



Unofficial Minutes

USD 417 BOE Regular Meeting
Monday, February 10, 2025 - 6:00 PM
District Office Board Room
17 Wood Street
Council Grove, KS 66846

Call to Order

President Terry Powell called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Terry Powell, Jamie Johnson, Patty Talley, Jay Troxell, Don Alderman, and TinaRae Scott

Members Absent: Kelsey Hartman

Others Present: Superintendent Tyson Eslinger, Amber Weeks, Dana Reddick, Tasha Green, Jay Doornbos, Matt Fox, Adam Travis, Angela Harris, Jan Sciacca, and Emma Methvin. Student Spotlight only: Steffany Spear and 6th grade students and parents.

Additions/Approval of Agenda

Additions to Agenda: Consent Agenda > Personnel > Employment of Emma Jones - CGES Teacher Aide/Interventionist, Sharon Richardson - Substitute Teacher, and Chelsea Wecker - CGES School Counselor.

Action(s): I make a motion to approve the agenda as amended and presented. This motion, made by TinaRae Scott and seconded by Jamie Johnson, Carried.

Voting Detail: Don Alderman: Yea, Jamie Johnson: Yea, Jay Troxell: Yea, Kelsey Hartman: Absent, Patty Talley: Yea, Terry Powell: Yea, TinaRae Scott: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

CGES Student Spotlight - Mrs. Spear's 6th Grade Students' Science Presentation

Mrs. Steffany Spear's 6th-grade science students presented their "Making toys to show potential and kinetic energy" science projects.

Consent Agenda

Action(s): I make a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended and presented. This motion, made by TinaRae Scott and seconded by Jamie Johnson, Carried.

Voting Detail: Don Alderman: Yea, Jamie Johnson: Yea, Jay Troxell: Yea, Kelsey Hartman: Absent, Patty Talley: Yea, Terry Powell: Yea, TinaRae Scott: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

- Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings - January 13th, 2025
Financial Reports/Pay Bills in the amount of \$625,819.86
Donations and Gifts
Approve Policies: DFH Fundraising Activities and JGFGBA Student Self-Administration of Medications
Personnel
Employment
Mindy Stilwell - Assistant High School Softball Coach
Tyler Sisson - Assistant High School Boys Golf Coach
Derron Reddick - Head High School Football Coach
Butch Hayes - Assistant High School Football Coach
Randall Dowell - Activity/Substitute Bus Driver



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Emma Jones - CGES Teacher Aide/Interventionist
Sharon Richardson - Substitute Teacher
Chelsea Wecker - CGES School Counselor

Resignations

Clara Eldridge - 7th grade ELA Teacher, Head JH Volleyball Coach, and Assistant JH Track Coach, effective conclusion of 2024-2025 school year

Director Reports: Any further additions will be reported at this time.

Director of Facilities/Grounds - Tom VanValkenburg

The report was provided in the packet, and the board had no questions.

Director of Transportation - Matt Weaver

The report was provided in the packet, and the board had no questions.

Director of Health Services - Dana Reddick

The report was provided in the packet, and the board had no questions.

Director of Food Service - Becky Shearer

The report was provided in the packet, and the board had no questions.

Administrative Reports: Any further additions will be reported at this time.

Council Grove Elementary Principal - Kelcy Bremer

The report was provided in the packet, and the board had no questions.

Prairie Heights Elementary Principal - Angela Harris

The report was provided in the packet, and the board had no questions.

Council Grove Junior Senior High School Principal - Jay Doornbos

The report was provided in the packet, and the board had no questions.

Council Grove Junior Senior High School Activities Director - Matt Fox

The report was provided in the packet, and the board had no questions.

Director of Student Learning - Valerie Gehrler

The report was provided in the packet, and the board had no questions.

Superintendent - Tyson Eslinger

Staffing Updates: He is reviewing the budget with Bryce and considering the addition of several positions: an extra high school ELA teacher, student support staff at CGJSHS, student support staff at PHES, and a STEAM elective position at CGES. He reports some flexibility in the budget. If the board is interested in adding these positions, we will



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need to recruit applicants soon. Currently, there are no available classrooms at CGJSHS, so the new staff may need to be a "traveling teachers".

Trimester: The staff is doing a great job, and we are seeing progress. Recent state assessments show that in Math and Science, our students score at or above average; however, in ELA, they are below average. CGJSHS has a 96% graduation rate. He questions what would happen if we didn't have gaps in the schedule, if we switched to semesters, and whether those changes would be beneficial for the students.

Legislative Updates: We are closely monitoring several voucher bills. School choice equates to school vouchers. Kristy Williams, who serves in appropriations, has made cuts to many areas of the recommended budget.

Discussion Items

Cultivate Education Presentation - Implementation Audit of the Strategic Plan

Chris Perry with Cultivate Education, LLC presented our district's Implementation Audit Report from November 2024. Key findings and recommendations include improving communication about the strategic plan, solidifying the USD 417 Paper implementation for the remaining strategies, and proceeding to create/adapt tools for measuring their implementation and utilizing long-term planning techniques such as 5-10-year Capital Outlay plans, bond repayment schedules, prioritization tools, and expected lifetime charts to stay ahead of replacement and enhancement needs for the future. The entire process will be repeated during the 2025-2026 school year to analyze growth and change over time.

Discuss Policies: JDDB Reporting to Law Enforcement, JDDC Bullying, JF Academic Achievement, and JFA Peer Grading of Assignments

Superintendent Eslinger presented our monthly policy review: JDDB Reporting to Law Enforcement, JDDC Bullying, JF Academic Achievement, and JFA Peer Grading of Assignments. These policies will be added to the agenda as an action item at the March meeting. Per the recommendation of KASB, we will adopt policies from now on only if there are changes. He encouraged the board to inform Amber or himself if the policies should be updated.

Facilities Improvement

Superintendent Tyson Eslinger continued our ongoing discussion regarding facilities improvements. As we approach the conclusion of our current bond, we recognize that the costs associated with updating or constructing new facilities surpass our capital outlay budget. Piper Sandler has advised that we consider moving forward with a bond vote in the near future to take advantage of wraparound financing opportunities. It is important to address the challenges presented by the 1918 wing of CGJSHS, which has been found to be less effective due to small classroom sizes, HVAC issues, and the lack of a secure entrance. Superintendent Eslinger recommends that we engage with architectural firms to obtain design concepts and cost estimates. We also acknowledge the necessity of understanding community preferences, as delays in decision-making may lead to increased costs. Therefore, the board is inclined to start discussions with architectural firms to gather valuable preliminary information at this time.



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District Cell Phone Policy

Superintendent Eslinger recommended that the board review electronic device policies from other districts. We are planning to create a policy that will take effect at the start of the 2025-2026 school year. He also met with Yondr today regarding pouches and fees. TinaRae requested that the board examine the device policies from Rock Hills and Wakanda.

Executive Session - Personnel

Action(s): I move to go into a 10-minute Executive Session in order to discuss an individual employee's performance pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA with the board and Superintendent Tyson Eslinger. The open meeting will resume in the board room at 7:18 p.m. This motion, made by TinaRae Scott and seconded by Jamie Johnson, Carried.

Voting Detail: Don Alderman: Yea, Jamie Johnson: Yea, Jay Troxell: Yea, Kelsey Hartman: Absent, Patty Talley: Yea, Terry Powell: Yea, TinaRae Scott: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Discussion: The Board went into Executive Session at 7:08 p.m. The Board returned to Open Session at 7:18 p.m.

Action Items

Approve 2025-2026 & 2026-2027 School Calendar

Action(s): I make a motion to approve the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school calendar as presented. This motion, made by TinaRae Scott and seconded by Patty Talley, Carried.

Voting Detail: Don Alderman: Yea, Jamie Johnson: Yea, Jay Troxell: Yea, Kelsey Hartman: Absent, Patty Talley: Yea, Terry Powell: Yea, TinaRae Scott: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

It is recommended to update the wording for the Friday of Parent Teacher Conferences to also state "No School".

Approve C&C Group Contract

Action(s): I make a motion to approve the C&C Group contract for energy-related consulting services as presented. This motion, made by Jamie Johnson and seconded by Patty Talley, Carried.

Voting Detail: Don Alderman: Yea, Jamie Johnson: Yea, Jay Troxell: Yea, Kelsey Hartman: Absent, Patty Talley: Yea, Terry Powell: Yea, TinaRae Scott: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

RFP for Certificate of Deposit

Terry Powell recused himself from the meeting at 7:27 p.m.

The board reviewed the 3 RFPs for the CD from Citizens State Bank, Emprise Bank, and Farmers and Drovers Bank.

Action(s): I make a motion to approve the RFP for the Certificate of Deposit at 4.25% for 12 months from Citizens State Bank for Certificate "A" in the value of \$111,667.29. This motion, made by Don Alderman and seconded by Patty Talley, Carried.

Voting Detail: Don Alderman: Yea, Jamie Johnson: Yea, Jay Troxell: Yea, Kelsey Hartman: Absent, Patty Talley: Yea, Terry Powell: Abstain (With Conflict), TinaRae Scott: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

Terry Powell returned to the meeting at 7:36 p.m.



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Adopt KASB Audit Policies and Forms

Action(s): I make a motion to adopt the KASB Audit Policies and Forms Review as presented. This motion, made by Jamie Johnson and seconded by Patty Talley, Carried.

Voting Detail: Don Alderman: Yea, Jamie Johnson: Yea, Jay Troxell: Yea, Kelsey Hartman: Absent, Patty Talley: Yea, Terry Powell: Yea, TinaRae Scott: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Administrator Contract Renewals

Action(s): I make a motion to approve Valerie Gehrler's contract renewal through the 2026 - 2027 school year as Director of Student Learning. This motion, made by Jamie Johnson and seconded by TinaRae Scott, Carried.

Voting Detail: Don Alderman: Yea, Jamie Johnson: Yea, Jay Troxell: Yea, Kelsey Hartman: Absent, Patty Talley: Yea, Terry Powell: Yea, TinaRae Scott: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

I make a motion to approve Jay Doornbos' contract renewal through the 2026 - 2027 school year as CGJSHS Principal. This motion, made by Jamie Johnson and seconded by Patty Talley, Carried.

Voting Detail: Don Alderman: Yea, Jamie Johnson: Yea, Jay Troxell: Yea, Kelsey Hartman: Absent, Patty Talley: Yea, Terry Powell: Yea, TinaRae Scott: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

I make a motion to approve Matt Fox's contract renewal through the 2026 - 2027 school year as CGJSHS Assistant Principal/Activities Director. This motion, made by Jamie Johnson and seconded by TinaRae Scott, Carried.

Voting Detail: Don Alderman: Yea, Jamie Johnson: Yea, Jay Troxell: Yea, Kelsey Hartman: Absent, Patty Talley: Yea, Terry Powell: Yea, TinaRae Scott: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Jamie Johnson recused herself from the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

I make a motion to approve Kelcy Bremer's contract renewal through the 2025-2026 & 2026-2027 school year as CGES Principal. This motion, made by TinaRae Scott and seconded by Patty Talley, Carried.

Voting Detail: Don Alderman: Yea, Jamie Johnson: Abstain (With Conflict), Jay Troxell: Yea, Kelsey Hartman: Absent, Patty Talley: Yea, Terry Powell: Yea, TinaRae Scott: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

Jamie Johnson returned to the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

I make a motion to approve Tasha Green's contract renewal through the 2025-2026 & 2026-2027 school year as CGES Assistant Principal. This motion, made by Jamie Johnson and seconded by Patty Talley, Carried.

Voting Detail: Don Alderman: Yea, Jamie Johnson: Yea, Jay Troxell: Yea, Kelsey Hartman: Absent, Patty Talley: Yea, Terry Powell: Yea, TinaRae Scott: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

I make a motion to approve Angela Harris' contract renewal through the 2025-2026 & 2026-2027 school year as PHES Principal. This motion, made by TinaRae Scott and seconded by Patty Talley, Carried.

Voting Detail: Don Alderman: Yea, Jamie Johnson: Yea, Jay Troxell: Yea, Kelsey Hartman: Absent, Patty Talley: Yea, Terry Powell: Yea, TinaRae Scott: Yea

Voting Summary: Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1



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Approve Health Insurance Broker Contract

TinaRae Scott recused herself at 7:41 p.m.

Insurance brokers that presented to the health insurance committee recently were Gallagher, USI, and Apollo.

Action(s): I make a motion to approve the contract with Apollo Health Insurance as the district's health insurance broker as presented. This motion, made by Don Alderman and seconded by Patty Talley, Carried.

Voting Detail: Don Alderman: Yea, Jamie Johnson: Yea, Jay Troxell: Yea, Kelsey Hartman: Absent, Patty Talley: Yea, Terry Powell: Yea, TinaRae Scott: Abstain (With Conflict)

Voting Summary: Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1, Abstain (With Conflict): 1

TinaRae Scott returned to the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

Good News by Board of Education Members

- TinaRae Scott emphasized the phenomenal opportunities we give our students outside our buildings, noting recent trips for the 6th graders to the Topeka Symphony, kids at K State, and competing at McLouth. We provide our kids with great opportunities outside our four walls, where students may not have had the chance to experience those activities.
- Jay Troxell gave a shout-out to the health workers in our district with all the illnesses going around. He expressed gratitude for their hard work in keeping everyone healthy, which is very much appreciated.
- Patty Talley expressed her pride in how well the band performed the National Anthem at Homecoming. She said it was the best performance she had ever heard from them and described it as fantastic. Additionally, she is looking forward to the Tea and Soda event at the Barnyard Cafe in Alta Vista on February 17th.
- Jamie Johnson praised the wrestling teams. They are doing phenomenal work. She enjoyed being a door greeter at CGES twice recently; it was so much fun. She thanked Tasha and CGES for the opportunity.
- Terry Powell attended the Coffee with the Superintendent event, which didn't have a great turnout but led to fantastic conversation. The people were engaged and shared that information in the community. Thanked Tyson and Valerie for the PR.
- Don Alderman noted that he senses a significant positive vibe in our schools from the community. It feels different to him, which is nice.

Adjournment

President Terry Powell adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.

Next Regular BOE Meeting - March 10, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

Amber Weeks, USD 417 Board Clerk

Terry Powell, President, BOE