



# Unified School District 232

**De Soto – Shawnee – Lenexa – Olathe**  
www.usd232.org

## USD 232 BOARD OF EDUCATION

### OFFICIAL MINUTES -- REGULAR MEETING

**Administrative Offices (35200 West 91<sup>st</sup> Street, De Soto, KS)**

**May 3, 2021**

YouTube channel: <https://bitly.com/usd232youtube>

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by the Board President, Danielle Heikes. A quorum of the Board was present. Attendance was as follows:

**Board Members Present:** Rick Amos  
Bill Fletcher  
John Gaignat  
Danielle Heikes  
Stephanie Makalous  
Ashley Spaulding

**Absent:** Rachele Zade

**Others Present:** Jolyn Baldner, Director of Student Nutrition  
Alvie Cater, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative & Educational Services  
Steve Deghand, Director of Facilities  
Wendy Denham, Board Clerk/Executive Assistant to the Superintendent  
Carrie Handy, Director of Human Resources/Elementary  
Lee Hanson, Director of Special Education  
Tara Harmon-Moore, Health Services Coordinator  
Dr. Frank Harwood, Superintendent of Schools  
Michelle Hite, Director of Elementary Curriculum & Instruction/Accreditation  
Dr. Joe Kelly, Director of Secondary Curriculum & Instruction/Title Programs  
Ken Larsen, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations  
Brandon Riffel, Director of Technology  
Dr. Cindy Swartz, Career & Technical Education Coordinator  
Brian Schwanz, Director of Human Resources/Secondary

Alvie Cater led attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. He then briefly explained how the meeting will progress from one agenda item to the next.

President Heikes asked if there were any changes to the Agenda or Consent Agenda. No changes were made.

*Mr. Rick Amos moved to adopt the Agenda and approve the Consent Agenda.*

*Mrs. Stephanie Makalous seconded.*

*Carried 6/0.*

The following Consent Agenda items were approved:

1. Minutes of the April 19<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and April 26<sup>th</sup> special meeting.
2. Payment of bills and issuance of checks numbered 54733 – 54834 and 54842 – 54924.
3. Transfer of funds as follows:
  - a. \$902,000.00 from General (Fund 06) to Special Education (Fund 30)
  - b. \$6,000.00 from Local Option Budget (Fund 08) to State Pre-K (Fund 11)
  - c. \$235,000.00 from Local Option Budget (Fund 08) to At-Risk (Fund 13)
  - d. \$35,000.00 from Local Option Budget (Fund 08) to Bi-Lingual (Fund 14)
  - e. \$165,000.00 from Local Option Budget (Fund 08) to Vocational Education (Fund 34)

4. Personnel recommendations as follows:

Resignations – Administration *(at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year)*

Kris Meyer, Principal, SE

Beth Mildren, Principal, RE

Employment – Administration *(effective for the 2021-2022 school year)*

Brent Bechard, Associate Principal/Athletic Director, MVHS

Samantha Luchtel, School Improvement Specialist, ME

Resignations – Certified *(at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year)*

James Bonar, Residential Carpentry/Drafting Teacher, DHS

Nicholas Foster, Business Teacher, MVHS

Karen Jamison, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pathways Teacher, LTMS

Gayle Kebodeaux, Engineering Teacher, MVHS

Danielle Krumme, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teacher, MTMS

Wendy Morris, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, PRE

Peyton Young, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, PRE

Employment – Certified *(effective for the 2021-2022 school year)*

Michele Anderson, Math Teacher, MVHS

Jules O'Bryant, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Teacher, MCMS

Tara Pearson, Reading Specialist, SE

Adam Runyan, Business Teacher/Girls Basketball Coach, MVHS

Ashley Vest, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, PRE

Jennifer Zymball, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, PRE

Resignations – Classified

Jamee Lorfing, Lead Cashier, MTMS *(effective 05/05/21)*

Cimony Mahoney, Paraprofessional, MVHS

Camren McCall, Math Aide, CCE  
Kylie Pierce, Paraprofessional & Lunchroom Aide, RE  
Taylor Roberts, Paraprofessional, The Bridge

Retirement – Classified

Pete Gutierrez, Evening Custodian, HE

Employment – Classified

Joseph Lazor, Rule 10 Assistant Wrestling Coach, MVHS  
Chelon Lewis, Secretary, CCE

5. Three-year agreements for School Resource Officers with the City of Shawnee, City of Lenexa and Johnson County Sheriff's Office.
6. Acceptance of a bid from e3 Gordon Stowe in the amount of \$37,238.00 for one (1) sound booth and associated equipment.
7. Award of the following bids for Cedar Trails Exploration Center furniture:
  - Interior Landscapes – KI & Mayline products - \$258,886.01
  - Pepco – science tables - \$8,567.40
  - School Specialty – Childcraft products - \$20,417.50
  - Scott Rice – Smith Systems equipment - \$10,343.14
  - United Office – Dewey, Global, HON, Jonti, Lorell and Sandusky products - \$50,1114.30
8. Declared the following items surplus:
  - One (1) Delta Table Saw
  - One (1) McCall Reach-In Cooler (Model #4-4045)
  - One (1) Hobart 20 Quart Floor Mixer (Model #311349951)
  - Old toys, books, office supplies and equipment in the Parents as Teachers program
9. Purchase of licensing for Mosyle software in the amount of \$57,750.00.
10. Annual license renewal with Skyward for software and services in the amount of \$69,482.00.
11. A proposal from Kansas City Audio Visual for installation of audio visual systems in the gymnasiums and cafeterias of Belmont, Mize, Prairie Ridge, Riverview and Starside elementary schools in an amount not to exceed \$144,378.00.
12. Acceptance of the following donations:
  - Greater Kansas City Community Foundation in the amount of \$4,890.08 to Riverview Elementary School.
  - John and Missy Krudwig/Krudwig Structural Engineers in the amount of \$400.00 to Lexington Trails Middle School for the Panther Prowl fundraiser.
  - Mark Sanders/Siller's Foundation Repair in the amount of \$500.00 to Lexington Trails Middle School for the Panther Prowl fundraiser.
  - Pittenger Law Group in the amount of \$1,000.00 to the Mill Valley High School Cross Country program.
  - Jarod Allerheiligen in the amount of \$500.00 to the Mill Valley High School Track & Field program.

**GOOD NEWS.** President Heikes read a statement of appreciation for educators in the district to honor them during Teacher Recognition Week.

**Staff Member Recognition.** Tara Harmon-Moore, Health Services Coordinator, and the following Health Services staff members were recognized for meeting additional challenges presented this year due to the pandemic and their significant contribution in the district's efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19:

**Nurses:** Amanda McGlasson (Clear Creek Elementary), Anne Farver-Lightcap (De Soto High School), Ariana Vasquez (Mill Creek Middle School), Beau Martin (Belmont Elementary), Brandi Heitmann (Mize Elementary), Christina Brandenburg (Mize Elementary), Emilie Rigolizzo (Riverview Elementary), Erica Keesling (Mize Elementary), Erin Overturf (Horizon Elementary), Heather Van Dyke (Mill Valley High School), Jodi Fischer (Riverview Elementary), Kellie Eaton (Starside Elementary), Laura Legatt (Lexington Trails Middle School), Michele Jackson (Mill Valley High School), Sarah Lenon (Prairie Ridge Elementary), Tara Brown (Starside Elementary) and Theresa Koeckeritz (Monticello Trails Middle School).

**Substitute Nurses:** Brenda Carroll, Karla Leuenberg, Kerry O'Keefe-Owens, Kim Ogden, Kristina Lee, Linda Davis, Mary Poulain and Melissa Harber.

**Contact Tracers:** Andrea Ridings, Courtney Wood, Jessica Nance and Sahra Go.

**Student Recognition.** The Mill Valley Silver Stars dance team was recognized for their accomplishments competing for the first time in the National Dance Association Championship. The squad placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Jazz category and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Game Day category. Over sixty-five teams participated in the competition and the Silver Stars brought home the National Championship title. The Head Coach is Katie Jackson and Assistant Coaches are Nicole Porter and Sarah Amos.

The Mill Valley High School Journalism program was recognized for having won its second consecutive Kansas Scholastic Press Association state journalism title. It was a combined effort between the JagWire newspaper, JAG Yearbook and MVTV student groups. This win marks Mill Valley's 10<sup>th</sup> State Journalism title. In addition, the following students were recognized for individual state titles:

- Ben Weiland – Class 5A State Champion in Sport Writing
- Steven Curto, Emily Feuerborn, Quinn Franken, Emma Hookstra and Ben Weiland – Class 5A State Champions in Multimedia Storytelling
- Tatum Elliott – Scored the most points of any student in the 5A/6A contest, earning 19 points and placing in all four contests in which she competed.

#### **ACTION ITEMS.**

**Bond Sale.** Ken Larsen, Assistant Superintendent of Business & Operations, introduced the district's bond advisor, David Arteberry from Stifel, Nicolaus & Company, Inc., and bond counsel, Kevin Wempe from Gilmore & Bell. The Board is issuing \$15 million in new bonds, Series 2021-A, to continue bond projects in Phase III and also refunding \$4.5 million, a portion of Series 2011-A bonds, to take advantage

of low interest rates. Mr. Larsen reviewed bid results, noting five competitive bids were received on the new bond sale with the award going to the Baker Group who offered the lowest total interest rate of 1.22 percent.

*Mrs. Danielle Heikes moved to approve a Resolution authorizing and directing the issuance, sale and delivery of general obligation refunding and improvement bonds, Series 2021-A, of Unified School District No. 232, Johnson County, Kansas (De Soto); providing for the levy and collection of an annual tax for the purpose of paying the principal of and interest on said bonds as they become due; making certain covenants and agreements to provide for the payment and security thereof; and authorizing certain other documents and actions connected therewith.*

*Mr. John Gagnat seconded.*

*Carried 6/0.*

**Eudora-De Soto Technical Education Center (EDTEC)/Cedar Trails Exploration (CTE) Center MOU.** Dr. Joe Kelly, Director of Curriculum & Instruction/Title Programs, talked about program planning and data collection. With the culmination of data collected through surveys of various groups (students in grades 6-12, the Superintendent's Student Advisory Committee, Eudora tech ed students, parents of students in grades 6-12, CTE Advisory Committee and Teachers, Community/Business members) and data collected from the Perkins V needs assessment and labor market assessment, it was determined that the facility would have CAPS Strands for Bioscience, Design and Emerging Technologies and this information assisted HTK Architects in developing building plans.

Brian Schwanz, Director of Human Resources/Secondary, spoke about staffing and development of the master schedule. He explained that with an expected enrollment of 394 students, the district has hired two full-time instructors for Bioscience and Manufacturing and has five part-time instructors for Computer Science, Robotics, Engineering and Design.

Dr. Cindy Swartz, Career & Technical Education Coordinator, talked about partnerships the district has with the Eudora School District (Health Services – CNA/CMA, Automotive, Agriculture and Culinary), Johnson County Community College (Health Services – CNA), and Kansas City Kansas Community College (Automotive and Welding). Dr. Swartz also talked about future plans (ongoing data collection, post-secondary partnerships, collaboration time for instructors, professional development, advertising and community outreach).

In response to a question from Stephanie Makalous about the number of new hires for Cedar Trails, Superintendent Harwood explained that only the two staff members hired for Bioscience and Manufacturing are new. He said that some teachers currently on staff at De Soto High School and Mill Valley High School will move between the high schools and Cedar Trails for the other courses.

Superintendent Harwood informed the Board that the Memorandum of Understanding between USD 232 and the Eudora School District has been updated to allow continued opportunities for De Soto and Mill Valley students in Eudora tech ed programs and allow Eudora High School students to attend Cedar Trails.

*Mrs. Stephanie Makalous moved to approve the Eudora-De Soto Technical Education Center (EDTEC) Memorandum of Understanding as presented.*

*Mrs. Ashley Spaulding seconded.*

*Carried 6/0.*

## DISCUSSION ITEMS.

**Legislative Update.** Superintendent Harwood presented the Board with information on the following Kansas Legislature enacted legislation, vetoed Legislation and pending legislation:

- Enacted Legislation
  - Senate Bill 40 – Emergency powers
  - House Bill 2104 (Senate Bill 13) – Revenue neutral tax rate
  - House Sub Senate Bill 63 – Full-time in-person classes by March 31
  - House Bill 2049 – No fees for Legislative Post Audits
  - House Bill 2405 – Bonding for the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System (KPERs)
  - Senate Bill 86 – Extraordinary utility costs
- Vetoed Legislation
  - Graduation Requirements
    - House Bill 2039 – Civics exam
    - House Bill 2301 – Personal Finance course
  - House Bill 2089 – Firearm Safety curriculum
  - Senate Bill 55 – Prohibiting biologically designed males from participating in female sports
- Pending Legislation
  - Senate Bill 175 (House Bill 2119) – K-12 Budget
    - Governor’s Recommended Budget – Funds Gannon Decision
    - High Density At-Risk Funding
    - Directed Use of ESSER Funds
    - Tax Credit Scholarship Expansion
    - Non-Public Education Savings Account
    - 20 Mill Education Levy Re-Authorization
    - Several other provisions

**Coming Back Together Update.** Superintendent Harwood presented the Board with the following information:

Current KSGC Data. USD 232 data for the week beginning March 14<sup>th</sup> through April 18<sup>th</sup> was shared (Absenteeism, Percent Positivity, Two Week Cumulative County Incidence Rate, One Week County Incidence Rate Trend and Regional Hospital). Dr. Harwood noted that it continues to look good, however the Incidence Rate Trend has moved from the “yellow” category up to the “orange” category. The district remains in the “green” category overall.

**Mask Requirements.** With the passing of Senate Bill No. 40, the Board of Education has sole authority concerning COVID-19 issues. Governor Kelly re-issued a state-wide mask requirement in late March, but it was overturned by a legislative committee. The Johnson County Board of County Commissioners allowed the mask requirement to expire on May 1<sup>st</sup>, but strongly recommends the wearing of masks in public, especially indoors. In a recent survey of school districts in the state 40% reported that masks are still required. While the majority of districts in the state don't require masks, the majority of students in the state are required to wear them because they attend high density districts like those in Johnson County, Wyandotte County and Sedgwick County.

**Mask Recommendations.** All relevant public health agencies (Centers for Disease Control, Kansas Department of Health & Environment and Johnson County Department of Health & Environment) recommend requiring masks in schools. Vaccines are not currently available for anyone under the age of 16. Universal and proper mask wearing are essential to limiting the spread of COVID-19 in a school setting. In order to maximize the opportunities for in-person learning, activities and celebrations, it is recommended that USD 232 continue the current mask requirement. In response to a question from Ashley Spaulding, Dr. Harwood said the COVID Advisory Committee also recommends the district maintain the current mask requirement through the rest of the school year.

**Other Updates.**

**Student Vaccination Clinics** – Dr. Harwood said vaccine clinics could be held over the summer in district buildings with help from outside sources, especially after the Food & Drug Administration (FDA) approves vaccines for students between 12 and 15 years old.

**End of Year Events** – Arrangements are being made to allow optional remote students to attend end of year events and graduation plans are finalizing.

**Summer COVID Mitigation Strategies** – The administration will look at mitigation strategies for summer weights, camps and rentals and consider a change to the Coming Back Together Plan.

**2021-22 COVID Mitigation Strategies** – Dr. Harwood said the board has taken no action and the administration has made no recommendations regarding COVID-19 mitigation strategies planned for the upcoming school year. The board will receive recommendations for the 2021-22 school year in July.

**PATRON INPUT.** President Heikes opened the floor for patron input. The following individuals spoke:

Austin Cowan, Shawnee, told the Board the mask mandate has ended and suggested the Board was enforcing it with their feelings.

Theresa Finan, Shawnee, said her spouse is a teacher in the district and the De Soto Teacher's Association does not represent everyone. She shared various information encouraging discontinuation of the mask mandate.

**ALERT.** The following report was included in the packet for this board meeting with notice that it will require future action by the Board of Education: 1. Revisions for the 2021-2022 Classified and Health Services Handbook.

**FYI REPORT.** The following information report was included in the board packet for this meeting: 1. Fiscal Year 2021 VI-B Federal Funds & Assurances.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**Negotiations.**

*Mrs. Danielle Heikes moved to go into executive session at 7:00 p.m. for a period of twenty minutes with Frank Harwood, Alvie Cater, Brian Schwanz, and Carrie Handy to discuss Negotiations pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA and return to open session at 7:20 p.m. at this location.*

*Mrs. Ashley Spaulding seconded.*

*Carried 6/0.*

The Board returned to open session and President Heikes called the meeting back to order at 7:20 p.m.

**Non-Elected Personnel.**

*Mrs. Danielle Heikes moved to go into executive session at 7:20 for a period of ten minutes with Frank Harwood, Brian Schwanz and Carrie Handy to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and return to open session at 7:30 p.m. at this location.*

*Mrs. Ashley Spaulding seconded.*

*Carried 6/0.*

The Board returned to open session and President Heikes called the meeting back to order at 7:30 p.m.

*President Heikes adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.*

*June 7, 2021*  
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Date Approved

*Wendy S. Benham*  
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Clerk, Board of Education  
*Danielle Heikes*  
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President, Board of Education