

DURANT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

Durant School District, I-72, Bryan County, Oklahoma

Central Administration Office Conference Room

Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 12:00 PM

I. Call to Order

President

II. Roll Call

Clerk of the Board

Attendance Taken at 12:00 PM.

Jason Manous: Present

Joyce Northcutt: Present

Chaz Polk: Absent

Casey Powers: Present

Janie Umsted: Absent

III. Approval of the Consent Calendar**

Motion to approve items III.A. through III.H. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Casey Powers, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Absent

Casey Powers: Yea

Janie Umsted: Absent

Yea: 3, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

III.A. Agenda

III.B. Minutes:

III.B.1. July 13, 2026, Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

III.C. Treasurer's Report

III.D. Activity Accounts Report

III.E. Financial Reports

III.F. Encumbrances

III.F.1. Fiscal '27 General Fund Numbers 270377-270478 in the Amount of \$386,669.10

III.F.2. Fiscal '27 Building Fund Numbers 270400 in the Amount of \$1,500.00

III.F.3. Fiscal '27 Child Nutrition Fund Numbers 270383-270464 in the Amount of \$22,564.62

III.F.4. Fiscal '27 Bond Fund Numbers 270386-270452 in the Amount of \$152,776.88

III.G. Child Nutrition Claim for Reimbursement

III.H. Transfer Capacity

IV. Reports:

None

V. Comments from the Public (Pursuant to District Policy 2240, a copy of which is available upon request, Comments can be made only by District Patrons concerning items listed on the Agenda)

None

VI. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve Sanctioning of the Athletic, Band, Choir and FFA Booster Clubs for the 2026-2027 School Year.

Approval is recommended of sanctioning the Athletic, Band, Choir and FFA Booster Clubs for the 2026-2027 school year. Motion to approve. This motion, made by Casey Powers and seconded by Jason Manous, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Absent

Casey Powers: Yea

Janie Umsted: Absent

Yea: 3, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

VII. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve the Following Contracts for the 2026-2027 School Year

Approval is recommended of the contracts listed below. Motion to approve items VII.A through VII.C. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Casey Powers, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Absent

Casey Powers: Yea

Janie Umsted: Absent

Yea: 3, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

VII.A. Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education

VII.B. Doug McMillan, Psychological Services for the Durant School District

VII.C. 4M - Janitorial Services

VIII. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve the Superintendent's Recommendations for the Consideration and Adoption of the Following New, Revised or Repealed Policies

Approval is recommended for the following policies listed below, required and recommended by the attorneys at Rosenstein, Fist & Ringold. Motion to approve items VIII.A. through VIII.S. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Casey Powers, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Absent

Casey Powers: Yea

Janie Umsted: Absent

Yea: 3, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

VIII.A. Policy 6280 - Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation and Trafficking - Revision

VIII.B. New - Artificial Intelligence

VIII.C. Policy 4130 - Criminal Records Searches - Revision

VIII.D. Policy 6470.5 - Disciplinary Removal of Children with Disabilities - Revision

VIII.E. New - Employment of Retired TRS

VIII.F. Policy 5120 - Length of the School Year - Revision

VIII.G. Policy 6580 - Personal Wireless Devices and Electronic Accounts - Revision

VIII.H. Policy 4780 - School Personnel Digital and Electronic Communications with Students - Revision

VIII.I. Policy 6110 - Student Residency - Revision

VIII.J. Policy 6170 - Student Transfers - Revision

VIII.K. Policy 4400 - Support Personnel Leave - Revision

VIII.L. Policy 5450 - Testing Program - Revision

VIII.M. Policy 6680 - Wellness - Revision

VIII.N. Policy 4560 - Suspension, Dismissal and Nonreemployment of Teachers - Revision

VIII.O. Policy 5480 - Open Records - Revision

VIII.P. Policy ~~4430~~ 4330 - Certified Employee Leave - Revision

VIII.Q. Policies 4340, 4350, 4360, 4370, 4380 and 4390 - Repeal

VIII.R. Policy 6690 - Educational Services for Students Under Section 504 and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act - Revision

VIII.S. Policies 6690.1, 6690.2, 6690.3, 6690.4 - Repeal

IX. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Approve or Not Approve an Easement Interest for Property, a Strip, Piece or Parcel of Land Located in part of the SE/4 of Section 17, T-6-S, R-9-E, IM, Bryan County, Oklahoma, Being More Particularly Described by Metes and Bounds as Follows: Commencing from the Southeast Corner of Said Section 17 and Bearing S 89°23'09"W, a Distance of 884.03 Feet to a Point on the South Line of said Southeast Quarter; Thence N 00°36'51" W, a Distance of 50.00 Feet to the Point of Beginning; Thence S 89°23'09" W, a Distance of 9.26 Feet; Thence N 45°36'51" W, a Distance of 26.87 Feet; Thence S 89°23'09" W, a Distance of 90.76 Feet; Thence N 00°36'51" W, a Distance of 15.00 Feet; Thence N 89°23'09" E, a Distance of 96.97 Feet; Thence S 45°36'51" E, a Distance of 26.87 Feet; Thence N 89°23'09" E, a Distance of 3.05 Feet; Thence S 00°36'51" E, a Distance of 15.00 Feet to the Point of Beginning. Containing an Area of 0.04 Acres, More or Less and Commencing from the Southeast Corner of Said Section 17 and Bearing S 89°23'09" W, a Distance of 884.03 Feet to a Point on the South Line of Said Southeast Quarter; Thence N 00°36'51" W, a Distance of 65.00 Feet; Thence S 89°23'09" W, a Distance of 3.05 Feet to the Point of the Beginning; Thence N 45°36'51" W, a Distance of 26.87 Feet; Thence N 89°23'09" E, a Distance of 19.00 Feet; Thence S 00°36'51" E, a Distance of 19.00 Feet to the Point of the Beginning, Containing an Area of 0.004 Acres, More or Less.

Approval is recommended of an Easement Interest for Property, a Strip, Piece or Parcel of Land Located in part of the SE/4 of Section 17, T-6-S, R-9-E, IM, Bryan County, Oklahoma, Being More Particularly Described by Metes and Bounds as Follows: Commencing from the Southeast Corner of Said Section 17 and Bearing S 89°23'09"W, a Distance of 884.03 Feet to a Point on the South Line of said Southeast Quarter; Thence N 00°36'51" W, a Distance of 50.00 Feet to the Point of Beginning; Thence S 89°23'09" W, a Distance of 9.26 Feet; Thence N 45°36'51" W, a Distance of 26.87 Feet; Thence S 89°23'09" W, a Distance of 90.76 Feet; Thence N 00°36'51" W, a Distance of 15.00 Feet; Thence N 89°23'09" E, a Distance of 96.97 Feet; Thence S 45°36'51" E, a Distance of 26.87 Feet; Thence N 89°23'09" E, a Distance of 3.05 Feet; Thence S 00°36'51" E, a Distance of 15.00 Feet to the Point of Beginning. Containing an Area of 0.04 Acres, More or Less and Commencing from the Southeast Corner of Said Section 17 and Bearing S 89°23'09" W, a Distance of 884.03 Feet to a Point on the South Line of Said Southeast Quarter; Thence N 00°36'51" W, a Distance of 65.00 Feet; Thence S 89°23'09" W, a Distance of 3.05 Feet to the Point of the Beginning; Thence N 45°36'51" W, a Distance of 26.87 Feet; Thence N 89°23'09" E, a Distance of 19.00 Feet; Thence S 00°36'51" E, a Distance of 19.00 Feet to the Point of the Beginning, Containing an Area of 0.004 Acres, More or Less. Motion to approve. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Casey Powers, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Absent

Casey Powers: Yea

Janie Umsted: Absent

Yea: 3, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

X. Consideration and Vote on Personnel Recommendations

Other recommendations and resignations are pending, and if available, may be brought to the meeting

Motion to approve items X.A. through X.F. This motion, made by Jason Manous and seconded by Casey Powers, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Absent

Casey Powers: Yea

Janie Umsted: Absent

Yea: 3, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

X.A. Resignations Received Since the Last Meeting of the Board of Education

Certified-Thomas James, Durant High School
Certified – Karissa Nabors, Washington Irving Elementary
Support – Grace Krueger, Durant Intermediate School
Support – Rebecca Reeve, Durant Intermediate School
Support – Shelley Allen, Durant Intermediate School
Support – Rylee Richardson, George Washington Elementary
Support – James Dunn, Washington Irving Elementary
Addison Couch – Durant Middle School

X.B. Designation of Adjunct Faculty for the 2026-2027 School Year – List Attached

X.C. Employment of Certified Personnel for the 2026-2027 School Year

X.C.1. Director of Curriculum for Durant Public Schools, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Taylor Downs

X.C.2. Principal at Northwest Heights Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – (Mary) Mellissa Sherrer

X.C.3. Assistant Principal at Northwest Heights Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Gena Smith

X.C.4. Special Education Teacher for Durant Public Schools, Part-Time, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Lou Ann Mullens

X.C.5. Special Education Instructor at Durant High School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Ryan Krueger

X.C.6. Job Coach at Durant High School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Alissa Andrews

X.C.7. Geography Teacher at Durant Middle School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Jon Shepard

X.C.8. Physical Education Teacher at Durant Intermediate School and Assistant Coach for Softball and Basketball at Durant High School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Madison Jones

X.C.9. Fifth Grade Science Teacher at Durant Intermediate School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Melanie Thomas

X.C.10. First Grade Teacher at Washington Irving Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Leigha Myers

X.C.11. Third Grade Teacher at Washington Irving Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Olivia Bench

X.C.12. First Grade Teacher at Washington Irving Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Sheila Cox

X.D. Employment of Support Personnel for the 2026-2027 School Year

X.D.1. Licensed Professional Counselor for Durant Public Schools, Part-Time Timesheet One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Marla Hill

X.D.2. Special Education Teacher Assistant at Durant High School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Angela Brown

X.D.3. Special Education Teacher Assistant at Durant High School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Emerson Guizar

X.D.4. Special Education Teacher Assistant at Durant Middle School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Crystal DaVault

X.D.5. Special Education Teacher Assistant at Durant Middle School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Tyler Wesley

X.D.6. Graduate Assistant (Cheerleading Coaching Position) at Durant Middle School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Savannah Wells

X.D.7. Teacher Assistant/Recess Aide at Durant Intermediate School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Ali Hernandez

X.D.8. Special Education Teacher Assistant at Durant Intermediate School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Brenna Tuttle

X.D.9. Special Education Teacher Assistant at Durant Intermediate School, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Johnathun Atwood

X.D.10. Support Staff/Adjunct Teacher in the Area of STEM / Elementary Education-1600, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Joyce Ned

- X.D.11.** Special Education Teacher Assistant at Northwest Heights Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Breanna Angel
- X.D.12.** Kindergarten Teacher Assistant at Northwest Heights Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Danielle Lewis
- X.D.13.** Special Education Teacher Assistant at Northwest Heights Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Michelle Torres
- X.D.14.** Special Education Teacher Assistant at Northwest Heights Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Summer Kane
- X.D.15.** Special Education Teacher Assistant at Washington Irving Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Anna Harrington
- X.D.16.** Special Education Teacher Assistant at Washington Irving Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Brooks Dowling
- X.D.17.** Kindergarten Teacher Assistant at George Washington Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Hannah Percell
- X.D.18.** Special Education Teacher Assistant at George Washington Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Lila Barnes
- X.D.19.** Special Education Teacher Assistant at George Washington Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Carlee Matlock
- X.D.20.** Special Education Teacher Assistant at George Washington Elementary, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Abbey Busbey-Bledsoe
- X.D.21.** Special Education Pre-Kindergarten Teacher Assistant at Robert E. Lee ECC, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Baileigh Fisher
- X.D.22.** Special Education Pre-Kindergarten Teacher Assistant at Robert E. Lee ECC, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year (Duration of Need) – Chelsie Kulig
- X.D.23.** Transportation Employee, Bus Driver (6-Hour Position) for Durant Public Schools, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Benjamin Keeling
- X.D.24.** Transportation Employee, Bus Driver (3-Hour Position) for Durant Public Schools, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – Randy Norman
- X.D.25.** Transportation Employee, Bus Driver (Trip/Sub Position) for Durant Public Schools, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – James Platt
- X.D.26.** Transportation Employee, Bus Driver (Part-Time Position) for Durant Public Schools, One-Year Temporary Position for the 2026-2027 School Year – David Young

X.E. Employment of DISD Students through the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services Transition Work Study Program for the 2026-2027 School Year

Sarah Belcher	Rowdy Robinson	Carson Allen	Akira Spock
Shauna Berley	Jayden Harley	Logan Henning	Trey Smith
Dillon Shearin	Emalynn Taylor	Skyler Van Duren	Edurado Alejo
Andelina Torres	Ariella Prock		

X.F. Additions to the Lists of Substitutes for the 2026-2027 School Year - None

XI. Discussion, Consideration and Vote on Items of New Business

None

XII. Comments from the Superintendent

Mr. Moring shared highlights from the district's Back-to-School Bash, which brought together approximately 450 teachers and support staff, including cafeteria, custodial, maintenance, and transportation employees. He thanked First United Bank for providing Chick-fil-A and the Chamber of Commerce for providing drinks and other support. The event featured a teacher from New Jersey who spoke about the importance of being "all in" and fully committed to students, colleagues, families, and the work of education. The message resonated with staff, and "All In" will serve as a district motto moving forward. The superintendent also thanked the First United Methodist Church for hosting a teacher luncheon.

The district then recognized Kasey Bennett, Oklahoma State Teacher of the Year, who was unable to attend the previous meetings because of her statewide responsibilities. Mrs. Bennett is a K-4 STEM educator at Northwest Heights Elementary with 14 years of experience. She holds a master's degree in school administration and multiple teaching and administrative certifications. She has presented at state education conferences and has been recognized for her excellence in STEM education.

Mr. Moring praised Mrs. Bennett's approach to STEM, emphasizing that she focuses on creativity, hands-on learning, problem-solving, and students creating things, rather than simply using technology. He described her as an exceptional educator and a joy to work with.

Mrs. Bennett shared that her year as Oklahoma Teacher of the Year will involve extensive travel throughout the state. She has already visited schools, delivered keynote presentations, and participated in professional development. She will also take part in a STEM exchange, visiting classrooms and working with teachers to share ideas and best practices. She is working with colleges to encourage future teachers and plans to emphasize that educators can overcome difficult challenges both personally and professionally.

Mrs. Bennett also expressed excitement about the teacher stepping into her STEM position while she is away. The teacher, currently a teacher's assistant and college student pursuing a career in science education, has demonstrated strong enthusiasm for learning and is viewed as a promising addition to the classroom.

During the discussion, Mrs. Bennett was asked about opportunities to provide feedback to state education leaders. She noted that she expects to attend several State Board of Education meetings and has developed a working relationship with Representative Dick Lowe, chair of the Education Committee. She offered to help funnel local concerns and ideas to state leaders.

One issue she highlighted was the importance of benchmark testing throughout the school year so teachers receive useful student data at the beginning, middle, and end of the year rather than receiving information too late to make instructional adjustments. The board expressed appreciation for Mrs. Bennett's willingness to advocate for educators and students at the state level.

The board and superintendent concluded by expressing how proud they are of Mrs. Bennett and congratulating her on this exciting opportunity to represent Oklahoma educators.

XIII. Comments from the Board

None

XIV. Discussion, Consideration and Vote to Adjourn

Recommend adjournment of the meeting. Motion to adjourn at 12:34 PM. This motion, made by Casey Powers and seconded by Jason Manous, Passed.

Jason Manous: Yea

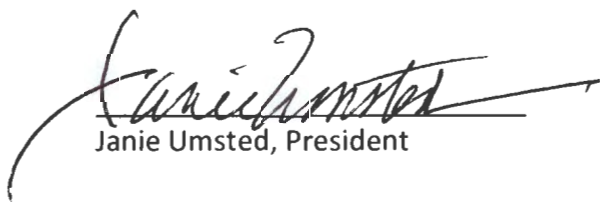
Joyce Northcutt: Yea

Chaz Polk: Absent

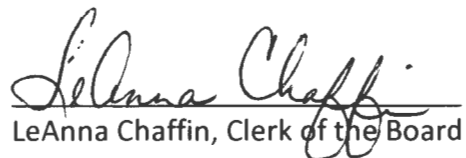
Casey Powers: Yea

Janie Umsted: Absent

Yea: 3, Nay: 0, Absent: 2



Janie Umsted, President



LeAnna Chaffin, Clerk of the Board

REGULAR MEETING

STATE OF OKLAHOMA)

COUNTY OF BRYAN)

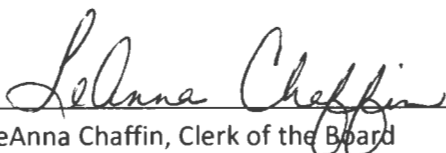
I, the undersigned, Clerk of the Board of Education of Durant School District No. I-72 of Bryan County, Oklahoma, do hereby certify that prior to December 15th of the last calendar year the date, time and place of this regular meeting was filed in the office of the County Clerk of Bryan County, Oklahoma.

I also certify that at least 24 hours prior to the meeting, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, notice of the date, time, place, and agenda of this meeting was posted in prominent public view at the location of the meeting.

Witness my hand and seal of this school district this 12th day of August 2026.

School Seal:





LeAnna Chaffin, Clerk of the Board