Smith
    - Free and Reduced Meals Hearing Officer – Braden Smith
    - Agent for Receipt Vouchers – Braden Smith
    - ACHS Activity Fund Agent – Shannon Hills
    - ACMS Activity Fund Agent – Lucy Lara
    - Freedom of Information Officer – Braden Smith
    - District Hearing Officers – Braden Smith, with all district administrators serving as alternates
    - District Appeal Hearing Officers – Braden Smith, with all district administrators serving as alternates
    - Civil Rights Officer – Braden Smith
    - Section 504 Coordinator – Braden Smith
    - Title IX Officer – Tiffany Shinneman
    - Board Treasurer – Vicki Webb
    - Deputy Treasurer – Sissy Kingsbury
    - Board Clerk – Sissy Kingsbury
    - Deputy Clerk – Vicki Webb
    - Truancy Officers – All principals and assistant principals
- The Board approved the following as official bank depositories for district funds: Community National, RCB, Stock Exchange Bank, Union State Bank
- The Board approved the Cowley Courier-Traveler as the official publication of the district
- The Board adopted the annual waiver allowing the district to continue using Kansas' cash-basis accounting and reporting method.
- The Board adopted the 1,116-hour school year for the 2026-27 school calendar.
- The Board approved annual organizational items, including authorization to pay

bills to avoid penalties, the warrant review schedule, petty cash limits and district credit card authorization.
- The Board adopted the district's annual Home Rule Resolution.
- The Board removed Board Policy KBB to eliminate duplication following updates to district communication policies.
- The Board approved a resolution updating the district's authorized representatives for the Kansas Municipal Investment Pool (KMIP), allowing the district to maximize interest earnings on construction funds while maintaining access to those funds as projects move forward.
- The Board discussed the district's personal appearance policy (GAM)
- The Board received a report on mill levy history and the Revenue Neutral Rate timeline.
- The Board held an executive session to discuss non-elected personnel. Following the executive session, the Board approved the personnel report from the consent agenda.