

Minutes

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

December 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, Dana Obermeyer and Jennifer Elliott

Also Present: Kevin Suther – Superintendent, Michele Sutter - Board Clerk James Bell, Ashley Stearns, Hannah Hummel, Joyce Hill, David Hill, Chris Aguas, Caine Aguas, Diehl Elliott, Michael Gardner, Olivia Sellin, Brantley Hill, Marla Koehn, Augustus Anders, Favio Garcia, Kara Wilkins, Kyrsten Day, Afton Diehl, Stacy Smiley and Laurie Rutherford

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to adopt the Agenda. Jessica Murphy 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 November 10th, 2025 BOE Meeting
- Financial Reports: Treasurer, Food Service & Petty Cash
- Payment of Bills
- Public Participation

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS:

CHS & CMS Math Approach

James Bell from Chapman High School and Hannah Hummel from Chapman Middle School presented to the Board about the standards based approach to teaching mathematics at USD 473 at the Secondary Level. The systematic way of teaching along with a strong culture has produced the highest scores in the NCKL and all of 4A for at least the last six years in a row.

For the 2016-2017 school year, CHS decided to restructure the way they teach math. The results started the first year with the changes from only being 11% of students scoring a 3 or 4 level on the state assessment to 41%. The state average has been consistently around the 28% to 34% over the last 7 years. The scores

continued to increase for Chapman High School with multiple years in the mid to upper 50% range with an amazing 67% this last year in 2024-25!

Some of the major changes that have made the difference are as follows:

- Integrated Math
- Standards-Based Grading
- Spiraling
- Tutoring

Integrated Math:

Integrated math means students receive exposure to Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry all in one year based off the standards for that grade level year set forth by the Kansas State Department of Education. Instead of just learning about Geometry all year and then going on to a different mathematic discipline the follow year, students are exposed to all throughout the year. In the past, the students were missing key concepts before taking the state assessment at the end of their sophomore year.

Standards Based Grading:

The math department teaches and assesses individual skills aligned with state standards, rather than organizing instruction by chapters or units. Small formatives are given on each standard with the ability to relearn if they are having difficulty for retesting. This ensures learning instead of just moving on because it is not about the speed of learning.

Spiraling:

Every day students revisit skills with the bell work at the beginning of class. Then the retention problems are mixed in with the current standards so students are exposed to past standards consistently so it gets into their long term memory.

Tutoring:

Finally, students have the ability to work individually or in small groups when needed during Irish Hub. This is a tutoring location at the end of the day administered by Mr. Bell, a science teacher, and National Honor Society students. This extra support helps to give students an opportunity to ask questions in a smaller environment and get individual attention for knowing how the standard works so they can be successful on the reassessment.

Chapman Middle School has started a very similar process this year and works closely with the Chapman High School staff. Students have commented that they are starting to really know the information and provided a lot of opportunities to be successful and build confidence in math. The middle school uses a new adopted Envision curriculum along with Delta Math for daily practice and developing the formative

assessments. Chapman High School has taken the time to develop their own curriculum based off the state standards without using a standard math book.

CMS Robotics

Augustus Anders, General Science teacher for 8th Grade and Robotics, demonstrated the progress that is starting to take place the second year teaching robotics. This includes expanding the program with competitive teams participating in tournaments throughout the year with the possibility of qualifying for State or World competition.

Last year was Mr. Anders' first year teaching at Chapman Middle School. He brought with him multiple examples of VEX Robots. He is an alumni so he thought it was a fantastic idea to bring to Chapman. The teams are working very hard to design their own unique robot to accomplish a problem solving style of game that involves stacking. This year's theme is "Mix and Match". Students have to cooperatively work with the opposing team on the best way to build for the most points.

VEX is student led. The coach can give advice, but they can't build a robot or tell them what their strategy should be. In tournaments, the main part is their "teamwork challenge". Their first tournament is February 7th. The state competition is in Wichita in March, if they can qualify. The top three teams get to travel to St. Louis for Worlds. Students explained and demonstrated to the Board of Education how their robot works along with performing some of the tasks required.

NEW BUSINESS:

Donations

Adam Elliott made the motion to accept the (4) donations given to the District. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

- 1. Kidd Family donation of \$300 to Enterprise Elementary**
- 2. \$643 donation to CES from the United Methodist Church in Chapman**
- 3. \$400 donation to CMS from the Knights of Columbus**
- 4. \$400 donation to USD 473 from the St. Michael's Alter Society**

Calendar Options for 2026-27

The committee of Administrators and Teachers feel they really like the USD 473 calendar and do not want to make any major changes. The calendar committee consists of four administrators and four teachers who provided (2) different options for all the teachers to vote on.

Option A

The October Parent Teacher Conferences days would be on Monday and Tuesday, which is currently how our calendar is. The parent teacher conference is being moved up one week so it does not conflict with the beginning of winter middle school sports games.

Option B

The October Parent-Teacher Conference days would be changed to Monday and Thursday.

This is an Information-only item for the Board to look over the choices that will be voted on. This will be brought back to the January agenda and the calendar will be voted on by the Board of Education for final approval.

Approve January Early Graduates

There are (12) Chapman High School students who requested and filled out the application to be an early graduate. The Board of Education approves them now on the basis that each student will meet all the USD 473 and State Board of Education graduation requirements. The students are allowed to attend prom and walk at graduation in May 2026.

2025-2026 Semester Graduates

1. Bisterfeldt, Brionna
2. Bryan, Annabelle
3. Cain, Dalton
4. Chekal, Leah
5. Coffey, Maidlynn
6. Collins, Kiley
7. Klukas, Dereck
8. Marse, Lestat
9. McGlothin, Hayden
10. Smith, Brady
11. Smith, Ethyn
12. Tennant, Leah

Betsy Edwards made the motion to approve the Chapman High School early graduates as long as they meet all the USD 473 and State Board of Education requirements. Jennifer Elliott second the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Negotiations Team for 2026-27

Last year the Board of Education negotiations team was: Brenda Edleston, Jessica Murphy, and Jennifer Elliott

They all volunteered to be on the team again this year. Each member must participate in a required training before negotiations begin this spring.

Adam Elliott made the motion to have the following three members: Brenda Edleston, Jessica Murphy and Jennifer Elliott represent the USD 473 Board of Education on the 2026-27 negotiations team. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Surplus

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to approve the following list as surplus. Betsy Edwards seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

These are the following vehicles that are reaching the 25 year mark that need to be added to surplus.

#7- 1BAAKCPA92F203879-- 2002 BLUEBIRD 72 PASSENGER Times out 04/26, spare bus

#58-1FDXE45F01HA82590--2001 FORD. BLUEBIRD BODY-29 PASSENGER. Times out 12/25

#59-1FDXE45F21HA82591--2001 FORD. BLUEBIRD BODY-29 PASSENGER. Times out 12/25

#60-1FDXE45F41HA82592--2001 FORD. BLUEBIRD BODY-29 PASSENGER. Times out 12/25

VAN Z-IGCGG25R7Y1163943 - 2000 CHEVY 1500. It hasn't been used in two years and has a lot of miles. There is no need to continue to insure it and take up space in the lot.

A track and field high jump mat was also requested to be surplus.

Personnel

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

Resignations:

Charles Sarvis - Bus Driver

Becky Gaston - Chapman High School Assistant Volleyball Coach

New Hires:

Erin Tilton - Chapman Middle School Half-Time Secretary

Facility Planning

One of the future projects Superintendent Suther was working on was to have DCS Construction Management work on getting a price and design for the track & football LED lights. This a retrofit with all new wiring and lights with the existing poles. The cost through the Greenbush cooperative purchasing is

\$301,327 through Musco, which could occur this summer charged to next year's budget.

Benefits:

- 1. Much brighter and light extended out to the whole track on both sides. (Currently dark during a FB game in the end zones plus completely dark at the end of a track where it meets on the curves.)**
- 2. All walkways and stands lit up for safety and could even change the home stand area to green for effect.**
- 3. A new zone will be added to light up the north practice field side for early & later practices due to heat days and with time changes, plus youth football.**
- 4. Can light up with a dim light on the track area to allow for the community to walk at night during certain hours plus not disturbing the surrounding houses.**
- 5. 10 year warranty with monitoring - If a light or something goes out they call to let us know when the repair person is coming out to fix it for no cost.**
- 6. LED provides efficiency with energy so even having them on more will still reduce the cost to the district.**
- 7. Show lights with dimming, flashing and colors built in for introductions or Band/Dance performances like a spot light. Everything is controlled by an app or calling in 24/7 directly to Musco.**

This was a Discussion item only for the 26-27 budget year.

Future Work Session Planning

In the past, there has been scheduled work sessions in the evenings which were around 2 to 3 hours in length. It does become difficult with adding another date to the calendar for the Board with activities that involve their own family, children or church. It was brought up that a possibility could be to have a 25 minute work session before every Board meeting or picking certain months of the year starting at 6:30 pm as usual. The regular meeting could then begin at 7 pm.

Adam Elliott mentioned the idea of the actual meeting beginning at 6:30 pm so that the children that are present for presentations can get on the road since it's a school night. He mentioned possibly having the Work Sessions be after the actual Board meeting has adjourned. Superintendent Suther reminded the Board that whichever way they decide to do it is fine but to remember that a Work Session is a Special Meeting and the time and topic must be established beforehand and no other topics can be discussed during that time other than what was proposed. These meetings are also open to the public. Another option is also simply to add a specific agenda item at the end of the board meeting for extended conversation.

Brenda Edleston and Superintendent Suther will compile the options and present them in January for the Board of Education to discuss and possibly

decide on a structure.

Board Honoree

USD 473 wants to recognize the following Board member for her service and contribution as a leader in our district. This is the last Board meeting for her as her term expires.

Betsy Edwards - 4 years - District 2, Position 5

Superintendent Suther thanked Betsy for her service to our District and presented her with a plaque to thank her.

Executive Session - Personnel

Brenda Edleston made the motion for the Board to have a 5 minute break beginning at 8:30 and then 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 9:05 pm. For the 1st (10) minutes from 8:35 to 8:45 will be the Board only. Superintendent Suther will then come in from 8:45 to 9:05. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

The Board returned to open session at 9:05 pm

Jessica Murphy made the motion for the Board to go into Executive Session for 15 additional 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 9:20 pm. Superintendent Suther was invited to stay in the session. Adam Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

The Board returned to open session at 9:20 pm

Superintendent Contract

Jennifer Elliot made the motion to extend Superintendent Suther's contract an additional year to June, 30 2028 and give a 4% raise. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment

Jessica Murphy made a motion for the Board to adjourn. Brenda Edleston seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Meeting Adourned - 9:22 pm



Brenda Edleston, Board President

Michele L. Sutter

Michele Sutter, Board Clerk