

# Minutes

## **Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Unified School District No. 473, Chapman, KS**

**January 13, 2025**

**Betsy Edwards, School Board President, called the Regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:30 pm at the Education Center located at 822 N. Marshall, Chapman, KS.**

**Other Board Members Present: Kelly Kuntz, Brenda Edleston, Dana Obermeyer, Adam Elliott, Jessica Murphy and Jennifer Elliott**

**Also Present: Kevin Suther – Superintendent, Michele Sutter - Board Clerk Kara Wilkins, Afton Diehl, Mike Diehl, Rexley Diehl, Laurie Rutherford, Brett Koster, Nicole Spellman, Easton Spellman, Cody Spellman, Kate Thornton, Ashley Stearns, Lindsey Moreland, Marcus Medlock, Officer Brandon Depew and Mary Wright**

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**Jennifer Elliott made the motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Kelly Kuntz seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

**Brenda Edleston made the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

- 3.01 Approve the Minutes from the Regular December 9th, 2024 BOE Meeting
- 3.02 Financial Reports: Treasurer, Food Service, Petty Cash
- 3.03 Payment of Bills
- 3.04 Public Participation

### **SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS:**

#### **Blue Ridge Presents to the Board**

**Principal Afton Diehl introduced three students who presented, representing the Little Shamrocks Preschool which is located at Blue Ridge Elementary. Marcus Medlock, Age 5, Easton Spellman, Age 4 and Rexley Diehl, Age 3 displayed three different activities that teach them their alphabet at their own levels. Rexley worked on matching her letters, Easton was doing a different matching letters activity and Marcus was writing his ABC's with capital letters. There are ten students who currently attend the preschool which is Monday thru Thursday and is all day long. Mrs. Diehl is also the Principal at Blue Ridge so she reserves Fridays for her Administrative work. The preschool basically has the same schedule as the "big kids" and they love going on the bus for bookmobile. They had the opportunity to participate in the school Christmas**

program with the other students this year. Mrs. Diehl explained how the two curriculums known as Heggerty and Frog Street help to guide the lessons. Heggerty involves phonics knowledge and the students have really caught on. They also take part in the FastBridge Screener for the 4 year olds to find out how their Kindergarten readiness skills are. The preschool team works with TASN and Stacy Mayberry on play learning. Three in the group will be moving on to Kindergarten and the seven others will be returning to the preschool next year. The preschool has been very successful and Mrs. Diehl is loving being at one school every day all day long and she gets the best of both worlds, which includes the love for preschool and administration.

Brenda Edleston asked if the preschool kids interact with the big kids and Mrs. Diehl said yes they do. The students eat lunch, go to recess together and take part in other activities as well. They all wore matching shirts and were asked how they made them. Marcus explained they used a wooden shamrock and dotted them with green paint. Rexley said her favorite part of preschool is centers, especially the kitchen set.

Adam Elliott asked if 10 kids was the max and Mrs. Diehl said they could go up, but then they would have to add an aide which is required above that number. She's hoping they can have a class of just 4 year olds to prepare them for Kindergarten starting next year. This first year was capped at 10 and they will revisit this each year due to interest. Mrs. Diehl is very encouraged and believes Blue Ridge Elementary will continue to grow by the added preschool program.

Superintendent Suther talked about other achievements at Blue Ridge. This fall, they were recognized by the US News and Reports for being in the top tier mainly based off of high test scores. In the state of Kansas, there are 941 elementary schools and Blue Ridge was ranked #247.

**Congratulations Blue Ridge Elementary!**

### Officer Depew, Resource Officer, Presents

Dickinson County Resource Officer, Brandon Depew, shared how he works closely with all of our USD 473 schools which is funded by the county sheriff's department. He was awarded the instructor of the year for the LEAD program taught to 4th and 5th graders. Officer Depew visits the buildings to help with our afterschool program at Enterprise Elementary, character, home visits, and so much more. One of the unique activities involved Enterprise Elementary. This past year he worked every Tuesday with Mrs. Heller's Kindergarten class on creating a book, which was published and is for sale called "Emma's Animal Adventure". This book was created at the time the librarian for Enterprise passed away. Her name was Joanie Phillips and she was very close to the students at Enterprise Elementary. They visited each month and she helped plan special activities for them at the city library. This book was to help spread empathy for those with different abilities revolving around animals characters illustrated by the students. The books are sold for \$15.00 and the money goes to help the Enterprise After-School-Program and also the Enterprise library.

### Technology Director Update

Brett Koster, Instructional Technology Director, gave an update on what he and Kyle Cook, Technology Director, have been focusing on and what they are responsible for in

our district.

Mr. Koster's duties:

**- Tech Ticketing System**

This was created for the staff to enter their tech problems then the task is assigned to one of the technology directors to help solve. Once the ticket has been handled, it is closed out of the system and a notification is sent to the teacher to explain how it was resolved.

**- Technology Purchasing**

Brett keeps an itemized spreadsheet of all purchases looking at the district as a whole. We currently have a little over \$500,000 just in devices. We need around \$100,000 a year in order to stay current. We just purchased 40 chromebooks over the break to replace our oldest devices so updated software like state testing can be utilized. Mr. Koster and the administration have developed a five year plan on how to stay current and up to date with technology for USD 473.

Mr. Koster currently teaches Computer Graphics at the High School and has added keyboarding training for all 5th grade students in the District. The District purchased cases last summer for wireless keyboards for all 90 of our 5th grade students. The cases convert to a stand. He does a 25 minute lesson once a week for each 5th grade classroom. He has observed the students improving as they get further into the year. He preaches correct fingers on the keys and accuracy. The speed will come in time and isn't as important. We purchased [typing.com](http://typing.com) for him to create a lesson for them weekly.

Mr. Cook's duties mainly focus on the programs and equipment like:

- Servers
- PowerSchool
- E-Mail
- Camera Systems
- Switches & Wiring

Finally, e-Rate is a program that is 70% federally funded for certain types of equipment which means the district only has to pay 30% of the bill. We work directly with Smoky Hill Service Center who has a coordinator that advises us with the purchases, bid process, and billing.

**CATEGORY 1** - This is for our internet connection in which two buildings will go out to bid this year which is Rural Center and Blue Ridge Elementary.

**CATEGORY 2** - The district is looking to purchase switches to stabilize our Technology Network. The ones we currently have are 15 years old. They are getting to the point where they will start to malfunction leaving our students without connectivity.

Brenda Edleston asked Mr. Koster if we were part of the PowerSchool breach and we were. USD 473 was informed that this mainly involved demographics. PowerSchool will be following up with more details as they investigate and will offer free data

monitoring for individuals who wish to use it. USD 473 makes sure to use a 2 step verification log-in. Notification through school messenger e-mail was sent out to all of the parents and guardians to make them aware of the situation.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

### **Approve the 2025-26 School Calendar**

Kate Thornton shared the calendar committee met and came up with 2 different options for the Certified Teachers to vote on. Since the KSHSAA calendar moved next year, we are starting and ending later.

All the teachers were given an opportunity to vote and the results were in favor of approving Option A. This means that the parent/teacher conferences that take place in October will be on Monday/Tuesday instead of Monday/Thursday.

69.7% - Option A

30.3% - Option B

Adam Elliott made the motion to approve Calendar Option A for the upcoming 2025-26 year as presented. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

### **Working Genius**

The final question on the Guiding Principles working document involves the following question.

#6 "Who Does What?"

### **Current Committees:**

- Negotiations Team: Jessica Murphy, Brenda Edleston and Jennifer Elliott
- Smoky Hill Learning Center Executive Board: Brenda Edleston
- Irish Foundation Board: Jessica Murphy & Kelly Kuntz

### **Future Committees:**

- Site Council Board Contact (add Brenda Edleston)
- Capital Improvements Representative (add Betsy Edwards)

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to approve all the above committee appointments. Betsy Edwards seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **KASB December Policy Updates**

Superintendent Suther went over the many KASB policy changes for the semi-annual

**recommendations. After some discussion, they all agreed to adopt the policies except for Policy IDACA Special Education Services. The board requested to find out what it means to delete the following wording "(as defined by K.S.A. 72-3404) who is a resident of this district or attends a private or parochial school located in this district." Superintendent Suther will be looking into this policy further and will decide on possible adoption at the February Board meeting. Also, new Policy DFH regarding fundraising helps to define the procedures for how to handle money and who is allowed to do so on school grounds. Mr. Suther requested striking out the section involving the following wording as a local choice since we have many activities that involve going to community members and houses to sell athletic cards, FFA fruit & meat sales and possibly others. The following wording would be removed:**

**"Door-to-door sales are strongly discouraged. Faculty and sponsors shall not require or promote door-to-door sales."**

**Brenda Edleston made the motion to approve all the updated KASB Semi-Annual Policy changes while withdrawing Policy IDACA until next month and to strike the verbiage "door-to-door sales are strongly discouraged. Faculty and sponsors shall not require or promote door-to-door sales" as part of adopting Policy DFH. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Board Meeting Dates Resolution**

**Jennifer Elliott made the motion to approve the Regular Board Meeting Resolution to hold all meetings on the second Monday of each month with the exception of May and July of 2025. The meetings will be at the USD 473 Education Center starting at 6:30pm. Brenda Edleston seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Board Officer Resolution**

**Kelly Kuntz made the motion to approve the Election of the Board Officer's Resolution. The elections for President and Vice-President will be moved to the first regular meeting in July 2025. Adam Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Board of Education Recognition**

##### **USD 473 Board Members Leading for Success**

**January is School Board Recognition Month, a great opportunity to say thank you to the USD 473 Board of Education who are committed to the success of every student in our community.**

**Our Board of Education includes Betsy Edwards, Kelly Kuntz, Brenda Edleston, Jennifer Elliott, Jessica Murphy, Dana Obermeyer, and Adam Elliott.**

**These seven community leaders volunteer many of hours attending meetings, reading reports and discussing plans and programs to support educational achievement.**

**The Board members develop policies and make complex decisions that shape the future of our education system. They are accountable for an**

**annual budget of over \$20 million dollars, approximately 1100 students, over 200 employees and six school buildings.**

**As Warren Bennis stated, "Leadership is the capacity to translate vision into reality."**

***\*\*\* USD 473 School District encourages the entire community to thank a school Board member, not only this month but throughout the entire year.\*\*\****

### **Personnel**

**Jessica Murphy made the motion to approve all personnel items given to the Board. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

### **Retirement:**

Matt Dalke - Chapman Middle School English Teacher

### **Resignation:**

Taylor Maxwell - Chapman Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

Skye Roberts - Chapman Middle School Volleyball Coach

Wade Chamberlin - District Custodian

### **Adjournment**

**Kelly Kuntz made the motion to adjourn. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

**Meeting adjourned - 7:50 pm**

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**Betsy Edwards, School Board President**

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**Michele Sutter, Board Clerk**