

Minutes

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

November 10, 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, Dana Obermeyer and Jennifer Elliott

**Also Present: Kevin Suther – Superintendent, Michele Sutter - Board Clerk
Cindy Zumbrunn, Mary Wright, Ashley Stearns, Clint Merritt, Afton Diehl, Kara Wilkins, Stacy Smiley, Laurie Rutherford, Kate Thornton, Sara Cook, Riley DeLorenzo and Slayde Crouse**

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approve the minutes from the Regular October 13th, 2025 BOE Meeting
- Financial Reports: Treasurer, Food Service & Petty Cash
- Payment of Bills
- Public Participation

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS:

Enterprise Elementary Presents to the Board

Principal Laurie Rutherford spoke to the Board about the events and activities going on at Enterprise Elementary this year. The building theme this year is "KINDNESS" and Thursday the 13th is "National Kindness Day". The moto for the year revolves around "Kindness Moves!" with an emphasis on the idea that every act of kindness, no matter how small, has the power to make a big difference.

Mrs. Rutherford told about their morning meetings and all the movement that takes place. Their focus is strong on emotional health this year. She said the

Character Strong curriculum is amazing. One of the main challenges is the bucket filler activity. Each classroom has a bucket and every time there is an act of kindness, the teacher puts a "Kindness Pom Pom" in the bucket. Once the classroom bucket is full, the room gets a treat and then they dump their bucket into the large, main bucket in the office. Once that bucket is full, the whole schools gets a party.

Every week is also "Mindful Monday" which means you walk with a friend. Each day they do the November Gratitude Song. She said the kids love it! Each month the character song is different.

She shared some "Awesome Things at Enterprise":

TEACHERS -

- a. MTSS Conference (Mrs. Rutherford and Jackie Dautel both attended)**
- b. PLC (Collabs, SIT Meetings, Formative Reflection)**
- c. At-Risk Teaching (Groups, Social Skills, Executive Functioning Skills)**

STUDENTS -

- a. Kindness Challenge**
- b. Book Buddies**
- c. Reading with Residents**
- d. After-School-Program**
- e. Rock Star Awards**

PTO -

- a. School-wide t-shirts**
- b. Snack Cart for the Staff**

ACTIVITIES -

- a. Grandparent's Day Breakfast**
- b. Halloween Parade**
- c. Pumpkin Patch Field Trip**
- d. ENT Fire Chief Fire Safety lesson**
- e. Secret Spirit Week (organized by our High School Aide)**
- f. Halloween Door Decorating Contest**

coming soon...

- a. ENT Thanksgiving with Families Meal on November 18th at 11:15 am**
- b. ENT Christmas Concert on December 16th at 7:00 pm**

Fall State Athletic Qualifiers

First up was Coach Cindy Zumbrunn talking about cross country and she brought two of her athletes with her, Riley DeLoranzo and Slayde Crouse. The

boys had a great start to the year by winning two of the meets as a team while placing 3rd out of 7 teams at NCKL. The girls got 3rd out of 3 teams while other league teams did not have enough participants to have team points. Kinsey Thurlow received All NCKL honors. Liberty Cuevas went to State this year for the girls and placed 25th.

Coach Zumbrunn talked about the muddy mess that they encountered at Regionals but fought through the diversity.

Riley went to state as well as a Sophomore and placed 15th, receiving a medal. Slayde worked very hard to be a qualifier for state.

Coach Zumbrunn said losing nine seniors next year is really going to be hard but Slayde, Riley and Liberty will all be back next year for the 2026-27 season. She said there were many season and career PR's captured this year. Riley actually got his PR at State!

Coach Zumbrunn thanked the District for their support this year. She said there is a good bunch of middle school runners coming to join them and several high school runners that will be back for a solid combination. The next 2 or 3 years could show even more successes. Cross country is a hard sport and it's not supposed to be easy. Every year the athletes are told this sport does not begin in August. In order to have success, they need to run all year round, focusing on hitting the trail the first day of summer. Coach Zumbrunn said Riley and Slayde work their tails off all year round and that's why they've had so much success and fun this year.

Next up was Coach Sara Cook talking about the High School Volleyball season. She said they improved so much this year. They ended up finishing 13-24, which was 11 more wins than they had last year. They went 4-8 in league play. Chapman was able to split their double duals with wins verses Wamego, Marysville, Rock Creek and Abilene.

Coach Cook showed how the stats increased over 50% for almost every team category from the year before. Chapman has a very tough schedule but their goal next year is to flip the win & loss numbers while making it possible to host a substate.

She said there was a tremendous amount of improvement this year and that data doesn't lie.

HONORABLE MENTION ALL-LEAGUE

Adelynn Kirkpatrick - Senior
Callie Cook - Sophomore
Kennedy Scholz - Sophomore

Finally, Mr. Merritt shared some tennis re-caps since Coach Ade was hosting the tennis banquet and couldn't be in attendance.

Mr. Merritt stated that out of eight tournaments, the girls placed 1st as a team in five of them. Chapman was able to host NCKL for both the Varsity and JV levels. The varsity level finished 1st in the league which is the first time since 2013 to have that happen. The girls went an amazing 19-1. The JV girls also secured the 1st place win to become back-to-back NCKL champions.

As far as Regionals, the team qualified 3 of 4 spots to go to state. Clara Gfeller and Josie Baer represented the #1 and #2 Singles while Avery Baer and Carmen Courtois were the #1 Doubles team to qualify. The doubles team medaled at State with a 12th place finish.

There is very good participation in Girls' Tennis with 26 girls on the team so they try to get as many JV matches as possible so everyone gets to compete.

Mr. Merritt said Coach Ade wanted to be sure to thank our Board of Education and to let them know how much she appreciates them and their support.

Academic Progress Update

Stacy Smiley, MTSS Coordinator, and all building principals including Mary Wright, Afton Diehl, Kara Wilkins, Ashley Stearns, Laurie Rutherford and Kate Thornton all presented.

DLT SHOUT OUTS:

Afton shared the Standards Based Grade Card with the new addition of the PE & Music standards this year. In the past, both of these areas had a simple single grade but now there are categories that better define the skills taking place by each individual student. The district is proud of these teachers for initiating this change to create a better assessment of where their students are at to share with parents. The following grade scale is the levels of understanding on the standards based grade card:

L = Limited Understanding

P = Progressing

M = Meets Standard

E = Exceeds Standard

New this year, the Preschool Progress Check report was developed which follows the similar format as the other grade levels standards based grade approach. Preschool bases their learning off of a "play based" approach but it provides so much more academically to be prepared for the transition to kindergarten. Parents are surprised when they see all the learning of different

skills that take place and where exactly their child is at in the process. This in turn can help parents know what to help at home with. Both 3 & 4 year olds are monitored with methods like observations marked on a clip board or the teacher working with a small group to gain a better understanding of where students are at on each standard. The PreK standards come from the "KELS" skills (Kansas Early Learning Standards).

Chapman Middle School explained how the grade book and approach is different to follow the goals of the District for both English and Math classes. This was developed from a lot of hard work of summer alignment with the standards, setting up smaller formative assessments for more often feedback and developing a support system of tutoring. Mrs. Frieze and Mr. Bell are high school teachers who assisted in the process to collaboratively work with teachers at the middle school level in the transition. Another example was how the teachers are now using a chart to make sure to spiral back to each standard multiple times throughout the year instead of teaching the topic and moving on without follow up until the end of the year before state testing. The results from last year are the highest since 2013 with every level of 6th, 7th and 8th grade in both English and Math being above the state average by at least 9 or more percentage points.

The following is an example of the English classroom grade scale to incorporate all the major categories equally in their assessment of the students.

25% - Reading Summatives

25% Writing Summatives

25% Speaking & Listening Summatives

25% Daily Skills

Data Highlights:

The FastBridge screener shows steady increases since 2021 when the screener was implemented in the district. It is administered three times a year for both math and reading while using progress monitoring every one to two weeks.

The Chapman High School state assessment scores for ELA & Math are 1st in the NCKL and also 1st among all 4A schools with scores at 61.72 and 66.65 which is over double the state average in Level 3 and 4.

Ashley Stearns shared about the KESA goal which states, "During collaboration with grade-level and content-area teams, all staff will align and build formative assessments to assess standards. All staff will create and implement formative assessments to guide instruction."

NEXT STEPS:

One of the main topics for the January Inservice day will involve a Formative Collaboration Showcase.

On February 10th, the KESA School Improvement Day will take place @ Smoky Hill Education Center in Salina.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kansas Can Star Awards

Mr. Suther said that KSDE and the Kansas State Board of Education extended their congratulations to Chapman USD 473 for achieving recognition in the 2025 Kansas Can Star Recognition Program. They recognized the exceptional work our District is doing to reach the state's vision for education. Kansas leads the world in the success of each student. The Kansas Can Star Recognition Program recognizes District success in the outcome measures Kansans told us they value, and it is clear that Chapman and other Kansas Districts like ours are moving us closer to achieving the state's vision. KSDE and the State Board presented USD 473 with the following recognition for 2025:

Social Emotional Growth - Bronze

Academically Prepared for Postsecondary - Copper

For HS Graduation - GOLD (above 95% level)

Post Secondary Success - Bronze

2025 Commissioner's Award - Recognition for outperforming our predicted postsecondary effectiveness rate above a .40 standard deviation

Official Newspaper

The Dickinson County News Times is converting to a fully digital publication in November 2025 which has been the official newspaper for USD 473. The requirements for a Kansas Public School for official legal notices, advertisements or other publications should be a newspaper that has a general circulation in the school district that is at least a weekly printed version.

Jessica Murphy made the motion to change the official USD 473 newspaper to The Abilene Reflector-Chronicle. Adam Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Donations

Sheldon and Julie Jones, Enterprise, donated \$700.00 to Enterprise Elementary for the school wide pumpkin patch field trip. Adam Elliott made the motion to accept the donation. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Personnel

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

Resignations:

Amanda Harmison - Chapman Middle School Secretary

Wyatt Rutherford - Chapman Middle School Assistant Boys' Wrestling Coach

Transfers:

None

New Hires:

Ashley Davidson - Chapman High School Cashier Part-Time

Briana Emig - Bus Driver

Desiree Rice - Bus Driver

Brandon Cook - Bus Driver

Jon Arveson - Chapman Middle School Boys' Assistant Wrestling Coach

Sawyer Havenstein - Chapman High School Head Track & Field Coach

(The Board took a 5 minute break from 8:33 to 8:38 pm)

Executive Session

Jessica Murphy made the motion for the Board to go into Executive Session for 30 minutes in order to discuss personnel items pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the Board room at 9:10 pm. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

The Board returned to open session at 9:10 pm

Adam Elliott made the motion for the Board to go into Executive Session for 30 minutes in order to discuss personnel items pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the Board room at 9:40 pm. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

The Board returned to open session at 9:40 pm

Jennifer Elliott made the motion for the Board to go into Executive Session for 20 minutes in order to discuss personnel items pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the Board room at 10:00 pm. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

The Board returned to open session at 10:00 pm

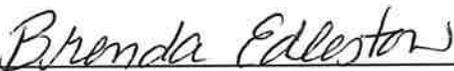
Brenda Edleston made the motion for the Board to go into Executive Session for 10 minutes in order to discuss personnel items pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the Board room at 10:10 pm. Betsy Edwards seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

The Board returned to open session at 10:10 pm

Adjournment

Dana Obermeyer made a motion for the Board to adjourn. Betsy Edwards seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Meeting Adourned - 10:11 pm



Brenda Edleston, Board President



Michele Sutter, Board Clerk