

# BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

Blue Valley Unified School District No. 229

## **Regular Board of Education Meeting**

Monday, April 13, 2026, 5:30 PM

Board of Education Room, District Office, 15020 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66223

### **A. OPENING ITEMS.**

#### **1. Pledge of Allegiance.**

Presented by Kaci Brutto, Chief Communications Officer

The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by Jack Brown, a 5th-grade student from Harmony Elementary.

#### **2. Awards and Recognitions.**

Presented by Kaci Brutto, Chief Communications Officer

##### **AWARDS:**

Distinguished Service Award Recipient: Kathy Beaman is the Instructional Materials Inventory Control Specialist for the District.

Excellence in Education Recipient: Deanna Elgin teaches communication arts at Blue Valley Northwest.

##### **SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS:**

Kansas Principals Association's Area 1 High School Principal of the Year: Dr. Tyler Alexander, Blue Valley Southwest Principal.

National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) State Award of Merit: Matt Ortman, Director of School Administration

Kansas Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (KIAAA) Art Newcomer Promising Athletic Director: Michael Richards, Blue Valley Northwest Assistant Principal and Athletic Director

#### **3. Public Comments.**

Presented by Board President, Jan Kessinger

There were no public comments.

### **B. REGULAR AGENDA.**

**1. Call the Meeting to Order.**

Board President Jan Kessinger called the April 13, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

**2. Approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting Agenda.**

I move that the Board of Education approve the April 13, 2026, Regular Board of Education meeting agenda as published. This motion, made by Jodie Dietz and seconded by Dr David Benson, Carried.

Dr David Benson: Yea

Jodie Dietz: Yea

Dr. Sonya Evans: Yea

Patrick Hurley: Yea

Jan Kessinger: Yea

Gina Knapp: Yea

Clay Norkey: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**C. CONSENT AGENDA.**

**1. Approve the Consent Agenda.**

*Our rules of Parliamentary Procedure provide for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Board by a single motion. Documentation concerning these items has been provided to all Board members and the public in advance to ensure an extensive review. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any board member.*

I move that the Board of Education approve the April 13, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting consent agenda as published with minor edits deemed necessary by legal counsel. This motion, made by Gina Knapp and seconded by Patrick Hurley, Carried.

Dr David Benson: Yea

Jodie Dietz: Yea

Dr. Sonya Evans: Yea

Patrick Hurley: Yea

Jan Kessinger: Yea

Gina Knapp: Yea

Clay Norkey: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**2. Approve the Meeting Minutes.**

*Meeting minutes shall be considered draft until formally approved by the Board of Education.*

The Board of Education approved the prior meeting minutes.

**3. Approve the Cash Summary Report.**

The Board of Education approved the Cash Summary Report.

**4. Approve the Bids and Contracts.**

*All agreements and contracts are subject to the final approval by the Board of Education's attorney.*

The Board of Education approved the Bids and Contracts.

**5. Approve the Human Resources Personnel Report and the Addendum.**

The Board of Education approved the Human Resources Report and HR Addendum.

**6. Approve the Claims Report, the Disbursement Report, and the Special Fund Transfers.**

The Board of Education approved the Claims Report, the Distribution Report, and the Special Transfers.

**7. Approve the 2026-27 Kansas Association of Schools Board Membership Renewal.**

The Board of Education approved the Kansas Association of Schools Board 2026-27 Membership Renewal.

**8. Approve the Assurances for Compliance with Policy 4710 on Special Education.**

The Board of Education approved the Assurances for Compliance with Policy 4710 on Special Education.

**D. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS.**

**1. Leadership and Organizational Structure Alignment to Strengthen School Support Within Current Resources.**

Presented by Dr. Gillian Chapman, Superintendent of Schools

The superintendent provided an update on a district leadership reorganization following approval of the Consent Agenda. Due to fiscal challenges, the district will transition from deputy and assistant superintendent positions to a chief officer model, with all chief officers reporting directly to the superintendent.

The updated leadership structure includes the following administrative appointments:

- Heather Payne, Principal of Wolf Springs Elementary
- Shelly Nielson, Chief of School Administration
- Kelly June, Chief of Academic Services

- Ashley Enz, Executive Director of Special Education
- Mindy Wells, Assistant Director of Student and Family Resources
- Jen Opie, Administrative Dean at Wolf Springs Elementary
- Jessica Meisenheimer, Chief Support Services
- Kent Corser, Executive Director of Technology
- Kris Didion, Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at Blue Valley West High School
- Katie Pearson, Assistant Principal and Activities Director at Blue Valley North High School

Kelly June, Shelly Nielsen, and Jessica Meisenheimer will work collaboratively to align general education, special education, and administrative services.

Jeremy McFadden, Chief Financial Officer, will work in coordination with the Information Technology Department.

The superintendent also reported that, under the Chief of Administrative Services, the district will implement a feeder pattern system. Each high school feeder pattern will be supported by an Executive Director of Administrative Services and an Assistant Director of Special Education. Appointments related to the feeder pattern system will be announced at a later date.

During the board discussion, it was noted that the reorganization further streamlines district administration and is intended to prioritize the allocation of resources to classrooms.

**2. Legislative Summary Report.**

Presented by Dr. Gillian Chapman, Superintendent of Schools

**3. Superintendent's Report.**

Presented by Dr. Gillian Chapman, Superintendent of Schools

**E. ACTION ITEMS.**

**1. Approve the Kansas Association of School Board Policy FC Memorials, Funerals, and Naming of District Facilities.**

Section F Facility Expansion Program was approved at the March 9, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting with the exception of policy [FC Memorials, Funerals, and Naming of District Facilities](#).

The **Executive Summary** identifies the KASB policies within each index recommended for adoption, outlines any substantive revisions, and notes the policies that are not recommended for approval.

I move that the Board of Education pull the Kansas Association of School Board Policy FC Memorials, Funerals, and Naming of District Facilities. This motion, made by Dr David Benson and seconded by Jodie Dietz, Carried.

Dr David Benson: Yea

Jodie Dietz: Yea

Dr. Sonya Evans: Yea

Patrick Hurley: Yea

Jan Kessinger: Yea

Gina Knapp: Yea

Clay Norkey: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**2. Approve the Kansas Association of School Board Policies in Index G.**

Presented by Dr. Gillian Chapman, Superintendent of Schools

**Index G: School District Organization** policies recommended for adoption effective July 1, 2026, pending any minor edits deemed necessary by legal counsel.

The **Executive Summary** identifies the KASB policies within each index recommended for adoption, outlines any substantive revisions, and notes the policies that are not recommended for approval.

**POLICY REVIEW**

Policy Indexes A - M were presented for the first reading at the Regular Board of Education Meeting on February 9, 2026, with the intention of providing the community with an opportunity to **review and submit feedback** prior to subsequent Board action.

Policy Indexes will be considered for Board approval at the scheduled Regular Board of Education Meetings listed below and are subject to change:

March 9, 2026: A, B, C, D, E, F, and H

**April 13, 2026: G**

May 11, 2026: I and J

June 8, 2026: K, L, and M

I move that the Board of Education approve the Kansas Association of School Board Policies in Index G with the exception of policy GBO, to take effect on July 1, 2026, pending

minor edits deemed necessary by legal counsel. This motion, made by Gina Knapp and seconded by Dr. Sonya Evans, Carried.

Dr David Benson: Yea

Jodie Dietz: Yea

Dr. Sonya Evans: Yea

Patrick Hurley: Yea

Jan Kessinger: Yea

Gina Knapp: Yea

Clay Norkey: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**3. Approve the 2026-27 District Fees.**

Presented by Jeremy McFadden, CFO

Patrick Hurley left the meeting at 6:52 p.m. and returned at 6:54 p.m.

Board President Jan Kessinger provided a 5-minute break for the closed captioner at 7:22 p.m., then resumed the meeting at 7:25 p.m. due to a storm moving in.

I move that the Board of Education approve the 2026-27 District Fee Schedule as presented. This motion, made by Gina Knapp and seconded by Dr. Sonya Evans, Carried.

Dr David Benson: Yea

Jodie Dietz: Yea

Dr. Sonya Evans: Yea

Patrick Hurley: Yea

Jan Kessinger: Yea

Gina Knapp: Yea

Clay Norkey: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**4. Approve the 2027-28 District Calendar.**

Presented by Dr. Collier, Deputy Superintendent of Learning

The Board of Education approved the 2027-28 District Calendar.

I move that the Board of Education approve the 2027-28 District Calendar. This motion, made by Dr David Benson and seconded by Jodie Dietz, Carried.

Dr David Benson: Yea

Jodie Dietz: Yea

Dr. Sonya Evans: Yea

Patrick Hurley: Yea

Jan Kessinger: Yea

Gina Knapp: Yea

Clay Norkey: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**5. Approve contract with US Foods, Inc.**

Presented by Jake Slobodnik, Chief Operations Officer

Prime Vendor RFP to provide most commonly ordered food items at a case fee basis.

The Board of Education approved the contract with US Foods, Inc.

I move that the Board of Education approve the contract with US Foods, Inc., pending any minor edits deemed necessary by legal counsel. This motion, made by Jodie Dietz and seconded by Clay Norkey, Carried.

Dr David Benson: Yea

Jodie Dietz: Yea

Dr. Sonya Evans: Yea

Patrick Hurley: Yea

Jan Kessinger: Yea

Gina Knapp: Yea

Clay Norkey: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**6. Approve the contract with CertaPro Painters of Shawnee Mission.**

Presented by Jake Slobodnik, Chief Operations Officer

Project MLT-2602 bids for painting at BVNW, BVM, OHE, and IVE.

The Board of Education approved the contract with CertaPro Painters of Shawnee Mission.

I move that the Board of Education approve the contract with CertaPro Painters of Shawnee Mission, pending any minor edits deemed necessary by legal counsel. This motion, made by Jodie Dietz and seconded by Clay Norkey, Carried.

Dr David Benson: Yea

Jodie Dietz: Yea

Dr. Sonya Evans: Yea

Patrick Hurley: Yea

Jan Kessinger: Yea

Gina Knapp: Yea

Clay Norkey: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**7. Approve the 2026-27 Nonresident Student Enrollment.**

Presented by Erik Pollom, Assistant Director of Planning & Operations.

I move that the Board of Education approve the number of open seats available for nonresident students at each school as presented. This motion, made by Jodie Dietz and seconded by Clay Norkey, Carried.

Dr David Benson: Yea

Jodie Dietz: Yea

Dr. Sonya Evans: Yea

Patrick Hurley: Yea

Jan Kessinger: Yea

Gina Knapp: Yea

Clay Norkey: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**F. CLOSING ITEMS.**

**1. Other Matters Before the Board.**

Presented by Members of the Board of Education

None.

I move that the Board of Education approve the number of open seats available for nonresident students at each school as presented. This motion, made by Jodie Dietz and seconded by Clay Norkey, Carried.

Dr David Benson: Yea

Jodie Dietz: Yea

Dr. Sonya Evans: Yea

Patrick Hurley: Yea

Jan Kessinger: Yea

Gina Knapp: Yea

Clay Norkey: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

**2. Board Comments.**

Member Hurley expressed concern that the Legislature did not fully fund special education, noting the resulting financial hardship for the district and other school districts. He encouraged continued awareness of legislative actions and their impact on schools. Member Evans echoed Mr. Hurley's comments, emphasizing the importance of remaining informed about legislative decisions and district operations.

Member Dietz recognized six Blue Valley students who received accolades at the Shooting Stars Gala, highlighting their achievements in visual and performing arts and expressing pride in their representation of the district.

Member Norkey congratulated Dr. Collier on her appointment as superintendent at Auburn Washburn School District. He thanked district staff for their work and detailed reporting. He acknowledged the challenges associated with closing a significant budget gap and the additional impact of unfunded legislative mandates. Member Norkey noted that fee adjustments addressed a small portion of the shortfall and reiterated that full funding of special education would significantly alter the district's financial position.

**3. Adjournment.**

Board President Jan Kessinger adjourned the April 13, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting at 7:49 p.m.