



Arkansas City Public Schools

BOE BRIEFS

An informal report from the Board of Education Meeting

October 26, 2026

Board Approves Bidding for ACMS HVAC Replacement

The Board approved seeking bids to replace a failed HVAC unit in the Arkansas City Middle School's newer gym.

The replacement is part of the voter-approved bond projects, but the larger HVAC project isn't scheduled for bids for another six months. Because the unit has already failed and new equipment can take months to arrive, the district is moving forward with this replacement now.

Bond funds will cover the cost. Bids and a recommendation will be brought back to the Board for approval.

Jefferson Elementary Report: Building a Love of Reading

Jefferson Elementary staff shared how they're building a strong reading culture and helping students develop a love of reading. From friendly competitions and schoolwide reading challenges to family activities and personal reading goals, the school is finding creative ways to make reading fun and meaningful. Staff also highlighted their continued focus on Independent Reading Time (IRT), along with the support and encouragement students receive as they grow as readers.

PERSONNEL UPDATE

Hirings:

- Marco Garcia Ortega – ESOL SAT at ACHS

Reassignments/Transfers

- N/A

Resignations/Retirements:

- Caleb Klink – Asst. Football Coach at ACMS

OTHER BUSINESS

- The Board heard from Chuck Rohr and Jayden Moore, who shared concerns about the high school's athletic league, including concerns that students are competing against larger teams, which may be contributing to player injuries and declining participation in athletics. A proposal from USD 470 to amend the divisions of the league will go to the AVCTL for discussion on November 4 and be voted on by the AVCTL in January. An update will be provided to the board following the AVCTL's January meeting.
- The Board accepted a \$450 donation of personal hygiene kits from Cowley County Kids Run to support students at IXL Elementary.
- The Board heard an update from Special Education Cooperative Director Zachary Lawrence on the cooperative's current work and future plans. The COOP is reviewing what's working well, where improvements can be made, and how member districts can work together to support students, families, and staff better.
- The Board heard an update on the district's strategic planning process, including progress on a draft plan shaped by feedback from students, staff, families, and community members. The Strategic Planning Task Force will meet again Dec. 2 to review the draft and provide additional input.
- The Board heard an update on the district's school improvement efforts, including recent work with neighboring districts. The district will continue focusing on strong classroom instruction, meeting students' learning needs, and providing teachers with helpful feedback and support.
- The Board heard an update on the district's transportation fleet, including the recent arrival of two new route buses and two activity buses. They also reviewed the condition of other district vehicles and future replacement needs to help keep transportation safe and reliable. No vehicle purchases were requested at this meeting.
- The Board held an executive session to discuss non-elected personnel. There was no action following the discussion.