

Minutes

Budget Hearing Unified School District No. 473, Chapman, KS

August 11, 2025

Brenda Edleston, School Board President, called the USD 473 Budget Hearing to order at 6:00 pm at the Education Center located at 822 N. Marshall, Chapman, KS.

Other Board Members Present: Jessica Murphy, Adam Elliott, Jennifer Elliott and Betsy Edwards (Dana Obermeyer was absent)

**Also Present: Kevin Suther – Superintendent, Michele Sutter - Board Clerk
Shelby Amancio and Laurie Rutherford**

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

NEW BUSINESS:

25-26 Budget Hearing

Brenda Edleston said they have all had access to the budget documents to review. Superintendent Suther went over the main budget codes, cash balances and mills proposed for the 2025-26 school year in the meeting.

Title money was being withheld by the Federal government but was just released which for USD 473 that means the Title II and Title IV accounts. Title I has been available which totals \$163,634. The allocations that just released and are being updated on the Code 7 in the budget which is Title II for \$34,658 and Title IV for \$18,454. These expenses help to offset salaries, the mental health intervention team liaison, STEM equipment & programs, along with some fine art purchases. This is good news moving forward that could have been an unexpected reduction in funds.

GENERAL FUND:

The increase in funds for the General Fund continue to be based off the end of the year CPI (Consumer Price Index) which is helpful to keep up with inflation and costs. Last year the per pupil cost was calculated at \$5,378.00. This year it is \$5,615.00. The General Fund is set at 20 mills for all districts in the State of Kansas.

SUPPLEMENTAL GENERAL FUND:

The district is staying under the RNR (Revenue Neutral Rate) which is the first time for USD 473 since the publishing has been required. This year since we were so close to the RNR collection amount, we decided to carry over a little more in the LOB and lower a few budget lines to remain under. We are not proposing to use the maximum of 33%. The district has chosen to stay with the state average each year which this year is 32.3%. The mills collected would be set at 18.958 compared to last year at 19.827.

BOND:

We have built up our bond carry-over so some reductions can take place to help tax payers. The proposed mill levy is lowered to 4.247 compared to last year at 4.505. Future discussions will need to take place on projects needed which go beyond the scope of the budget which could require another bond but the goal would be not to raise taxes.

FOOD SERVICE:

During Covid the reimbursement took place for all meals for all students which did help to maintain or increase for many years in the Code 24 fund. We have decided to carry over 3 months for cash balance from last year's budget from transfers which helps to offset the increase in food costs since this is an area where we have to spend more then the revenue brought in.

The special education Code 30 is not keeping up with inflation and costs to maintain. Two years ago the legislators added 75 million to special education which was a great step towards fully funding at the 92% but next year only amounted to 7.5 million towards all districts in Kansas. There was also the unexpected surprise that the Medicaid department has missed calculated the formula for reimbursements for all school in Kansas for the last 7 years and has to be paid back in less than a year. This amounts to over \$540,000 for our special education cooperative which means our local assessments must increase. So more carry over had to be concentrated to this fund to help with this next year's budget.

CAPITAL OUTLAY:

USD 473 has been conservative with spending for facilities and has helped to increase the amount in Capital Outlay. This will allow for accomplishing a few more projects in the future to maintain our buildings and property. All roofs have been updated and the last stage of the HVAC strategic plan will be complete next summer with the CES controls installed. When the district proposes on the budget to spend most of the Capital Outlay budget that is just to allow for authority in case of a natural disaster or large repair expense but does not mean we will spend it. This allows for the budget to not have to be

republished and Chapman knows from the past tornado that anything can happen.

The total mill levy from last year was 52.332 and the 2025-26 proposed mill levy is lowered to 51.205.

Superintendent Suther said these are the main highlights of the budget. Mrs. Edleston asked if any patrons wanted to comment or share before completing the budget hearing and no one wished to address the board with comments or questions.

The Budget information was for informational purposes only. It will be voted on at the Special Meeting immediately following.

Adjournment

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to adjourn. Betsy Edwards seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.

Meeting Adjourned - 6:14 pm



Brenda Edleston, Board President



Michele Sutter, Board Clerk