

Board of Education Minutes
Wichita Public Schools · USD 259
Wichita, Kansas
September 14, 2026

Roll Call	The Board of Education of Unified School District No. 259, Sedgwick County, Kansas, met in regular session in the Alvin E. Morris Administrative Center, 903 S. Edgemoor, Wichita, Kansas, at approximately 6:00 p.m., on September 14, 2026, with President Stan Reeser presiding. Present: Diane Albert, Sheila Brown-Kinnard, Julie Hedrick, Amy Jensen, Stan Reeser, and Amy Warren. Absent: None
Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance	The business portion of the meeting opened with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Southeast High School Color Guard.
Public Hearing on the 2026-27 Intent to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate	The Board held a public hearing on the intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate in the 2026-27 Budget. 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. Rachel Herndon shared concerns regarding the district exceeding the revenue neutral rate and the impact to her taxes.
Public Hearing on the 2026-27 Proposed Budget	The Board held a public hearing on the proposed 2026-27 Budget. 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. Brock Booker made comments regarding budget funds.
Presentations	
Good News – Thriving Students and Staff	
Recognizing Major Program Grants Awarded During the 2025-26 School Year	Holly Wilson, Grant Administrator, along with Logan Bradshaw Shoech, Director of Community Impact of United Way of the Plains, recognized the partnership between United Way and WPS.
National Merit Semifinalists	Loren Hatfield, Chief of Schools, shared nine WPS National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists: • Elijah Corpus, Wichita High School East • Logan Costa, Wichita High School East • Krishanu Demovic Ahmed, Wichita High School East • Eli Fox, Wichita High School East • Simon Hungria, Wichita High School East • Ashwath Jagadeesh, Wichita High School East • Adrian Le, Wichita Heights High School • Jarrett Bootsma, Wichita Northwest High School • Philip Bowers, Wichita Northwest High School
West High School Students Artwork Selected	Taylor Davis, West High teacher, recognized students who were selected as winners for the Be Air Aware sticker design contest sponsored by the City of Wichita.
United Teachers of Wichita	Katie Laske, UTW President, shared and update regarding negotiations, addressed teacher workload, and provided feedback on district resources and educator time.
Service Employees International Union	Esau Freeman, SEIU President, shared concerns regarding disruptive students.
	At approximately 6:27 p.m. Ms. Jesen left the meeting and returned at approximately 6:52 p.m.
Public Communications	Dave Crane – Guiding Paws ICT Ellamonique Baccus – Arts Partners Dave Fish – OK Elementary Guy Sturdevant – Engineering Course Rebecca Armstrong – Bond and Building Concerns Joanne Povall – Teacher Workload Addi Foulk – Bond Support Tonya Howard – Bond
Superintendent’s Report	Superintendent Kelly Bielefeld provided brief updates on the Schools for Fair Funding legislative efforts, Capitol Strategies, upcoming elections, electronic device policy, student screen time, and the upcoming Board workshop in October. Superintendent Bielefeld also addressed the “Improve Learning First” campaign, emphasizing that the district is making measurable progress in student learning and achievement. He shared that academic performance data demonstrating that student outcomes are improving and that the district is moving in the right direction. He further noted that the suggestion that students should not receive quality school facilities until scores improve is misguided,

	emphasizing that students deserve safe, modern learning environments while the district continues its work to advance academic achievement.
Education – Strategic Plan	
Strategic Plan Update: High School Academic Growth	Loren Hatfield, Chief of Schools, shared progress on the high school academic growth strategic plan goal to increase students scoring a 21+ on the ACT, silver+ on the ACT WorkKeys, or 31+ on the ASVAB from 44.6% to 46% by the class of 2027. Vocabulary routine, postsecondary asset awareness and understanding, and test opportunities were also highlighted as strategies for continued progress. The complete presentation is included in the archival copies of this BOE Agenda and Minutes. This presentation was for the Board's information.
	At approximately 7:36 p.m. Ms. Hedrick left the meeting and returned at approximately 7:40 p.m.
	At 7:43 p.m. Mr. Reeser (Ms. Hedrick) moved to take a short recess and resume at approximately 7:53 p.m. Motion passed 6-0.
Reports	
2026-27 Budget Report and Adoption	On August 10, 2026, the Board of Education approved the publication of the 2026-27 Notice of Hearing and Notice of Intent to Exceed Revenue Neutral Rate, setting the budget and revenue neutral rate hearings. The Notice was published in The Derby Informer (Sedgwick County's official newspaper of record) and the Wichita Eagle on August 19, 2026, with the public hearings scheduled at the beginning of this meeting. Addi Lowell, Chief Financial Officer, provided 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. Base aid is \$5,778 per student. The district will maximize its Local Option Budget (LOB) authority at 33% of the General fund. The 2026-27 proposed maximum budget authority is \$1,040,300,297. The estimated mill levy will be 51.400 mills. <u>Recommendation:</u> 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. Local Option Budget Resolution: Mr. Reeser (Ms. Hedrick) made a motion that the board adopt Resolution 2026-09-14-01 a resolution to authorize the Supplemental General/LOB budget percentage at an amount of 33 percent for the 2026-27 budget. Diane Albert – Yea Sheila Brown-Kinnard – Yea Julie Hedrick – Yea Amy Jensen – Yea Stan Reeser – Yea Amy Warren – Yea

	The motion passed 6-0. Revenue Neutral Rate Resolution: Mr. Reeser (Ms. Hedrick) made a motion that the board adopt Resolution 2026-09-14-02 expressing the property taxation policy with respect to exceeding the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate for financing the annual budget for 2026-27. Diane Albert – Yea Sheila Brown-Kinnard – Yea Julie Hedrick – Yea Amy Jensen – Yea Stan Reeser – Yea Amy Warren – Yea The motion passed 6-0. 2026-27 Budget: Mr. Reeser (Ms. Albert) made motion that the board adopt the 2026-27 budget. As a part of this process it is noted the Board was included in the state assessments review, documenting answers to the three state assessments requirements, and needs assessments review as follows: The needs assessments for each attendance center were provided to the Board in May 2026. Review of state assessment data took place preliminarily at the July 16, 2026 Board of Education Workshop, and finalized at the September 14, 2026 Board of Education Meeting, where the mandatory questions were answered by the Board of Education. The Board has evaluated needs assessments through the budget development cycle, hearing from buildings that the three main areas schools identified for overcoming barriers include attendance and absenteeism, meeting the needs of at-risk students, and having greater capacity to respond. The Board of Education has used assessments in approval of district budget. The BOE adopted a budget that included additional allocations for core services, ESOL services, social emotional supports in the form of counselors, social workers, and psychologists, behavior supports, small group instruction paras, and attendance initiatives. The motion passed 6-0. Following the Board's adoption, the 2026-27 Budget will be sent to Sedgwick County and the Kansas State Department of Education. The complete presentation is included in the archival copies of this BOE Agenda and Minutes. This presentation was for the Board's information.
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2026 Bond Proposal Update	Gil Alvarez, Deputy Superintendent, shared an informational update on actions and progress related to the 2026 bond proposal. The complete presentation is included in the archival copies of this BOE Agenda and Minutes. This presentation was for the Board's information.									
	Mr. Reeser left the board room at approximately 9:10 p.m. and returned at approximately 9:14 p.m.									
Consent	Ms. Albert (Mr. Reeser) moved that the Board of Education approve the consent agenda with the correction to facility consent agenda item 1 Hadley K-8 – Long-Lead HVAC Equipment Purchase in the amount of \$1,196,790 and excluding facility consent item C.1.3 Structural Repairs at North High School – Construction Manager at Risk – GMP #5. The motion passed 6-0. Ms. Albert left the board room at approximately 9:36 p.m. Ms. Warren (Mr. Reeser) moved that the board approve facility consent item C.1.3 Structural Repairs at North High School – Construction Manager at Risk – GMP #5. The motion passed 5-0. Ms. Albert returned to the board room at approximately 9:37 p.m.									
Human Resources Report Appendix 2	<u>Recommendation:</u> Board approval.									
Treasury Warrants: July and August 2026 Appendix 3	<u>Recommendation:</u> Board approval.									
Monthly Finance Report: July and August 2026 Appendix 4	<u>Recommendation:</u> The report is provided for the Board's information. No action is requested.									
457 Amendment/Restatement for Secure 2.0 Appendix 5	<u>Recommendation:</u> It is recommended the Board adopt Resolution 2026-09-14-03 provided in Appendix.									
Capitol Strategies Agreement (Renewal)	<u>Recommendation:</u> 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.									
FY27 Schools for Fair Funding Membership Dues	<u>Recommendation:</u> 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.									
403(b) Adoption Agreement Resolution for Secure 2.0 Appendix 6	<u>Recommendation:</u> It is recommended the Board adopt Resolution 2026-09-14-04 provided in the appendix.									
Facilities Consent Appendix 7	<u>Recommendation:</u> Board approval. <table><tr><th>Description of Products/Services</th><th>Amount</th><th>Responsible Party</th></tr><tr><td>1. Hadley K-8 – Long-Lead HVAC Equipment Purchase</td><td>\$1,196,790</td><td>Steve Noble</td></tr><tr><td>2. K-8 – Design Services – Furniture Standard Development</td><td>\$29,500</td><td>Steve Noble</td></tr></table>	Description of Products/Services	Amount	Responsible Party	1. Hadley K-8 – Long-Lead HVAC Equipment Purchase	\$1,196,790	Steve Noble	2. K-8 – Design Services – Furniture Standard Development	\$29,500	Steve Noble
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	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 America's Schools Grant – Budget Period 2	\$18,669,128	Steve Noble																																	
Carpenter Stadium – Press Box Roof Damage	<u>Recommendation:</u> 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.																																			
Student Safety and Wellness Monitoring Software – Securly Aware	<u>Recommendation:</u> 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.																																			
Purchasing Consent Annual Renewals Appendix 8	<u>Recommendation:</u> Board approval. <table><tr><th>Description of Products/Services</th><th>Amount</th><th>Responsible Party</th></tr><tr><td>1. Athletic Charter Bus</td><td>\$125,000.00</td><td>Loren Hatfield</td></tr><tr><td>2. Translation Services</td><td>\$80,000.00</td><td>Rachel Bell</td></tr><tr><td>3. Microsoft School Service Agreement</td><td>\$1,950,000.00</td><td>Rob Dickson</td></tr><tr><td>4. Ticketing Software</td><td>\$196,340.71</td><td>Rob Dickson</td></tr><tr><td>5. User Licenses for Oracle PBSC & EPRCS</td><td>\$37,864.80</td><td>Rob Dickson</td></tr><tr><td>6. Security Services</td><td>\$500,000.00</td><td>Terri Moses</td></tr><tr><td>7. Behavior Threat Case Management System</td><td>\$58,667.00</td><td>Terri Moses</td></tr><tr><td>8. Weather Monitoring and Notification Services</td><td>\$21,275.76</td><td>Fabian Armendariz</td></tr><tr><td>9. Student Transportation Services Contract Amendment</td><td></td><td>Fabian Armendariz</td></tr><tr><td>10. Recycling and Shredding Services</td><td>\$115,000.00</td><td>Fabian Armendariz</td></tr></table>			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
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Purchasing Consent Appendix 9	<u>Recommendation:</u> Board approval. <table><tr><th>Description of Products/Services</th><th>Amount</th><th>Responsible Party</th></tr><tr><td>1. North High Wrestling Mats</td><td>\$35,000.00</td><td>Loren Hatfield</td></tr><tr><td>2. Two-Way Radios & Accessories</td><td>\$125,000.00</td><td>Terri Moses</td></tr></table>			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																								
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	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
Destination Innovation (Renewal)	<u>Recommendation:</u> 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.
The Pando Initiative (Renewal)	<u>Recommendation:</u> 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.
Peacekeeper Training (Renewal)	<u>Recommendation:</u> 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.
Untamed Athletes (Renewal)	<u>Recommendation:</u> 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.
Mental Health Intervention Team (Renewal)	<u>Recommendation:</u> 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.
Legal Services: Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch, LLC and McDonald Tinker PA	<u>Recommendation:</u> 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.
Workers' Compensation Settlement: [S.S.]	<u>Recommendation:</u> 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.
Workers' Compensation Settlement: [J.S.]	<u>Recommendation:</u> 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.
BOE Meeting Minutes for August 7, 2026 Board Workshop	<u>Recommendation:</u> Board approval.

Appendix 10	
BOE Meeting Minutes for August 10, 2026 Board Meeting Appendix 11	<u>Recommendation:</u> Board approval.
BOE Meeting Minutes for August 28, 2026 Board Workshop Appendix 12	<u>Recommendation:</u> Board approval.
Resolution: Alignment of BOE Policies (Renewal) Appendix 13	<u>Recommendation:</u> It is recommended the Board approve Resolution 2026-09-14-05: Alignment of BOE Policies, as provided in the appendix.
Various Policy Updates Appendix 14	<u>Recommendation:</u> Board approval. P6105 Experimental Instructional Materials P7350 School Trips and Transportation P1220 Eligibility of Students on Special Assignments P6730 Social Studies Education
Action	
P1413 – Coordination with the WPS Foundation Appendix 15	<u>Recommendation:</u> Board Approval. Ms. Warren (Ms. Albert) moved. The motion passed 6-0.
Reports and Requests	Ms. Jensen reminded the board about the KASB convention in November and thanked the teachers and bargaining unit for negotiations.
Adjournment	Mr. Reeser (Ms. Albert) moved that the meeting adjourn. The motion passed 6-0. At approximately 9:38 p.m., the meeting adjourned.


 Litona Hoyt
 Clerk of the Board