

**Board of Education Agenda
Wichita Public Schools · USD 259
September 14, 2026 · 6:00 p.m.
Alvin E. Morris Administrative Center
903 S. Edgemoor · Wichita KS**



Wichita Public Schools will be the premier district of choice, and inspire each student and staff member to thrive and become future ready within the greater community.

I. Roll Call

- A. Moment of Silence
- B. Pledge of Allegiance – Southeast High School Color Guard

II. Public Hearing on the 2026-27 Intent to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate

Contact: Addi Lowell

Summary: State statute requires the Board to hold a public hearing on the intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate in the 2026-27 Budget. The purpose of the hearing is to hear and answer objections of taxpayers relating to the tax rate in mills in the proposed budget which exceeds the Revenue Neutral Rate provided by the Sedgwick County Clerk. The proposed budget documents and the Budget at a Glance are available for review online and at the Alvin E. Morris Administrative Center at 903 S. Edgemoor in Wichita. Members of the public who have registered to speak in accordance with requirements published in tonight's agenda may address the Board. Following receiving of statements by the public, the Board President will close the public hearing. The Board will have the opportunity to ask questions, if necessary, following the Public Hearing. A resolution authorizing a levy of property taxes to finance the 2026-27 budget exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate is required after the public hearing under K.S.A. 79-2988.

Recommendation: No action will be taken during the Public Hearing.

Speakers who want to address the Board during the Public Hearing on Revenue Neutral Rate may register to speak by calling the Clerk of the Board at 973-4553 by noon on the day of the BOE meeting, or they may register at the location of the BOE meeting until 10 minutes before the meeting begins. A speaker's comments will be limited to the budget, will not include personnel matters concerning district employees and/or matters that would violate the privacy of students, and will not exceed 3 minutes. Speakers will provide twelve (12) copies of any handouts to the Clerk of the Board's table for distribution at the Board table.

III. Public Hearing on 2026-27 Proposed Budget

Contact: Addi Lowell

Summary: State statute requires the Board to hold a public hearing on the proposed 2026-27 Budget. The purpose of the hearing is to hear and answer objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed budget and for purposes of considering amendments to the proposed budget. The proposed budget documents and the Budget at a Glance are available for review online and at the Alvin E. Morris Administrative Center at 903 S. Edgemoor in Wichita. Members of the public who have registered to speak in accordance with requirements published in tonight's agenda may

address the Board. Following receiving of statements by the public, the Board President will close the public hearing. The Board will have the opportunity to ask questions, if necessary, during the Finance presentation. The Board will be asked to adopt the 2026-27 Budget following the public hearing.

Recommendation: No action will be taken during the Public Hearing.

Speakers who want to address the Board during the Public Hearing on the Budget may register to speak by calling the Clerk of the Board at 973-4553 by noon on the day of the BOE meeting, or they may register at the location of the BOE meeting until 10 minutes before the meeting begins. A speaker's comments will be limited to the budget, will not include personnel matters concerning district employees and/or matters that would violate the privacy of students, and will not exceed 3 minutes. Speakers will provide twelve (12) copies of any handouts to the Clerk of the Board's table for distribution at the Board table.

IV. Presentations

A. Good News – Thriving Students and Staff

1. Recognizing Major Program Grants Awarded During the 2025-26 School Year

Presenter: Addi Lowell

Summary: Recognizing grants awarded last school year, including new grant partner United Way, providing an update on the Department of Energy grant and presenting the annual grant report.

2. National Merit Semifinalists

Presenter: Loren Hatfield

Summary: Wichita Public Schools is celebrating nine National Merit semifinalists.

3. West High School Students Artwork Selected

Presenter: Daren Hammond

Summary: Two West High School graphic design students were selected as winners for the Be Air Aware sticker design contest sponsored by the City of Wichita.

B. United Teachers of Wichita

C. Service Employees International Union

V. Public Communications

A member of the public (speaker) may address the Board during the Public Communications section of the BOE Agenda. Comments by public speakers made during the Public Communications will be limited to items on the BOE Agenda or items within the jurisdiction of the Board. The number of speakers who speak during Public Communications will not exceed ten. A speaker, in lieu of speaking during Public Communications, may speak during an agenda item. Comments during an agenda item will be limited to the topic of the agenda item. Speakers may register to speak by calling the Clerk of the Board at 973-4553 by noon on the day of the BOE meeting, or they may register at the location of the BOE meeting until 10 minutes before the meeting begins. When registering to speak, a speaker will identify the topic the speaker wishes to address. A speaker's comments at a meeting will not exceed 3 minutes, will be limited to the registered topic, and will not include personnel matters concerning district employees and/or matters that would violate the privacy of students. Speakers will provide twelve (12) copies of any handouts to the Clerk of the Board for distribution at the Board table. For more information and restrictions, please see BOE Policy 0200 - BOE Agendas and Meetings.

VI. Superintendent's Report

VII. Education – Strategic Plan

A. Strategic Plan Update: High School Academic Growth

Diligent 7.1

Contact: Loren Hatfield

Purpose: This report will review the high school academic growth strategic plan goal baseline data on ACT, ACT WorkKeys, and ASVAB from the Class of 2026.

Recommendation: This strategic plan update is for the Board's information.

VIII. Reports

A. 2026-27 Budget Report and Adoption

Appendix 1

Diligent 8.1

Contact: Addi Lowell

Funding Source: N/A

Purpose: Administration will provide a final presentation of the proposed 2026-27 budget, including information relating to the annual Needs Assessment and State Assessment evaluation and use in the budget approval process.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the board adopt the Revenue Neutral Rate Resolution, the Local Option Budget (LOB) Resolution, and the 2026-27 Budget as presented.

B. 2026 Bond Update

Diligent 8.2

Contact: Gil Alvarez

Purpose: This presentation will provide the Board of Education with a general update and community engagement efforts on progress related to the 2026 bond proposal.

Recommendation: This presentation is for the Board's information only. No action is requested.

IX. Consent

A. Human Resources

1. Human Resources Report

Appendix 2

Diligent 9.1

Contact: Stephen Christian

Purpose: Report

Recommendation: Board approval.

B. Finance

1. Treasury Warrants: July and August 2026

Appendix 3

Diligent 9.2

Contact: Addi Lowell

Funding Source: N/A; 2026-27 Budget

Purpose: Monthly Report

Recommendation: Board approval.

2. Monthly Finance Report: July and August 2026

Appendix 4

Diligent 9.3

Contact: Addi Lowell

Funding Source: N/A; 2026-27 Budget

Purpose: This is a monthly report to the Board on the budget and finances of the district.

Recommendation: The report is provided for the Board's information. No action is requested.

3. 457 Amendment/Restatement for Secure 2.0

Appendix 5

Diligent 9.4

Contact: Addi Lowell

Funding Source: N/A

Purpose: Today's agenda includes a resolution adopting an amendment to the district's 457(b) retirement plan. IRS rules require that the 457(b) Plan Document be updated to implement changes contained in the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement 2.0 Act of 2022 ("SECURE 2.0"); the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019 ("SECURE"), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, And Economic Security Act ("CARES") and the Bipartisan American Miners Act ("BAMA" as enacted in Division M of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019). The Amendment acts as a plan restatement.

Resolution 2026-09-14-03 is to adopt the provisions set forth in the Amendment as provided by Empower, who assists with plan administration.

Recommendation: It is recommended the Board adopt Resolution 2026-09-14-03 provided in Appendix.

4. Capitol Strategies Agreement (Renewal)

Diligent 9.5

Contact: Kelly Bielefeld

Funding Source: General Fund; 2026-27 Budget

Purpose: The purpose of this item is to renew our contract with Capitol Strategies, a government relations firm based in Topeka, Kansas. The district has partnered with Capitol Strategies since 2017, with Capitol Strategies representing USD 259 interests both during the legislative session and throughout the year with legislative representatives.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board approve renewal of the contract for the 2026-27 fiscal year with Capitol Strategies for government relations services in an amount of \$6,166 per month plus expenses, not to exceed \$78,000, which represents no cost increase for the last five years.

5. FY27 Schools for Fair Funding Membership Dues

Diligent 9.6

Contact: Kelly Bielefeld

Funding Source: Supplemental General/Local Option Budget; 2026-27 Budget

Purpose: As a member of Schools For Fair Funding (SFFF), the District in the past provided funds to SFFF that were used by SFFF and its members to pursue litigation in state and appellate courts to compel the state legislature to fund Kansas schools in an equitable and adequate manner, as required by Article 6 of the Constitution of the State of Kansas. Litigation effectively concluded in June of 2019, with the Kansas Supreme

Court's holding that legislative efforts in 2017, 2018, and 2019 had achieved constitutionally-required minimums. Since then, SFFF has continued to monitor school finance-related developments to ensure continued compliance with the school funding formula. This agenda item requests approval of payment of the District's membership assessment in the amount of \$56,780.88.

Recommendation: It is recommended the board approve and authorize the President to pay an amount not to exceed \$56,780.88 as membership dues to SFFF.

6. 403(b) Adoption Agreement Resolution for Secure 2.0

Appendix 6

Diligent 9.7

Contact: Addi Lowell

Funding Source: N/A

Purpose: Today's agenda includes a resolution adopting a restated plan document for the 403(b) retirement plan. IRS rules require that the 403(b) Plan Document be updated to implement changes contained in the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement 2.0 Act of 2022 ("SECURE 2.0"); the Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement Act of 2019 ("SECURE"), the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, And Economic Security Act ("CARES") and the Bipartisan American Miners Act ("BAMA" as enacted in Division M of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019).

Resolution 2026-09-14-04 is to adopt the provisions set forth in the Amendment as provided by US Omni and TSACG Compliance Services, who assist with plan administration.

Recommendation: It is recommended the Board adopt Resolution 2026-09-14-04 provided in the appendix.

C. Facilities

1. Facilities Consent

Appendix 7

Diligent 9.8

Contact: Steve Noble

Purpose: Report

Recommendation: Board approval.

Summary:

Description of Products/Services	Amount	Responsible Party
1. Hadley K-8 – Long-Lead HVAC Equipment Purchase	~~\$1,156,780~~ \$1,196,790	Steve Noble
2. K-8 – Design Services – Furniture Standard Development	\$29,500	Steve Noble
3. Structural Repairs at North High School – Construction Manager at Risk – GMP #5	\$7,128,165	Steve Noble
4. Owner's Representative Services – November 2026 Bond Program	\$689,192	Steve Noble
5. School Service Center – Operational Space Alignment	\$121,325	Steve Noble
6. East High School – Design Services - Exterior Restoration Phase 5	\$108,500	Steve Noble
7. United States Department of Energy Renew	\$18,669,128	Steve Noble

America's Schools Grant – Budget Period 2

2. Carpenter Stadium – Press Box Roof Damage

Diligent 9.9

Contact: Stephen Christian

Funding Source: 49 Fund – Self Funded Insurance Reserve; 2026-27 Budget

Purpose: On January 8, 2026, high winds damaged the press box roof at South High School's Carpenter Stadium. Reconstruction Services, Inc. was retained to perform necessary repairs.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board approve an amount not to exceed \$145,000 to be paid to Reconstruction Services, Inc. for repairs at Carpenter Stadium

D. Operations

1. Student Safety and Wellness Monitoring Software – Securly Aware

Diligent 9.10

Contact: Rob Dickson

Funding Source: Capital Outlay and Supplemental General; 2026-27 Budget

Purpose: Securly Aware is a student safety and wellness monitoring platform currently utilized by the district's Safety Services administrative team to identify potential student safety concerns through the analysis of online activity. The system generates alerts based on flagged online searches, allowing staff to review and respond to possible indicators of student risk.

Continuing the use of Securly Aware will support Safety Services, administrators, and support staff by enabling timely awareness and response to student needs. This proactive monitoring enhances the district's ability to maintain a safe and supportive learning environment while strengthening student well-being efforts. The platform improves efficiency in identifying and reviewing potential concerns and supports district expectations for student safety and response protocols.

Recommendation: It is recommended the Board of Education approve the purchase and continued use of Securly Aware from CDW Government in an amount not to exceed \$36,500 for the 2026–27 school year. Securly Aware is used to be bundled into our existing contract but now is a separate item.

2. Purchasing Consent – Annual Renewals

Appendix 8

Diligent 9.11

Purpose: Report

Recommendation: Board approval.

Summary

Description of Products/Services	Amount	Responsible Party
1. Athletic Charter Bus	\$125,000.00	Loren Hatfield
2. Translation Services	\$80,000.00	Rachel Bell
3. Microsoft School Service Agreement	\$1,950,000.00	Rob Dickson
4. Ticketing Software	\$196,340.71	Rob Dickson
5. User Licenses for Oracle PBSC & EPRCS	\$37,864.80	Rob Dickson
6. Security Services	\$500,000.00	Terri Moses

7. Behavior Threat Case Management System	\$58,667.00	Terri Moses
8. Weather Monitoring and Notification Services	\$21,275.76	Fabian Armendariz
9. Student Transportation Services Contract Amendment		Fabian Armendariz
10. Recycling and Shredding Services	\$115,000.00	Fabian Armendariz

3. Purchasing Consent

Appendix 9

Diligent 9.12Purpose: ReportRecommendation: Board approval.Summary

Description of Products/Services	Amount	Responsible Party
1. North High Wrestling Mats	\$35,000.00	Loren Hatfield
2. Two-Way Radios & Accessories	\$125,000.00	Terri Moses
3. Robot Auto scrubber	\$114,752.00	Steve Nobel
4. Food – July 2026	\$3,298,755.47	Fabian Armendariz
5. Food - August 2026	\$376,835.82	Fabian Armendariz
6. Cafeteria, Classroom, Office Furniture & Supplies – August 2026	\$31,606.34	Fabian Armendariz
7. Supply Warehouse Stock – July 2026	\$346,569.36	Fabian Armendariz
8. Supply Warehouse Stock – August 2026	\$181,257.02	Fabian Armendariz
9. Facilities Shop Stock – August 2026	\$48,214.76	Steve Noble
10. HVAC Parts and Supplies – July-August 2026	\$72,866.28	Steve Noble
11. Bulk Technology	\$2,070,887.00	Rob Dickson
12. Audio Visual Equipment, Printer, Accessories & Software Aug 2026	\$39,460.00	Rob Dickson

E. Renewals

1. Destination Innovation (Renewal)

Diligent 9.13

Contact: Gil Alvarez

Funding Source: General Fund; 2026-27 Budget

Purpose: Destination Innovation, Inc., formerly known as Rise Up for Youth/RUFY, provides one-on-one mentoring and accountability relationships for district students. Two core components of the program are Brotherhood and Sisterhood, mentoring programs for youth ages 14-18 designed to promote education, motivation, healthy lifestyle choices, and positive life outcomes. Students are referred to the program and partner with Destination Innovation staff who provide guidance, support, and accountability where there may be gaps in a student's experience. The organization currently serves students in eight Wichita Public Schools high schools: East, Heights, North, Northeast, South, Southeast, Sowers, and West.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board approve the agreement with Destination Innovation, Inc. to provide mentoring and accountability programs at eight

high schools in an amount not to exceed \$21,000.

2. The Pando Initiative (Renewal)

Diligent 9.14

Contact: Holly Ingram

Funding Source: Federal Funds and State At Risk, 2026-27 Budget

Purpose: The Pando Initiative works with at-risk youth to learn, stay in school and prepare for life by connecting these students with community resources. The Pando and district support staff form a multi-disciplinary team to offer at-risk students and their family access to services needed to address social, educational, health and emotional challenges. Pando's goals directly support all three district goals at all grade levels. The following schools are renewals for the 2025-2026 school year; Cloud, Colvin, Harry Street, Jackson, Jefferson, Lawrence, Stanley, Woodman, Franklin, White, Washington Hamilton, Marshall, Truesdell, Curtis, Pleasant Valley Middle, North, Southeast, and West. New additions for the 2026-27 school year include; Linwood, Mueller, Gardiner, Beech, Coleman, and Mead.

Recommendation: The recommendation is that the Board authorize the district to enter into an agreement with The Pando Initiative for contracted services to support student growth in the amount not to exceed \$1,441,000.

3. Peacekeeper Training (Renewal)

Diligent 9.15

Contact: Gil Alvarez

Funding Source: Federal Funds; 2026-2027 Budget Year

Purpose: To support the district goal of safety and belonging, a handful of Title I school improvement middle schools have elected to engage in the Peacekeeper training to help strengthen Restorative Practices among the student body. The training empowers students to gain the skills to use conflict resolution skills with their peers. This item proposes a one-year contract to implement the program at; Robinson, Wilbur and College Hill and continued support to; Hamilton, Curtis, Pleasant Valley, Coleman and Truesdell.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board authorize the district to enter into an agreement with Restorative Practices Consultants, LLC for Peacekeeper Training and support, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.

4. Untamed Athletes (Renewal)

Diligent 9.16

Contact: Holly Ingram

Funding Source: Federal Funds; 2026-27 Budget

Purpose: Untamed Athletes provides intense mentoring and support services to at-risk youth identified by school staff as needing individual, school-based mentoring and goal setting. Students meet regularly with their mentor and in a group setting to help provide peer support. The focus is on prosocial skills, goal setting, academic improvement and behavior modifications. All schools participating are identified as Schools on Improvement. Renewal schools are Bryant, Enterprise, Linwood, Stucky, CHET and Gateway. New schools - Anderson and Spaght.

Recommendation: It is recommended that Board authorize the district to enter into a contract for services agreement with Untamed Athletes, in an amount not to exceed \$307,500.

5. Mental Health Intervention Team (Renewal)

Diligent 9.17

Contact: Vince Evans

Funding Source: Federal Funds; 2026-27 Budget

Purpose: In 2026, the Kansas Legislature renewed the Mental Health Intervention Team Program (MHIT) grant for 2026-2027. The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) manages the program and has selected the Wichita Public Schools as a recipient of the grant. This is the seventh consecutive year that WPS has been selected. One of the requirements for the grant is that the district must have agreements with Sedgwick County through Comcare and with TAG Treatment Center, LLC, d/b/a Therapeutic Alliance Group (TAG) who will provide mental health services for students. Under the agreement, compensation to Comcare will not exceed \$451,412 and compensation to TAG will not exceed \$90,956. The grant will fund all compensation that will be paid to Comcare and TAG.

Recommendation: It is recommended the Board approve the contract for mental health services between Sedgwick County and the district in an amount not to exceed \$451,412 and TAG and the District in an amount not to exceed \$90,956., as provided in the appendix.

F. Agreements, Fees, Services, Settlements

1. Legal Services: Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch, LLC and McDonald Tinker PA

Diligent 9.18

Contact: Stephen Christian

Funding Source: 49 Fund – Risk Management Reserve Fund, 42 Fund – Special Liability, 52 Fund – Workers' Compensation Reserve Fund; 2026-27 Budget

Purpose: Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch, LLC have submitted a statement for July 2026 legal services and expenses for Civil Litigation in the amount of \$28,106.80.

McDonald Tinker PA have submitted a statement for July 2026 legal services and expenses for Workers' Compensation in the amount of \$17,044.22.

This brings the 2026-27 fiscal year-to-date total to \$28,106.80 for Civil Litigation services and \$17,044.22 for Workers' Compensation services.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board authorize payment for legal services and expenses for Civil Litigation and Workers' Compensation under the school district's self-insured programs for July 2026 in the amount of \$28,106.80 to Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch, LLC and the amount of \$17,044.22 to McDonald Tinker PA.

2. Workers' Compensation Settlement: [S.S.]

Diligent 9.19

Contact: Stephen Christian

Funding Source: 52 Fund; 2026-2027 Budget

Purpose: S.S. sustained an injury to the right shoulder during their employment with USD 259 on August 22, 2024. A settlement order has been issued for \$30,060.00 as the Award for this litigated case. This does not close out future medical on this claim, nor does it include a global release.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board approve this agreed upon award for S.S.'s 2024 work injury totaling in the amount of \$30,060.00.

3. Workers' Compensation Settlement: [J.S.]

Diligent 9.20

Contact: Stephen Christian

Funding Source: 52 Fund; 2026-2027 Budget

Purpose: J.S. sustained an injury to the left lower leg during their employment with USD 259 on August 14, 2024. A settlement order has been issued for \$40,000.00 as the final settlement for this litigated case. This does close out future medical on this claim but does not include a global release.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Board approve this agreed upon award for J.S.'s 2024 work injuries totaling in the amount of \$40,000.00.

G. Routine Items

1. BOE Meeting Minutes for August 7, 2026 Board Workshop

Appendix 10

Diligent 9.21

Contact: Litona Hoyt

Purpose: The BOE Meeting Minutes for the August 7, 2026 Board Workshop are attached in the Appendix.

Recommendation: Board approval.

2. BOE Meeting Minutes for August 10, 2026 Board Meeting

Appendix 11

Diligent 9.22

Contact: Litona Hoyt

Purpose: The BOE Meeting Minutes for the August 10, 2026 Board Meeting are attached in the Appendix.

Recommendation: Board approval.

3. BOE Meeting Minutes for August 28, 2026 Board Workshop

Appendix 12

Diligent 9.23

Contact: Litona Hoyt

Purpose: The BOE Meeting Minutes for the August 28, 2026 Board Workshop are attached in the Appendix.

Recommendation: Board approval.

4. Resolution: Alignment of BOE Policies (Renewal)

Appendix 13

Diligent 9.24

Contact: Kelly Bielefeld

Funding Source: N/A

Purpose: The proposed Resolution 2026-09-14-05 authorizes the Superintendent to approve limited revisions to the Administrative Implemental Procedures (AIPs) and Administrative Responsibility of BOE Policies that relate to the organizational chart, other staff positions noted in AIPs, standard district terminology, building addresses, cross-referencing, and renumbering of policies. The revisions will help the Board, district staff, and the public understand policies according to the current organization. Upon approval by the Superintendent, the Clerk of the Board will publish all revised policies on the BOE Policies web site and send updates to Board members, Administration, principals, and school office staff. Board Counsel has reviewed the proposed Resolution.

Recommendation: It is recommended the Board approve Resolution 2026-09-14-05: Alignment of BOE Policies, as provided in the appendix.

H. Board Policies

1. Board Policies - Various

Appendix 14

Diligent 9.25

Contact: Litona Hoyt

Funding Source: N/A

Purpose: The following board policies are recommended for updates.

- P6105 Experimental Instructional Materials - to remove the reference for a position.
- P7350 School Trips and Transportation - changes to align with current district practices.
- P1220 Eligibility of Students on Special Assignments - to update language to reflect current KSHSAA policies.
- P6730 Social Studies Education - changes to align with current district practices.

Recommendation: Board approval.

X. **Action**

A. P1413 – Coordination with the WPS Foundation

Appendix 15

Diligent 10.1

Contact: Addi Lowell

Purpose: Presented for discussion at the last regular board meeting was new policy 1413 Coordination with the WPS Foundation which establishes guidelines to ensure coordination and transparency between WPS and WPS Foundation, providing a framework for collaboration that supports the district's educational mission which maintaining accountability, legal compliance, and appropriate organizational independence.

Recommendation: Board approval.

XI. **Reports and Requests**

A. New Business and Board of Education Requests

XII. **Adjournment**