GREAT BEND
PUBLIC SCHOOLS • USD 428
Barton County, 1809 24th Street, Great Bend, Kansas 67530

# BOARD REPORT

**April 13, 2026** **5:00 p.m.**

## BOARD 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
  A recent tragedy in the community has been a challenge for both students and staff. President Jacquie Disquie stated that the Board of Education wishes to thank the counseling services that provided support during this difficult time. The community has come together, and the Board is grateful for the care, professionalism, and support shown towards students and one another.
- USD 428 Education Foundation
  Foundation trustees met to review and approve Mini Grants.

## Recognitions / Presentations

- JAG Presentation

The Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program collaborates with students to help them find a career path that aligns with their interests and skills, while also supporting them in overcoming challenges that could hinder their educational and career success. GBHS JAG students delivered a presentation to board members about their JAG experiences, the employer engagement framework, activities, and outcomes. The JAG group is led by Mrs. Angie Reed.

## First Reading of School Calendar

A review of the 2026-2027 school calendar and development of the 2027-2028 school calendar are being processed, and drafts are being presented for BOE review and input. Board members will review and approve the 2027-2028 calendar at the Second Reading in May.

## First Reading of 2026-2027 Handbooks: Student, Teacher, Athletics, and Activities Handbooks

In preparation for the upcoming school year, proposed changes to the 2026-2027 student and teacher handbooks and the athletics handbooks were presented to the BOE for consideration. GBMS Principal Myron Ellegood and GBHS Principal Brock Funke discussed the proposed changes to the secondary handbooks. LPP Principal Tandi Mai proposed preschool changes that supplement the elementary

handbook, which has no other proposed changes. The athletic and activities handbooks have no changes, except for dates, times, and coaching and sponsor staff. All proposed handbook changes will be returned to the BOE at the May meeting for BOE approval.

## Approval of GB Middle School Parking Lot

The Board reviewed a Request for Quote from concrete contractors to replace the parking lot paving at GB Middle School, including entrance approaches and associated curb and gutter improvements. The South sidewalk will be removed, allowing the lot to expand 6' to the south and providing more space for bus loading. Eakin Enterprises, Inc. was the only RFQ received, and the Board approved the lump-sum project cost quote of $145,702.00 and the additional silane-siloxane sealer for $13,334.00. The project will begin on July 6 and be completed by July 31, 2026.

## Approval of KASB Membership for 2026-2027

The BOE has utilized the Kansas Association of School Boards' services over the past year, receiving support with policy development, personnel, negotiations, school improvement, and legal services. The membership fee for 2026-2027 is $11,867.82, $83.63 higher than last year's rate. The district's 2025-2026 budget allocates funds for this expense. The Board approved the membership and the Legal Assistance Fund at $3,100, a $350 increase from last year. The total renewal cost is $14,967.82.

## Approval of JAG

The Board approved renewing the Partnership Agreement/MOU to extend the Jobs for America's Graduates-Kansas (JAG-K) program for the 2026-2027 middle and high school year. The 2026-2027 program costs $50,554 (avg. $16,851 per program), a $7,308 increase from 2025-2026. Below is a cost comparison over the past four years.

***2026-2027 - $50,554, (3 programs, $7,308increase from 25-26)*
***2025-2026 - $43,246, (3 programs, $4,996 increase from 24-25)*
***2024-2025 - $38,250 (3 programs, $4,590 increae from 23-24)*
***2023-2024 - $33,660 (3 programs, $4,590 increase from 22-23)*

## Approval of ESSDACK

Mr. Thexton provided details, and the Board approved the renewal of the three-year contract with the Educational Services and Staff Development Association of Central Kansas (ESSDACK) for the Barton County Academy Adult and Alternative virtual school programs. USD 428 serves as the certifying agent for the program, submitting student information to KSDE to receive reimbursement.

## Non-Resident Enrollment

Mr. Thexton discussed enrollment capacities for 2026-2027, nonresident enrollments, and the state-level policy that allows students to choose and transfer to a district of their preference rather than attend one based on their residence. Practical classroom capacities are determined by the 2025-2026 enrollment numbers, and applications from out-of-resident students must be submitted by June 15. Admission availability is established, and applicants are informed of their admission status in July. Elementary placement depends on the number of students at each school and determines where nonresident students will be assigned. This topic was for informational purposes only, and no action was required of the Board.

## Curriculum / Instruction Report

Assistant Superintendent JoAnn Blevins

- Preschool and Kindergarten Pre-Enrollment

The district's annual Preschool and Kindergarten Pre-Enrollment took place on Wednesday, April 8, from 5:00 to 7:30 pm at Little Panthers Preschool/District Education Center. 230 three and four-year-olds are pre-enrolled in preschool, and 149 future kindergartners are pre-enrolled.

- Curriculum Meeting
  - Curriculum Steering Committee: Next meeting 5/5/26
  - Professional Development Council (PDC) Minutes 4/6/26, Next meeting 5/4/26

## Business and Operations Report

Assistant Superintendent John Popp

- S2Q Qmlativ Migration Update

Mr. Popp provided an update on the S2Q Skyward Qmlativ migration. The implementation includes finance, employee access, importing third-party deduction and benefit data, staff planning, payroll, position management, professional development, substitute tracking, and time off.

- Project Updates

Board members and the administration discussed updates on the following projects.

- GBHS HVAC Project- Main offices will relocate near the FACS hallway to allow crews to complete the work.
- District Camera System – Park and Riley's new security cameras will be installed this summer. Park Elementary will be completed first.
- Roofing Projects: Park, GBHS Gym, PAC/Fieldhouse connection area, will be completed during the summer months. The Fieldhouse will be closed during the project, and Park summer school will be relocated to Jefferson.
- The GBMS Parking Lot bid was approved, and the project will begin on July 6 and be completed by the end of July.

## Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Khris Thexton

- Legislative Update

Mr. Thexton briefly discussed current House of Senate legislative bills potentially affecting public education.

- Cell Phone Law Guidance

Mr. Thexton briefly discussed House Bill 2299. The bill requires Kansas public schools and accredited private schools to prohibit the use of personal electronic devices on school premises during the school day. These devices include, but are not limited to, cell phones, tablets, computers, watches, wireless headphones or earbuds, text messaging devices, and personal digital assistants. Students' personal devices must be turned off and securely stored during the school day.

- Mini-Grant Update

The USD 428 Education Foundation reviewed twenty-five grant applications and selected twenty-two recipients. The Board approved mini-grant applications totaling $14,400.00. Two applications will be funded through other sources, and one was not approved due to a resignation. Grant winners will be invited to a reception on Wednesday, April 22, where the funded projects will be announced.

- Employee Recognition Banquet

Retiring employees and those with 25 years of service will be recognized at an annual banquet at the District Education Center on April 29, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

- Approval of Contributions

The BOE approved the grants and contributions noted below.

- Lincoln Elementary School wishes to accept a $370 contribution from Lincoln PTO for 6th-grade yearbook donations.
- GBMS Booster Club wishes to contribute $305.00 for 8th-grade recognition key chains and $1,249.00 towards the purchase of a popcorn machine.
- GBHS Community Service Day has received $7,905.00 in contributions from community businesses and members. In addition, 150 pairs of gloves and 30 cases of water have been donated.
- GBHS Special Education teacher Mrs. Amy Turner wishes to apply for and receive a grant of $250 from Midwest Energy.
- Great Bend High School Activities Department wishes to accept the following contributions

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| • GBHS Athletics Softball/Baseball | $1,000.00 | Mike Hesher |
| • GBHS Activities – Reward Incentives | $ 217.83 | Identifications Co. |
| • GBHS Softball program - Athletic gear | $1,102.84 | Panther Booster Club |

## Financial Report

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

## Consent Agenda

Board members approved the following items.

- Approval of BOE Meeting Minutes: March 9 and March 25, 2026
- Bills and Financial Reports: As presented.
- Personnel Report:

Licensed Resignations

- ✓ Mrs. Shelly Duvall, teacher of Physical Education at GB High School
- ✓ Ms. Michelle Geist, teacher of Grade 1 at Lincoln Elementary School

Licensed Appointments

- ✓ Ms. Emily Mooney, teacher of Grade 3 at Park Elementary School
- ✓ Ms. Jena Lynn, teacher of Elementary Digital Literacy
- ✓ Mr. Michael Marzolf, teacher of Computer Technology at GB Middle School
- ✓ Ms. Lauren Jordan, teacher of Grade 5 at Eisenhower Elementary School
- ✓ Mr. Davis Mick, teacher of Physical Education at Eisenhower Elementary School
- ✓ Mr. Ethan Wedel, teacher of Music at Lincoln Elementary School
- ✓ Mr. Christopher Engler, teacher of Kindergarten at Lincoln Elementary School
- ✓ Ms. Adriana Arras Rodriguez, teacher of Grade 1 at Lincoln Elementary School
- ✓ Ms. Haley Delgadillo, School Psychologist for Barton County Special Services

## Executive Session(s)

The Board recessed into executive session to discuss negotiated staff topics pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA. No action was taken after the session.

## Upcoming Events

Board members were reminded of the forthcoming events.

- IBB Session: The IBB team will meet for negotiations on Wednesday, April 15, 2026.
- BOE Luncheon Meeting: Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at Eisenhower Elementary School.
- Employee Recognition Banquet: Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the DEC.
- GBHS 2025 Graduation: May 10, 2026, at GBHS Memorial Stadium
- BOE Regular Meeting: The next BOE regular monthly meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2026, at the District Education Center.
- Last Day of School: Wednesday, May 13, 2026

## Adjournment

The Board of Education meeting was adjourned.