USD 237 Board of Education Regular Meeting
Board Minutes for July 13, 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, Athletic Director Travis Elliott, Patrons Brandon Hrabe and Tatum Hrabe.

Item 2. Election of Officers 2026-2027

a. Board President

Libby McDonald made a motion to nominate Marty Hanson as Board President. Sara Pruden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

b. Board Vice-President

Wyatt Rhoades made a motion to nominate Sara Pruden as Board Vice-President. Libby McDonald seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 3. Appointment of NCKSEC Interlocal #636 Board Member Representative

Sara Pruden made a motion to nominate Libby McDonald as Representative for NCKSEC Interlocal #636. Joe Wiehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 4. Approval of Agenda - Add/Delete

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

Item 5. Approval of Consensus Items

a. Approval of Minutes from June 8, 2026 Regular Meeting
b. Approval of Minutes from June 25, 2026 Negotiations Meeting
c. July 13, 2026 statements
d. Review of Financial Statements/Activity Fund Report (April-June 2026)

e. Board of Education Appointments 2026-2027

1. Clerk of the Board - Susan Panter
2. District Treasurer - Kimberly Kuhlmann
3. Board Attorneys - Kyle Allen and Tabitha Owen
4. Freedom of Information Officer - Dustin McEwen
5. Deputy Clerk - Building Principals
6. District Attendance Officers - Michelle Stamm and Jr/Sr High School Principal
7. Authorized Representative for Food Service Fund - Jessica Abbott
8. Determining Official Free/Reduced Price Meals - Kimberly Kuhlmann
9. Hearing Official Free/Reduced Price Meals - Dustin McEwen
10. Investments - Kimberly Kuhlmann and Superintendent Dustin McEwen
11. Authorized Representative for KPERS - Susan Panter
12. Authorized Representatives for Consolidated Program - (Title I, Title II Part A - Teacher Quality; Title II Part D Education Technology; Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools; Title V Innovation Programs; The American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, ESSER; and the At-Risk Program) - Dustin McEwen and Kimberly Kuhlmann
13. Authorized Liaison for services to homeless & foster children - Dustin McEwen and Susan Panter
14. Authorized Representative for Title IX and Section 504 - Dustin McEwen as District Coordinator, Michelle Stamm and Jr/Sr High School Principal as Investigators, when available, the District Attorneys or KASB Investigators as needed
15. Depositories of District funds - Guaranty State Bank & Trust, Smith Center; The Peoples Bank, Smith Center; Smith County Bank, Smith Center
16. Official Newspaper - Smith County Pioneer
17. Adopt the 1,116 Hour Calendar for 2026-2027
18. Designate Inclement Weather Make-up Days, September 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25

f. Reimbursement Rate for Mileage; as authorized by K.S.A. 75-3202a, the Secretary of Administration has fixed the private vehicle mileage reimbursement rates for FY 2026-2027 at .72.5 cents per mile effective July 1, 2026

g. Approval of Resolution for the following:

1. Rescind all policy statements found in the minutes of the board of education prior to June 30, and that the board adopt the new Board Policy Manual as presented and recommended by the superintendent to govern the school district during the 2026-2027 school year. (See Resolution attached)

2. Establish petty cash limits - (see attached Resolution for respective buildings)
   SC Elem School - $500.00 - administered by the elementary principal
   SC Jr/Sr High School - $1000.00 - administered by the jr/sr high school principal
   District - $1000.00 - administered by the board clerk and superintendent
3. Adopt guidelines for activity funds and gate receipts (see attached Resolution for respective buildings)

h. Approval to Waive GAAP Accounting Principle (See Resolution letter)

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

Item 6. Public Forum

Brandon Hrabe spoke about various concerns.

Brandon Hrabe and Tatum Hrabe left at 7:25 p.m.

Item 7. Time, Place, Date of Meetings (see attached Resolution)

Adam Rentschler made a motion to approve the attached resolution. Jodi Frydendall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 8. 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 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 **7:38 PM**. Wyatt Rhoades seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **7:28 PM**

Susan Panter and Travis Elliott left the closed meeting. **7:28 PM**

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

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting. **7:38 PM**

Adam Rentschler made a motion that the Board Members 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 **7:43 PM**. Wyatt Rhoades seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **7:38 PM**

Susan Panter left the closed meeting. **7:38 PM**

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

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting. **7:43 PM**

Adam Rentschler made a motion that the Board Members 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 **7:53 PM**. Wyatt Rhoades seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **7:43 PM**

Susan Panter left the closed meeting. **7:43 PM**

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

Susan Panter and Travis Elliott returned to the open meeting. **7:53 PM**

Item 9. Possible Approval of High School Principal Contract

Wyatt Rhoades made a motion to approve a contract for Jr/Sr. High School Principal to Travis Elliott for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school years contingent on receiving appropriate certifications. Adam Rentschler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 10. Approval of Pay Application from Hellas

Mr. McEwen reviewed the pay application from Hellas for the lighting at the high school football field.

Jodi Frydendall made a motion to approve the pay application from Hellas. Joe Wiehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 11. Discussion and Approval of Meal Prices for 2026-2027 School Year

Mr. McEwen presented the Board with research on meal prices from districts in our area.

Wyatt Rhoades made a motion to increase the prices for elementary and jr/sr high student breakfast by $0.10 per meal, student lunch by $0.15 per meal, adult breakfast by $0.10 and adult lunch by $0.15 per meal. Libby McDonald seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 12. Approval of Bid for Milk

Mr. McEwen presented information on prices of milk from Genes grocery store. They will deliver to the schools twice a week.

Sara Pruden made a motion to approve the bid for milk from Genes for the 2026-2027 school year. Wyatt Rhoades seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 13. Discussion and Approval of Smith County Health Dept Nursing Services

Mr. McEwen discussed nursing services from Smith County Health Department for the 2026-2027 school year. The health department will sort medications to be disbursed and do the hearing and vision screening. This will be at a reduced rate from last school year.

Sara Pruden made a motion to approve the memorandum of understanding from the Smith County Health Department for nursing services for the 2026-2027 school year. Libby McDonald seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 14. Approval of Jr./Sr. High School Student/Parent Handbook Updates

Mr. Elliott presented changes to the discipline policy and the cell phone policy that he would like to be in place for the 2026-2027 school year.

Sara Pruden made a motion to approve the changes in the Jr/Sr High School Student/Parent Handbook as presented. Jodi Frydendall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 15. Possible Approval of Elementary School Concrete Project Contract

Joe Wiehl made a motion to approve the bid from Wayne Hyman for concrete work at the elementary school. Jodi Frydendall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 16. Second Reading and Approval of Classified Handbook and Crisis Handbook

Libby McDonald made a motion to approve the Classified Handbook and Crisis Handbook for the 2026-2027 school year. Sara Pruden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 17. Approval of Facebook As Official Social Media Platform for USD 237

Libby McDonald made a motion to approve Facebook as the official social media platform for USD 237. Joe Wiehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 18. Approval and Second Reading of KASB June 2026 Board Policy

Libby McDonald made a motion to approve KASB June 2026 Board Policy Updates as presented. Sara Pruden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 19. Discussion and Approval of Cardiac Emergency Response Plan

Mr. McEwen reviewed the changes in names on the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan.

Libby McDonald made a motion to approve the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan. Adam Rentschler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 20. Discussion of Exceeding the Revenue Neutral Rate

Mr. McEwen discussed the budget for the 2026-2027 school year. He recommends that we exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. The information will be given to the Smith County Clerk by July 20.

Item 21. Approval of Revenue Neutral Rate and Budget Hearing on September 14, 2026

Libby McDonald made a motion to schedule the Revenue Neutral Rate Hearing on September 14, 2026 at 6:45 p.m. and the Budget Hearing on September 14, 2026 at 6:50 p.m. Wyatt Rhoades seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 22. Reports

a. Libby McDonald, NCKSEC Interlocal #636 Report
   - Mod Factor went up for workers compensation
   - BCBS premiums went up one and a half percent
   - Approved assessments going up twenty percent

b. Dustin McEwen, Superintendent Report

- Summer projects at the high school - carpet, painting and popcorn ceiling removal in the office area
- Budget review Monday, July 27 at 10:00

Item 23. 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 and Mr. McEwen 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 in this room at **9:28 PM**. Libby McDonald seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **9:18 PM**

Susan Panter and Travis Elliott left the closed meeting. **9:18 PM**

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

Susan Panter and Travis Elliott returned to the open meeting. **9:28 PM**

Item 24. Approval of Jr./Sr. High School Math Teacher

Sara Pruden made a motion to approve a contract for Lexie Hawkins as a junior high school math teacher. Adam Rentschler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Item 25. Executive Session - Personnel - Supplemental Contracts - 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, Mr. McEwen and Travis Elliott move into executive session - personnel - supplemental contracts - 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 **9:40 PM**. Wyatt Rhoades seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **9:30 PM**

Susan Panter left the closed meeting. **9:30 PM**

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

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting. **9:40 PM**

Item 26. Approval of Supplemental Hires

Adam Rentschler made a motion to approve the supplemental hires as presented. Joe Wiehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

Travis Elliott left the meeting at 9:41 PM.

Item 27. Executive Session - Negotiations - the Exception for Employer-Employee Negotiations Under KOMA

Libby McDonald made a motion that the Board Members and Mr. McEwen move into executive session - negotiations - the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA for a period of ten (10) minutes, returning to the open meeting in this room at **9:53 PM**. Adam Rentschler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **9:43 PM**

Susan Panter left the closed meeting. **9:43 PM**

The Board Members and Superintendent, Mr. McEwen discussed negotiation matters.

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting. **9:53 PM**

Libby McDonald made a motion that the Board Members and Mr. McEwen move into executive session - negotiations - the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA for a period of ten (10) minutes, returning to the open meeting in this room at **10:03 PM**. Adam Rentschler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **9:53 PM**

Susan Panter left the closed meeting. **9:53 PM**

The Board Members and Superintendent, Mr. McEwen discussed negotiation matters.

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting. **10:03 PM**

Libby McDonald made a motion that the Board Members and Mr. McEwen move into executive session - negotiations - the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA for a period of ten (10) minutes, returning to the open meeting in this room at **10:13 PM**. Adam Rentschler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **10:03 PM**

Susan Panter left the closed meeting. **10:03 PM**

The Board Members and Superintendent, Mr. McEwen discussed negotiation matters.

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting. **10:13 PM**

Libby McDonald made a motion that the Board Members and Mr. McEwen move into executive session - negotiations - the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA for a period of five (5) minutes, returning to the open meeting in this room at **10:18 PM**. Adam Rentschler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **10:13 PM**

Susan Panter left the closed meeting. **10:13 PM**

The Board Members and Superintendent, Mr. McEwen discussed negotiation matters.

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting. **10:18 PM**

Item 28. Board Comments

KASB Convention will be November 6th & 7th.
Available board members will help serve the inservice meal for staff August 17th

Item 29. Adjourn

Joe Wiehl made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jodi Frydendall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **10:24 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

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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