



# 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)      November 7, 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  
Danielle Heikes  
Brandi Jonasson  
Stephanie Makalous  
Calley Malloy  
Ashley Spaulding

**Others Present:** Jolyn Baldner, Director of Student Nutrition  
Alvie Cater, Assistant Superintendent of Administration & Communications  
Steve Crutchfield, Principal, Horizon Elementary School  
Steve Deghand, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities & Operations  
Dr. Frank Harwood, Superintendent of Schools  
Rob Moser, Coordinator of Safety & Transportation  
Brandon Riffel, Director of Technology  
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 made.

*Mr. Rick Amos moved to adopt the Agenda.*

*Mrs. Stephanie Makalous seconded.*

*Carried 7/0.*

**GOOD NEWS.**

**Student Recognition.** Art teachers from each school annually select artwork from among their students to become part of the permanent collection on display at the USD 232 Administrative Office. The artwork of the following students were presented to the board and each student received a Certificate of Achievement:

1. Belmont Elementary – Paige Beach
2. Clear Creek Elementary – Harper Loosbrock
3. Horizon Elementary – Eleanor Perkins
4. Mize Elementary – Eva Wiltfong
5. Prairie Ridge Elementary – Jace Erude
6. Riverview Elementary – Sebastian Meneses
7. Starside Elementary – Reese Hessong
8. Lexington Trails Middle School – Olivia Hamer
9. Mill Creek Middle School – Paige Howlett
10. Monticello Trails Middle School – Hayli Scheffler
11. De Soto High School – Waverly Altis
12. Mill Valley High School – Madelyn Williams

**Staff Member Recognition.** Horizon Elementary staff members Suzanne Rachwal, 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, and Kerry Lisondra, Technology Teacher, were recognized for outstanding service in their district roles.

Alvie Cater shared two flags that De Soto High School Journalism teacher and 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, U.S. Army, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Sullivan had flown over the United States Army Command, Area Support Group – Kuwait Headquarters, camp Arifjan, Kuwait on September 11 in honor of De Soto High School and USD 232. After showing the flags and accompanying certificates, Mr. Cater shared that another employee is also serving in the military. Leanna McClintock, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade teacher at Clear Creek Elementary, is First Lieutenant, Company Commander of Delta Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 108<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment with the Kansas Army National Guard (and helicopter pilot). The district thanked McClintock and Sullivan for their service. In honor of Veterans Day, the district thanked all those who have previously served in the armed forces.

**PATRON INPUT.** With no requests to speak submitted, President Spaulding moved onto the next agenda item.

**CONSENT AGENDA.** President Spaulding asked the board if they had any changes for the Consent Agenda.

Bill Fletcher asked to remove check number 59934 from Consent Agenda item “B. Approve payment of bills and transfer of funds” for approval separately.

*Mrs. Danielle Heikes moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended.*

*Mrs. Calley Malloy seconded.*

*Carried 7/0.*

The following Consent Agenda items were approved:

1. Minutes of the October 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting and November 1<sup>st</sup> special meeting.
2. Payment of bills and issuance of checks numbered 59776 – 59789, 59791 – 59804, 59806 – 59824, 59830 – 59933 and 59335 – 60078.
3. Transfer of funds as follows:
  - a. \$227,565.37 from General (Fund 06) to At Risk (Fund 13)
  - b. \$1,046,477.02 from General (Fund 06) to Special Education (Fund 30)
  - c. \$4,342.50 from Local Option Budget (Fund 08) to State Pre-K (Fund 11)
  - d. \$51,616.91 from Local Option Budget (Fund 08) to Bilingual (Fund 14)
  - e. 119,287.87 from Local Option Budget (Fund 08) to Vocational Education (Fund 34)

4. Personnel recommendations as follows:

Resignations – Classified

Joni Burch, Substitute Custodian, Districtwide  
Taegan Evans, Center Based Paraprofessional, The Bridge  
Lindsay Flint, Rule 10 Volleyball Coach, MVHS  
Veronica Hamer, Building Secretary, LTMS  
Kayla Marshall, Paraprofessional, DHS  
Elizabeth Moser, Center Based Paraprofessional, BE  
Dwight Stoppel, Energy Manager, Facilities  
Courtney Wood, Special Services Administrative Assistant, AO

Termination – Classified

Sonya Culbertson, Custodian, MVHS

Employment – Classified

Autumn Beach, Building Secretary, BE  
Brianna Gipple, Parents-As-Teachers, CTEC  
Justin Goetting, Rule 10 Assistant Boys Wrestling Coach, DHS  
Kali Gracy, Rule 10 Assistant Girls Wrestling Coach, MVHS  
Richard Housh, Center-Based Paraprofessional, DHS  
Theresa Jensen, Center-Based Paraprofessional, ME  
Desiree Macke, Lunchroom Aide, RE  
Philip Pressel, Custodian, MVHS  
Olivia Sanders, Substitute Custodian, Districtwide  
Makayla Ray, Paraprofessional, ME  
Thomas Watterson, Custodian, RE  
Zanoah Wilson, Building Secretary, LTMS  
David Yantzi, Custodian, PRE

Resignation – Certified

Preston Braun, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, SE (*Effective 11/4/22*)

Employment – Certified

Jacqueline Sparks-Lecki, Early Childhood Teacher, CTEC  
Elizabeth Stratton, Family & Consumer Science Teacher, LTMS

5. Acceptance of the following donations:

- \$25,000.00 from Panasonic to USD 232.
- \$5,379.99 from the Mize PTO to Mize Elementary School.
- \$1,000.00 from the Northeast Kansas Library System to the Prairie Ridge Elementary School Library.
- \$1,000.00 from the Northeast Kansas Library System to the Starside Elementary School Library.
- \$800.00 from the De Soto Kids Wrestling Club to the De Soto High School Wrestling Program.
- \$9,000.00 from De Soto Youth Basketball Tournaments to the De Soto High School Basketball Programs.
- \$500.00 from Tonya and Eric Mater to the De Soto High School Drama Program.
- \$500.00 from Old North State Trust/Treasury (Mater matching donation) to the De Soto High School Drama Program.
- \$500.00 from Markell and Eddie Hayes to the De Soto High School Drama Program.
- \$500.00 from Darrin and Melanie Blackmore to the De Soto High School Drama Program.
- \$400.00 from Nathan and Jyl Ourada to the De Soto High School Drama Program.
- \$1,510.80 from Scott and Maggie Endsley to the De Soto High School Tennis Program.
- \$1,000.00 from the Mill Valley Kids Wrestling Club to the Mill Valley High School Wrestling Program.

6. Declaration of the following items as surplus:

- List of library books from Mill Creek Middle School.
- The following De Soto High School Weight Room items: one (1) assisted dip machine, one (1) Legend Fitness calf raise machine, nine (9) bumpers-45 lbs, eleven (11) bumpers-35 lbs, ten (10) bumpers-25 lbs and ten (10) bumpers-10 lbs.

7. The following extended day trips:

- Mill Valley High School Silver Stars Dance Team, Grades 9-12, compete in the National Dance Alliance Dance Team Nationals, Orange County Convention Center – West, Orlando, FL, March 1-6, 2023.

Bill Fletcher declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

*Mr. Rick Amos moved to approve payment to Kansas Land Management, LLC in the amount of \$21,440.00 with check number 59934.*

*Mrs. Danielle Heikes seconded.*

*Carried 6/0.*

Bill Fletcher returned to the meeting at 6:27 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS.

**Executive Search Firm.** Calley Malloy, Stephanie Makalous and Danielle Heikes shared their findings after calling references provided by the three executive search firms the board interviewed during its

November 1<sup>st</sup> special meeting – Ray & Associates, GR Recruiting and Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB). President Spaulding then asked board members to share their respective pros and cons for each firm. The board briefly discussed how the district conducted the last superintendent search.

*Mrs. Calley Malloy moved to select GR Recruiting to conduct the search for superintendent of USD 232.*

*Mrs. Danielle Heikes seconded.*

*Carried 7/0.*

**Mize Elementary Expansion Bids.** Steve Deghand, Assistant Superintendent of Facilities & Operations, shared a spreadsheet showing all of the 39+ projects completed with 2018 bond funds. It shows estimated costs, bid-day results and the actual total for each project. Mr. Deghand said 39 projects were approved for the bond, all of which have been completed. He noted that at the time projects were bid, the district hit a good bidding climate with most projects costing \$230 - \$250 per square foot (currently costs are running around \$400 per square foot). He said because of this, the district was also able to complete additional projects that did not make the initial list of 39, but were placed into the “if funds were left” category. These included renovations of the original fieldhouses at both high schools and the transformation from tile flooring to resinous flooring throughout the district. Mr. Deghand said the balance of bond funds remaining is \$3,700,000.00. He noted that some of these funds might be used to purchase additional land.

Mr. Deghand then said in June that the Board directed the administration to proceed with design and competitive bids on a potential addition to Mize Elementary School. This project will be paid for with remaining 2018 bond funds. Mize houses one of three center-based programs to meet needs of elementary students with special needs. The school has accommodated this program with regular classrooms and has reached a point whereby an expansion would move the center-based program into the addition and free up classroom space. Mr. Deghand said several meetings with staff took place during the design phase that assisted architects with identifying needs for the addition. He shared a drawing showing a rendition of the school’s addition and said that specifications were written and a legal advertisement was published. He said seven contractors submitted a bid and bids ranged from \$2,121,000.00 to \$2,717,000.00. Board members received bid results showing two contractors coming in with the low bid (Combes Construction and Zimmerman Construction). Mr. Deghand said both contractors have completed many projects for the district in the past, always doing exceptional work. In order to choose a winning bid, the contractors agreed to flip a poker chip (one side with a “Z” on it and the other side with a “C”). Each contractor flipped the chip with different results and Mr. Deghand flipped the chip the third time resulting with Combes Construction being the winner.

*Mrs. Ashley Spaulding moved to approve the bid from Combes Construction in the amount of \$2,121,000.00 for the Mize Elementary School addition.*

*Mrs. Danielle Heikes seconded.*

*Carried 7/0.*

**Board Member Districts.** Superintendent Harwood said by state law after the decennial census the district has to review board member districts. Pursuant to K.S.A. 72-1077, the Board must adopt a Resolution to change the boundaries of board member districts in order to equalize the number of citizens residing in each district. Superintendent Harwood shared a map, which was developed with the assistance of Johnson County AIMS, showing proposed new board member district boundaries. He explained that the map moves voting precinct Shawnee 3-08 from member district 2 and 5 to member district 3 and 6 and moves voting precinct Shawnee 1-08 from member district 3 and 6 to member district 2 and 5. He said this change better aligns board member district boundaries with elementary boundaries and keeps all current board members in their current district. He reminded the board that patrons vote on all board positions in the General Election so this boundary change will only apply to who may run for each position and in the event a Primary Election is necessary.

*Mrs. Stephanie Makalous moved to adopt a Resolution to change the boundaries of board member districts in order to equalize the number of citizens residing in each district.*

*Mr. Rick Amos seconded.*

*Carried 7/0.*

Superintendent Harwood said the Resolution would be published in the Legal Record within ten days and sent to the Johnson County Election Office.

#### DISCUSSION ITEMS.

**Enrollment Update.** Superintendent Harwood reviewed the preliminary September 20 enrollment numbers by building, grade level and program. September 20 is the official state count day for funding purposes. He said enrollment numbers are subject to change after the data is audited. He also reviewed each building's capacity (architectural and functional).

#### Early Childhood

Dr. Harwood said all eight early childhood classrooms at Cedar Trails are now in use and pre-k enrollment has increased by 13 students. He said that early childhood evaluations would continue throughout the school year.

#### Elementary

Total elementary enrollment decreased by 16 students. This year's kindergarten class is 35 students smaller than last year's. Total elementary architectural capacity is 4,628; functional capacity is 4,066. Dr. Harwood said capacities are updated to correspond to current programming. The district is currently using 78% of elementary capacity.

#### Middle School

Total middle school enrollment decreased by 39 students. This year's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class is 70 students smaller than last year's 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Total middle school architectural capacity is 2,500; functional capacity is 2,250. Dr. Harwood said capacities are updated to correspond to current programming. The district is currently using 76% of middle school capacity.

### High School

Total high school enrollment increased by 52 students. This year's 9<sup>th</sup> grade class is 53 students larger than last year's 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade class is the district's largest class. Total high school architectural capacity is 4,300, functional capacity is 3,225. Dr. Harwood said capacities are updated to correspond to current programming and building additions. The district is currently using 73% of high school capacity (this does not include capacity at Cedar Trails Exploration Center).

Dr. Harwood said overall the district has increased by four students to a total of 7,500. However, he pointed out that K-12 enrollment decreased by three students. For returning students in grades (1-12) there was a net increase of 107 students, however, this year's kindergarten class is 110 students smaller than last year's senior class. Dr. Harwood said the district is well within total capacity utilizing 75% across the system.

Dr. Harwood said that for funding purposes there is an estimated increase of 73.6 Full Time Equivalency (FTE). This increase is attributed to a four percentage point increase in Free and Reduced Lunch eligibility. He said most of this is because students who qualified for Medicaid were direct certified by the state for free lunch. He reminded the board that the Gannon decision several years ago provided established increases to base state aid funding. The 2022-23 school year is when set increases in the funding formula will expire. Dr. Harwood said current state law calls for future increases to base state aid to be computed using the consumer price index.

Stephanie Makalous asked what point the district would need to look at changing middle school boundaries to move Shawnee/Lenexa students to Lexington Trails Middle School. Dr. Harwood said there is expected growth in the middle of the district that will require boundary changes to increase enrollment at Lexington Trails. One option is to adjust boundaries for new neighborhoods that have yet to be constructed.

Danielle Heikes asked if there was any analysis showing why kindergarten enrollment is down. Superintendent Harwood said the live birth count in the county has been decreasing. In addition, he said the community does not have much inventory for starter homes that most younger families would buy.

Danielle Heikes said the board hears that Mill Valley High School is overcrowded. Dr. Harwood said that the administration hears it too, and it is typically in hallways and the parking lot. Harwood said this is because Mill Valley was initially constructed to accommodate 750 – 1,000 students and has been expanded over the years. He pointed out that there is plenty of classroom space. He said one thing that could be considered in the future to help with students traveling to classrooms would be to build exterior hallways. He said the cafeteria size was increased at one time and it could possibly be added onto again. For parking, he said it could be managed by limiting parking permits.

**City of Shawnee Hickock-Zarah Improvement District.** Alvie Cater introduced Adam Pope, Columbia Financial, who presented the following information to the board on behalf of the City of Shawnee:

- A map showing the Hickok-Zarah Development Area that comprises 1,648 acres, approximately 2.58 square miles, in western Shawnee, largely between Monticello and Woodland, from Shawnee Mission Parkway to the southern city boundary just north of 83<sup>rd</sup> Street. The bulk of the southern two-thirds of the area is undeveloped, unplatted, lacking internal infrastructure and suffering from topographical challenges.
- Reason for Tax Increment Financing (TIF) – The City proposes the use of TIF to provide a funding source for the extraordinary amount of infrastructure necessary to permit this area to develop in a thoughtful and orderly manner. Particularly south of 71<sup>st</sup> Street, where very little infrastructure exists to support future development.
- Aging Buildings and Infrastructure – Of 309 structures currently in the proposed district, 215 are 35 years of age or older. Other than Monticello Road, other key streets serving the area are now largely “ditch section”.
- Impact on USD 232/Future Development – The City’s Comprehensive Plan calls for a mix of uses in the development area, including: commercial/warehouse/light industrial along Midland, Woodland/Martindale, and Monticello roads; traditional neighborhood residential; and, mixed-use residential (neighborhoods, estate lots, etc.)

Lower density residential development is likely to struggle except along existing transportation corridors due to the extraordinary costs of constructing water, street, stormwater and related infrastructure in the interior areas of the development area. As a result, growth in this area is likely to be patchy and inconsistent, creating transportation challenges for USD 232, safety concerns for drivers and pedestrians, and a lack of non-car transportation alternatives.

- Use of TIF Focused on Regional Infrastructure – Unlike a “typical” TIF district, tax increment generated in the Hickok-Zarah Development Area will be used to fund critical infrastructure, including internal infrastructure and key connections to adjacent arterial streets, trails and regional parks. While the list will likely change over time, potential infrastructure priorities include: intersection separation at 75<sup>th</sup> and K-7, curb/gutter improvements to ditch section streets, regional stormwater management amenity, improvements to Woodland Drive north of 83<sup>rd</sup> Street, support for pedestrian and bicycle access to community facilities (including Horizon Elementary School), infrastructure necessary to support neighborhood-scale retail development and neighborhood connections to regional parks and trails.
- Impact on USD 232/Finances – Modifications to the TIF statute in 2017 ensure that USD 232 will continue to recognize the full benefit of its 8 mill capital outlay levy on all new valuation growth in the development area. The 20 mill statewide school levy is also exempt from capture by TIF.

City staff understands from past conversations with USD 232 staff that capacity exists at Horizon Elementary School, Monticello Trails Middle School and Mill Valley High School to support future enrollment growth in this area.



The City expects that by using TIF resources to develop infrastructure in this area in a more thoughtful and strategic manner, future development is likely to occur in a more predictable way, improving USD 232's ability to plan for and implement education services and student transportation in this area of Shawnee.

- Proposed Execution Calendar:
  - October 10 – Shawnee City Council adopted a Resolution establishing a public hearing for TIF district creation at its November 14 regular meeting.
  - November 14 – Shawnee City Council will hold a public hearing on TIF district creation; after the public hearing is closed, it may consider adoption of an ordinance creating the district, triggering a 30-day “veto period” for Johnson County and USD 232.
  - December 14 – The veto period for Johnson County and USD 232 expires.
  - December 15 – If no veto, the TIF district will be in force; base year assessed valuation will be established.

Superintendent Harwood said with the calendar the city has provided, the December 5 regular board meeting would be when the school board could take action if desired. He pointed out that this TIF is not going to a developer, but directly to the city of Shawnee for infrastructure. He said the district changed the Horizon Elementary School boundary a few years ago to accommodate changes and has space for growth.

ALERTS. The following reports were included in the packet for this board meeting with notice that they will require future action by the Board of Education: 1. Capital Outlay, 2. Proposed Course Additions; and, 3. Transfer Student Care Fund to USD 232 Education Foundation.

*President Spaulding adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.*

December 5, 2022  
Date Approved

Wendy S. Serham  
Clerk, Board of Education

Aspaudix  
President, Board of Education