

**USD 237 Board of Education
Budget Hearing
Regular Meeting
Board Minutes for Monday, September 14, 2026
216 S. Jefferson St., Smith Center, KS 66967
Smith Center Board of Education Meeting Room**

BUDGET HEARING

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

President Marty Hanson called the meeting to order.

6:50 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 Travis Elliott and Michelle Stamm, Patron Susan Coleman.

ITEM 2. PUBLIC FORUM

Susan Coleman introduced herself and stated she wanted to attend a budget hearing for the school.

ITEM 3. BUDGET HEARING

Mr. McEwen reviewed the Form 150 with the Board.

ITEM 4. ADJOURN

Wyatt Rhoades made a motion to adjourn the Budget Hearing. Adam Rentschler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

7:10 PM

REGULAR MEETING

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

President Marty Hanson called the meeting to order.

7:10 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 Travis Elliott and Michelle Stamm, Staff Members Ashley Breshears and Jessica Abbott, Students Kendalyn Weatherholt, Nevaeh Rohan, Julian Jimenez, Aaden Abbott, Felicity Herredsberg, Kaylee Shaffer and Cora Shaffer, Patrons Kurt Breshears and Susan Coleman.

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA - ADD/DELETE

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

ITEM 3. APPROVAL OF CONSENSUS ITEMS

- a. Approval of Minutes from August 10, 2026 Regular Meeting
- b. September 14, 2026 Statements
- c. Approval of Donations

Adam Rentschler made a motion to approve the Consensus Items. Sara Pruden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

ITEM 4. APPROVE RESOLUTION TO ADOPT LOB PERCENTAGE

Adam Rentschler made a motion to approve the Resolution to Authorize the Local Option Budget in an amount of 33% for the 2026-2027 school year. The Certification for the Resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Education of Unified School District No. 237, Smith County, Kansas on the 14th day of September, 2026. Wyatt Rhoades seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

ITEM 5. MOTION TO ADOPT 2026-2027 BUDGET

Libby McDonald made a motion to adopt the 2026-2027 Budget based on the preliminary State Assessment results from the 2025-2026 school year and the Building Needs Assessment documents provided to and evaluated by the Board of Education at the August meeting. Joe Wiehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

ITEM 6. PUBLIC FORUM

No public forum

ITEM 7. ART CLUB PRESENTATION OF TRIP TO CHICAGO

Ashley Breshears and the art club students gave a slide show presentation of their trip to Chicago for the art trip.

Ashley Breshears, Kurt Breshears, Kendalyn Weatherholt, Nevaeh Rohan, Julian Jimenez, Aaden Abbott, Jessica Abbott, Felicity Herredsberg, Kaylee Shaffer and Cora Shaffer left at 7:34 p.m.

ITEM 8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF TRANSPORTATION FLEET BUSES

Mr. McEwen discussed the purchase of a 2019 Freightliner Bus. It is a 51 passenger bus with 88,000 miles. The bus is coming off of a lease purchase. This would allow for the reduction of miles on the Redmen bus.

Adam Rentschler made a motion to approve the purchase of a 2019 Freightliner 51 passenger bus from Masters Transportation. Joe Wiehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

ITEM 9. DISCUSSION OF INNOVATIVE READINESS TRAINING SUMMER 2028

Mr. McEwen discussed an Innovative Readiness Training that the military will have in the summer of 2028. They are looking at prospective places to hold these training sessions. The training would bring some free services to the community. The training would be held at the Srader Center but they need a place to sleep and shower. Mr. McEwen will gather more information on the number of people and the dates to see if the high school could accommodate them.

ITEM 10. REPORTS

- a. Libby McDonald, NCKSEC Interlocal #636 Report
 - Held inservice
 - Hired new employees
- b. Travis Elliott, Jr.-Sr High Principal Report
 - The after-school program started on September 8th. The first eligibility report will be ran on September 11th.
 - The high school volleyball team is 3-1, the football team is 1-0 and we have medalists at our first cross country meet. Play auditions were held and play practice started September 10th.
 - Students are adapting well to the wireless technology policy.
 - ParentSquare is getting used more by our staff, students and parents.
 - New stadium lights were seen in action at our first home football game.
 - A new statute requires bathrooms and locker rooms to be marked with which gender is using them. The signs arrived and will be installed to allow us to change the locker rooms between boys and girls.
 - New shot clocks have arrived. Part of the Hudl equipment has arrived as well. AJ has started installation of the shot clocks and will work closely with Dale on installation of the Hudl cameras.

- Dale Stephens is working on possibly installing vape detectors.
- Shannon Rothchild came last week to discuss phone systems.
- I have been doing a weekly newsletter for staff called the Redmen Recap.
- Hall passes are required for students in the hallway.
- I started attending meetings for the KELI (Kansas Educational Leadership Institute) mentoring program.

c. Michelle Stamm, SCE Principal Report

- SCE received our grant from the Violet Norton Trust for this school year. We were awarded \$56,406.00. I am grateful for the investment Violet Norton chose to make for at risk students in Smith County.
- Next week, two nurses from SCMH will complete Hearing and Vision Screenings for USD 237.
- Reporting requirements and accountability measures have greatly changed for our Title I program in the last three years. I am spending considerable amounts of time working on all of the documentation, action plans and responsibilities in or to meet the statutory requirements for Title I, Part A.
- As of September 9, we have 255 students at SCE. This is up 11 students from last year at this time.
- Donuts with Grownups will be held at the end of this month.

d. Dustin McEwen, Superintendent Report

- Thank you to Mr. Elliott and the Athletic Directors for the 9/11 memorial celebration.
- DLT will meet on September 23rd in the afternoon to prepare for the KESA School Improvement Day on October 1st.
- Applied for grant for AED's from KDHE
- Mr. Kuhlmann gave the areas of the football field where the sprinklers are not working a good soaking this week. The fault area is still not located. The plan is to work on the repair after the football season.

- There was a delay in the repair of the auditorium HVAC units as the wrong parts were shipped. The units are still functioning but they are just not working at capacity.
- Roofmasters is going to repair the roof at the high school above the gym.
- The Kansas Department of Labor Safety Audit will be October 21st.
- Wellness Committee will meet October 5th
- October 12th is inservice
- Mrs. Stamm and I will be attending a zoom meeting scheduled for tomorrow to learn more about the At-risk Accountability plan that is due to KSDE by October 31st.
- Thank you to the Board of Education for getting through the last board meeting while I was out for my father's funeral service.

ITEM 11. EXECUTIVE SESSION - PERSONNEL - TO PROTECT THE INTEREST OF INDIVIDUAL(S) TO BE DISCUSSED, PURSUANT TO NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL EXCEPTION UNDER KOMA

Sara Pruden 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 fifteen (15) minutes, returning to the open meeting in this room at **8:35 PM**. Jodi Frydendall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

8:20 PM

Michelle Stamm, Susan Panter and Susan Coleman left the closed meeting.

8:20 PM

The Board Members, Travis Elliott and Superintendent, Mr. McEwen discussed personnel matters.

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting.

8:35 PM

Sara Pruden 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 **8:45 PM**. Jodi Frydendall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **8:35 PM**

Susan Panter left the closed meeting. **8:35 PM**

The Board Members, Travis Elliott and Superintendent, Mr. McEwen discussed personnel matters.

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting. **8:45 PM**

Sara Pruden 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 **8:55 PM**. Jodi Frydendall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **8:45 PM**

Susan Panter left the closed meeting. **8:45 PM**

The Board Members, Travis Elliott and Superintendent, Mr. McEwen discussed personnel matters.

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting. **8:55 PM**

Sara Pruden 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 five (5) minutes, returning to the open meeting in this room at **9:00 PM**. Jodi Frydendall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Susan Panter left the closed meeting.

8:55 PM

The Board Members, Travis Elliott and Superintendent, Mr. McEwen discussed personnel matters.

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting.

9:00 PM

ITEM 12. BOARD COMMENTS

None

ITEM 13. ADJOURN

Adam Rentschler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jodi Frydendall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **9:03 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