

# Minutes

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

**March 9, 2026**

**Brenda Edleston, School Board Vice-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, Favio Garcia, Dana Obermeyer, Kyrsten Day and Jennifer Elliott**

**Also Present: Kevin Suther – Superintendent, Michele Sutter - Board Clerk Marjaul Ferris, Geo Becker, Audiel Becker, Colton Bell, Montana Kayl, Cambree Obermeyer, Kamur Hall, Alyssa Calovich, Sonya Anders, Victoria Pelfrey, Debbie Pelfrey, Clint Merritt, Addison Doriot, Journey Kuntz, Chelsey Armbruster, Ian Sayers and Levi Willman**

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**Favio Garcia made the motion to adopt the Agenda. Kyrsten Day seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

**Jennifer Elliott made the motion to approve the items under the Consent Agenda as presented. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

### CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approve the minutes from the Regular February 9th, 2026 meeting and also the Special meeting on February 26th, 2026
- Financial Reports: Treasurer, Food Service & Petty Cash
- Payment of Bills
- Public Participation

### SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS:

#### FCCLA Star Event Presentation:

**Two students are headed to State! Addison Doriot and Victoria Pelfrey, both Sophomores, presented their FCCLA *Star Event project* that received a Gold for Focus on Children for District C. This was designed in the Careers Working with Children's class instructed by Mrs. Anders. They shared results from helping with the Blue Ridge After-School-Program. They showed the lessons they created and taught by using a demonstration board. They had goals they created in which they met and will have five total visits to the Blue Ridge After-School-Program once the project is complete.**

**For some of their research, they explored why elementary schools do an After-School-Program so they interviewed Mrs. Diehl and also Superintendent Suther for insight.**

**One of their activities was an introduction to kindness. They created a bingo game to teach students on how to be kind to others.**

**The students shared they needed to purchase supplies for the program and were very grateful to have anonymous donors help them financially. Both students were so thankful they got the experience of working directly with kids at Blue Ridge Elementary. They both shared that this project has made them both look into the education field for their futures because of what they learned.**

**These students received gold in district, they are going to state in Wichita and they hope to go on to Nationals in Washinton, DC.**

### **Winter Sports Honors:**

#### **Wrestling:**

**Marjaul Ferris, Head Girls Wrestling Coach, was there to share about their season. She said 17 girls came out for wrestling this year. They set many goals at the start of the season and they achieved most of them, only missing 1. She did say that even though there was some open weight classes, their numbers keep growing and are getting closer to filling them all.**

**Alyssa Calovich got her 100th WIN at the Marysville dual, which was a huge accomplishment. Alyssa is a senior so this was her last season to compete.**

**Coach Ferris also said that they sent 10 to regionals and of those, 7 went on to state. Their team finished 15th out of 50 teams that were represented at the state tournament. The team was undefeated in league dual matches and were NCKL Champions.**

**She thanked the Board for all their support in girls wrestling. She shared that in the 1st year of the program, there was only one girl who went out, her daughter Chelsey, which is also now the assistant coach for girls wrestling. The 2nd year, there were 3 girls. The 3rd year there were 7 girls and now they have more then doubled the participation. She encourages the girls in Middle School to try all sports and then decide if you want to do wrestling or basketball afterward.**

**Zach Lucas talked about boys wrestling. He said this is his 7th year as head coach. This year was also the most they've ever qualified for state with 6 boys going on to compete. He shared that both boys and girls have one of the toughest leagues in the State of Kansas. The boys finished 21st out of 61 teams**

at state, which is the highest they've been for a very long time.

The Boys' Wrestling team made the top five in 5 out of 9 of their tournaments. This year they saw many injuries, lots of sickness and a very tough schedule. He said how proud he was of them all. The positive is that they have a lot of returners but will miss the seniors as role models and mentors.

### **Basketball:**

None of the coaches were available to attend the meeting due to the end of the year league meetings taking place so Mr. Merritt gave a brief run-down of the programs.

### **Boys Basketball:**

Coach Kraxner has been working on a plan moving forward and also future goals. He looks for improvement and growth in the boys.

Coach Grider told Mr. Merritt he first and foremost wanted to thank Coach Cook and Coach Stoffer for all their hard work and dedication this season to all the girls.

Basketball has a very tough league and schedule but managed to go 16-9 on the season. The girls' team are the sub-state champions and that hasn't happened since 2020. They are headed to the state tournament beginning Tuesday, March 10th at the Tony's Event Center in Salina. The girls will face Rock Creek, who they have seen twice this season already. Both times had some sickness and one of our best players had an injury where she had to sit out. They haven't seen Chapman at their toughest yet.

The JV team went 13-7 this season. It is one of the best JV records in a long time.

Overall, the Lady Irish Basketball had a great season and brought a lot of excitement to the community.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Facilities Assessment:**

Superintendent Suther shared with the Board a Letter of Engagement Contract with DCS for starting the coordination and process of completing a USD 473 Facilities Assessment if approved. As he stated at the last Board meeting, this will involve an analyzes involving an engineer and architect for all of our buildings. The complete project will take between 3 to 4 months to complete. This would allow the Board of Education to follow up in the fall to start prioritizing the most severe needs first and work our way backwards for a 5 year plan. The company thought they could begin this summer.

**Adam Elliott made the motion to approve the contract with DCS company for \$7500 to perform a comprehensive facilities assessment. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Directors and Supervisors Contracts:**

**Superintendent Suther shared that all the evaluations have been completed and it is proposed to approve contracts for the 2026-2027 school year for the following USD 473 Directors and Supervisors for (1) year:**

**Andrea Koster - Human Resources Director  
Kyle Cook - Information Technology Director  
Tara Tiernan - School Nurse  
Amanda Zook - School Nurse  
Rick Hall - Maintenance Director (July 1, 2026 to October 1, 2026)  
Carla Mitchell - Head Custodian Supervisor CHS  
Brandon McIntosh - Athletic & Activities Development Coordinator  
Trent Armstrong - Transportation Director**

**Jessica Murphy made the motion to extend all the director's and supervisor's contracts for the 2026-27 school year as presented. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

**Donations:**

**Jennifer Elliott made the motion to approve all donations as presented. Favio Garcia seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

**\$250 donated to the Chapman Middle School Robotics Program by Maria Koehn**

**\$100 donated to Chapman Middle School for the 8th grade Zoo trip from Kevin & Kim Anderson**

**KASB Contracts:**

**This is the annual contract with KASB for membership, KASB+ and Legal Assistance. We utilize the service for many reasons which includes professional development, required trainings, advocacy for legislative support, and legal advice or assistance with issues that arise each year. Mr. Suther attached the Membership Guide that explains all that they cover and support to the Board's document files. The legal contract for \$3100 includes being able to call upon 7 different lawyers at any time for assistance. The membership fee is \$11088.29 based off of enrollment and then the KASB+ which provides webinars and other materials online for \$1750. If the Board approves these fees, Board Clerk Michele Sutter will set them up to pay at the April 13th Board meeting to cover the**

**2026-2027 school year.**

**Jessica Murphy made the motion to approve the renewal of the KASB contracts for legal assistance, membership and KASB+ access for the 2026-27 school year. Adam Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

**Employee Recognition and Retirement Dinner:**

**This year's dinner will be April 8, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the High School Commons Area. Invitations will be mailed out soon.**

**USD 473 are celebrating (6) retirees, (2) 15 year honorees, (2) 25 year honorees and the Outstanding Service to Students plus Outstanding Service to the District honorees.**

**Retirees:**

**Sonya Anders  
1984-2026**

**Vicki Lexow  
2008-2026**

**Jacquelyn Dautel  
1990-2026**

**Christina Shehi  
2013-2026**

**Randy Schumock  
2019-2026**

**Kathy Hoffman (Bus Driving only)  
2000-2026**

**142 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE DISTRICT RETIRING OUT**

**15 Year Honorees:**

**Darrin Gaither  
Teco Stroda**

**25 Year Honorees:**

**Conni Suther  
Kevin Suther**

**PAST WINNERS FOR THE BOARD RECOGNITION AWARDS ARE:**

**OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO STUDENTS:**

**Year 1 - James Bell**  
**Year 2 - Jake Rutledge**  
**Year 3 - Cheri Simpson**  
**Year 4 - Dawn Sholtz**  
**Year 5 -**

**OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE DISTRICT:**

**Year 1 - Tara Tiernan & Tony Frieze**  
**Year 2 - Randy Heller**  
**Year 3 - Stacy Smiley & Bob Diehl**  
**Year 4 - Jodi DeArmond**  
**Year 5 -**

**June Board Meeting Change:**

**Mr. Suther is requesting a change to this coming June Board Meeting date. The proposal is to combine the regular June Board meeting with the annual budget close out meeting for the 2025-26 school year to Monday, June 22nd at 6:30pm.**

**Jennifer Elliott made the motion to change the June Board Meeting from June 8th to June 22nd at 6:30pm to combine the Regular meeting and the End of the Year close out one. Jessica Murphy seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

**Personnel:**

**The following list is what was proposed for personnel for Board approval.**

**Retirements:**

Randy Schumock - Enterprise Elementary Custodian

**Resignations:**

Megan Keller - Blue Ridge Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

Brittany Zumbrunn - Blue Ridge Elementary Cook

**New Hires:**

Kimberly Simon - Chapman Middle School ELA Teacher

Shannon Sundberg - Enterprise Elementary 3rd Grade Teacher

Morgan Anderson - Blue Ridge Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

Ethan Tomerlin - Blue Ridge Elementary Reading Interventionist

Rebekah Thomas - Chapman Middle School Assistant Track & Field Coach

Andy Elliott - Chapman Middle School Assistant Track & Field Coach

**Motion #1:**

**Brenda Edleston made the motion to approve all the personnel items with the removal of Andy Elliott. Favio Garcia seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

**Jennifer Elliott left the Board meeting at 7:32 pm.**

**Motion #2:**

**Brenda Edleston made the motion to approve Andy Elliott as a Middle School Assistant Track & Field Coach. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.**

**Jennifer Elliott returned to the Board meeting at 7:32 pm.**

**Executive Session:**

**Jessica Murphy made the motion to first take a 5 minute break from 7:33 to 7:38 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 8:08 pm. Kyrsten seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

**The Board returned to open session at 8:08 pm.**

**Adam Elliott made the motion to return to Executive Session for (5) 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 8:13 pm. Kyrsten seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

**The Board returned to open session at 8:13 pm.**

**Recipient Approval:**

**Brenda Edleston made the motion to award Sara Cook as the USD 473 Outstanding Service to the Students and Cindy Keating as the USD 473 Outstanding Service to the District awards. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

**Both honorees will be celebrated during the Employee Recognition Dinner on Wednesday, April 8th.**

**What is the role of the Board of Education:**

**Superintendent Suther shared a Working Genius Podcast called "The Genius of Meetings," that he highly recommended for the Board to listen to which is around 19 minutes. He shared some notes that would help to summarize how it could help with the approach when it came to different types of meeting approaches. One of the questions that is great to ponder is, "Are you good at one of the geniuses because it is part of your job and forced you to become good at it OR does it bring Joy to you? After every Board member took the working genius survey, there was at least one member in each category which shows a good balance. The areas are: Wonder, Invention, Discernment, Galvanizing, Enablement and Tenacity.**

**Mr. Suther pointed out he realized it is important as leaders to explain to staff that sharing about ideas does not mean immediate action is needed. We have to be intentional on next steps, follow up, and expectations.**

**Superintendent Suther said sometimes you are forced into your Working Genius because it's your job, not necessarily what you enjoy. You have certain job requirements that you must fill. He shared some examples from when he was a Principal that he had to learn.**

**Jessica Murphy said it's so beneficial to lean on those who hold lots of knowledge on their team. Being able to tap into team members strengths helps to be more productive and efficient.**

**Brenda Edleston shared that one of the difficult responsibilities of being a Board member is understanding the difference in the roles of the Board and the Superintendent. She said a sure way to develop a dysfunctional Board is to confuse those two roles. She said the only authority the Board has is when they are in a group, not individually so be cautious on giving solutions. It is more about finding the right avenue and employee in the system to help.**

**Mr. Suther told them they all do a great job communicating with him when there is a situation that he needs to find a solution for. People want answers quickly in this day and age. Even the smallest problems can be become big problems if not addressed properly.**

**Finally, materials were shared about what is the School Board's function. A Board of Education is a group who establishes vision, adopts policies and evaluates results while the superintendent & staff monitors progress, develops a plan and**

**implements the plan. A successful Board of Education is able to collaboratively work together to unite the district as a whole while providing the proper resources and training necessary to help make our employees make an impact in the classroom.**

**Superintendent Suther brought up the idea for the next Board meeting discussion to revolve around knowing the budget guidelines and USD 473's district outlook for finances in the future. This could include what can be spent from which accounts, what accounts can allow for transfers, and much more.**

**Adjournment:**

**Favio Garcia made the motion to adjourn. Adam Elliott second the motion; motion carried 7-0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm**



**Brenda Edleston, Board President**



**Michele Sutter, Board Clerk**