

## **BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES**

**Date: March 12, 2026**

**Location: District office**

### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Troy Hilt.

### **2. ATTENDANCE**

- **Board Members Present:** Troy Hilt, Chris Hingst, Shaylinn Zwygardt, Bruce Swihart, Traci Neitzel, Shawna Blanka, and Brooke Lohr.
- **Administration Present:** Superintendent Mark Penka, High School Principal Delbert Schmidt, Elementary Principal Suzan Dinkel, and Clerk Tania Quintero.
- **Patrons Present:** Seth Swihart, Jesse Baxter, Holly Hingst, and Adam Guthmiller.

### **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chris Hingst moved to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Shaylinn Zwygardt.

**Motion carried 7-0.**

### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Patrons Seth Swihart, Jesse Baxter, Holly Hingst, and Adam Guthmiller addressed the board regarding the potential extension of the Junior High basketball season to provide students with additional practice and game opportunities.

### **5. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**The Board reviewed and discussed the items on the consent calendar. A motion was then made by Bruce Swihart, seconded by Chris Hingst, to approve the consent calendar, including the following items: a) The minutes of the Special Board meeting on February 23, 2026, and Regular Board meeting on February 12, 2026. b) A list of bills being paid, direct deposits, and checks numbered 19070-19120 at FNB Bank, in the total amount of \$330,648.54. c) The Cash Summary Report, the Grade School Activity Fund Report, and the High School Activity Fund Report – all as of February 28, 2026. d) No Gift Offers.**

## 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Scholarship Committee:** Superintendent Penka informed the committee that Principal Schmidt will provide scholarship materials by early April, at which time a meeting will be scheduled.
- **Hiring Committee:** The committee recommended hiring Jaydenn Porubski as Assistant District Clerk. Employment will begin sporadically through the end of the school year, then transition to part-time duties. Traci Neitzel made a motion to approve the new hire, seconded by Bruce Swihart, and carried.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS

- **Junior High Sports:** The board held a lengthy discussion regarding JH sports. The item was tabled until the next Board meeting.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS

- **Personnel Resignations:** Shaylinn Zwegardt moved to accept the following resignations for the 2026-2027 school year; Chris Hingst seconded the motion, and carried.
  - Amy Christensen (Elementary Special Education Director)
  - Brittney Lamb (Assistant GS Girls Basketball Coach and Cross Country Coach)
  - Amy Morrow (HS Assistant Track Coach)
  - Leslie Steggs (Kitchen Director)
- **Cheyenne County Kansas Community Foundation / Discovery Zone:**
  - Bruce Swihart moved to allow the Summer Discovery Zone to use school facilities from May 26 through July 2. Seconded by Chris Hingst. **Motion carried 7-0.**
  - Traci Neitzel moved that the school decline the use of facilities on Mondays throughout the school year. While the board expressed support for the program, they encouraged seeking alternative facilities for those dates. Seconded by Shawna Blanka. **Motion carried 7-0.**
  - Shaylinn Zwegardt matched the \$500 raised by elementary students for the top grant idea. Seconded by Shawna Blanka. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- **Teacher Retention / Executive Session:**
- **Next, Superintendent Penka requested a 20-minute executive session. Chris Hingst made the following motion; seconded by Shaylinn Zwegardt and carried: Mr. President, I move that the board recess into executive session to discuss the performance of individual staff members in order to protect their privacy pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and that the open meeting shall resume at 9:10 p.m.**
- At 9:10 p.m., Bruce Swihart moved to extend the session by 5 minutes. Seconded by Shawna Blanka. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- At 9:15 p.m., Shaylinn Zwegardt moved to extend the session by an additional 5 minutes, returning at 9:20 p.m. Seconded by Shawna Blanka. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- **Action Taken:** Upon returning to open session, The Board was reminded that by law (K.S.A. 72-5411, as amended), a school board must notify a teacher in writing on or before the third Friday in May (May 16<sup>th</sup> this year) if said teacher's contract will not be renewed; and a teacher must notify the school board in writing on or before 14 days after the third Friday in May (May 30<sup>th</sup> this year) if (s)he is resigning from their teaching contract. Contract offers and proposed reassignments (if any) for the 2025-2026 school year may be acted upon at the regular meeting on April 10, 2025, or at the May 8, 2025, meeting, if necessary.

Chris Hingst moved to extend contracts for all certified teachers for the upcoming year, excluding those who have submitted resignations. Seconded by Shaylinn Zwegardt. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- **Vehicle Sale:** The board discussed the sale of the 1995 GMC Suburban. Bruce Swihart moved to accept sealed bids (minimum \$500) until April 8 at 12:00 p.m. Bids will be opened and approved at the April 9 meeting. Seconded by Brooke Lohr. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- **Hiring:** Traci Neitzel moved to hire Matt Brown as Assistant JH Track Coach and Kenzie Lampe as High School Trainer. Seconded by Shaylinn Zwegardt. **Motion carried 7-0.**

## 9. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROCESS

Superintendent Penka reported that bids are being collected to replace sewage pipes in the auditorium restroom and high school kitchen this summer. Additionally, two ceilings at the grade school are scheduled for replacement.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The next board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2026, at 7:00 a.m. in the High School District Office. Chris Hingst moved to adjourn. Seconded by Shaylinn Zwegardt. **Motion carried 7-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 p.m.