

**USD 237 Board of Education Regular Meeting
Board Minutes for May 11, 2026
216 S. Jefferson St., Smith Center, KS 66967
Smith Center Board of Education Meeting Room**

Item 1. Call to Order

President Marty Hanson called the meeting to order.

7:00 PM

Present for the call to order were Board Members Adam Rentschler, Jodi Frydendall, Joe Wiehl, Libby McDonald, Sara Pruden and Wyatt Rhoades, Superintendent Dustin McEwen, Board Clerk Susan Panter, Principals Michelle Stamm and Greg Koelsch, and teacher Travis Elliott.

Item 2. Approval of Agenda - Add/Delete

Adam Rentschler made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Wyatt Rhoades seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 3. Approval of Consensus Items

- a. Approval of Minutes from April 13, 2026 Regular Meeting
- b. May 11, 2026 Statements
- c. Approval of Donations
- d. Approval of Letter of Resignation from Cherie Herredsberg, Certified Staff
- e. Approval of Letter of Resignation from Nicholas Lange, Custodial
- f. Approval of Letter of Resignation from Brandon Hrabe, Jr. High Girls Head Basketball Coach
- g. Approval of Request for Personal Leave/John Lambert
- h. Approval of Request for Personal Leave/Alison Rempe
- i. Approval of Request for Personal Leave/Alecia Smith
- j. Approval of Request for Personal Leave/Amy Roth
- k. Approval of Request for Personal Leave/Bree Wilson
- l. Approval of Request for Personal Leave/Miranda Attwood
- m. Approval of Summer School Contracts - May 26-June 12
Teachers - Jolene Moss, Denise Naegele and Kareena Herredsberg - 14 student contact days (16 total)
Paras - Rhonda Overmiller, Katy Lange and Shelli Younger - 14 days

Jodi Frydendall made a motion to approve the Consensus Items. Joe Wiehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 4. Public Forum

The following patrons spoke on concerns or support of various matters: Teri Overmiller, Maile Hrabe, Zoey Nixon, Addison Green Russell, Holly Nixon, Jessica Abbott, Kelli Schmidt, Heather Dowling, Samantha Russell, Aaron Shute and Easton Hrabe.

Item 5. Approval of Use of 2 Suburbans & Fuel Card June 15th to Maywood/Hayes Center, NE for High School Girls Basketball Camp

Brandon Hrabe asked the board for the use of 2 suburbans to attend a girls basketball camp in Maywood/Hayes Center, NE.

Libby McDonald made a motion to approve the use of 2 suburbans & Fuel Card to Maywood/Hayes Center, NE for High School Girls Basketball Camp on June 15th. Adam Rentschler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 6. Approval of Carpet for High School Office Areas and One Classroom at Elementary School

Mr. McEwen discussed replacing carpet in the high school office area and an elementary classroom.

Joe Wiehl made a motion to approve the carpet for the high school office areas and one classroom at the Elementary School. Sara Pruden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 7. First Reading of Cell Phone Ban Policy

Mr. McEwen discussed the cell phone ban policy that takes effect July 1, 2026. There was discussion of the procedures that the district will need to follow.

Item 8. Approval of Parent Square Communication Software

Mr. McEwen discussed the use of Parent Square Communication software that will allow two way communication between teachers, coaches and students.

Joe Wiehl made a motion to approve the use of Parent Square Communication software. Adam Rentschler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 9. Second Reading and Approval of Curriculum, Student/Parent, Coaches and Teachers Handbooks 2026-2027

There was discussion about policies in the handbooks.

Adam Rentschler made a motion to approve the Curriculum, Student/Parent, Coaches and Teachers Handbooks for 2026-2027. Sara Pruden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 10. Discussion and Approval of Text Book Fees

Mr. McEwen recommended leaving the fees for text books the same as last school year.

Adam Rentschler made a motion to approve the text book fees for the 2026-2027 school year at \$95.00 for the jr/sr. high school and \$50.00 for the elementary school. Wyatt Rhoades seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 11. Approval of Continuing Student Accident Insurance with KASB

Mr. McEwen reviewed rates for the student accident insurance through KBS

Adam Rentschler made a motion to approve the student accident insurance through KBS for the 2067-2027 school year. Joe Wiehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 12. Possible Approval of Various Fundraisers and Update on Elementary Playground Equipment

Mrs. Stamm and Cierra Wallgren gave an update on the elementary playground equipment. The project is still in the planning stages. The committee is pursuing equipment that is suitable for all ages of students. Mrs. Stamm discussed the playground structures, surfacing, concrete and fencing for the project. The committee is asking the board for permission to do various fundraisers and to apply for grants.

Adam Rentschler made a motion to approve the elementary school to do various fundraisers and apply for grants for the elementary school playground project. Joe Wiehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 13. Reports

- a. Libby McDonald, NCKSEC Interlocal #636 Report
 - Nothing to report
- b. Greg Koelsch, Jr-Sr. High Principal Report
 - The animal science class took a trip to Rexford to tour a dairy operation on April 21st.
 - The junior class toured FHSU on April 27th.
 - State forensics was held on May 2nd in Sedgwick. There were 11 students that competed. The results can be found on the schools' facebook page.
 - State FFA was held in Manhattan on May 4th and 5th. Congratulations to Jonny Schlatter for taking first place in the State Ag Mechanics competition and Korey Weltmer for tying for 9th (out of 326 competitors) in the Livestock competition.
 - The annual art/woods show and 7-12 music concert took place on May 6th.
 - The high school student council hosted a fun day on May 7th for the students 9-12 who made the honor roll all year long. The students stayed on campus and watched a movie, ate pizza, played games outside and relaxed for the day.
 - The jr/sr high school will welcome the 6th grade class on May 11th for an orientation. There will be a dance for the 6th and 7th grade students that evening.
- c. Michelle Stamm, Elementary Principal Report
 - Our Smith Center Elementary students, along with Mrs. Roth and Mr. Hackler, delivered incredible performances during the spring program.
 - The Smith Center Elementary SITE Council held its spring meeting on April 29.
 - The 4th grade States Parade was a creative showcase. Students, families and Mrs. Stansbury invested considerable time and effort to design and build each state box. You may visit our Facebook page to see their incredible creations.

- Our 3rd grade lemonade stand was once again a success. The students sold 350 cups and raised a total of \$320.36 through their sales. They chose to donate \$147.29 of the proceeds to the elementary playground fund. I appreciate Mrs. Stansbury's successful efforts to teach entrepreneurship, money management and community giving.
 - Following preschool screening, we anticipate enrollment of 21 students in the morning session and 24 students in the afternoon session for the upcoming term.
 - Mr. Lambert organized an enjoyable play day for students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade on Wednesday, May 6. Students in 4-6 will participate in their own track and field day on May 12.
 - We have received all of our new interactive display boards. Mr. Stephens is currently assembling the stands and installing the displays in classrooms to ensure teachers have the technology in place for the start of next year.
 - We are ending the school year on a high note. We took time to honor our dedicated staff and the many hours they contribute to supporting students' academic and social growth.
 - Site Council minutes
- d. Dustin McEwen, Superintendent Report
- Thank you to the board members for attending graduation.
 - The Summer Food Service program will begin Tuesday, May 26th. It will be at the elementary school through June 30th and the Nazarene Church July 1-31. Thank you to Jessica Abbott for all her hard work in preparing for the summer food program.
 - Football field lights program will start after the MCL track meet
 - The special ed teacher vacancy was offered to Abigail Elkins
 - BCBS renewal should receive in June
 - Appreciate staff at USD 237

Adam Rentschler made a motion for a five (5) minute recess. Sara Pruden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **8:24 PM**

Reconvene

8:29 PM

Item 14. Executive Session - Personnel - to Protect the Interest of the Individual(s) to be Discussed Pursuant to Non-Elected Personnel Exception Under KOMA

Sara Pruden made a motion that the board members, Mr. McEwen and Michelle Stamm move into Executive Session - Personnel - to Protect the Interest of the Individual(s) to be Discussed Pursuant to Non-Elected Personnel Exception Under KOMA for a period of ten (10) minutes, returning to the open meeting at **8:39 PM**. Wyatt Rhoades seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

8:29 PM

Susan Panter, Greg Koelsch, Travis Elliott and Kyle Allen left the closed meeting.

8:29 PM

The board members, Mr. McEwen and Michelle Stamm discussed personnel matters.

Susan Panter, Greg Koelsch, Travis Elliott and Kyle Allen returned to the open meeting.

8:39 PM

Item 15. Approval of Contract for Elementary Teacher

Libby McDonald made a motion to approve the contract for Jared Dittmer as an Elementary Teacher for the 2026-2027 school year. Joe Wiehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 16. Executive Session - Personnel - To Protect the Interest of the Individual(s) to be Discussed Pursuant to Non-Elected Personnel Exception Under KOMA

Sara Pruden made a motion that the board members, Mr. McEwen and Kyle Allen move into Executive Session- Personnel - To Protect the Interest of the Individual(s) to be Discussed Pursuant to Non-Elected Personnel Exception Under KOMA for a period of twenty (20) minutes, returning to the open meeting at **9:02 PM**. Jodi Frydendall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

8:42 PM

Susan Panter, Greg Koelsch, Michelle Stamm and Travis Elliott left the closed meeting.

8:42 PM

The board members, Mr. McEwen and Kyle Allen discussed personnel matters.

Susan Pater returned to the open meeting.

9:02 PM

Sara Pruden made a motion that the board members, Mr. McEwen and Kyle Allen move into Executive Session - Personnel - To Protect the Interest of the Individual(s) to be Discussed Pursuant to Non-Elected Personnel Exception Under KOMA for a period of ten (10) minutes, returning to the open meeting at **9:13 PM**. Libby McDonald seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

9:03 PM

Susan Panter left the closed meeting.

9:03 PM

The board members, Mr. McEwen and Kyle Allen discussed personnel matters.

Susan Panter and Travis Elliott returned to the open meeting.

9:13 PM

Item 17. Executive Session - Personnel - Supplemental Contracts - to Protect the Interest of the Individual(s) to be Discussed Pursuant to Non-Elected Personnel Exception Under KOMA

Sara Pruden made a motion that the board members, Mr. McEwen, Travis Elliott and Kyle Allen move into Executive Session - Personnel - Supplemental Contracts - To Protect the Interest of the Individual(s) to be Discussed Pursuant to Non-Elected Personnel Exception Under KOMA for a period of ten (10) minutes, returning to the open meeting at **9:25 PM**. Jodi Frydendall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

9:15 PM

Susan Panter left the closed meeting.

9:15 PM

The board members, Mr. McEwen, Travis Elliott and Kyle Allen discussed personnel matters.

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting.

9:25 PM

Item 18. Approval of Rule 10/Certified Coaching Contracts

Sara Pruden made a motion to approve the Rule 10/Certified Coaching Contracts as presented with the exception of co-junior sponsor. Libby McDonald seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Adam Rentschler made a motion to approve the co-junior class sponsor. The motion died for lack of a second.

Item 19. Executive Session - Personnel - To Protect the Interest of the Individual(s) to be Discussed Pursuant to Non-Elected Personnel Exception Under KOMA

Adam Rentschler made a motion that the board members, Mr. McEwen and Kyle Allen move into Executive Session - Personnel - To Protect the Interest of the Individual(s) to be Discussed Pursuant to Non-Elected Personnel Exception Under KOMA for a period of thirty (30) minutes, returning to the open meeting at **9:59 PM**. Sara Pruden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **9:29 PM**

Susan Panter and Travis Elliott left the closed meeting. **9:29 PM**

The board members, Mr. McEwen and Kyle Allen discussed personnel matters.

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting. **9:59 PM**

Libby McDonald made a motion that the board members, Mr. McEwen and Kyle Allen move into Executive Session - Personnel - To Protect the Interest of the Individual(s) to be Discussed Pursuant to Non-Elected Personnel Exception Under KOMA for a period of ten (10) minutes, returning to the open meeting at **10:09 PM**. Sara Pruden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **9:59 PM**

Susan Panter left the closed meeting. **9:59 PM**

The board members, Mr. McEwen and Kyle Allen discussed personnel matters.

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting. **10:09 PM**

Libby McDonald made a motion that the board members, Mr. McEwen and Kyle Allen move into Executive Session - Personnel - To Protect the Interest of the Individual(s) to be Discussed Pursuant to Non-Elected Personnel Exception Under KOMA for a period of three (3) minutes, returning to the open meeting at **10:12 PM**. Sara Pruden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **10:09 PM**

Susan Panter left the closed meeting. **10:09 PM**

The board members, Mr. McEwen and Kyle Allen discussed personnel matters.

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting. **10:12 PM**

Item 20. Board Comments

Wyatt Rhoades inquired about the process for a letter for the elementary playground equipment.

Item 21. Adjourn

Wyatt Rhoades made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Adam Rentschler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **10:19 PM**

....."it shall be my constant endeavor to devote time, thought and study to the duties and responsibilities of a school board member so that I may render effective and credible service....."

School Board Member Code of Ethics

Marty Hanson, President

Susan Panter, Clerk

USD #237 Smith Center does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, handicap, or age in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs or activities. Any questions regarding the compliance with Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 may be directed to Mr. Dustin McEwen, Title IX Coordinator, who can be reached at (785)-282-6665, 216 South Jefferson, Smith Center, Kansas 66967