

# Minutes

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

**September 8, 2025**

**Brenda Edleston, School Board President, called the Regular Meeting of the USD 473 Board of Education to order at 6:30 pm at the Education Center located at 822 N. Marshall, Chapman, KS.**

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

**Also Present: Kevin Suther – Superintendent, Michele Sutter - Board Clerk Afton Diehl, Bret Toews, Brandon McIntosh, Kara Wilkins, Meghan Brockmeier, Josie Morris, Nicole Barnes, Kate Thornton and Mary Wright**

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**Jessica Murphy made the motion to adopt the Agenda as presented. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.**

### CONSENT AGENDA:

**Adam Elliott made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.**

- Approve the minutes from the Budget Hearing, the Special Board Meeting and the Regular Meeting all on August 11, 2025**
- Financial Reports: Treasurer, Food Service & Petty Cash**
- Payment of Bills**
- Public Participation**

### SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS:

#### Blue Ridge Elementary Presents to the Board

**Principal Afton Diehl spoke to the Board about the new expansive garden they planted in coordination with the Extension Office at Kansas State University. Bret Toews and Mrs. Diehl told the Board how they went out and tilled up the ground for the garden to be planted. The students were taught how to plant potatoes and onions at the Preschool through 5th grade level. Kindergarten to 2nd grade were able take onions and potatoes home to grow over the summer. The rains were so plentiful this summer that it produced a large**

**crop of potatoes and onions that were harvested and donated to the Clover Cabinet Food Bank to help the community receive fresh produce. The tomatoes went in next and then popcorn. The popcorn is currently in the drying out process and once it is ready, they will have a popcorn party for the students.**

**Currently in the garden are sunflowers which Mrs. Diehl showed how huge they were in a picture of them in her slideshow. She thanked Bret and his intern from the extension office plus the summer school kids who helped keep everything watered this summer. They also have sweet potatoes and pumpkins and hopefully those will be ready for Halloween. Finally, the Okra is almost ready to pick. Last Friday, the 2nd and 3rd graders started lettuce in raised beds.**

**Afton thanked Bret for all his help starting this garden at Blue Ridge Elementary . Even the After-School-Program is getting involved with this project and learning all about gardening plus they created large scarecrows to protect the area.**

**Bret told the Board that he hopes to extend the project to develop raised bed gardens at Enterprise Elementary in the spring.**

#### **New Teacher Introductions**

**There were 5 new Certified employees hired for the 25-26 school year and 3 were able to be in attendance last night to meet the Board.**

**Brandon McIntosh, Athletic & Activities Development Coordinator  
Josie Morris - Chapman High School Social Studies Teacher  
Megan Brockmeier - Chapman Elementary Kindergarten Teacher**

**They each told a few things about themselves and how the school year has started for them. The Board was very appreciative for them sharing their experiences so far at USD 473.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

##### **MHIT (Mental Health Intervention Team) Liaison**

**Nicole Barnes, Mental Health Intervention Team Liaison was here to present about the program provided to USD 473 students.**

#### **WHAT IS MHIT?**

##### **Mental Health Intervention Team**

**THE GOAL IS TO PROVIDE GREATER ACCESS TO BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

**FOR K-12 STUDENTS WITH AN EMPHASIS ON THOSE IN CUSTODY OR RECEIVING SERVICES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES (DCF) AND TO ESTABLISH A COHERENT STRUCTURE BETWEEN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS.**

**CHAPMAN AND HERINGTON PARTNER WITH CENTRAL KANSAS MENTAL HEALTH TO PROVIDE SCHOOL BASED SERVICES TO THE DISTRICT.**

**THIS ELIMINATES BARRIERS THAT RURAL COMMUNITIES HAVE IN REGARDS TO ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES. PROVIDING SERVICES WITHIN THE SCHOOL ALLOWS FOR LESS TIME MISSED AT SCHOOL AND A CONSISTENT SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR A CHILD WITH A TRAINED THERAPIST.**

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN CHAPMAN SCHOOL YEAR 25-26 HIGHLIGHTS:**

**-7<sup>th</sup> year in the program**

**-41 currently receiving services (therapy and/or case management)**

**-Weekly visits by a therapist and case managers**

**-3 Psychosocial Groups**

**-Servicing CES, CMS, CHS and Enterprise. They hope to expand to all schools if an additional therapist is able to be hired by CKMHC.**

**-2 case managers/ 1 therapist cover the area**

**The overall goal is to improve coping skills, attendance, behavior, grades and overall student success with help from parents, teachers, and mental health professionals.**

#### **Approve Site Council Meetings for All Buildings**

**Superintendent Suther gave the Board a current list of site council dates and times for all buildings. Our Board Policy states the Board approve those meeting dates & times. Betsy Edwards made a motion to approve those meeting times. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.**

#### **Capital Outlay Technology Purchase**

**Chapman High School is in need of a new auditorium projector and have obtained a quote from CDW-G who is an approved cooperative purchasing company. Since the quote is over the \$20,000, the Board needs to vote on the approval. We are hoping to get the projector installed in time for the Shrek performance at the high school, as well as for Class Night. This year marks the 100th Class Night Production and some very special things are being planned. The projector will be installed from the middle of the stage ceiling and fill almost the whole back wall. Superintendent Suther loaded into Board Docs the quote and all materials needed. Brett Koster and Kyle McGuffin**

**have agreed to take care of getting it installed and will have an electrician put a new outlet high above the stage so no extra cords have to be run. This is an action item and needs a motion. Adam Elliott made the motion to approve the capital outlay purchase for a new auditorium projector for \$20,756. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.**

### **Surplus**

**The request is to approve the Chapman Middle School past Science textbooks and curriculum as surplus. The Fall of 2025-26 school year is the start of the new curriculum being taught for 6th, 7th and 8th grade science classes. Jessica Murphy made a motion to approve the CMS past Science textbooks and curriculum as surplus. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion, motion carried 5-0.**

### **Personnel**

**Betsy Edwards made the motion to approve all personnel changes as presented. Adam Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.**

#### **Retirement:**

Sonya Anders - Chapman High School Family and Consumer Science Teacher

#### **Resignations:**

Megan Lewis - Bus Driver

Lawrence Hill - Bus Driver

Robin Schlesener - Chapman High School (Winter) Dance Coach

Rosi Eszra - Chapman Elementary PreK Aide

#### **New Hires:**

##### Regular Bus Route Drivers:

John Carroll

Todd Hettenbach

##### Bus Monitor:

Mary Ann Huish

##### Substitute Bus Drivers:

Becky Willman

Robert Smith

### **Adjournment**

**Betsy Edwards made the motion to adjourn. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 5-0.**

**Meeting adjourned - 7:14 pm**

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**Brenda Edleston, Board President**

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**Michele Sutter, Board Clerk**