



# Unified School District 232

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

## USD 232 BOARD OF EDUCATION

### OFFICIAL MINUTES --REGULAR MEETING

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

**August 1, 2022**

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

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

**Board Members Present:** Rick Amos  
Bill Fletcher  
Brandi Jonasson  
Stephanie Makalous  
Calley Malloy  
Ashley Spaulding

**Absent:** Danielle Heikes

**Others Present:** Jolyn Baldner, Director of Student Nutrition  
Alvie Cater, Assistant Superintendent of Administration & Communications  
Steve Deghand, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities & Operations  
Carrie Handy, Executive Director of Elementary Education  
Dr. Frank Harwood, Superintendent of Schools  
Michelle Hite, Director of Elementary Curriculum & Instruction/Accreditation  
Dr. Joe Kelly, Director of Secondary Curriculum & Instruction/Title Programs  
Rob Moser, Coordinator of Safety & Transportation  
Brian Schwanz, Executive Director of Secondary Education  
Julie Stucky, Director of Finance

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

President Spaulding asked if there were any changes for the Agenda. No changes were requested.

*Mrs. Stephanie Makalous moved to adopt the Agenda.*

*Mr. Rick Amos seconded.*

*Carried 6/0.*

**PATRON INPUT.** President Spaulding opened the floor for patron input. With no requests to speak submitted, she moved onto the next agenda item.

**CONSENT AGENDA.** President Spaulding asked the board if they had any changes for the Consent Agenda. No changes were requested.

*Mrs. Stephanie Makalous moved to approve the Consent Agenda.*

*Mrs. Brandi Jonasson seconded.*

*Carried 6/0.*

The following Consent Agenda items were approved:

1. Minutes of the July 11<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.
2. Payment of bills and issuance of checks numbered 59057 – 59126 and 59132 – 59215.
3. Personnel recommendations as follows:

Resignations – Classified

Stephanie Chavez, Student Nutrition Assistant, MCMS

Jesse McAlister, Plumber Technician, Districtwide

Julie Schneider, Student Nutrition Manager, BE

Christopher Young, Custodian, MVHS

Gerald Young, Custodian, MVHS

End of Employment – Classified

Rachelle Cook, Student Nutrition Assistant, MCMS

End of Contract – Classified

Morgan Gurwell, Paraprofessional Substitute, Districtwide

Devon Handy, Substitute Custodian, Districtwide

Eric Hatfield, Substitute Custodian, Districtwide

Natasha Hatfield, Substitute Custodian, Districtwide

Walter Lenon, Substitute Custodian, Districtwide

Valarie Portillo-Marquez, Substitute Custodian, Districtwide

Employment – Classified

Kendra Bittner, Assistive Technology Assistant, Districtwide

Jillian Brower, Student Nutrition Assistant, CCE

Mary Kate Cotton, School Nurse, CTEC

Cruz Gallegos, Rule 10 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Football Coach, MTMS

Kimberly Goff, Part-time Building Aide, CCE

Erin Harwig, Student Nutrition Assistant, MCMS

Jodie Hurt, Gifted Paraprofessional, MVHS

Jennifer MacDonald, Kitchen Manager, BE

Lissa McGivern, Building Aide, BE

Linda Mills, 4-hour Student Nutrition Assistant, LTMS

Sara Mitchell, Rule 10 Assistant Girls Golf Coach, DHS

Elizabeth Moser, Center-Based Paraprofessional, BE

Robin Roberts, Resource Paraprofessional, MVHS

Natalie Shultz, Part-time School Nurse, MCMS

Macy Smith, Center Based Paraprofessional, BE  
Savannah Tasker, Paraprofessional Substitute, CTEC  
Rebecca Walker, Part-time Building Aide, CCE  
Gabrielle Williams, Center Based Paraprofessional, BE

Resignations – Certified (*Effective at conclusion of the 2021-22 school year.*)

Sean Endecott, Drafting/Architecture Teacher, MVHS  
Sahra Lynders, Center Based Special Education Teacher, The Bridge

Employment – Certified

Ariel Baird, Special Education Center Based Autism Teacher, BE  
Jessica Harrington, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, BE  
Kelly Smith, Special Education Center Based Teacher, The Bridge  
Heidi Thomsen, Kindergarten Teacher, BE

ACTION ITEM.

**Budget & Revenue Neutral Rate Notice of Hearings Publication.** Julie Stucky, Director of Finance, presented the board with the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022-23 for consideration. She reviewed budget Form 150, which shows all sources of revenue that make up the General Fund and Supplemental General Fund legal maximum budget authority. Superintendent Harwood pointed out a change made to the At-Risk Student Weighting and said that this year students that qualify for Medicaid are now direct certifications for free or reduced lunch which raises the weighting significantly. He explained that the district does not know how many of the students that are being direct certified would have applied for free/reduced lunch and qualified. Mrs. Stucky then reviewed budget Code 99, which shows a comparison of actual expenditures for 2020-21 and 2021-22 compared to proposed budget expenditures for 2022-23. She pointed out that the district has spent more out of the Special Assessment fund in the past couple of years than collected, so she had to increase it to get more funds to pay bills as they come in for Special Assessments. Mrs. Stucky said the numbers in the budget are estimated high and then adjustments will be made once the Superintendent's Organizational Report with student counts is complete and audited. She pointed out that the proposed mill levy for the 2022-23 budget is 61.599 mills compared to 61.949 mills in 2021-22, a decrease of .35 mills. She said this would raise more taxes due to an increase in assessed valuation. Mrs. Stucky also compared the proposed mill levies to the Revenue Neutral Rates shown in Code 99. She asked the board to approve publication of the Notice of Hearing for the 2022-2023 Budget and Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate for the 2022-2023 School Year for publication.

Stephanie Makalous asked why Special Assessment has increased. Mrs. Stucky said the district has not been collecting enough tax to pay expenses which have been coming in higher than what the district budgeted for. Superintendent Harwood reminded the board that Special Assessments are basically property taxes the district is charged and pays to other entities like stormwater or sewer.

Ashley Spaulding asked when the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate forms taxpayers will receive will be sent out. Mrs. Stucky said probably within the next two weeks.

*Mr. Rick Amos moved to approve publication of the Notice of Hearing - 2022-2023 Budget in the district's official newspaper stating that the Board will hold a public hearing on the budget on September 12, 2022, 6:00 p.m., at the USD 232 Administrative Office, 35200 West 91<sup>st</sup> Street, De Soto, KS.*

*Mrs. Stephanie Makalous seconded.*

*Carried 6/0.*

*Mr. Rick Amos moved to approve publication of the Notice of Hearing - Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate for the 2022-2023 School Year in the district's official newspaper stating that the Board will hold a public hearing on exceeding the revenue neutral tax rate on September 12, 2022, 6:00 p.m., at the USD 232 Administrative Office, 35200 West 91<sup>st</sup> Street, De Soto, KS.*

*Mrs. Ashley Spaulding seconded.*

*Carried 6/0.*

## DISCUSSION ITEMS.

**Economic Development Update.** Superintendent Harwood informed the Board that on July 13<sup>th</sup> Governor Laura Kelly announced that the former Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant site in De Soto has been selected by The Panasonic Energy Co. for its new electric vehicle battery manufacturing facility. He said this represents a \$4 billion investment in the region and is expected to bring 4,000 skilled jobs to the area. It is the largest economic development project in state history. Superintendent Harwood shared the following slides with the Board:

### Recent Background

- January 2022 – City of De Soto annexes more than 6,000 acres.
- January 2022 – City of De Soto approves the establishment of a 6,000 acre redevelopment district at the former Sunflower Army Ammunition site.
- February 2022 – USD 232 approves an agreement with Sunflower Redevelopment, LLC, granting the district approval authority over project plans that include residential components.
- February 2022 – The Kansas Legislature approves the APEX bill providing incentives for large projects.

**Proposed Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Map** A map was shared showing 6,000 acres the City of De Soto has proposed for a TIF District.

### Current Developments

- On July 21, 2022, the City of De Soto approved two 300 acre project plans as part of the Sunflower TIF District. A map was shared showing these 300 acre tracts.
- Roadway Improvements – On July 21, 2022, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) announced \$40 million in roadway projects in support of planned growth in the area with substantial completion in June of 2024.
- Financial Commitments: KDOT - \$26 million, Johnson County - \$7.5 million and City of De Soto - \$2 million.

- Johnson County has also committed \$7.5 million for a new fire station on the site.

#### Impacts to USD 232

- The announcement of a \$4 billion investment and 4,000 jobs will not immediately impact the school district.
- Over time, there could be a significant increase in the district's assessed valuation. This could lead to a lower tax levy for all residents.
- The district will certainly be impacted by enrollment growth as it occurs.
- The district has been planning for enrollment growth for many years.

Ashley Spaulding asked how the project would impact staffing. Superintendent Harwood said that staffing falls in line with enrollment. He said as the district grows it will need to hire new staff. He said the district is fortunate to be in an area where a lot of people want to live and work and has not seen the same impact from a teacher shortage as the more rural areas.

Bill Fletcher suggested that the district should be receiving some of the sales tax generated by the project. He pointed out that the cities and counties will see a benefit immediately whereas the district will not see benefit for a long time. Superintendent Harwood said the city will have significant expenses providing infrastructure needed for the project; whereas the district will not see any changes or expenses until students start moving in and the district gets increased funding for them. He said the district could also see a significant increase in property valuation in the future.

Stephanie Makalous said she was looking forward to seeing benefit in student internship opportunities and real world experiences. Superintendent Harwood said with a grant through the Kauffman Foundation the district has hired a Business Liaison who will try to build more partnerships with area businesses.

**Board Member Area Redistricting.** Superintendent Harwood informed the Board that state law allows four different election methods and three different voting plans for electing school board members. He explained that the Election Method outlines the number of districts and how many board members are in each one (1. two districts with three members each and one at large, 2. three districts with two members each and one at large, 3. six districts with one member each and one at large, 4. seven members at large) and the Voting Plan outlines who can vote in primary and general elections (1. Voting Plan A: all electors in the district can vote for all candidates in the primary and the general election, 2. Voting Plan B: only electors that reside in the member districts can vote in a primary, but all electors in the district may vote in the general election, 3. Voting Plan C: only electors that reside in the member district can vote in the primary and the general election. Superintendent Harwood said USD 232 uses the three district method and Voting Plan B. He shared a map of current board member districts showing the estimated population in each and the following information:

- State law requires that all member districts be within 5% of the mean based on the Federal Census.
- Based on information from Johnson County AIMS, the estimated population within the district is 40,611.
- With three board member districts, the mean would be 13,537.
- USD 232 board member districts 2 and 3 are more than 5% from the mean.

- State law also requires that member districts include whole voting precincts when practical, but at a minimum whole census blocks will be included.

Superintendent Harwood said that based on population estimates from Johnson County AIMS, the board must change the member district boundaries. He said changing boundaries can be complex when trying to move whole census blocks, therefore the administration recommends having Johnson County AIMS develop possible board member district maps for consideration. In conclusion he asked the board if there are any priorities they would like the maps to address and said the goal is to have the new districts finalized by January 2023.

Stephanie Makalous said she liked the idea of keeping the current boundaries and just making some slight changes. Other board members were in agreement with her.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION.

#### **Negotiations.**

*Mrs. Ashley Spaulding moved to go into executive session at 6:40 p.m. for a period of twenty minutes with Frank Harwood, Alvie Cater, Brian Schwanz, Carrie Handy and Julie Stucky to discuss collective bargaining Negotiations pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA and return to open session at 7:00 p.m. at this location.*

*Mrs. Rick Amos seconded.*

*Carried 6/0.*

The Board returned to open session and President Spaulding called the meeting back to order at 7:00 p.m.

*President Spaulding adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.*

*September 12, 2022*  
Date Approved

*Wendy S. Denham*  
Clerk, Board of Education

*A. Spaulding*  
President, Board of Education