USD 263
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 24, 2026
6:45 P.M.
DISTRICT OFFICES-628 E. MULVANE-BOE rm
REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE HEARING
unofficial draft

1.0 MEETING OPENING

1.1 CALL TO ORDER

The hearing was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by President Jeff Ellis with the following members present: Chris Heersche, Stacy Gear, Fred Heersche, and Crystal Smith. Steve Fry and Destiny Myers were not present.

Also present: Dr. Jay Ensley, Carolyn Young, Trista Cuthbertson, Doug Hatfield, Andrea Walker, Williams Evans, Randall Freihage, Richard Stich, Greg Reynolds, Heather Parrott, Denise Woods, Brad Canfield, Tamara Fickle, Nathan Graves, Mike Eubanks, and Clerk Schifferdecker.

1.2 PRESENTATION OF THE 2026-27 REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE

Superintendent Ensley reviewed the 2026-27 revenue neutral rate information.

1.3 QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Dr. Ensley asked if there were any comments or questions.

Andrea Walker, 114 April Drive, Mulvane, KS, had questions on revenue neutral.
William Evans, 11420 E 95th St South, Derby, KS, spoke to the Board on taxes.

1.4 ADOPT THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE RESOLUTION BY ROLL CALL VOTE

Motion made by Fred Heersche to approve the resolution to exceed the revenue neutral rate. Second by Chris Heersche. A roll call vote was taken.

Roll Call:
Chris Heersche-yes
Fred Heersche-yes
Jeff Ellis-yes
Stacy Gear-yes
Crystal Smith-yes

Motion carried 5-0.

2.0 REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE HEARING CLOSED

Motion by Stacy Gear to close the revenue neutral rate hearing at 6:58 p.m. Second by Crystal Smith. Motion carried 5-0.

USD 263
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 24, 2026
7:00 P.M.
DISTRICT OFFICES-628 E. MULVANE-BOE rm
BUDGET HEARING
unofficial draft

1.0 MEETING OPENING

1.1 CALL TO ORDER

The hearing was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Jeff Ellis with the following members present: Chris Heersche, Stacy Gear, Fred Heersche, and Crystal Smith. Destiny Myers and Steve Fry were not present.

Also present: Dr. Jay Ensley, Carolyn Young, Trista Cuthbertson, Doug Hatfield, Andrea Walker, Williams Evans, Randall Freihage, Richard Stich, Greg Reynolds, Heather Parrott, Denise Woods, Brad Canfield, Tamara Fickle, Nathan Graves, Mike Eubanks, and Clerk Schifferdecker.

Randall Freihage, 1777 E. 120th Ave N., Mulvane, KS, spoke to the board on school taxes and property taxes.

1.2 PRESENTATION OF THE 2026-27 BUDGET

Superintendent Ensley reviewed the 2026-27 budget.

1.3 QUESTIONS/ANSWERS

Mr. Ellis opened the floor for public comment and questions.

Mike Eubanks, address unknown, spoke to the Board on bond and interest and budget questions.
Tamara Fickle, 1574 E 120th Ave N, Mulvane, KS, spoke to the Board on tax increases.
Richard Stich, 1245 N Osage Rd, Mulvane, spoke to the Board on making good investments for payback.
Greg Reynolds, 1461 N. Hydraulic, Peck, KS, spoke to the Board on tax increases.
Randall Freihage, 1777 E. 120th Ave N., Mulvane, KS, spoke to the Board on windmills.
Andrea Walker, 114 April Dr, Mulvane, KS, had questions on the budget and bond.
Nathan Graves, 984 E 144th Ave N., Peck, KS, spoke to the Board on tax increases and budgeting considerations.

2.0 BUDGET HEARING CLOSED

Motion made by Stacy Gear to close the budget hearing at 8:05 p.m. Second by Crystal Smith. Motion carried 5-0.

USD 263
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
August 24, 2026
THIS MEETING WILL BEGIN UPON COMPLETION OF 7:00 PM BUDGET HEARING
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 8:05 p.m. by President Jeff Ellis with the following members present: Fred Heersche, Crystal Smith, Stacy Gear, and Chris Heersche. Steve Fry and Destiny Myers were not present.

Also present: Dr. Jay Ensley, Carolyn Young, Trista Cuthbertson, Doug Hatfield, Andrea Walker, Williams Evans, Randall Freihage, Richard Stich, Greg Reynolds, Heather Parrott, Denise Woods, Brad Canfield, Tamara Fickle, Nathan Graves, Mike Eubanks, and Clerk Schifferdecker.

1.2 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT

- 1.2.1 KASB Board Leaders Table Talk, September 9, 2026, noon-1:00 p.m. (online)
- 1.2.2 KASB Board Leaders Workshop, September 18, 2026, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Salina)

1.3 "GOOD NEWS" BY BOE MEMBERS

*Stacy Gear stated that the administrative team and students did a great job welcoming students back on the first day. There was great energy.
*Crystal Smith appreciated the flexibility in the scheduling of outdoor sports practices.

1.4 ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

- 1.4.1 Heather Parrott, Mulvane Middle School Asst Principal, reported that they are off to a good start. Pictures are scheduled for Thursday. On Friday, there will be a pep assembly, volleyball, and the green and white scrimmage.
- 1.4.2 Carolyn Young, Finance Director, had no report.
- 1.4.3 Brad Canfield, Director of Operations, reported that benefits enrollment has wrapped up. Our Food Service Department served 8,440 meals this summer. That is up from last year. Thanks to our Food Service Department for their work this summer.
- 1.4.4 Trista Cuthbertson, Asst Superintendent, reported that they have visited all of the buildings this week. Thanks to the football team, cheer team, and dance team for welcoming our Munson and MGS students on the first day. The DLT will meet on September 11 to work on KESA.
- 1.4.5 Dr. Jay Ensley, Superintendent, thanked the All-Star Scholars Committee for their help in funding some district technology needs. Thanks to our staff for the start of a great year.

1.5 MEA REPORT-Denise Woods thanked the BOE for all they do. She also thanked Stacy and Jeff for their work on negotiations. The teachers ratified the negotiated agreement.

2.0 APPROVE/AMEND AGENDA

Motion made by Fred Heersche to approve the agenda. Second by Chris Heersche. Motion carried 5-0.

Motion made by Stacy Gear to approve the amendments to the consent agenda. Second by Crystal Smith. Motion carried 5-0.

ADD: CONSENT ITEMS:

3.3.3 Change of Status/Transfer:

Sofia Gandara-MGS Cook (eff 8-25-26)
Penny Landis-MHS ParaEducator (eff 8-1-26)

3.6 Bills:

Add'l Bills for August- ck #21807-21808 in the amt of $4,095.87
Add'l Bills for August-ck #21809-21819 in the amt of $27,568.59

3.9 Donations:

Twin Valley-MHS Cheer $200

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:

Chelsea Gardenhire	Bus Driver (eff 9-11-26)
Katherine Lorik	MMS Asst Soccer Coach (eff 5-22-26)

3.3.2 New Hires:

Pamela Collins	Van Driver (eff 8-25-26)
Christina Gizzarelli	Sub Teacher (eff 8-25-26)
Rebecca Doesken	MGS ParaEducator (eff 8-25-26)
Cade Rose	MP ParaEducator (eff 8-25-26)

3.3.3 Change of Status/Transfer:

Ty Pyeatt	MHS Custodian (eff 8-3-26)
Maureen Berry	MHS Vocal Music Supplemental (Level Change) (eff 8-25-26)
Sofia Gandara	MGS Cook (eff 8-25-26)
Penny Landis	MHS ParaEducator (eff 8-1-26)

3.4 PDC TRANSCRIPTS None

3.5 PURCHASE ORDERS OVER LIMIT: None

3.6 BILLS $112,109.76
Add'l Bills for August- ck #21807-21808 in the amt of $4,095.87
Add'l Bills for August-ck #21809-21819 in the amt of $27,568.59

3.7 PAYROLL $233,444.15

3.8 TRANSFERS 4 yr old At-Risk $2,415

3.9 DONATION

Lane Holding Co-McDonald's	MHS Cheer $200
KS All-Star Scholars Fund	Chromebooks $55,560
Twin Valley	MHS Cheer $200

3.10 OTHER Approve Contract with USD 261 for Audiologist Services

Motion made by Crystal Smith to approve the consent agenda. Second by Fred Heersche. Motion carried 5-0.

4.0 PATRON TIME

No patrons were present to speak.

5.0 ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Adopt LOB Percentage Resolution for 2026-2027

Motion made by Stacy Gear to adopt the LOB Resolution in the amount of 33% for the LOB for the 26-27 school year. Second by Chris Heersche. Motion carried 5-0.

5.2 Adopt the 2026-2027 Budget

The Building Needs Assessment and State Assessments were provided to the Board of Education at the August 10, 2026 BOE meeting. These items were reviewed and evaluated by the Board and used in the budget approval process.

Motion made by Crystal Smith to approve the 2026-27 budget as published and presented during the budget hearing. Second by Stacy Gear. Motion carried 5-0.

6.0 DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

There were no Discussion/Action Items.

7.0 DISCUSSION/REPORT ITEMS

There were no Discussion/Report Items.

8.0 EXECUTIVE SESSION

8.1 Negotiations

At 8:13 p.m., Stacy Gear moved to recess into executive session regarding the terms and conditions of employment with the recognized bargaining unit for the teachers pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA to include Dr. Ensley, Trista Cuthbertson, Brad Canfield, and the Board until 8:18 p.m. with possible action to follow. Second by Fred Heersche. Motion carried 5-0.

The BOE returned to open meeting at 8:18 p.m.
Mr. Ellis stated that no action was taken in executive session.

8.1 EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION
Motion made by Stacy Gear to accept the negotiated agreement as ratified by MEA for the 2026-27 school year. Second by Crystal Smith. Motion carried 5-0.

8.2 Non-Elected Personnel

At 8:19 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, Trista Cuthbertson, Brad Canfield, and Dr. Ensley. The board will return to open session in the board meeting room at 8:29 p.m. with possible action to follow. Second by Chris Heersche. Motion carried 5-0.

The BOE returned to open meeting at 8:29 p.m.
Mr. Ellis stated that no action was taken in executive session.

8.2 EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION

Motion made by Stacy Gear to approve the increases for classified staff, special services, and nurses for 2026-27. Second by Fred Heersche. Motion carried 5-0.

9.0 ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Fred Heersche to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Second by Chris Heersche. Motion carried 5-0.

____