

DURANT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

Durant School District, I-72, Bryan County, Oklahoma

Central Administration Office Conference Room

Monday, May 04, 2026 12:00 PM

I. Call to Order

President

II. Roll Call

Clerk of the Board

Attendance Taken at 12:00 PM.

Jason Manous: Present

Joyce Northcutt: Present

Chaz Polk: Present

Janie Umsted: Present

III. Seating of the New Board Member

Clerk of the Board performed the swearing-in of Casey Powers.

IV. Reorganization of the Board of Education

IV.A. Election of Officers of the Board of Education

IV.A.1. President of the Board of Education

Motion to nominate Ms. Janie Umsted as President of the Board of Education. This motion, made by Joyce Northcutt and seconded by Jason Manous, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Casey Powers: Yea

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

IV.A.2. Vice-President of the Board of Education

Motion to nominate Ms. Joyce Northcutt as Vice-President of the Board of Education. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Chaz Polk, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Casey Powers: Yea

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

V. Approval of the Consent Calendar**

Motion to approve items V.A through V.H. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Chaz Polk, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Casey Powers: Yea

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

V.A. Agenda

V.B. Minutes:

V.B.1. April 06, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

V.C. Treasurer's Report

V.D. Activity Accounts Report

V.E. Financial Reports

V.F. Encumbrances

V.F.1. Fiscal '26 General Fund Numbers 261090-261142 in the Amount of \$91,450.58

V.F.2. Fiscal '26 Building Fund Numbers 261118 in the Amount of \$4,359.13

V.G. Child Nutrition Claim for Reimbursement

V.H. Transfer Capacity

VI. Reports:

VI.A. Mr. Moring to recognize LeaAnn Wyrick as the DISD Teacher of the Year

LeaAnn Wyrick, an 18-year veteran educator, was recognized for her outstanding dedication to teaching, student mentorship, and community involvement. As a U.S. History and AP U.S. History teacher, she is known for making history engaging through creative, hands-on lessons that combine storytelling, music, movement, and critical thinking.

Her journey into education was shaped by overcoming childhood poverty, trauma, and instability, experiences that helped her understand the importance of compassionate teachers and supporting students from diverse backgrounds. After earning a sociology degree from Southeastern Oklahoma State University and working with at-risk youth, she found her calling in education.

Beyond the classroom, Mrs. Wyrick leads school support initiatives, mentors new teachers, and encourages civic engagement through projects such as veterans' oral histories, environmental programs, and community service drives. She also helped create "Project Blossom," a program focused on empathy, generosity, and helping students support classmates in need.

Throughout her career, she has received numerous honors, including Broken Bow High School Teacher of the Year, the Masonic Teacher of Today Award, and statewide recognition for excellence in social studies education.

Colleagues and administrators praised Mrs. Wyrick for her positivity, humility, and ability to inspire both students and staff. Her principal described her as a joyful leader who consistently encourages others and supports new teachers. During her remarks, Mrs. Wyrick expressed gratitude to her coworkers and administrators, emphasizing how supported and valued she feels within her school community.

VI.B. Mr. Moring to recognize Durant wrestlers who made it to the state finals

Coach Taylor recognized the dedication and accomplishments of the team's state qualifiers, emphasizing the intense commitment required to succeed in wrestling, which he described as one of the toughest sports.

The group included freshman wrestler Camilla Maya, who competed at 190 pounds and finished her season with a 10-10 record, placing fifth at regionals to qualify for state. Coach Taylor highlighted the rapid growth of girls wrestling in Oklahoma and praised Camilla's improvement, leadership, and potential as the program continues to expand.

Junior wrestler Aidan Polk finished the season 28-8 and placed third at regionals. Known for excelling in multiple sports including football, soccer, and track, Aidan was recognized for his hard work and consistency, with coaches believing he could compete for a state championship next season.

Senior wrestler Mac Barbush ended his season with a strong finish, placing fourth at regionals and earning the team's Most Improved Wrestler award. He also committed to continue wrestling at Rose State College, where he received a leadership scholarship and will join the school's newly reinstated wrestling program.

The coaches and school leaders celebrated the athletes' achievements and noted that several other wrestlers were close to qualifying for state, signaling continued growth and success for the program.

VI.C. Mr. Moring to recognize the students who received FFA state degrees.

Members of the local Future Farmers of America chapter were recognized for earning their State FFA Degrees, the highest degree achievable at the state level in FFA. Students were honored before departing for the Oklahoma state convention, where the chapter would also be recognized as a Three-Star National Chapter Award recipient — placing it among the top ten percent of FFA chapters in Oklahoma.

Advisors Mr. and Mrs. Adams explained that earning a State Degree requires years of dedication, detailed recordkeeping, and successful supervised agricultural experiences (SAEs), including work in agricultural placement or entrepreneurship projects such as livestock showing and farming operations.

Students who were recognized include:

- Lydia Bullard, who earned her degree through beef production and also received an Academic Excellence Award for her strong GPA and ACT score.
- Bailee Varner, who earned her degree through four years of showing cattle despite injuries and challenges along the way.
- Ava Converse, who earned her degree through goat showing and shared humorous stories about the ups and downs of livestock projects.
- Jaci Floyd, whose SAEs included working at Wesson Farms, showing beef cattle, and raising poultry.
- Hunter Franklin, who completed an entrepreneurship project through livestock trading involving sheep and goats.
- Hunter Roberts, who gained experience working for Star T Ranch Angus in Silo, Oklahoma

Mr. and Mrs. Adams praised the students for their hard work, professionalism, and commitment, noting that 29 students from the chapter qualified for state-level recognition this year. School leaders also commended the FFA program for providing valuable life skills, leadership development, and opportunities for student success.

VI.D. Mr. Moring to discuss the analysis of enrollment projections

Mr. Moring presented a detailed enrollment and demographic study commissioned to better understand future student population trends and facility needs within the district and surrounding community.

The presentation, delivered by PowerSchool representative Zach Worthin, examined statewide and local economic conditions, housing development, student enrollment trends, and long-term projections for the district. The study found that while Bryan County's economy continues to grow — driven by manufacturing, tourism, Choctaw Nation

investments, and other development projects — that growth is not translating into significant increases in student enrollment.

It was noted that current enrollment is down about 2.9% compared to the same time last year, with elementary grades declining roughly 6%, while high school enrollment has increased nearly 4%. The report linked these shifts largely to declining birth rates, a trend affecting school districts across Oklahoma and the nation.

Statewide public school enrollment has declined by about 17,000 students since 2020, and more than 70% of Oklahoma districts are experiencing flat or decreasing enrollment. The study also found that Oklahoma's private school tax credit program and online charter schools have had less impact on public school enrollment than initially expected. Housing data showed approximately 250 new housing units planned within the district over the next five years, potentially bringing 70–80 additional students. However, projections still indicate either stable or slightly declining enrollment over the next decade. Conservative estimates project enrollment dropping to around 3,300 students, while moderate projections forecast enrollment remaining near current levels at approximately 3,700 students.

Mr. Moring stated the findings suggest that Durant schools are in a stable financial position and unlikely to need major new building projects in the foreseeable future. Instead, the district plans to focus on maintaining existing facilities and making staffing adjustments through attrition rather than cuts. Officials also emphasized that state funding per student is expected to increase as statewide enrollment declines, helping offset any local decreases in student numbers.

Board members concluded that the study provides useful long-term planning information as the district prepares for future staffing, facility, and bond decisions while adapting to changing demographic trends.

VII. Comments from the Public (Pursuant to District Policy 2240, a copy of which is available upon request, Comments can be made only by District Patrons concerning items listed on the Agenda)

None.

VIII. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve a Memorandum of Understanding Between Lighthouse Behavioral Wellness Centers (Lighthouse) and Durant Public Schools

Approval is recommended of a Memorandum of Understanding between Lighthouse Behavioral Wellness Centers (Lighthouse) and Durant Public Schools. Motion to approve. This motion, made by Joyce Northcutt and seconded by Casey Powers, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea
Casey Powers: Yea
Janie Umsted: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

IX. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve a Memorandum of Understanding between Lighthouse Behavioral Wellness (Lighthouse) and Durant Public Schools for the Implementation of Behavioral Health Coaches within the District

Approval is recommended of a memorandum of understanding between Lighthouse Behavioral Wellness (Lighthouse) and Durant Public Schools for the implementation of behavioral health coaches within the district. Motion to approve. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Chaz Polk, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea
Joyce Northcutt: Yea
Chaz Polk: Yea
Casey Powers: Yea
Janie Umsted: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

X. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve a Renewal of an OKDHS School-Based contract between OKDHS and the Durant School District

Approval is recommended of a renewal of an OKDHS school-based contract between OKDHS and the Durant School District. Motion to approve. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Joyce Northcutt, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea
Joyce Northcutt: Yea
Chaz Polk: Yea
Casey Powers: Yea
Janie Umsted: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

XI. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve Contracts for the 2026-2027 School Year

Approval is recommended of the contracts listed below. Motion to approve items XI. A through XI.C. This motion, made by Joyce Northcutt and seconded by Jason Manous, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea
Joyce Northcutt: Yea
Chaz Polk: Yea
Casey Powers: Yea
Janie Umsted: Yea
Yea: 5, Nay: 0

XI.A. Prohab Therapy Specialists

XI.B. Hearing Impaired Consultant for the Durant School District

XI.C. Hearing Impaired Consultant for the Durant School District

XII. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve an Overnight Out-of-State Trip for Durant Anatomage Four Students and Two Sponsors to Travel to Santa Clara, California May 27–31, 2026 to Attend the National Anatomage Tournament.

Approval is recommended for four anatomage students and two sponsors to travel to Santa Clara, California May 27-31, 2026 to attend the National Anatomage Tournament. Motion to approve. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Joyce Northcutt, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Casey Powers: Yea

Janie Umsted: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

XIII. Consideration and Vote on Personnel Recommendations

Other recommendations and resignations are pending, and if available, may be brought to the meeting

Attendance Update Taken at 12:52 PM.

Janie Umsted: Absent

Ms. Umsted had to depart the meeting.

Motion to approve XIII. A through XIII. O. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Chaz Polk, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Casey Powers: Yea

Janie Umsted: Absent

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

XIII.A. Resignations Received Since the Last Meeting of the Board of Education

Certified – Sierra Beal, Durant High School

Certified – Sabetha Sands, Durant Middle School

Certified – Kara Denton, Durant Middle School

Certified – Morris Sloan, Durant Intermediate School

Certified – Leslie Gregg, Durant Public Schools

Certified – Micah Tennison, Durant Intermediate School

Certified – Mary Morgan, George Washington Elementary
Certified – Melina Ludlow, Washington Irving Elementary
Certified – Crystal Nesbitt, Northwest Heights Elementary
Support – Lori Peddy, Durant Middle School
Support – Jaiveon Gardner, Durant Middle School
Support – Rebecca (JoAnn) Whittenburg, Durant Intermediate School
Support – Paxton Ezell (Fox), Durant Intermediate School
Support – Tiffany Watkins, Durant Intermediate School
Support – John Woods, George Washington Elementary

XIII.B. Renewal of Employment Contracts for Certified Personnel on Continuing Contracts for the 2026-2027 School Year – List Attached

XIII.C. Employment of Indian Education Instructors, Part-Time Temporary Positions for the 2026 Summer Enrichment Program

Anna Carey	Kimberly Hopkins	Emma Jacob	Molly James
Pamela Carey	Miranda Lowe	Holly Shattuck	Rachel Shelton
Mellissa Sherrer	Carrie Sorrels	Amanda Tonubbee	

XIII.D. Employment of Summer School Instructors for Durant High School 2026 Summer School Session – Cynthia Bourne & Elisabet Garcia

XIII.E. Employment of Certified Personnel for the POSSE Choctaw Nation Summer School, Temporary Positions for the 2026 Summer School Session – List Attached

XIII.F. Employment of Certified Personnel for Students with Individualized Education Plans, Temporary Positions for 2026 Summer Services

XIII.F.1. Summer Services Teacher for Students with Individualized Education Plans – Carol Luce

XIII.G. Employment of a Speech Language Pathologist for Durant School District, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Reagan Ballard

XIII.H. Employment of a Special Education Instructional Coach for Durant Public Schools for the 2026-2027 School Year – Lindsey (Autumn) Whitaker

XIII.I. Employment of Certified Personnel for the 2026-2027 School Year

XIII.I.1. Special Education Instructor at Durant High School. One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Marissa Kader

XIII.I.2. Head Girls Basketball Coach at Durant High School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Brian Kader

XIII.I.3. STEM Teacher at Durant Middle School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Kaitlyn Kavoossi

XIII.I.4. Fifth Grade ELA Teacher at Durant Intermediate School, Reassignment from Fifth Grade Math/Science, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Breanna Self

XIII.I.5. Fifth Grade Science Teacher at Durant Intermediate School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Gena Smith

XIII.I.6. Sixth Grade Math Teacher at Durant Intermediate School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Aaron McCoullough

XIII.I.7. STEM Teacher at Durant Intermediate School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Doreen Anderson

XIII.I.8. Sixth Grade Special Education Teacher at Durant Intermediate School, Transferring from a Third Grade Teacher Position at Washington Irving Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Pamela Carey

XIII.I.9. Special Education Teacher at Northwest Heights Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Hannah Hicks

XIII.I.10. Special Education Teacher at Northwest Heights Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Carley Boucher

XIII.I.11. Kindergarten Teacher at Northwest Heights Elementary, Involuntary Reassignment for Pre-Kindergarten Teacher at Robert E. Lee, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Emma Shelton

XIII.I.12. Third Grade Teacher at George Washington Elementary, Reassignment from Kindergarten, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year - Mahalee May

XIII.I.13. Fourth Grade Teacher at George Washington Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Brittany Lovelace

XIII.J. Employment of Support Personnel for the 2025-2026 School Year

XIII.J.1. Maintenance Employee, Full-Time Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – John Shelton

XIII.K. Employment of Support Personnel for the POSSE Choctaw Nation Summer School, Temporary Positions for the 2026 POSSE Summer School Session – List Attached

XIII.L. Employment of 12 College Students for the POSSE Choctaw Nation Summer School, Temporary Positions for the 2026 POSSE Summer School Session – List Attached

XIII.M. Employment of Support Personnel for Students with Individualized Education Plans, Temporary Positions for the 2026 Summer Services

XIII.M.1. Special Education Teacher Assistant for Students with Individualized Education Plans – Brandi Wingfield

XIII.M.2. Special Education Teacher Assistant for Students with Individualized Education Plans – Brooke Roberts

XIII.N. Employment of Indian Education Support Personnel, Part-Time Temporary Positions for the 2026 Summer Enrichment Program – Sherri Sharp & Zoey Shelton

XIII.O. Additions to the Lists of Substitutes for the 2025-2026 School Year – N/A

XIV. Discussion, Consideration and Vote on Items of New Business

None.

XV. Comments from the Superintendent

Mr. Moring provided updates on staffing, special education improvements, transportation upgrades, and upcoming events as the school year nears its end.

Mr. Moring reported significant progress in strengthening special education services. Just last month, the district needed seven to nine special education teachers, but that number has now been reduced to only three openings. The district also recently approved two behavior coach positions, an additional speech-language pathologist, and plans to hire a speech-language pathology assistant to better support students and staff.

One major initiative is the addition of a special education instructional coach position, designed to mentor and support newer special education teachers. Mr. Moring explained that there are just fewer people going into the field of special education, so the instructional coach will be beneficial to supporting the teachers and staff currently in our district.

Mr. Moring noted that four elementary teaching positions were eliminated through attrition rather than layoffs due to declining enrollment in lower grade levels. He emphasized that the district remains financially stable and expects state funding per student to increase.

Mr. Moring stated that he is excited about the new girls' basketball coach joining the district, especially because he brings with him his wife, who is also a special education teacher that will also be a part of our district.

Transportation upgrades were also noted by Mr. Moring, as the district recently received several new buses, including 2 activity buses, 2 short buses, 2 regular route buses, and 2 short activity buses. They all include upgraded safety and comfort features such as air conditioning, USB charging ports, lane assist technology, and improved storage.

Mr. Moring concluded with a reminder that graduation is scheduled for May 21st at Bloomer Sullivan Arena.

XVI. Comments from the Board

Board member Joyce Northcutt stated that our enrollment changes may not just be due to lower birth rates, but also because we are seeing more options for schooling for families. She notes that it is vital for us to communicate and spread the word of all the benefits that our

district offers for student services.

Board member Jason Manous stated that this has been a good and smooth school year, and he is thankful for the new board member to be joining.

XVII. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Adjourn

Recommend adjournment of the meeting. Motion to adjourn at 1:09 pm. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Chaz Polk, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Yea

Casey Powers: Yea

Janie Umsted: Absent

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 1


Janie Umsted, President
LeAnna Chaffin, Clerk of the Board

REGULAR MEETING

STATE OF OKLAHOMA)

COUNTY OF BRYAN)

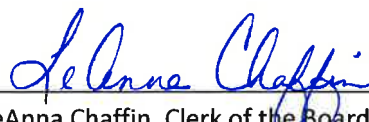
I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Education of Durant School District No. I-72 of Bryan County, Oklahoma, do hereby certify that prior to December 15th of the last calendar year the date, time and place of this regular meeting was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Bryan County, Oklahoma.

I also certify that at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, notice of the date, time, place, and agenda of this meeting was posted in prominent public view at the location of the meeting.

Witness my hand and seal of this school district this 4th day of May 2026.

School Seal:





LeAnna Chaffin, Clerk of the Board