Minutes

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

July 20, 2026

Jessica Murphy, 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: Adam Elliott, Jennifer Elliott, Dana Obermeyer, Favio Garcia and Kyrsten Day

Also Present: Kevin Suther – Superintendent, Michele Sutter - Board Clerk Christopher Kiser (CYS School Laison), Jim Weller and Laurie Rutherford

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Jennifer Elliott made the motion to adopt the Agenda. Kyrsten Day seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Adam Elliott made the motion to have Jessica Murphy as the President and Jennifer Elliott as the Vice-President for the USD 473 Board of Education for the 2026-27 school year. Favio Garcia seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Favio Garcia made the motion to approve the items under the Consent Agenda as presented. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

CONSENT AGENDA:

4.01 Approve the Minutes from the Regular June 22nd, 2026 Board of Education Meeting

4.02 Financial Reports: Treasurer, Food Service, Petty Cash

4.03 Payment of Bills

4.04 Reimbursement for Mileage

4.05 Milk Prices for 26-27

4.06 Approve the Substitute Teacher Pay Rate for 2026-27

4.07 1,116 Hour Calendar

4.08 Annual Appointments

4.09 Public Participation

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS:

CHS Shop Improvements:

Jim Weller, CHS agricultural instructor, presented about the past and current grant opportunities. He also talked about the updates already made in the shop along with future plans with new grant and donated money.

He presented to the Board on what has been accomplished and what will be completed for his department once the grant money is received. These are the items already purchased and being used by the students.

- Installed LED lights in the shop
- Cleaned the shop and painted the walls
- Purchased some new tool boxes and ceramic cutting discs
- Purchased new welding helmets, 12 in total, and then Great Plains donated 8 "gently used" helmets that retail for $400 each
- They bought some new welders that have digital screens and are auto set
- For the C&C table, they bought new rails and the new software update
- They got an Iron Worker that weights 95 tons - Mr. Weller said he knows of no High School who has this capability
- Dimple Die - This makes thin metal more rigid
- Fabrication Table

What's next?

USD 473 received the Patterson Family Foundation Grant for $10,009.00 for agricultural equipment improvements.

He said the Knopp Family is making another donation to the program to match the Patterson Foundation Grant and is very impressed with what was purchased with the last donation.

Mr. Weller said he has written two more grants and should hear about them soon.

Mr. Weller has a list of things he wants to use with these new funds. This will include CNC items, powder coating tools, another welder, fab tables, tool storage cabinets and a 3-D printer, to name a few.

OLD BUSINESS

District Health Insurance Option:

Mr. Suther explained to the Board what came about in the last couple weeks from Blue Cross/Blue Shields of Kansas and being accepted to join a new Health Trust Consortium. It is named KEIT which stands for Kansas Educational Insurance Trust. This trust includes over 30 school districts in Kansas and has over 3000 employees. This gives USD 473 a second option if we want to continue with BCBSKS and have fully insured coverage vs. the self-funded plan. The self-funded plan through the Greenbush Trust would keep our premiums the same and coverages but through a new insurance company of United Health and is based on building up a reserve to help lower costs or maintain from larger increases in the future. A third option was to stay with BCBSKS as a single district but this was over a 30% increase with the single plans offered. The new Trust through KEIT takes into account our district's good health currently and is considerably lower premiums and better deductibles which

could immediately help our employees financially while continuing with very similar coverage that they are use to having.

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to approve the USD 473 signing the joiner agreement with the Kansas Educational Insurance Trust with the option of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Kansas choices. Favio Garcia seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Gifts & Grants:

Mr. Suther shared that the Patterson Family Foundation Grant awarded the USD 473 Agricultural Education shop to better align training with the current industry practices in fabrication and manufacturing. The grant was for $10,009, which Mr. Weller touched on when giving his department update earlier.

Adam Elliott made the motion to accept the Patterson Family Grant to be utilized for the USD 473 Agricultural Education program. Kyrsten Day seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Memorandum of Understanding for Wee Lads & Lasses Preschool for 2026-27:

This is a annual MOU with USD 305 Salina for the preschool program for 3 and 4 year olds at Chapman Elementary. The current teacher is Rylee Schlesener which includes 50% of the students who have an IEP and 50% are mentor students. The 3 year olds attend two days a week for a half day while the 4 year olds attend four days a week for a half day.

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between USD 473 and USD 305 Central Kansas Cooperation in Education for the preschool program at Chapman Elementary. Kyrsten Day seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

July Resolutions:

Mr. Suther explained each Resolution to the Board and there were no questions or changes. This is also an annual requirement and these Resolutions are filed in the Clerk's office. They include the following:

1. **Resolution for the Destruction of Property**
2. **Resolution to Establish Petty Cash Funds for all the schools (Blue Ridge, Rural Center, Enterprise, Chapman Elementary School, Chapman Middle School, and Chapman High School)**
3. **Resolution for GAAP**
4. **Resolution for Board Meeting Dates, Times and Location for 2026-27 School Year**
5. **Resolution to Transfer Funds**
6. **Resolution to Establish Home Rule**
7. **Resolution Rescinding Policys**

Favio Garcia made the motion to approve the 2026-27 Resolutions. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Board Committee Appointments:

Mr. Suther shared that the July meeting is when we review the committee appointments for this Board. The two are for the Irish Foundation Board and also the Smoky Hill Learning Center Executive Board. Brenda Edleston has resigned from the Chapman School Board and she was the representative for the Smoky Hill Board. Jessica Murphy said she really enjoys being on the Irish Foundation Board and would like to continue there.

Favio Garcia made a motion to approve himself as our Board representative on the Smoky Hill Learning Center Executive Board and Jessica Murphy for the Irish Foundation Board. Kyrsten Day seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

District Handbooks; Certified & Classified:

Mr. Suther shared the revisions made to this year's district handbooks. Just like the building handbooks, the Social Media and Staff Communication document was added. The Classified Handbook was changed for the evaluations to match up to the law on how often they take place. USD 473 already have a two week notice for resignations by Classified staff but it was added that without this notification, an employee can not just hand in their keys and immediately resign while still expecting to receive two weeks worth of leave or vacation day pay.

Kyrsten Day made the motion to approve the updated changes to the USD 473 District Certified and Classified handbooks as presented. Favio Garcia seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Enrollment Dates:

Mr. Suther shared that the 2026-27 enrollment dates are set as follows for ALL attendance centers:

Monday, July 20, 2026 - Online Enrollment opens

Wednesday, August 5, 2026 - In person enrollment for New Students
8am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm

Thursday, August 6, 2026 - In person enrollment for New Students
8am to 12pm and 1pm to 4pm (In person enrollment by appointment - Please call and set up with the school) 4:30pm to 6:30pm

Set Budget Meeting Hearing:

Having the Board meeting on the 3rd Monday of July helps to get the budget completed, but we also had to turn the Code 99 into the Dickinson County Clerk, which has the date, time, and location of the Budget Hearing. Since we are not exceeding the RNR this year, USD 473 can have it take place before the Regular Board meeting in August instead of coming back on a different morning or

night. It was signed off by the board clerk and board president to have the budget hearing on Monday, August 10th at 6 pm which was required to be turned in to the Dickinson County Clerk by July 20, 2026. We will also propose to approve the annual resolution for the LOB percentage, which is used to figure the budget based on the total amount allocated in the General Fund plus the special education state aid. A district can exceed the state average up to 33% but we have chosen not do this again this year. So the percentage this year is the state average of 32.4%.

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to move the Budget Meeting to 6 pm on August 10th, which is before the Regular Board Meeting. Kyrsten Day seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

KASB Annual Convention:

This year's convention is November 6th - November 8th in Wichita. Mr. Suther shared with the Board to either register themselves for all events they would like to attend, or contact Michele Sutter and she will do that for them. Also, if they prefer to stay in Wichita, let Michele know and she will book a hotel room for them. The sooner we know the better as the hotels fill up quickly.

Wrestling Coach Addition:

During negotiations this year, the teacher organization did not want to include the money for any coaching additions to be counted against the teacher package. They stated if there was an addition that it would be up to the Board of Education and the District's decision on where to get the extra money. This comes down to safety for supervision and especially when multiple tournaments take place for the teams on the same day like JV, Girls, and Boys Varsity teams. It is great to have numbers increasing at all levels in wrestling from the middle school to the high school level. Head Coach Zach Lucas made a proposal for the Board to consider and Superintendent Suther thought it would be around $3500 for an Assistant depending on their experience.

Dana Obermeyer made a motion to add one additional assistant wrestling coach at Chapman High School. Favio Garcia seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Personnel:

Dana Obermeyer made the motion to approve all Personnel changes. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Resignations:

Olivia Davis - Blue Ridge Elementary PreK Aide

Karen Deise-Poff - USD 473 Kitchen Staff

Cathy Zumbrunn - Bus Driver

New Hires:

Ashley Dumler - Athletic and Activities Development Coordinator

Gina North - Enterprise Elementary Secretary

Keisha Leidig - Chapman High School Full Time Kitchen Staff

Sara Evans - Enterprise and Chapman Elementary Full Time Kitchen Staff

<u>Bus Drivers:</u>

Mark Anderton

Jesika Campbell

Brian Emig

Thomas Roberts

Kevin Reyes

Adjournment:

Kyrsten Day made the motion to adjourn. Adam Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned - 8:26 pm

Jessica Murphy, Board President

Michele Sutter, Board Clerk