GREAT BEND
PUBLIC SCHOOLS • USD 428

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

BOARD REPORT

July 13, 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

Election of Officers

The Board re-elected Mrs. Jacquie Disque as president and Mr. Aaron Emerson as vice president for 2026-2027.

Board Comments

Mr. Emerson complimented the new district website, noting that it is user-friendly and well-organized. Andrea Bauer and Dylon Paden have done a fantastic job.

Organization of the 2026-2027 Board of Education

Appointments / Designations

The Board approved the following 2026-2027 appointments/designations.

Board Clerk	*John Popp*	
Assistant Clerk	*Cathie McManaman*	
Treasurer	*Sarah Maurer*	
Assistant Treasurer	*April Harbaugh*	
Truancy Officers	*Learning Center Principals and Assistant Principals*	
Hearing Officer for Free and Reduced	*Khris Thexton*	
Food Service Representative	*Kristy Alvord*	
KPERS Representative	*April Harbaugh*	
Federal / State Grant Representatives	*Shelby Zuniga; JoAnn Blevins; Ashley Riley*	
Titles VI, VII, IX, and Section 504 Reps	*John Popp; Ashley Riley*	
Freedom of Information Officer	*Andrea Bauer*	
Records Custodian	*John Popp*	
Name Depositories for District Funds		
Active Accounts (Operating Account)	*July, 2026*	*First Kansas Bank*
Direct Deposit (Payroll):	*July, 2026*	*Farmers Bank and Trust*
Direct Deposit (from State of Kansas):	*July, 2026*	*Farmers Bank and Trust*

Idle Funds: The district will invest idle funds with bank(s) within the district that will pay the public fund rate. Depository banks will have a Kansas charter.

Selection of Official District Newspaper	*Great Bend Tribune*
Homeless Coordinator	*Joh Popp*
BOE Members to 2027 IBB Team	*Randy Wetzel, Sara Williams*
Attorney Services	*Watkins Calcara, LLC*

Organizational Procedures

The following organizational procedures were approved for the 2026-2027 year.

- Recommendation for Early Payment of Claims
- Adoption of 1,116-Hour Calendar for 2026-2027
- Approval of Mileage Rate for Approved Travel for District Employees; the current state rate is 72.5 cents.
- Rescind Previous Policy and Adopt BOE Policy Manual
- Authorization of Certificates for Manual Signature
- Approval of Petty Cash Resolution
- Approval of Resolution to Maintain Activity Funds
- Approval of Resolution to Waive the Annual Requirements of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and Fixed Assets Accounting for 2026-2027
- Resolution to Establish Home Rule by Board of Education
- Approval to Publish Notifications (EOE, Privacy Act, Asbestos, and Student Data Privacy Act)
- Resolution to Authorize Bank Signature Card Designees
- Disposition of Property
- Destruction of Records; the current practice of retaining records for five years remains.
- 2026-2027 Substitute Teacher Pay; *Substitute teacher pay* is:
  - *Modified Emergency Sub: $120 full day / $60 half day*
  - *Emergency Sub: $130 full day / $65 half day*
  - *Teaching License Professional: $135 full day / $67.50 half day*
  - *Long Term Substitute: $262 full day / $131 half day*
- Internet Filtering Software; The district has a contract with *Sophos Firewall* (7/1/25 – 9/17/29) for Windows computer internet filtering, and a contract with *GoGuardian for Chromebook filtering* (7/1/26 – 6/29/27)
- Travel Expenses: *In-State and Out-of-State Meal Rate: $15 per meal in-state, $20 per meal out of-state.*
- Fees: Application for Use of School Facilities *(no changes)*

Second Reading of BOE Policy

At the meeting on June 8, 2026, BOE members heard the first reading of KASB-recommended new and revised policies. At this second reading, the Board approved the recommended policy updates listed below. (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

Approval of Specialized Legal Services

The Board approved an as-needed legal services contract with Guin Mundorf, LLC, a Kansas City firm specializing in school district law. Under this agreement, the firm will provide counsel, guidance, and representation to support the district's operations as needed.

Approval of Innovative Assessment Solutions Quote

The Board approved to renew the contract with IAS for proficiency screeners for the 2026–2027 school year. Mrs. Blevins explained IAS provides proficiency screening for ELA and math. USD 428 is currently in the pilot program with IAS, and student assessments are given quarterly. IAS provides valuable data and does not replace state assessments; however, it could replace them in the future.

Curriculum / Instruction Report

Assistant Superintendent JoAnn Blevins

- Summer School Finality
  Mrs. Blevins reported that summer school was a success. Several students attended and were engaged in reading, math, and active play. GBHS experienced a 55% increase in enrollment and an 86% increase in credit recovery, with students earning 139 credits. Mr. Jared Bashor leads the summer program, which primarily focuses on computer-based learning.
- District Needs Assessment
  The district and building needs assessments are used in setting budget and district priorities for 2026-2027. Board members reviewed the 2026 District Needs Assessments presented in June and provided input and feedback.
- Summary of 2025-2026 Professional Development Council (PDC) and 2026-2027 National Conferences
  The USD 428 Professional Development Council (PDC) is a group of teachers and administrators who, by law, are required to meet regularly, develop a five-year plan, track points, approve

Individual Development Plans, and establish and evaluate professional development opportunities. Mrs. Blevins reviewed the report details and also provided an update on the upcoming 2026-2027 conferences, most of which are held annually. These conferences allow educators and personnel to expand their knowledge in their classrooms or fields of interest.

- Total points approved: 31,887
- Total college credits approved: 329
- Total certified employee IPDPs on file: 286

- Student Performance Data Review
  Mrs. Blevins reviewed the student performance data, student achievement data from the Spring 2026 Kansas English Language Proficiency Assessment (KELPA), and Kansas Assessment Program (KAP), which combines quantitative metrics (grades and test scores) with qualitative observations. By structuring this data, educators can easily spot mastered skills, target recurring learning gaps, and tailor specific interventions. This cycle involves setting baselines, tracking growth trends, and adjusting teaching strategies.
- Curriculum Meetings
  - Curriculum Steering Committee: Next meeting is 9/8/26
  - Professional Development Council (PDC): Next meeting is on 8/17/26

Business and Operations Report

Assistant Superintendent John Popp

- Budget Update
  Mr. Popp explained that the district mill rate fluctuates from year to year, and Mr. Popp expects the district to slightly exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR). The district will notify the county clerk of the tax rate that becomes the maximum rate for the district. A hearing to exceed the RNR will take place at the board meeting in August.
- Project Updates
  - ▪ The GBMS parking lot is complete. By removing the grassy strip, the parking lot is now larger, allowing easier access for vehicle parking and for buses to pull through. The drainage box, curb, and guttering have also been updated.
  - The GBHS HVAC project is going well and should be complete soon. This is a very complex project, and the vendor doing the work is doing a fine job.
  - Firepanel replacements are almost completed at GBHS, Park, Jefferson, and Riley Elementary Schools.
  - District Camera System – Park and Riley cameras installed. Their older cameras will be repurposed at Jefferson until new ones can be purchased.
  - Roofing Projects: Park, GBHS Gym, PAC/Fieldhouse connection area, is delayed a bid due to rain, but will be completed before school begins.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Khris Thexton

- Summer Meal Program
  The USD 428 School Food Service personnel facilitated and served meals for the Summer Meal program available to anyone 18 years old and younger. Numbers were up from last year, with the department serving 34,498 meals. The free meal program is available at Eisenhower, Jefferson, and Riley and concludes on July 24.
- Superintendent Evaluation Timeline
  Mr. Thexton outlined the timeline for the KASB-recommended superintendent evaluation process, which includes self-evaluation, goal setting, and gathering evidence related to those goals. The evaluation is being completed in stages, with completion expected in January. Ongoing summary

reports help the superintendent and the board evaluate and adjust district goals. The evaluation process is nearly a year long.

- Approval of Contributions
  The BOE approved the grants and contributions noted below.
  - Great Bend High School Activities Department wishes to accept the following contributions
  - GBHS Activities Baseball Reward Incentives $504.00 Wolfpack Printing
  - GBHS Activities $100.00 Great Bend Appliance
  - On behalf of the GBHS class of 2006, the GBHS Activities Department wishes to accept a $2,000 contribution to the football program to go towards the purchase of a memorial golf cart to use during games.

Financial Report

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

Approval of items by Consent Agenda

Board members approved the following items.

- Approval of BOE Meeting Minutes: June 8 and 30, 2026
- Acceptance of Bills and Financial Reports: As presented.
- Personnel Report:

Upcoming Events: Board members were reminded of the upcoming events.

- **2026-2027 School Year**: Enrollment- August 3-4, First Day of School- August 19, 2026
- **BOE Regular Meeting:** The next BOE regular monthly meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2026, at the District Education Center
- **BOE Luncheon Meeting:** Wednesday, August 26, 2026, at Park Elementary School

Adjournment

The Board of Education meeting was adjourned.