Minutes

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

August 10, 2026

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

Also Present: Kevin Suther – Superintendent, Michele Sutter - Board Clerk Kate Thornton, Kara Wilkins, Ashley Dumler, Jennifer Tiller, Clint Merritt, Ashley Stearns, Afton Diehl, Mary Wright, Laurie Rutherford and Rebecca Stoffer (via Zoom)

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

Dana Obermeyer made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Kyrsten Day seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

- **Approve the minutes from the Regular July 20, 2026 BOE Meeting**
- **Financial Reports: Food Service & Petty Cash**
- **Payment of Bills**
- **Public Participation**

NEW BUSINESS:

New Board Member Selection

The Board member position of District 1, Position 1 is currently open due to Brenda Edleston's resignation on June 1st. The publication in the Abilene Reflector Newspaper took place on June 30th and the July 7th issues and the deadline for applying to the board clerk was on July 30, 2026 by 4pm. The interview process took place in our open meeting with a decision made with a vote.

Rebecca Stoffer was our only candidate who applied and due to her being out of town, the interview process took place via Zoom. Each Board member was given one question to ask and Mrs. Stoffer responded, again everything was in open session.

Mrs. Stoffer shared that she has a deep interest in the future and overall education delivered in Chapman. She has 4 children and understands a thriving school is important to the town. She wants us to continue to be successful. She has some board experience serving on the Astra Bank board. Other experiences in the school district are subbing for a few years in the classroom as well.

Mrs. Stoffer believes the Board should be up front and direct with their goals and how they are achieving those. She said the new cell phone policy change was released to the public and the district was proactive with the communication. Highlighting successes is important. It creates a good sense of unity and pride in our District. Board members should be willing to listen to patrons and show up to student events. When questions or concerns arise, they should be pointed in the right direction for the answers from those who know.

She is actively involved in the Emmanuel Church in Abilene. She has served as a parent volunteer on field trips, helped with the annual FFA auction, contributed to youth recreation programs, and food organization for school sports.

She loves partnerships with area businesses that help get our students with a hands-on approach. Anything we can do to give our youth experience through partnerships is a wonderful thing. Investing in our teaching staff with tools they need to be successful is also very important and necessary. Another priority would be competitive compensation in order to retain teachers and to be a district that attracts excellent teachers to our district.

She said that helping to set the vision of what we are trying to accomplish is a role she believes we are in. Being an ambassador between the district and the community is essential. We are one team with many ideas and once votes are cast, we need to be supportive of each other for the sake of our district.

She believes everyone is ultimately responsible for the quality of education offered to the students in our district. The Board has a responsibility to set policy and to approve the budget. The Administration team is responsible on delivering the curriculum. Students and families are responsible to come ready to learn. Each household needs to help their students. Plus, our community and area businesses can help build partnerships to strengthen our educational opportunities.

Adam Elliott made the motion to appoint Rebecca Stoffer as the replacement Board of Education member representing District 1, Position 1, to begin at the September 14th BOE meeting. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Capital Outlay Purchase

The request is to purchase a class set of chromebooks to be used at the 9th grade level as we try to replace approximately 90 each year on the cycle. This purchase is being made using the Kansas State contract Dell NASPO Computer

Equipment PA – Kansas - C000001119033. The use of this Dell contract meets all requirements of the Kansas State Bid Laws. The total cost will be $31,125.60.

The District is trying not to make a large purchase for a whole school at one time so it is financially built in each year. The freshmen receive the new chromebook and they will keep that same chromebook their 4 years of high school. So, hopefully they take care of it knowing this. Then, the graduating senior chromebooks will be used for replacements, repairs and adding to the CMS carts where needed.

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to purchase 90 new chromebooks using the state contact with Dell which meets all state bid laws. Kyrsten Day seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Al A Carte Prices

Mr. Suther shared an attachment with the Board that is a general list from Opaa! for additional purchasing by students. These are food items above and beyond the regular meal prices and choices offered. They must pay with cash and are not allowed to use their meal card when purchasing from the Al A Carte list.

Favio Garcia made the motion to approve the Al A Carte prices provided by Opaa!. Kyrsten Day seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

MHIT Renewal (Mental Health Intervention Team)

MHIT stands for Mental Health Intervention Team which our District has participated in for around 8 years now.

1. The funding and control of this program has moved from KSDE to now the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services.

2. In the past, we have signed an MOU but this is now simply done on behalf of our district through Abilene who is the hosting school for the grant.

3. All the schools who are part of our MHIT are: Abilene, Solomon, Chapman, and Herington

4. Chapman and Herington still share the Liaison position who takes care of meeting with parents, insurance and scheduling with the therapists for students and families.

5. The legislation was looking to make a big cut to the program but this changed at the last moment so we will receive 70% reimbursement.

Heartland Headstart Memorandum of Approval

This agreement is between Heartland Early Education, USD 305 and USD 473 for the continued offering of the Head Start Program in Enterprise. We do provide the following:

*Minor Building Repairs
*Transportation
*Snacks & Lunch through the CACFP Program
*Property for the Modular Building

Kyrsten Day made the motion to approve the MOA between Heartland Headstart, USD 305 and USD 473 for the 2026-27 school year. Favio Garcia seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Back to School In-Service

Mr. Suther shared with the Board the upcoming In-Service plans.

This Friday August 14th is for NEW teachers only and it will be at the Education Center. They were also here in mid July and received their computers plus some training at that time on software programs, curriculum, procedures and much more. There were 9 total in attendance. On Friday, the IT department will go over PowerSchool, Skyward, how to get a sub, etc. Stacy Smiley will be on hand for curriculum questions. They will also get a tour of the entire district, which is 550 square miles. Each Administrator will be at their building and will welcome them.

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday are the whole staff In-Service days before the first day back on Thursday. Everyone will be together on Monday morning for breakfast and to hear about the new school insurance. Then there will be District activities that are a mixture of fun team building and the KESA goal involving formative question development. There will be a technology update before lunch is provided. In the afternoon, the building level teams will gathering along with the professional learning communities to dive into standards alignment work continued from last year.

On Tuesday, the elementaries will be actively involved with a TASN representatives for Math in the morning and ELA vocabulary strategies in the afternoon. Secondary will have their Vocabulary Strategies in the morning and the high school will hold their annual Freshmen First to get them used to high school for the first time. New students and Freshmen will run through their schedules and go to every single class. The Middle School has Math with TASN and a teacher's meeting by their subject area.

On Wednesday, all buildings will have their staff meetings in the morning. This will include a mock cardiac team drill. In the afternoon will be a work day.

The first day of school will be Thursday and a reminder at CMS only 6th graders will attend. This has become a nice tradition to help them feel comfortable making the huge transition from elementary to middle school with help from upperclassmen. They will learn how to open their lockers, have building tours, team building activities and visit each classroom to get to know their teacher's routine.

Back to School Picnic

There will be a picnic at the city park on Friday, August 14th. It begins at 5:30pm with a cook-out and families are invited to swim from 6-8pm. Thanks to the city of Chapman for arranging for lifeguards and the facility to be open. All food will be provided by the district and families are just invited to come and spend time getting to know one another in an informal environment.

Enrollment Report

Each Principal gave the Board an update on their numbers and enrollment. The official count day takes place for all schools in Kansas on September 21st this year.

RC - 57
BR - 80
ENT - 81
CES - 293
CMS - 254
CHS - 347

Personnel

Jennifer Elliott made the motion to approve all personnel items presented. Kyrsten Day seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Resignations:

Gina North - Enterprise Elementary Secretary

Jamie Compton - Chapman Elementary Reading Interventionist Teacher's Aide

Transfers:

Tim Rutz - Chapman High School Custodian to Enterprise Elementary Custodian

New Hires:

Joanna Ogan - Enterprise Elementary Secretary

Carrie Sprouse - Enterprise Elementary Part-Time Building Support Aide

Alexis Graham - Chapman Elementary Reading Interventionist Teacher's Aide

Kate Orourke - Blue Ridge Elementary Part-Time Teacher's Aide

Nancy Waugh Gilstrap - Blue Ridge Elementary Teacher's Aid/Art Lead

Bus Drivers have the following training or requirements: Background Check, Yearly Physical, Random Drug Testing, CDL licenses renewed and on file, Monthly required bus meetings for training & updates

Substitutes have the following training or requirements: Background Check, Standard License is at least 60 college hours and many have degrees, Can now have a high school diploma and meet with the school to approve for a TEAL license to work up to 75 days and only 25 consecutive. We do not currently have any TEAL subs.

Fall Rule 10 Coaches - These coaches have an at will contract that must be renewed each year and is completed at the end of the season. They must hand in an hourly time sheet, have CPR training, and fulfill all the required trainings like the concussion video, heat illness, etc...

2026-27 USD 473 Regular Driver List

Mark Anderton
Jerry Aramowicz
Kristopher Cady
Jesika Campbell
John Carroll
Gary Crump
Ashely Davidson
Cindy Davis
Briana Emig
Brian Emig
Julia Evans
Ben Freeman
Elizabeth Gentet
Dave Gfeller
Joyce Hill
Mary Ann Huish
Craig Klukas
Jessica Klukas
Jennifer Latzke
Carey Long
Connie Marshall
LaQuita Newbern
Deziree Rice
Tom Roberts
Debra Roper
Shelly Sexton
Dale Shelar
Tim Stanley
Barb Turpin

2026-27 USD 473 Substitute Driver List

Carla Mitchell
Kyle Cook
Von Flora
Amy Jackson
Megan Lewis
Denny Steinour
Cathy Zumbrunn

2026-27 USD 473 Substitute Teacher List

Cynthia Aramowicz
Chelsey Armbruster
Laura Armendariz
Phyllis Cheney
Ruby Davis
Amy Feigley
Pamela Goldsmith
Joanie Hayden
Scott Hayes
Brenna Hayse
Leesa Hettenbach
Kathy Hoffman
Leslie Hoffman
Kathy Hoover
Jackie Hummel
Shelia Hummel
Amy Jackson
Jennifer John
Marissa Johnson Steerman
Renee Jury
Jennifer Kelly
Sondra Knitter
Stephanie Kreinbihl
Judd Liebau
Dalton Millican
Colby Mohr
Jerry Rankin
Kelly Reding

Shelby Remington
Trent Sanchez
Sherry Sare
Lisa Seirer
Rocky Seirer
Dale Shelar
Stephen Simpson
Cristy Smith
Rolinda Smith
Joyce Steffen
Rebecca Stoffer
Patricia Stout

2026-27 USD 473 Fall Rural 10 Coaches

Wade Chamberlin, CHS Football Assistant Coach
Gareth Hoffman, CHS & CMS Cross Country Assistant Coach

Adam Elliott made a motion to take a 5 minute break and resume the meeting at 7:44 pm. Favio Garcia seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Meeting resumed at 7:44 pm

Characteristics of Highly Effective Boards Module 1 & 2

Superintendent Suther shared a couple of videos with the Board from KASB+ which help to create conversation and training for the Board of Education.

He said in order to keep with the same format of bringing up topics at the end of the Board meeting to discuss or learn about in more detail over 30 minutes, he came up with a structured plan that we can possibly follow over the next few months. KASB+ which we are a member school of, offers online courses which one of them is titled "The 8 Characteristics of an Effective Board". He said the plan is to start this Board meeting by watching the first two modules that are around 11 minutes (Introduction) and 7 minutes (High Expectations).

Future topics for the online class if we wish to continue are:

Module 3: Accountability 12 minutes

Module 4: Collaboration & Trust 10:22 minutes

Module 5: Reflection & Growth 3:29 minutes

Adjourn to the FB field for a Light Demonstration

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 to the football field press box and continued with everyone at 8:37 pm.

Mr. Suther wanted the Board to see the completed lighting project at the track. Musco just finished up the programming for the football & track lighting and were eager to do a demonstration for us. The lights can be requested to be turned on directly from the Musco App or by calling in to the help line. A representative

demonstrated a few of the features which included a very even light distribution throughout the field plus track, ability to change colors, and during special moments like a touchdown a light show can take place up to 30 seconds to one minute. The light system is also linked directly into the sound system for additional effects.

Adjourn

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

Meeting adjourned - 8:53 pm

Jessica Murphy, Board President

Michele Sutter, Board Clerk