

Minutes

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

February 26, 2026

Brenda Edleston, School Board President, called the Special meeting of the USD 473 Board of Education to order at 8:02 am at the Chapman High School office, located at 400 W 4th Street, Chapman, KS 67431.

Other Board Members Present: Jessica Murphy, Adam Elliott, Favio Garcia, Dana Obermeyer and Kyrsten Day (*Jennifer Elliott was absent*)

Also Present: Kevin Suther – Superintendent, Michele Sutter - Board Clerk

Kyrsten Day made the motion to adopt the Agenda. Favio Garcia seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

USD 473 Board of Education School Tours:

We began the school tours at Chapman High School. Kate Thornton, Principal, shared that this year they began doing the Pledge of Allegiance as a school, first thing in the morning.

She also gave a small update about their Class Night practice with the Alumni. This is the 100th year of doing Class Night and will be a combination of having alumni and seniors performing skits and singing songs.

Next, the group went to the weight room to observe the new equipment and updating of all the honors and records to inspire the students to achieve even more. Mrs. Thornton shared that on March 28th, Chapman High School will be hosting for the first time the State Power Lifting Meet.

Currently, the only position open at CHS is for a FACS teacher and we are in the process of interviewing candidates to fill that position in the near future.

The Board visited Jodi Dearmond's room and one of the recent projects by the students was to design a new sign for the entrance at the District Gym. It was just installed and brings a professional updated look. She also showed the group the girl's state wrestling banners they had just finished printing. Another project by her students was an assignment to design their own cereal box, which sounded like a very creative and real-life task. She talked about her ITS (Irish Tech Support) class that is now 8 years old and how it is really great for the kids who don't necessarily want to create but want to solve problems.

The Board went to the Art Building where Kayla Kinser teaches and also hosts the T-Works program. She shared that Chapman is hosting the League Art Show this year. She also shared they will soon be designing and hanging new murals for 4 of the High School halls. Mrs. Kinser took us inside the kiln and showed several projects that had been fired already. Mrs. Thornton took us over to the T-Works side and talked about the equipment they have and the ins and outs of the t-shirt business. T-Works is a student run business which works directly with customers on design, production and billing. She explained how there are scholarships that are available and given out at the Senior Awards Night for the students who finish the pathway.

Mrs. Thornton said that after Spring Break, the 8th graders come up and tour all the elective classes. They have 3 elective opportunities and there are many to choose from but this helps give them an idea of what their interests are.

We stopped at the Chemistry room and observed some experiments taking place with various types of foods.

We also visited the Geometry in Construction area and Mrs. Thornton talked about the new shed they were currently building for Ms. Zumbrunn that will be delivered to her in Abilene after completion. They used to build houses and once COVID hit, that program went away. This is a nice substitution on a much smaller scale for a build.

We ended our time at the High School at 8:48 am

The second visit location was Chapman Elementary.

Ashley Stearns met us and we started in their commons area viewing the "Spotlight Wall" where students submit pictures of activities they are involved in outside of school. It's a way to let their peers know different activities they are doing so they can get to know their interests.

We visited Conni Suther's Kindergarten class and got to see some of their Reading/Language Arts curriculum in action. They were learning the different sounds a vowel can make and learning how to distinguish that sound. An "A" can be long or short and they put their hands up high for a long sound and down low for a short sound.

Then, the Board went to Preschool where Shelby Rose and Rachel Woodcox were working with groups of kids and doing activities with each. Ms. Shelby was doing a literacy small group activity sounding out cvc words and writing them on a white board while Ms. Rachel was playing a number identification game with her group. We also checked out their new ant farm that was added this week since they are doing an insect unit. Mrs. Stearns said the kids love it.

We stopped in to Mrs. Rock's Title Reading room and both she and Jamie Compton were working on doing learning activities with their two groups. It was a great example of the MTSS process in action.

Mrs. Olson's 3rd grade class was busy learning about fractions and they had many

tools they use with the Envision curriculum to help them learn.

Mrs. Roberts' 5th grade class was doing an activity with Language Arts story and she had many creative questions for them to encourage thoughtful answers.

We also stopped in to the other 5th grade class, Mrs. Cable, and they were doing a review from the day before as Mrs. Cable was attending LTRS training at Central Office the day before.

Mrs. Ade's 1st grade class was doing some Heggerty exercises for the phonics curriculum. It's amazing to see what 6 years olds can do when challenged to put multiple words together to form a new word.

We visited Mrs. Paige's 2nd grade class and they were learning about a book involving "all things orchestras". They were doing some real vs. make believe exercises showing their creative side along with communication skills.

As we were wrapping up the tour, Adam Elliott asked Mrs. Stearns if there is anything she needs for her building that the Board of Education could help with. She said they are needing to repair or update the speaker system in their gym. She said their basketball goals can be difficult to hand crank at times when helping to lower them for youth basketball practices. She also stated that some more concrete on the east side of the building would help so the students could get dropped off on concrete further up in the car line to speed the process up and stay dry. It would be really nice if there was also an awning there to help keep them dry when getting loaded and unloaded.

Mrs. Stearns mentioned how the curriculum updates are very helpful and are in a good place with the adoption process. It would be helpful to have additional support for MTSS math just like they do with ELA.

The Kindergarten Round-up is coming soon and this year they are trying some different ideas. They are inviting the upcoming students, along with their family, to a special breakfast at the school. From there, they will go to four different stations to not only get information but have some fun with activities, visiting the classroom and just seeing how the students interact with each other.

We ended our time at the Elementary School at 9:49 am

Chapman Middle School was the final stop. Principal Mary Wright met us outside the office and we then went to the gym. Mrs. Karl and her PE class were learning how to play pickle ball which has become very popular with a couple tournaments being held outside the school day to bring the community in to the building.

From there we went to Mrs. Keller's room where they were watching the movie about the book they just completed. Mrs. Wright said the class was documenting the differences in the movie from the book.

We then went to Mrs. Cuadra's Math room and they were all learning how to measure angles.

Mr. Gottschalk's Geography class was learning about sovereign rights and having great discussions as a class and with partners.

We visited Ms. Ascher's Science class as they were finishing up a lab project report.

We also got to see the 6th grade teacher team meeting taking place. They were organizing their student led conferences and showed the important information that the students compile to show their progress to their parents. They developed a document to share with parents on what standards have been covered so far.

Adam Elliott also asked Ms. Wright if there is something she needs that the Board could help her with. She talked about the importance of Social Studies resources for the classroom as the Secondary Teacher's work through what to use for supplemental curriculum. The last two Inservices the Social Studies teachers have worked with KSDE to explore their options.

Ms. Wright told the Board how much she appreciates Brandon McIntosh being in her building and all that he helps her with. He helps relieve some of her duties so that she can have parent meetings, observe teachers, be there for student needs, and much more.

ADJOURNMENT:

Jessica Murphy made the motion to adjourn; Adam Elliott seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.



Brenda Edleston, School Board President



Michele Sutter, Board Clerk