

Minutes

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

December 9, 2024

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: Dana Obermeyer, Adam Elliott, Jessica Murphy and Jennifer Elliott (Kelly Kuntz and Brenda Edleston were both absent)

Also Present: Kevin Suther – Superintendent, Michele Sutter - Board Clerk
Mary Wright, Stacy Smiley, Annie Opat, Kara Wilkins, Clint Merritt, Susan Frieze, Ashley Stearns, Afton Diehl, Jamie Bonnema, Laurie Rutherford, Andrea Koster and Jon Moneypenny

Jessica Murphy made the motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.

Adam Elliott made the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.

- 3.01 Approve the Minutes from the Regular November 18th, 2024 BOE Meeting
- 3.02 Financial Reports: Treasurer, Food Service, Petty Cash
- 3.03 Payment of Bills
- 3.04 Public Participation

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS:

Chapman Middle School Presents to the Board

Principal Mary Wright introduced Augustus Anders who shared with the Board about a new Enrichment Class Offering. Three years ago the schedule was changed at CMS to begin offering enrichment classes and small group academic support time called Multi Tiered System of Supports. Mr. Anders brings a lot of STEM knowledge to our District. This semester he is offering Engineering and next semester will offer Robotics.

Mr. Anders brought a student, Jon Moneypenny, with him to talk a little about the Engineering class this year. They talked about the hands on projects they have done through the semester like catapults, recycled boats, paper airplanes and city management. It is helpful for students to problem solve to figure out the science and math to complete a task. This occurs in the classroom both individually and as a group to reflect on ideas with each other.

Next semester they will start Vex Robotics. Mr. Anders brought the kits that the board purchased for his class to view. He said there are several different kits that we can purchase in the future as well. He taught for five years in a previous district involving Robotics and also took teams to the VEX Robotics World's Tournament in Dallas, TX. They competed against 400 teams around the world.

The Board asked Mr. Moneypenny what his favorite project was so far in Engineering and he said the City Management Project. They also shared that the Chapman city officials will be coming in on Monday to observe the finished product and help to explain how it works in our city.

Secondary ELA Curriculum Update

Stacy Smiley, Susan Frieze and Annie Opat presented to the board an update on the CHS and CMS new ELA curriculum adopted called "Into Lit." This piece of curriculum was implemented in August of 2024. The teachers said it was a lot of hard work but they have gotten it going and are really excited about the progress. They explained how the new book which is a consumable allows students to write directly in it for concept maps, highlighting, organizing the body of an essay and many more features. Research has shown that being able to write it out in many different ways to organize a student's thoughts helps make them be more successful.

Each month the ELA teachers have Professional Development chances to schedule a zoom meeting with an expert on the curriculum to talk through what has been working and what needs to be adjusted. This ongoing training throughout the year helps to have mentorship along the way. In January, the ELA teachers will be provided writing training during inservice to gain insight on how to use the materials the best to create essays and short answers to show their learning.

There has also been a lot of Professional Learning Collaboration that has gone on. Mrs. Frieze said with enthusiasm that they made the right decision with this curriculum adoption. There are 6 units in the Freshman class and their goal is to cover 4 of them. The themes and literature are very connected, as well as the writing. Students are writing and connecting with their literature as they read. She likes that everything needed is in the one textbook. An example was shown of a student's work on how the organization of an essay takes place and then how it turns into a final product.

Annie Opat shared that it's amazing that each student has their own book to be interactive with. She said that after each publishing, they do an Assessment Practice which gives students some choices like doing a skit, giving a presentation, or writing out the answers in detail. Sometimes they work in groups with this as it utilizes critical thinking. There is also a section called "Analyze the Text & Choices". This aligns directly with the Kansas State Standards. Examples were shown of student's work that involved a timeline, notes, and how this helped to turn into a final essay.

Maintenance Director Update

Rick Hall gave an overview of the Maintenance Department to the board and went over some current and upcoming projects. He shared that we do have annual contracts with a variety of companies to maintain the heating & air and fire systems. Some future projects needed include the CMS HVAC controls in the Summer of 2025, CES HVAC controls in the Summer of 2026, a roof replacement in Enterprise in the Summer of 2025, and other yearly maintenance like concrete and asphalt parking lot repairs. A breakdown was given to show how the combination of 17 full and half time employees support the buildings and grounds.

OLD BUSINESS:

Working Genius

During the September 30th Work Session for "The Working Genius", the Board focused on completing questions 1 & 2 of the "Guiding Principles Document" and pledged to do one more at each Board meeting until completion. There are 6 questions total. At the October 14th Regular Meeting, they focused on question 3, "What do we do?" Superintendent Suther was gathering the answers they gave during the meeting to compile and keep a working master. At the November 18th meeting, they focused on Question #4 - "How Will We Succeed?" At tonight's meeting, they talked about Question #5, "What's Most Important Right Now?" For review, here are the questions and answers for 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5:

1. "Why Do We As A Board Exist?"

- Local perspective
- Encompass the interests of the staff, students and community
- Student and staff advancement/growth
- Providing resources for success
- Building a strong culture
- Analyzing and developing policy for guidance
- Having tradition

2. "How Do We Behave?"

- Respectful
- Informed
- Student-centered focus
- Open minded
- Listening
- Equitable

3. "What Do We Do?"

- Adopts policy
- Sets culture
- Works collaboratively with the Superintendent
- Serves as an advocate for the community/taxpayer
- Keeps district's vision relevant
- Strategic planning
- Financial monitoring
- Negotiations

4. "How Will We Succeed?"

- Accountability
- Communication
- Collaboration/Team-Oriented
- Researched Based
- Open-Minded
- Discernment
- Trust/Support

5. "What's Most Important Right Now?"

Superintendent Suther explained that we are in the process of going through KESA Accreditation and that our "Thematic Goal" for the next 6-9 months should be this. In January, Mindy Bruce who is a retired Superintendent and KSDE Regional Representative comes here to meet with our DLT groups. She helps to collaborate on our focus for the next year by choosing one Fundamental and one Structure. These are the four fundamentals to choose from and the district is leaning towards Balanced Assessment with the development of formatives and Standards Alignment.

1. Structured Literacy
2. Standards Alignment
3. Balanced Assessment
4. Quality Instruction

USD 473 will then meet with 5 other schools in February at Smoky Hill Learning Center to share their Action Plans. The follow up by KSDE will be at the six month and one year mark. By narrowing down this focus as a district, it will give staff and the board of education a direction to best support our students in the classroom when it comes to areas like professional development, resources, etc...

NEW BUSINESS:

Donations

The Board received four donations to approve.

1. \$440 - United Methodist Church of Chapman Mission Fund - This was collected for special medical needs for students at Chapman Elementary School.
2. \$600 - St. Michael's Alter Society - To help students in our district who may need help over the Christmas break.
3. \$750 - Chapman Community Foundation - For the purchase of books for the "One School, One Book" activity at Chapman Elementary.
4. \$1,000.00 - Russell and Sherry Smiley - For whatever might be needed at Rural Center Elementary.

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to accept all donations. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.

Calendar Options

The calendar committee submitted to the Board the (2) calendar options they will be presenting to the teachers to vote on and the winner will be brought back to the January 6th, 2025 meeting for approval. Clint Merritt explained how the calendar had to shift a little next year due to KSHSAA. Sports practice begins on August 18th. The first day of school will start later next year on August 21st and the last day of school will take place on May 20th. The two options voted on by the teachers involve having parent teacher conferences on a Monday/Tuesday or Monday/Thursday in October.

Approve January Early Graduates

The Board received from the High School a list of (10) names to approve for early graduation. Jessica Murphy made the motion to approve all (10) presented if they meet all the USD 473 requirements, as well as the State Board of Education requirements. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.

A list of ten students were provided. These students would be allowed to attend prom and walk at graduation in May.

Negotiations Team for 2024-25

After some discussion, Adam Elliott made the motion that this year's BOE Team consist of Brenda Edleston, Jessica Murphy and Jennifer Elliott. Dana Obermeyer seconded that motion; motion carried 5-0.

Personnel (Brenda Edleston joined the meeting via phone at 7:48 pm)

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to approve all personnel items given to the Board. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

New Hires:

Tiffany Harkins - Chapman High School Math Teacher

Trevor Kirby - Chapman Middle School Assistant Boys Basketball Coach

Executive Session - Personnel

Jessica Murphy made the motion for the Board to go into Executive Session at 7:50 pm for (30) minutes for personnel items pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and the open meeting will resume in the Board room at 8:20 pm. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

The Board returned to open session at 8:20 pm.

Adam Elliott made the motion for the Board to go back into Executive Session at 8:20 pm for (40) minutes for personnel items pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and the open meeting will resume in the Board room at 9:00 pm. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

The Board returned to open session at 9:00 pm.

After a two minute break, Jessica Murphy made the motion for the Board to go back into Executive Session at 9:02 pm for (30) minutes for personnel items pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and the open meeting will resume in the Board room at 9:32 pm. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0. Superintendent Suther was invited into the session.

The Board returned to open session at 9:32 pm.

Superintendent's Contract

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to approve Superintendent Suther's contract for another year which will be extended through the 2026-27 school year, along with a 3% increase in salary for the 2024-25 contract year. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment

Dana Obermeyer made the motion to adjourn. Adam Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned - 9:35 pm

Betsy Edwards, School Board President

Michele Sutter, Board Clerk