

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

ACADEMICS & ACTIVITIES

BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 23, 2026 | 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Board of Education Room | 15020 Metcalf Avenue | Overland Park, KS

FACILITATOR(S): Kelly June & Matt Ortman

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP: Philon Barr-Manning, Brenna Bidwell, Kaci Brutto, Sean Burrell, Dr. Katie Collier, Brooke Davids, Jodie Dietz, Lauren Dreher, Kim Grosdidier, Amy Hill, Ryan Hussey, Kelly June, Gina Knapp, Ayden McGibboney, Tvisha Nair, Adrienne Newlin, Lucia Noll, Ava Middleton, Clay Norkey, Matt Ortman, Nova Rule, Brittany Verrett, Matt Wachel, Scott Wright and Melody Xue

WELCOME & UPDATES

The meeting opened with updates from Dr. Chapman,, highlighting both community engagement and significant legislative concerns. New legislation will create financial and operational challenges for the district, including an estimated \$3.5–4 million cost tied to implementing a cell phone ban (covering storage, facilities, and staffing) and added requirements like a civics test that will demand additional time and tracking systems. There are also implications for student protests or walkouts, which may no longer count as instructional time and could result in financial penalties.

Broader funding issues remain a concern, including ongoing shortfalls in special education funding and a projected shortage of social workers next year. These financial pressures are expected to affect programming and staffing decisions, potentially reducing smaller classes such as AP courses and fifth-grade strings, limiting the addition of new activities like flag football and boys volleyball, increasing student fees, and prompting organizational restructuring. Board members encouraged civic engagement, particularly voter participation in upcoming elections.

SCREEN TIME UPDATE

The group then reviewed progress on the district's screen time initiative. Updated materials, including additional visuals and technology usage statistics, are being added to the district website. Members found the data helpful in shaping a more accurate narrative around classroom screen use, noting that actual usage appears lower than commonly portrayed in media. Suggestions included clarifying how restrictions affect the data and adding more context to the most frequently used websites. Instructional guidance for teachers is also being developed, emphasizing balance in lesson design and supported by a digital resource guide. Questions were raised about defining clearer goals and outcomes for the initiative, and members were invited to provide feedback on next steps.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES UPDATE

In athletics and activities, updates included upcoming voting actions by the state activities association, such as consideration of girls flag football and ongoing discussion around boys volleyball, which has not yet met the threshold for approval. Potential new scheduling restrictions (moratorium periods) were also outlined. The district is preparing to launch a districtwide athletics pass for the 2026–27 school year, though performing arts are not yet included. Communication tools were also discussed, particularly the use of ParentSquare for two-way communication. Participants noted challenges in managing multiple platforms and suggested creating a centralized resource to clarify their purposes. Upcoming events include hosting state-level competitions in volleyball, marching band, and baseball.

TOPICS OF INTEREST FOR 2026–27

Looking ahead to the 2026–27 school year, the group discussed priorities for future planning. There is interest in taking a more proactive role in understanding and responding to legislation affecting academics and activities, with further discussions on legislative advocacy and a potential 2027 bond initiative. Increasing student involvement in advisory committees was also emphasized, with support for including multiple student representatives from each high school. Overall, the group expressed appreciation for maintaining a focus on forward-looking, dynamic work rather than static updates.

NEXT MEETING

This was the final meeting for 2025–26.
The meeting adjourned at 9:00.