

Minutes

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

April 14, 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: Brenda Edleston, Dana Obermeyer, Adam Elliott, Jessica Murphy and Jennifer Elliott

**Also Present: Kevin Suther – Superintendent, Michele Sutter - Board Clerk
Kate Thornton, Brandy Gray, Kara Wilkins, Faith Gentry, Abigail Gaston,
Ashley Stearns, Afton Diehl, Clint Merritt, Shelby Amancio, Mary Wright,
Laurie Rutherford, Tori Heller and Keven Ward**

Jessica Murphy made the motion to adopt the Agenda as presented. Adam Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Adam Elliott made the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

- 3.01 Approve the Minutes from the Regular March 10th, 2025 BOE Meeting**
- 3.02 Financial Reports: Treasurer, Food Service, Petty Cash**
- 3.03 Payment of Bills**
- 3.04 Public Participation**

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS:

CEO Student Presentation

Brandy Gray, who is the Facilitator of the CEO program, introduced herself and the two CHS students who presented. Faith Gentry and Abigail Gaston are both juniors in the program. Students must apply to get accepted into a unique program called CEO, which is provided through the Midland Institute for Entrepreneurship. It is a year-long program for potential juniors or seniors from each of the Dickinson County Schools. This year there are 13 in the program and 5 are from CHS. So far, six students from CHS have signed up for next year. (2025-2026)

This year, three high schools are represented: Chapman, Solomon & Abilene

The students meet every day @ a host site. The program wants to introduce students

into real world experiences. They also get two elective credits for the year for being in the program.

Faith and Abigail said there is something different about CEO kids. You have to grow up faster because the emphasis is to be professional and responsible when it comes to interacting with business owners almost every day. Students want to leave every interaction with the WOW factor so they can be remembered later to make an impact or even receive a future job. These are some of the main points and focuses by the students in the program:

- **TEAM BUILDING** where they get to do a lot of activities together in order to better know each other.
- **BUSINESS VISITS** where they are a part of field trips at least twice a week to different places. This allows them to learn about all kinds of industries. Business leaders all have their own style and approach which is important to observe. Some of the examples involved local farms, small businesses and larger manufacturers.
- **GUEST SPEAKERS** are invited in to provide knowledge and content for real life scenarios. The support comes from more than just one teacher.
- **MENTOR PROGRAM** is one of their favorite parts about CEO. Mentors and students meet once a month to get advice and answer questions as a check in to keep them on track. Students also mentioned about how they are so thankful for all the community support.
- **CLASS BUSINESS:** The class as a whole develops a large event which can generate a profit so they can utilize the funds for their own individualized business plan. This year was an ABC Mystery Dinner. The activity takes a lot of team collaboration and hard work to make it happen.
- **TRADE SHOW:** This is the final event that showcases each students' finished business plan and product. The two locations will be at Herington and at Sterl Hall in Abilene to set up booths for people to ask question and even buy their product. Some examples of the business examples were pickles, graphic design, soap and much more.

They both said they genuinely love CEO which has impacted their life and you are a different person after walking away from the program. They gained confidence and more self-awareness.

Program Director, Brandy Gray, said these kids are a step ahead by the time they enter college.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

TRANE

Keven Ward was here to present on the Phase III HVAC project proposal along with what has already been completed.

Phase I: (2022-23) Completed all new HVAC units, furnaces, and controls for Blue Ridge, Rural Center and Enterprise Elementary.

Phase II: (2023-24) Completed all new controls for CHS and repairs for HVAC.

Phase III: (2024-25) Requesting approval for all new controls for CMS and repairs for HVAC plus the district gym. Cost: \$482,090 which will be on next year's 2025-26 budget.

USD 473 has had trouble with all three buildings CHS, CES, and CMS in the beginning of the year dropping off rooms for air and being able to keep up. This has been determined to be the Heat Exchangers which provide the cooling which takes out the heat in the water loop system. The buildings are losing about 40% of their capability which is not efficient and can not keep up with the warm weather demand.

Two options are to clean them which means taking multiple plates out and replacing parts like the gaskets. The cleaning option came in lower then expected because one company can do all three buildings for a total of \$119,585. The company would take the plates out right after school was finished on May 19th. They would need to bring them back to the warehouse to clean, refurbish and repair anything needed over 2 weeks. This would mean no air for a while and we can adapt with most everyone gone at that point.

The engineers from TRANE stated there is not a lot of moving parts so the refurbishing of the plates and replacement parts extends the live to the possibility of over 24 years and even beyond if keeping up on the cleaning schedule. With this being the case, the decision is to not pursue the bids for full replacement at this time.

Step 4: (2025-26) Future Replacement of the control units at CES.

Adam Elliott made the motion to accept the cooperative purchasing bids for the Chapman Middle School HVAC Controls project for \$482,090 and the Heat Exchanger repairs for \$119,585 for the 2025-26 budget year. Brenda Edleston seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

CHS Intercom System

Superintendent Suther has been working with Kyle Cook, IT Director, to see if we can repair the Chapman High School intercom system which has not been successful. The technology and main controllers must be replaced. A quote was requested from INA Alert company, who also replaced all of our camera systems for all of our in town schools a couple of years ago. The company is also approved through the Cooperative Purchasing with Greenbush for the bid process. The quote is for \$69,848.40. We will save money by using existing wiring and existing speakers that work. The intercom not work is a safety issue that needs to be addressed and still keeps the district under the projected budget for capital outlay this year. The install can start to take place in the middle of June if passed.

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to approve the INA alert bid through the Cooperative Purchasing with Greenbush for a replacement of the Intercom System at Chapman High School for the 2024-25 school budget year, including the one year contract software option. Brenda Edleston seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

KASB Contract for 2025-26

Superintendent Suther explained to the Board that it is time for our contract renewal with KASB for:

- Legal Assistance Fund**
- Membership Renewal**
- Season Pass**

KASB provides immediate assistance with school issues on the legal side, providing professional development, policy updates, and many more services.

Jessica Murphy made the motion to approve the 2025-26 contracts with KASB as proposed. Adam Elliott seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Non-Resident Capacity

Each school district in the State of Kansas are required to look at current enrollment, projected enrollment, and open students seats by grade level in K-8 and by school or program in 9-12 each year. Superintendent Suther shared numbers with the Board that dated back since 2018. Currently we are at 1,076 enrollment K-12. The recommendation was to increase one student at each grade level in Kindergarten through 5th grade except at Rural Center Kindergarten and First Grade. Brenda Edleston made the motion to approve the updated Non-Resident Capacity numbers to be posted by May 1st with the corrected changes to Chapman Elementary School to match the one student increase from last year. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Donations

Superintendent Suther shared we have received the annual donation from our local Astra Bank through the Irish School Debit Card program, which is greatly appreciated. The amount this year that was donated is \$1,409.25. He thanked all the patrons who sign up for a debit card at Astra Bank with Chappy on the front. Brenda Edleston made the motion to accept the donation from Astra Bank. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Approve May Graduates

Superintendent Suther shared the request to accept the seniors from Chapman High School for 2025. In order the graduate, they must meet the final requirements set forth by USD 473 and the Kansas State Board of Education to receive their diploma. This year we have 80 Seniors that qualify for graduation and 79 that are able to walk. Brenda Edleston made the motion to approve all

graduating seniors for 2025 if they meet the final requirements set forth by USD 473 and the State Board of Education. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Designation of Board members to hand out Graduation & Promotion Certificates

Superintendent Suther shared that in the past, two Board members sit on stage and hand out the diplomas at both the High School graduation which is on Sunday, May 11th at 2:30pm and the Middle School farewell which is on Wednesday, May 14th at 7:00pm. He asked for volunteers for these events. For the High School, Betsy Edwards and Dana Obermeyer volunteered their time. For the Middle School, Jennifer Elliott and Adam Elliott said they would be willing to attend and help.

Personnel

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to approve all personnel items as presented. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

New Hires:

Josie Morris - Chapman High School Social Studies Teacher
Sponsorship: SADD Co-Sponsor

Brandon McIntosh - Athletic & Activity Development Coordinator
CMS Assistant Boys BB Coach
Sponsorships: AFS, FIRE, SADD Co-Sponsor

Robin Schlesener: Chapman High School Wrestling Cheer Sponsor

Jason Grider: Chapman High School Head Girls' Basketball Coach

Amanda Harmison - Chapman High School Head Girls' Volleyball Coach

Megan Brockmeier - Chapman Middle School Assistant Volleyball Coach

Andrea Koster - Chapman Middle School Assistant Volleyball Coach

Chelsea Armbruster - Chapman High School Assistant Tennis Coach

Mike Spohn - Chapman High School Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach

Tim Gottschalk - Chapman Middle School Assistant Boys' Basketball Coach

New Board Member Procedures

Kelly Kuntz has resigned from the USD 473 Board of Education as of 3/27/2025. After talking with the KASB lawyer, the law does allow for flexibility by the Board of Education to replace that position just like the procedure we used last year when Adam Elliott came onto the board OR let the election take place in November to have the replacement start in January of 2026. If there are multiple candidates that submit a letter of interest to our Board Clerk, Michele Sutter by the deadline, you must interview them and have discussion in public forum and vote in open session. None of this can happen in Executive Session. Otherwise, the Board accepts the resignation and continues with 6 members but for anything to pass there still must be a majority with 4

votes.

Brenda Edleston made the motion to accept the resignation of Board Member Kelly Kuntz District 1, Position 4, and to wait on the open election for a replacement. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned - 8:00 pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Betsy Edwards', written over a horizontal line.

Betsy Edwards, School Board President

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read 'Michele Sutter', written over a horizontal line.

Michele Sutter, Board Clerk