

**USD 263**  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**  
**January 12, 2026**  
**7:00 P.M.**  
**DISTRICT OFFICES-628 E. MULVANE**

*unofficial draft*  
**MINUTES**

***\*Please be respectful-No cell phone use or texting during the meeting. Mute or turn off phones.***

**1.0 MEETING OPENING**

**1.1 CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Jeff Ellis with the following members present: Steve Fry, Destiny Myers, Chris Heersche, Stacy Gear, Fred Heersche, and Crystal Smith.

Also present: Dr. Jay Ensley, Doug Hatfield, Jeromy Swearingen, Talitha Maltbie and family, Trista Cuthbertson, Josh Nearhood, Colin Cathey, Renee Sweetwood, Erica Mize, Thomas Schmitz, Karen Camp, Cara Meek-Hinshaw, Morgan Meyerhoff, Sadie Russell, and Clerk Schifferdecker.

**1.2 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT**

- 1.2.1 KASB Board Leaders Table Talk-January 21, 2026, Noon-1:00 p.m. (online)
- 1.2.2 KASB Prepping for Negotiations February 4, 2026, 1:30 p.m.-3:00 p.m.  
(Haysville)
- 1.2.3 Talitha Maltbie was presented with the Inspiring Excellence award.

**1.3 “GOOD NEWS” BY BOE MEMBERS**

\*Nothing at this time

**1.4 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

- 1.4.1 Renee Sweetwood, Munson Primary Principal, stated that there were many fun holiday activities held before winter break. Thanks to the high school for visiting and sharing. They have completed FastBridge assessments. CKH training was held on January 5<sup>th</sup>. iReady assessments begin this week. Spring pictures are scheduled for February 5 and 6.
- 1.4.2 Erica Mize, Mulvane Grade School Principal, noted that part of Capturing Kids' Hearts is empowering students. MGS students were present to hand out gifts to thank the BOE members for their work. Also, thanks to the high school for coming and contributing to the parties and activities prior to the break. CKH training was held on January 5<sup>th</sup>. Students have finished FastBridge assessments. They will be setting new goals. iReady and magnetic reading assessments will begin soon. January 26-February 6 will begin winter interim assessments. Spring pictures will be taken on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Staff will start a book study, “Let Them” by Mel Robbins.

- 1.4.3 Colin Cathey, Mulvane Middle School Principal, reported that they have been meeting with the architects on the project. Spring activities and sports are underway.
- 1.4.4 Jeromy Swearingen, Mulvane High School Principal, thanked Mr. Dieker and his class for their wooden toy production for children. STUCO and sponsor, Denise Woods, raised \$1,800 from the Penny Wars. Finals finished up before the break, and they have hit the ground running in January. Thanks to the counselors and teachers for their work on spring class schedule adjustments. Invites to Reality U will be going out. Students will be visiting tech schools and colleges this semester.
- 1.4.5 Josh Nearhood, Technology Director, reported that we are on track for Q migration thanks to Stef and Thomas. Training resources are available. Security upgrades are online.
- 1.4.6 Thomas Schmitz, Asst Technology Director, had no report.
- 1.4.7 Trista Cuthbertson, Asst Superintendent, reported that she and Glenda attended a standards alignment training. A team has been visiting PreK programs in the area as we work on expanding our program. We have completed FastBridge assessments and will be analyzing data. Team Green met today and talked about setting goals. The district site council met this evening.
- 1.4.8 Dr. Jay Ensley, Superintendent, announced that January is Board of Education Appreciation Month. Items of appreciation were given to board members from the administration and buildings. Thanks to the PreK team and Mrs. Sweetwood for their work on the PreK project. Also, thanks to Mrs. Billingslea and the Munson students for the artwork on display in the BOE room.

1.5 MEA REPORT-no report

**2.0 APPROVE/AMEND AGENDA**

Motion made by Stacy Gear to approve the agenda. Second by Crystal Smith. Motion carried 7-0.

Motion made by Chris Heersche to approve the amendments to the consent agenda. Second by Fred Heersche. Motion carried 7-0.

ADD: CONSENT ITEMS:

**3.3.1 *Resignations:***

Lillian Gashler-MP Lunchrm Sped Para (eff 12-19-25)

**3.3.2 *New Hires:***

Ashton Bannister-MHS Color Guard Coach (eff 7-1-26)

Kiley Self-MP EC HN ParaEducator (eff 1-20-26)

Mariah Miller-MGS ParaEducator (eff 1-13-26)

**3.3.3 *Change of Status/Transfer:***

Deidre Voorhis-10 month FT Food Service Warehouse (eff 1-13-26)

**3.3.4 *Retirement:***

Richard Hampton-Food Service Director/HVAC (eff 6-30-26)

**3.6 *Bills:***

Add'l Bills for January-ck #20943-20973 in the amt of \$130,799.97

**3.0 CONSENT AGENDA**

**3.1 APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

**3.2 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Clerk & Treasurer Report  
Bank Reconciliation  
Activity Funds Financial Statements

**3.3 ROUTINE PERSONNEL**

**3.3.1 Resignations:**

Evander Hutchinson	MGS ParaEducator (eff 1-9-26)
Dakota Thomas	MHS Custodian (eff 12-8-25)
Katie Duder	MGS Food Service (eff 12-9-25)
Amanda Magner	MGS ParaEducator (eff 12-10-25)
Lillian Gashler	MP Lunchrm Sped Para (eff 12-19-25)

**3.3.2 New Hires:**

Gilbert Hoover	Van Driver (eff 1-13-26)
Shelby Claycomb	MP KPP Aide (eff 1-13-26)
Janas Johnson	MHS Custodian (eff 1-13-26)
Khianna Schaus	Sub Teacher (Secondary Position)(eff 1-5-26)
Ashton Bannister	MHS Color Guard Coach (eff 7-1-26)
Kiley Self	MP EC HN ParaEducator (eff 1-20-26)
Mariah Miller	MGS ParaEducator (eff 1-13-26)

**3.3.3 Change of Status/Transfer:**

Colleen Evans	MGS HN ParaEducator (eff 12-9-25)
Deidre Voorhis	10 month FT Food Service Warehouse (eff 1-13-26)

**3.3.4 Retirement:**

Paula Wing	MMS Math Teacher (eff end of 25-26 yr)
Richard Hampton	Food Service Director/HVAC (eff 6-30-26)

3.4	PDC TRANSCRIPTS	None
3.5	PURCHASE ORDERS OVER LIMIT:	None
3.6	BILLS	\$295,615.09 Add'l Bills for January-ck #20943-20973 in the amt of \$130,799.97
3.7	PAYROLL	\$1,293,856.25
3.8	TRANSFERS	None
3.9	DONATION Anonymous Cox Communications	Food Service Student Lunches \$300 MMS 8 <sup>th</sup> gr Classroom-Dawn Powell \$1,500

Motion made by Steve Fry to approve the consent agenda. Second by Destiny Myers. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **4.0 *PATRON TIME***

Cara Meek-Hinshaw, 1512 E. 119<sup>th</sup> St, Mulvane, KS 67110, spoke to the board on student issues at the middle school.

#### **5.0 *ACTION ITEMS***

##### **5.1 *Resolution to Establish Election of School Board Officers***

Background for the resolution was reviewed.

Motion made by Stacy Gear to approve a resolution to establish the election of school board officers at the first meeting in July 2026. Second by Crystal Smith. Motion carried 7-0.

##### **5.2 *Resolution to Establish Board's Regular Meeting Dates***

Background for the resolution was reviewed.

Motion made by Chris Heersche to approve a resolution to set the board's meeting dates at the July meeting. Second by Fred Heersche. Motion carried 7-0.

#### **6.0 *DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS***

There were no Discussion/Action Items.

#### **7.0 *DISCUSSION/REPORT ITEMS***

##### **7.1 *Bond Project Process Update***

Dr. Ensley reported that the sale of the bonds is delayed slightly due to the need for completion of our audit in February. The sale should be completed by April 1<sup>st</sup>. We have completed the due diligence meeting and a meeting with S & P Global. Research is being completed on a couple of projects. Architects have been meeting with middle school staff.

**8.0 *EXECUTIVE SESSION***

**8.1 *Non-Elected Personnel***

At 7:20 p.m., Stacy Gear moved that the board recess into executive session regarding an employment issue to discuss personnel matters of nonelected personnel pursuant to the Kansas Open Meetings Act to protect the privacy interests of the individual to include the Board. The board will return to open session in the board meeting room at 7:30 p.m. with possible action to follow. Second by Destiny Myers. Motion carried 7-0.

The BOE returned to open meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Mr. Ellis stated that no action was taken in executive session.

**9.0 *ADJOURNMENT***

Motion made by Crystal Smith to adjourn at 7:31 p.m. Second by Destiny Myers. Motion carried 7-0.

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