

Minutes

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

May 19, 2025

Superintendent Suther announced that the Board would need to appoint and vote on a Tempore School Board President since current President, Betsy Edwards, was not in attendance and we currently have no Vice President.

Brenda Edleston nominated Dana Obermeyer and Jessica Murphy seconded the motion. Motion failed 3-1.

Jessica Murphy then nominated Brenda Edleston. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; Motion carried 4-0.

Brenda Edleston, Pro Tempore School Board President, called the Regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:32 pm at the Education Center located at 822 N. Marshall, Chapman, KS.

Other Board Members Present: Dana Obermeyer, Jessica Murphy and Jennifer Elliott

**Also Present: Kevin Suther – Superintendent, Michele Sutter - Board Clerk
Kate Thornton, Kara Wilkins, Ashley Stearns, Afton Diehl, Mary Wright, Sheldon Jones, Monnica Westendorf, Anthony Westendorf, Jennifer Tiller, Stacy Smiley, Lindsey Ascher, Becky Gaston and Jamie Bonnema**

Jessica Murphy made the motion to adopt the Agenda as presented. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0.

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0.

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS:

Science Curriculum Update

Stacy Smiley, Lindsey Ascher and Becky Gaston presented the science curriculum choice for Chapman Middle School to the Board of Education. It is important to create consistency even when there have been multiple changes in teachers which a curriculum provides. They felt like they were at a place to start something new. The team researched several options before making their choice. They said every day we want kids to be hands on with science and also be able to meet the standards.

Becky talked about when she was first hired, there was no curriculum for her to teach. She also said that that science standards can be very broad in their scope. Mrs. Gaston developed an approach that was similar to Chapman High School by breaking the standards down into learning targets. She didn't want other teachers to have to start from scratch and this curriculum will provide researched based approaches.

The science PLC team is presenting to the board LAB-AIDS. They explained how it is a very hands on curriculum with labs and not just reading out of a textbook with lectures. They brought with them the student version material so the Board members could look through the materials. The curriculum is organized by units that are flexible to be used at any of the grade levels from 6th through 8th grade. This allows for using the strengths of each teacher and making sure that each year there is integration of all of the different areas of science.

The LAB-AIDS trainers have years of classroom experience Stacy said. It was built by teachers and for teachers which makes it very user friendly.

The cost of this curriculum is \$67,432.33. That includes a class of (30) textbooks and also two (2) 1/2 days of Professional Development training. That training will take place in August and January. Stacy believes these virtual trainings are the best use of school funds to save and still getting one on one support.

Superintendent Suther said we have been able to build up our textbook fund since we were previously allowed to use ESSER funds for the ELA and Math adoptions these past few years.

The teachers spoke several times how much they love the hands on curriculum which will encompass up to 75% of the approach. Brenda Edleston said she loves how passionate these teachers are about keeping the students actively involved during a lesson.

Superintendent Suther said we are looking to approve this new curriculum tonight so we can set up curriculum work for the science teachers this summer and be ready for the students in August.

Dana Obermeyer made the motion to adopt the LAB-AIDS Science curriculum for Chapman Middle School for the 2025-2026 school year as presented. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

Insurance Renewal

Sheldon Jones, EMC & Copeland Insurance Representative, was present to discuss and answer any questions about the insurance renewal for 2025-26. He stated the deductibles continue to stay at a set amount which range from \$25,000 to \$75,000 instead of a percentage.

He said the property insurance raised around 7% but that is also with some adjustments they were able to make on structure values.

It was explained how the auto/bus insurance did raise 15% even with trying to make some adjustments on older vehicles from full to just liability. It is just the trend on that type of insurance currently.

He told the board that USD 473 worker's compensation risk number is currently really low which is positive with the average MOD value at 1.0 for school districts and we are .65. Companies can only go down to .62 risk factor. There is still a slight increase plus the calculation of increased payroll each year after negotiations.

Sheldon mentioned that Rick Hall told him he is interested in some training again this year for his custodial staff. This is a free option to take advantage of and help to keep employees trained to remain safe and supported.

The USD 473 policy renews on July 1st and Superintendent Suther was very grateful to have this information for renewal to our Board at the May meeting instead of our June meeting. He is recommending to the Board that they approve this renewal.

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to approve the insurance package for the 2025-2026 school year for Property, General Liability, Linebacker, Crime, Inland Marine and Business Auto with EMC, plus Workers Compensation and Cyber Liability through Travelers Insurance. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0.

Cardiac Emergency Plan

Superintendent Suther said last year this was a state statute that came about, that every school in the state of Kansas is required to have a Cardiac Emergency Team and a plan in place.

According to the required Cardiac Emergency Plan guideline, there must be a team created with some members fully certified trained in CPR and others who are trained in a two hour session involving the main components of CPR and the AED machines. We have decided to have all Administrators, Nurses, Head Coaches and PE instructors be fully certified. All other coaches are required by KSHSSA to have the basic CPR and AED training. We will add a few that are not covered in these groups for some outlying buildings like Rural Center who may not have a coach on staff.

August 5th - Coach's defensive driving class & the two hour CPR/AED training

August 12th - All Administrators and Nurses CPR/AED certification

September 15th - All Head Coaches, PE instructors and other employees on the Cardiac Building Plan CPR/AED certification

***We will do the required mock scenario during the August inservice to be*

prepared on procedures like making the proper announcement to get the team to the location immediately and who covers their class. Then, what does each person do on the scene like assess the person, meet the ambulance, call the parents or guardians, etc...

Brenda Edleston asked Superintendent Suther if this was a state model plan. He stated there are a variety of plans developed by companies that can be edited to meet the needs of our district. We started with an example developed from the Greenbush Consortium.

Dana Obermeyer made the motion to approve the Comprehensive Cardiac Emergency Response Plan which includes the policies and procedures for each attendance building in USD 473 starting with the 2025-2026 school year. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0.

2025-26 Calendar change

Superintendent Suther explained that KSDE will have the count day for school funding take place on September 22, 2025 next year because the 20th falls on a Saturday. Since we have an inservice day scheduled at that time we need to change it to a student contact day. So the proposal is to move our inservice to the week before on Monday, September 15, 2025.

Jessica Murphy made the motion to approve the 2025-2026 calendar change for September 22, 2025 as a student contact day and have September 15, 2025 be an In-Service day. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0.

Region F Hazard Mitigation Resolution

Superintendent Suther has communicated with Chancy Smith who is the Dickinson County Emergency Management Director. This Resolution is for cities, schools and government organizations to sign which sets in place that there is a county hazard mitigation plan for our regional area which then allows for eligibility for FEMA money and projects after a disaster. An example this year involved the possibility for reimbursement for snow removal with a declaration of a disaster declared with over 18+ inches of snow in January. It involved filling out an application with rates, equipment used, etc. for the possibility of reimbursement of a certain percentage of those fees.

Brenda Edleston made the motion to approve the Region F Hazard Mitigation Plan Resolution. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0.

Budget District and Building Needs Assessments Review

Superintendent Suther explained that before approving the 2025-26 budget in August, the Board will do an annual review of the District and each individual building needs assessment to determine how to best distribute funds for the

success of the school district. Needs assessments will be available on the District website and in the Administrative office. Mr. Suther highlighted some of those needs for each of the buildings when it comes to curriculum, facilities, staffing, and much more.

Budget State Assessments Review

Superintendent Suther said the annual review will take place of the state assessment results along with addressing barriers to overcome, budget actions, and the amount of time to achieve. The documentation will also be available on the District website and in the Administrative office for review. Mr. Suther pointed out that some of the difficulties involve areas like attendance, state assessment results not being released until the following fall, at risk factors, and much more.

Opaa! 2025-2026 Fixed Food Costs

We have received our yearly service contract with Opaa!. The cost sheet shows what we pay Opaa! for meals served for breakfast, snack and lunches. Beginning July 1st, student meals will raise but the minimum requirement for students is 10 cents which is what the recommendation will be. Adult meals will have no change since the charge by USD 473 is above the reimbursement amount. Once approved by the Board, it will be sent to KSDE and Opaa! for renewal.

The fixed cost payment to Opaa! is:

Student Lunches: \$3.1112
Student Breakfast: \$2.0181
Student Snack: \$1.1951

Jessica Murphy made the motion to approve the addendum for the renewal of the fixed price food service management contract with Opaa! for the 2025-26 school year. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0.

Donations

Superintendent Suther shared we have received two donations for Board approval. They are:

Chapman Middle School parents donated cash for the 8th grade field trip to the trampoline park in Salina totaling \$1,000.00.

Also, the Todd Smith Memorial has currently brought in \$555.00 for his memorial. The request is for the funds to be used for a scholarship fund which could be for a student in a CTE pathway club organization or moved over to the Irish Foundation.

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to accept the two donations. Jessica Murphy

seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0.

Personnel

Jessica Murphy made the motion to approve all personnel items as presented. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0.

Resignations:

Kay Hoffman - District Nurse Assistant

Deb Heiman - Chapman Middle School Office Aide

Raelee McNeil - Chapman Elementary Custodian

Transfer:

Chris Jaderborg - Enterprise Behavior Aide to Blue Ridge PreK Teacher Aide

New Hires:

None

Contract Renewal:

Trent Armstrong - District Transportation Director

Executive Session - Negotiations

Brenda Edleston made the motion to go into Executive Session for 15 minutes in order to discuss Negotiations pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA and the open meeting will resume in the Board Room at 7:58 pm. Superintendent Suther is also invited into the session. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0.

The Board returned to open session at 7:58 pm.

Negotiations Package for 2025-2026

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to approve the Certified Staff Negotiations Package for the 2025-26 school year. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0.

Executive Session - Students

Jessica Murphy made the motion to go into Executive Session for 15 minutes in order to discuss Student matters pursuant to the exception relating to actions adversely or favorable affecting a student under KOMA and the open meeting will resume in the Board Room at 8:16 pm. Superintendent Suther is also invited into the session. Brenda Edleston seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0.

The Board returned to open session at 8:16 pm.

Non-Resident Attendance Policy

Brenda Edleston made the motion for the Board to extend for the 2025-26 school

year non-resident approval for the student discussed and follow up on details of requirements to continue by the superintendent. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0.

Adjournment

Jessica Murphy made the motion to adjourn. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned - 8:18 pm

Brenda Edleston

Brenda Edleston, Pro Tempore Appointed President

Michele Sutter

Michele Sutter, Board Clerk