



Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

August 24, 2026

Before its regular meeting, the Board hosted a Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing and a Budget Hearing.

ACMS Special Report

The Board heard a special report from Arkansas City Middle School highlighting several efforts to support student growth and success. The update included a new daily monitored independent reading practice, changes to the school's Pup-Prep model that uses FastBridge data to provide targeted reading support, and the "Dogs WIN the Day" incentive program focused on work, integrity, and attendance.

USD 470 Budget Approved

The Board approved USD 470's 2026-27 budget as published. The budget includes an estimated total mill levy of 57.425 mills, including 14.55 mills for the voter-approved bond projects. Without the bond, the district's mill levy would be lower than last year.

The Supplemental General Fund, or LOB, rate also decreased from 16.586 mills last year to 14.875 mills for 2026-27.

As part of the budget process, the Board also reviewed building needs assessments and state assessment results to help make sure district resources are directed where students and schools need them most.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Hirings:

- Kari Bernhardt – Custodian at ACHS and new District Office location
- Candace Bump – Lunch Clerk at Jefferson
- Hetti Thompson – Custodian at ACMS
- Bertha Ortiz Villalobos – ESOL at ACHS
- Samantha Reyes – ESOL SAT at Adams
- Addison Rhodes – PreK SAT at IXL
- Natalie Shelton – PreK SAT at C-4

Reassignments/Transfers

- Savannah Schrant – ESOL SAT at Jefferson to Lunch Clerk at Jefferson

Resignations/Retirements:

- Misty Birdwell – ESOL at ACMS
- Candace Bump – Lunch Clerk at Jefferson
- Makynlee Hayes – SAT at Adams
- Lexi Hasty – SAT at IXL
- Becky Hill – Bus Driver
- Jaxon Jackson – Temporary Summer Mower
- D Kamier – Temporary Summer Mower
- Zephyr LeClair – Temporary Summer Mower
- Jessica Navarrette – SAT at IXL
- Trevor Pierce – Temporary Summer Painter
- Laynee Roberts – Temporary Summer Painter
- Colby Vardy – Temporary Summer Mower
- Brandi Webb – Security Guard

OTHER BUSINESS

- Ben Seaton addressed the Board during public comment and asked the district to consider moving to a four-day school week.
- The Board received an enrollment update. As of Aug. 19, district enrollment is 2,725 students, down from 2,765 reported at the Aug. 10 Board meeting. Elementary enrollment remains relatively stable, while middle and high school enrollment has decreased.
- The Board heard that the 2026-27 school year is off to a positive start, with

strong feedback from staff, students, families, and community members.

District leaders thanked employees across USD 470 for their work preparing for a successful opening.

- The Board heard that installation and programming of the new Bulldog Stadium scoreboard is complete, and it is ready for competition.
- The Board accepted donations of school supplies from Random Road Church, valued at \$40 for Roosevelt Elementary, and Mid America Credit Union, valued at \$1,038 for Jefferson Elementary.
- The Board approved the district's official 2024-25 State Assessment Review, which identifies barriers to student proficiency and recommended actions and resources to address those needs as part of the FY27 budget process.
- The Board designated Jon Oak as USD 470's voting delegate and Jamie Pieper as alternate for the KASB Delegate Assembly in November.
- The Board reviewed plans for the 2026-27 After-School Program, which will continue to provide academic support and hands-on enrichment for students. Grades 3-8 will use the MindCraft framework, while the high school program will focus on tutoring and academic support before and after school. The program will be funded through At-Risk funds.
- The Board went into Executive Session to discuss non-elected personnel.