Minutes

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

September 14, 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 Rebecca Stoffer (Kyrsten Day was absent)

Also Present: Kevin Suther – Superintendent, Michele Sutter - Board Clerk Kate Thornton, Kara Wilkins, Ashley Dumler, Ashley Stearns, Afton Diehl, Mary Wright, Laurie Rutherford, Shannon Sundberg, Angeline McGuffin, Kirsten Smallwood, Taylor Nading, Jodi DeArmond and Darrel Kohlman with DCS and Eric Armstrong with INAalert

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ADOPT AGENDA:

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

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

- Approve the minutes from the Budget Hearing, the Special Board Meeting for the LOB and the Regular Meeting all on August 10th, 2026
- Financial Reports: Food Service & Petty Cash
- Payment of Bills
- Public Participation

SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS:

Chapman Elementary Presents to the Board (Goal #2)

Principal Ashley Stearns gave the Board an update of what has taken place at CES so far.

She began by showing several of her staff members who volunteered to put new mulch and bushes in front of the building to make the entry inviting for the start of the school year. She was very pleased with how it turned out and thanked all the volunteers for their hard work.

Mrs. Stearns also showed a photo of the PreSchool class having lunch (family style)

on their brand new meal table. They needed to order a table large enough to fit both teachers and all their students (which is at 18 for the four year old all day program) so they can eat together. It is also nice to have when family comes in to eat with their students that they have a place to all be together comfortably.

One of our Kindergarten teachers, Meghan Brockmeier, received the Horizon Award, which goes to second year teachers that demonstrate exceptional instructional skills and dedication during their first year of teaching. Chapman Elementary surprised Meghan in front of the whole student body with some of her family being there for the presentation.

Mrs. Stearns shared some data they've obtained so far which shows their building is off to a great start with fluency and comprehension. Even after the summer break, students have retained the information from last year by scoring higher than ever on the FastBridge screener.

New Teacher Introductions

Shannon Sundberg, 3rd grade teacher at Enterprise Elementary, introduced herself to the Board. She said everything is going really well and that she had done her student teaching with Nancy Heller, Kindergarten at Enterprise Elementary, in the past and she was very excited to have her 1st year be at EES with her.

Ashler Dumler is our new Athletics and Activities Development Coordinator. She has attend a couple of meetings already but formally introduced herself to the Board and talked about some activities she has helped with along with supervision for athletic events. She is working closely with administration at both CMS and CHS with supporting them and the students in a variety of ways.

Fine Arts Trip (Goal #2)

Mrs. Thornton and Mr. Suther have been approached by the USD 473 band instructor, Kirsten Smallwood, and choir instructor, Angeline McGuffin about a future trip with their programs together. This would take place on dates at the end of May 2028 that are not finalized on which yet. The company is Bob Rogers Travel which some area schools have used recently and been successful with. The company helps with the planning, collection of the money with individual student accounts, and even chaperones on the trip for certain parts. The experience musically is by participating in a Disney Imagination Campus Soundtrack Session. They work with our groups on music to then be recorded which then is added to a video Disney background. They are asking for approval to move forward with the plans, fundraisers, and advertisement of the two year process. The administration does approve of this being a great experience outside the school year for the Fine Arts program and unique with both working together which could encompass around 80 students plus sponsors. Any student in one of the programs is eligible to attend. Fundraisers include golf tournaments, silent auctions, donations, sponsorships, etc.

Dana Obermeyer made the motion to approve the Band and Choir trip to travel out of state to Disney World in Orlando, Florida at the end of the 2027-28 school year.

Favio Garcia seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Donations

CHS football received a donation from Junior Irish Football in the amount of $1,000.00. Rebecca Stoffer made the motion to accept the $1,000 donation from Junior Irish Football to the CHS Football Team. Jennifer Elliott seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Facilities Assessment Completion (Goal #3)

DCS out of Wichita has completed the USD 473 Facilities Assessment that took place this summer by an engineer and architect. The information is broken down by building as a rating of Excellent, Good, Fair and Poor. The documentation will help to develop a 5 and 10 year plan to be proactive with the following areas:

Architectural
Structural
Civil
Plumbing
Mechanical
Electrical
Communication
Fire Safety

Darrel Kohlman handed out a binder that DCS compiled for our Board and Superintendent for review. The Board decided this topic would be discussed with our new Maintenance and Facility Director at the October Board meeting. There will be an hour set aside at the end of the meeting for this discussion. The board appreciated having a detailed document to help develop priorities and needs to put into a systematic approach.

Site Council Dates & Members

Blue Ridge Site Council Members:
*Meetings: September 30, December 2, February 3, April 7 (6:00pm)
Members: Tiffany Valenzuela, Amber Audy, Megan Espeseth, Kendra Marston, Taci Wilson, Afton Diehl

Rural Center Site Council Members:
*Meetings: September 8, November 3, February 9, April 15 (7:00pm)
Members: Kara Wilkins, Stephanie Gfeller, Marissa Steerman, Leah Lowe, Lizzy Gentet, Travis Barrett

Chapman High School Site Council Members:
***Meetings: September 24, November 18, February 17, April 15 (8:00am)**
Members: Natalie Harold, Dana Obermeyer, Jill Martinson, Austin Britt, Justin Gunderson, Traci Lucas, Marlo Medina, Mike Spohn, Kyah Bell, Jamey Dalke, Clint Merritt, Kate Thornton

Chapman Elementary School Site Council Members:
***Meetings: September 15, November 3, January 26, April 13 (4:00pm)**
Members: Erin Tilton, Kyrsten Day, Jenny Guidry, Kelsey Mann, Beth Atchley, Bryan Armedariz, Katie Wieters, Valerie Rock, Ashley Stearns

Chapman Middle School Site Council Members:
***Meetings: September 28, October 26, December 7, January 25, February 22, April 12 (5:00pm)**
Members: Becky Willman, Braxton Burgett, Jennifer Whitehair, Bryan Armendariz, Lindsey Snider, Lori Strauss, Erin Hamilton, Brenda Edleston, Katelin Leinweber, Jen Chambers, Marlo Medina, Sean Luke, Casey Luke, Lori Abeldt

Enterprise Elementary School Site Council Members:
***Meetings: September 23, November 28, February 17, April 28 (6:00pm)**
Members: Christina Stroud, Nancy Heller, Deann Hunt, Katie Purdue, Jenny Whitehair, Mindy Rock, Laurie Rutherford

Jennifer Elliott made a motion to approve all Site Council Meeting Dates and Members for all Buildings as Presented. Rebecca Stoffer seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Capital Outlay Purchases (Goal #3)

Jodi Dearmond, Chapman High School Business Teacher, has worked with the Access System company to upgrade and start a new printing contract since it has been 5 years since last doing so. The Irish Ink business has made enough profit to pay for the machine and still have over $20,000 in their account for running the business day to day. She shared that the Journalism Department now creates (2) yearly yearbooks; one for K-5 and one for 6-8. The Irish Ink Department prints those yearbooks for the district. They also print the Senior magazine in May. She said the new machine would be a really good upgrade to what they already have. She is asking the Board to approve this purchase at the cost of $31,946.00.

Adam Elliott made the motion to approve the capital outlay purchase for a new copy machine for the Irish Ink business at CHS through a State of Kansas Contract. Dana Obermeyer seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Eric Armstrong from INAalert was here to present on a new intercom system for Chapman Middle School. Last year USD 473 replaced the intercom system

at Chapman High School through INAalert company out of Ellinwood, Kansas. They are a preferred vendor on the Greenbush Cooperative Purchasing so they have already gone through the bid process which does give us a discount and satisfies the bid law. Being able to match up to similar systems is also an advantage with both buildings. Currently the system is having difficulty connecting to certain rooms and the main controller has went blank on the screen.

Mr. Armstrong said it would be a 9-12 week timeline to get the equipment in and get it ready to install. If approved, they are looking at beginning the install on December 21st while the students are on winter break for the least amount of disruption.

Adam Elliott made the motion to approve the capital outlay purchase for a replacement intercom system at CMS through INAlert through the Greenbush Cooperative Purchasing. Favio Garcia seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Personnel

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

Resignations:

Robin Schlesener - Chapman High School Wrestling Cheer Sponsor

Savanna Gorman - Chapman High School Spring Play Assistant

New Hires:

Cory Dugan - USD 473 Director of Facilities and Maintenance

Glenda Dixson - District Gym/Chapman Middle School Custodian

Kyle Fahey - Chapman Elementary Custodian

Lori Strauss - Chapman High School Custodian

Brittany Lamb - Chapman High School Spring Play Assistant

Adam Elliott made a motion to take a 5 minute break and resume the meeting at 8:10 pm. Favio Garcia seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Meeting resumed at 8:10 pm

8 Characteristics of Highly Effective Boards Modules 3 & 4 (Goal #2)

There are 5 Modules total for the 8 Characteristics of Highly Effective Boards in which two were discussed at the August meeting. The last two in the series are

#3 Accountability and #4 Collaboration & Trust from KASB+. Each video is approximately 10 to 12 minutes with discussion and reflection as a Board. Some of the highlighted topics from this training involves:

***Data Driven approach**
***What does success look like?**
***Communication Ladder**
***Hearing from all voices in the district**
***Characteristics of a Great Team**

The Board watched these last 2 videos in this series and discussed as a board how they can utilize this approach as a team for the future. These videos are on the KASB+ website and can be viewed at anytime to receive insight to how a Board should operate and what their responsibilities are to their District.

Adjourn

Adam Elliott made the motion to adjourn. Rebecca Stoffer seconded the motion; motion carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned - 9:04 pm

Jessica Murphy, Board President

Michele Sutter, Board Clerk