

**USD 237 Board of Education Regular Meeting
Board Minutes for Monday, March 9, 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 Jodi Frydendall, Adam Rentschler, Libby McDonald, Sara Pruden, Joe Wiehl and Wyatt Rhoades, Superintendent Dustin McEwen, Board Clerk Susan Panter, Principals Michelle Stamm and Greg Koelsch, Teachers Ashley Breshears, Brice Hackler and Travis Elliott, Students Isaiah Haack, Aaden Abbott, Felicity Herredsberg, Kaylee Shaffer, Kendalyn Weatherholt and Emersyn Lehmann, Parent Jessica Abbott.

Item 2. Approval of Agenda - Add/Delete

Jodi Frydendall 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. February 9, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- b. March 9, 2026 Statements
- c. Approval of Donations
- d. Resignations of Supplemental Positions
- e. Approval of Request for Personal Leave/Katie Grabast
- f. Approval of Contract Bus Driver - Jeff Roberts
- g. Approval of Resignation Smith County Health Department - Nurse
- h. Approval of Letter of Resignation from Moncia Wagner
- i. Approval of Letter of Resignation from Lauryn Rogers

Adam Rentschler 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

None

Item 5. Approval of use of 3 suburbans for Art Club to Chicago June 1-5, 2026

Ashley Breshears, Kaylee Shaffer, Aaden Abbott, Felicity Herredsberg and Kendalyn Weatherholt gave a presentation for their trip to Chicago June 1-5, 2026. Their itinerary includes the Field Museum, Adler Planetarium, Millennium Park in Chicago and the Art Institute of Chicago. They have done various fundraisers to raise money for the trip and have raised \$19,000. They are requesting three suburbans and fuel cards. There will be seventeen students and seven chaperones attending.

Libby McDonald made a motion to approve the use of three suburbans and fuel cards for the Art Club trip to Chicago June 1-5, 2026. Adam Rentschler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Ashley Breshears, Kaylee Shaffer, Aaden Abbott, Felicity Herredsberg, Kendalyn Weatherholt and Jessica Abbott left the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Item 6. Approval of use of 4 suburbans for Chansonaires Trip to Branson March 15-18, 2026

Brice Hackler, Emersyn Lehmann and Isaiah Haack gave a presentation for their trip to Branson March 15-18, 2026. They will perform at the Dolly Parton Stampede, Titanic Museum and the Six Show. The Chansonaires have done several fundraising events for the trip. They are requesting four suburbans and fuel cards. There will be twenty-two students and ten sponsors.

Joe Wiehl made a motion to approve the use of four suburbans and fuel cards for the Chansonaires trip to Branson March 15-18, 2026. Adam Rentschler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Brice Hackler, Emersyn Lehmann and Isaiah Haack left the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

A.J. Kuhlmann arrived at 7:17 p.m.

Item 7. Approval to Hire Maintenance/Custodial Summer Help

Mr. McEwen discussed hiring summer maintenance/custodial staff. A.J. Kuhlmann stated there have been some applicants.

Adam Rentschler made a motion to approve the hiring of up to two summer maintenance/custodial staff. Jodi Frydendall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 8. Approval of Von Lintel Refinishing & Flooring for the Gyms

Mr. McEwen discussed the bid from Von Lintel for refinishing the gym floors.

Adam Rentschler made a motion to approve Von Lintel Refinishing & Flooring to refinish the gym floors. Joe Wiehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 9. Freedom Claims Insurance Update

Mr. McEwen discussed reports that were received from Freedom Claims regarding our health plans to date. At this time, the switch to Freedom Claims with the high deductible plan for BCBS has been favorable for the district. The board would like to review the numbers again at the end of the fiscal year.

Item 10. Approval of Interactive Displays Smith Center Elementary

Mr. McEwen discussed the six interactive display boards that Smith Center Elementary received through a Dane G. Hansen Foundation grant. Teachers who received the boards have responded positively and are using them in ways that increase student engagement and reduce downtime.

Mr. McEwen is recommending the purchase of twelve additional interactive display boards for the elementary school so that classrooms can transition to the updated technology. The boards would be purchased with REAP grant money that the district has received.

Adam Rentschler made a motion to approve the purchase of twelve interactive display boards for the elementary school using REAP grant money. Libby McDonald seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 11. Discussion and Approval of Football Field Lights Replacement Contract

Mr. McEwen and A.J. Kuhlmann discussed the bid from Hellas for the replacement of the football field lights. They increased their warranty on the lights to 25 years. Maintenance or issues caused by lightning, hail, power issues, misuse, vandalism, etc. are not covered. Hellas has continued to modify the contract to meet the recommendations of the KASB attorney that looked over the contract. The district will use money donated by the Hubbard foundation for the light project. The start date for the project will be June 1st. Mr. McEwen recommended accepting the bid from Hellas through the Greenbush Cooperative Contract and for TK Electric to install the secondary electrical distribution system.

Adam Rentschler made a motion to approve the proposal from Hellas for the replacement of the lights at the football field and TK Electric to install the secondary electrical distribution system. Joe Wiehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

A.J. Kuhlmann left the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

Item 12. Reports

- a. Libby McDonald, NCKSEC Interlocal #636 Report
 - The cost per student for services has increased. Last year it was \$11,000 per student. This year it has increased to \$14,000 per student.
 - Discussion of increasing local assessments for districts 12-15%
 - Discussion of ABA Therapy with the districts

- b. Greg Koelsch, Jr.-Sr. High Principal Report
- New gym speakers hung this past week
 - YEC is Tuesday, March 10th at the high school in Kensington
 - Congratulations to Laila Warner, who took first place at the local spelling bee.
 - The Chansonaires hosted the steak & song on Sunday, March 1st.
 - Congratulations to all the coaches and wrestlers at the state tournament. There were 6 medalists: Parker Hutchinson - State Champion, Keleigh Ochoa - 2nd place, Kharson Montgomery - 2nd place, Dominick Kattenberg - 3rd place, Karper Franklin - 6th place and Karson Nichols - 6th place.
 - Congratulations to Coach Hawkins for receiving the Regional Coach of the Year award.
 - The basketball season ended this past week. The girls finished with a 14-10 record and the boys finished with a 9-14 record.
 - March 4th there were seven students that went through the Hubbard Scholarship interview with Mrs. Davidson.
 - On March 25th there will be many science students visiting the cadaver lab at Cloud County Community College.
 - The student-led conferences percentages are currently at 95%
 - League Forensics took 3rd place at TMP
- c. Michelle Stamm, Elementary Principal Report
- We had 96% of our families attend the Parent-Teacher conferences.
 - Nine educators submitted their applications for consideration in the Terry and Mary Lynn Barta Fund. All nine were approved. We are extremely thankful for the new opportunities and resources that this funding will allow us to offer to our elementary students.
 - We will have our week-long reading celebration March 9-12 and Family Literacy Night March 10th.
 - There were 24 screened for kindergarten screening on Thursday, March 5 and Friday, March 6.
 - We plan to begin Kansas Assessments on April 1st.

- d. Dustin McEwen, Superintendent Report
- Waiting on dirt infill from the roofing project.
 - Congratulations to all the state wrestlers.
 - Congratulations to Mr. Koelsch and Mr. Elliott for all the work they did to host sub state basketball.
 - Perkins Funds are used for CTE pathways. This year Mrs. Smith requested an interactive board for her classroom.
 - KESA six month check in will be April 9th.
 - NCKSEC Director Cher Greving notified USD 237 that NCKSEC will seek additional local assessment funds from each of the districts that are part of the NCKSEC Interlocal. More details regarding the NCKSEC budget will be shared at the superintendent meeting on Wednesday, March 11.
 - There are several legislative bills that are being discussed. Mr. McEwen anticipates that the bill banning cell phone use will be passed and approved by Governor Kelly.

Michelle Stamm, Greg Koelsch, Jodi Frydendall and Joe Wiehl left the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

Jodi Frydendall and Joe Wiehl returned to the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Item 13. Executive Session - Personnel - to Protect the Interest of Individual(s) to be Discussed, Pursuant to Non-Elected Personnel Exception Under KOMA

Adam Rentschler made a motion that the board members, Travis Elliott and Mr. McEwen move into Executive Session - Personnel - to Protect the Interest of 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 in this room at **8:46 PM**. Sara Pruden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

8:36 PM

Susan Panter left the closed meeting.

8:36 PM

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

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting.

8:46 PM

Item 14. Approval of Supplemental Hires for Returning Certified Staff

Libby McDonald made a motion to approve the Supplemental Hires for Returning Certified Staff in pink as presented for the 2026-2027 school year and to hire an assistant golf coach for the 2025-2026 school year. Wyatt Rhoades seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Travis Elliott left the meeting at 8:47 PM.

Item 15. Executive Session - Negotiations - Letter of Intent to Negotiate by March 31, 2026, with Teachers' Union Representative K.S.A. 72-2228

Adam Rentschler made a motion that the board members and Mr. McEwen move into Executive Session - Negotiations - Letter of Intent to Negotiate by March 31, 2026 with Teachers' Union Representative K.S.A. 72-2228 for a period of fourteen (14) minutes, returning to the open meeting in this room at **9:05 PM**. Sara Pruden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

8:51 PM

Susan Panter left the closed meeting.

8:51 PM

The board members and Mr. McEwen discussed negotiation matters.

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting.

9:05 PM

Adam Rentschler made a motion that the board members and Mr. McEwen move into Executive Session - Negotiations - Letter of Intent to Negotiate by March 31, 2026 with Teachers' Union Representative K.S.A. 72-2228 for a period of fifteen (15) minutes, returning to the open meeting in this room at **9:20 PM**. Sara Pruden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

9:05 PM

Susan Panter left the closed meeting.

9:05 PM

The board members and Mr. McEwen discussed negotiation matters.

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting.

9:20 PM

Item 16. Board Comments

The board retreat will be on March 24, 2026 at the Lebanon Community Center.

Item 17. Adjourn

Joe Wiehl made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Wyatt Rhoades seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

9:28 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