Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

August 10, 2026

Budget Publication Approved

The Board approved publication of the district's proposed 2026-27 budget and the notices required for the Revenue Neutral Rate hearing.

The proposed total mill levy is 57.425 mills. Most of the increase comes from voter-approved bond projects, not the district's regular operating budget.

Board members also reviewed the latest mill levy estimates. The Local Option Budget levy is now expected to be 14.875 mills, down from the earlier estimate of 17.000 mills.

Public hearings will be held Monday, Aug. 24, at Arkansas City Middle School:

- 5:15 p.m. Revenue Neutral Rate hearing
- 5:25 p.m. Budget hearing
- 5:30 p.m. Regular Board meeting

Community members may attend the hearings and provide public comment. The proposed budget will be published in the *Cowley CourierTraveler* and posted at usd470.com on Aug. 11.

Classified Handbook Approved

The Board approved several updates to the 2026-27 Classified Handbook. The changes cover attendance, paid and unpaid leave, bereavement leave, required training, resignations, and use of the district's Web Link HR portal.

Some of the same expectations will also be included in building guidebooks and will apply to certified staff when appropriate.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Resignations/Retirements:

- Deborah Badley – ESOL SAT at ACHS
- Henley Cole – Asst. Football Coach at ACMS
- Hannah Enderud – Part-time Custodian at ACHS
- Kaley Gallegos Mendoza – Intensive English SAT at Adams
- Titus Hale – Bus Driver
- Sherita LaCoss – Jefferson Lunch Clerk / Office Aide
- Keziah Navarrette – SAT at Adams
- Deborah Richardson – 4th Grade at C-4
- Michelle Williams – IXL PreK SAT

Hirings:

- Shawn Adkisson – ESOL SAT at ACMS
- Brooks Badart – Middle School Assistant Football Coach
- Katie Brooks – 1st Grade at Frances Willard
- Aleasha Carroll – SAT at Frances Willard
- Pete Fuller – Substitute Bus Driver
- Cadence Gregory – Bus Aide
- Kinsley McCauley – SAT at C-4
- Lauren McPherson – PreK SAT at C-4
- Briant Osborn – Middle School Assistant Football Coach
- Jessamyn Perin – SAT at IXL
- Natalie Phrakonekham – SAT at Adams
- Braylee Ruyle – ESOL SAT at ACMS
- Terri West – SAT at Frances Willard
- Kristal Wright – Bus Aide

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board approved the district's platforms for two-way communication, including USD 470 email, TalkingPoints, and approved Google for Education tools.
- The Board approved the ACHS Orchestra to begin planning and fundraising for a proposed Spring Break 2028 trip to Chicago. Final trip approval will come later.

- The Board gave the ACHS Orchestra approval to begin planning and fundraising for a possible Spring Break 2028 trip to Chicago. The trip itself will come back to the Board for final approval later.
- The Board approved the 2026-27 Substitute Handbook. Updates were limited to staff names and contact information, with no major changes to policies or procedures.
- The Board approved 2026-27 adult meal prices of $3.05 for breakfast and $5.21 for lunch, based on federal School Nutrition Program requirements.
- The Board accepted a $25 gift from ER PEO to the ACHS Choir.
- The Board reviewed the district's 2026-27 building needs assessments, which help identify priorities for curriculum, staffing, facilities, and student outcomes. The assessments also help guide the district's annual budget process.
- The Board reviewed a new districtwide guide for independent reading, created by a committee of teachers, administrators, librarians, and district staff. The guide sets consistent expectations while allowing flexibility based on student age and needs.
- The Board reviewed preliminary enrollment numbers for the 2026-27 school year. As of Aug. 5, 2,765 students were enrolled, compared with 2,803 at the end of last school year. Enrollment will continue to change as the school year gets underway.
- The Board discussed representation for the 2026 KASB Delegate Assembly, where member districts vote on KASB leadership and legislative priorities. USD 470 will designate a voting delegate and alternate delegate(s) for the November convention.