

# *Unified School District 237*

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**USD 237 Board of Education Regular Meeting  
Board Minutes for Monday, January 12, 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, Wyatt Rhoades and Joe Wiehl, Superintendent Dustin McEwen, Board Clerk Susan Panter, Principals Michelle Stamm and Greg Koelsch.

## **Item 2. Oath of Office - Board Members Who were Re-elected or Newly Elected in the Fall of 2025 General Election (Sign Oath of Office)**

Oath of Office was signed by Libby McDonald, District 5; Wyatt Rhoades, District 4; Joe Wiehl, District 6 and was notarized by Susan Panter.

## **Item 3. Approval of Agenda - Add/Delete**

Adam Rentschler made a motion to approve the agenda as presented with notation that when the auditor, Denis Miller arrives we would move to agenda items 9 and 10. Jodi Frydendall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

## **Item 4. Approval of Consensus Items**

- a. December 10, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes
- b. January 12, 2026 Statements
- c. Approval of Donations
- d. Approval of Grant Money Received
- e. Review of Financial Statements/Activity Fund Reports  
(October-December 31, 2025)

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

## **Item 5. Public Forum**

None

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## **Item 6. Resolution to Establish Election of Officers**

Libby McDonald made a motion to approve the Resolution to Establish the Election of Officers. Joe Wiehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

The Resolution was signed by each of the board members and the board clerk.

## **Item 7. Approval of Sale of Old Basketball Uniforms**

Jodi Frydendall made a motion to approve the sale of old basketball uniforms. Adam Rentschler seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

## **Item 8. Second Reading and Approval of KASB Board Policies**

Mr. McEwen reviewed the KASB board policy updates. He made the recommendation that the policies be approved with the exception of the Use of Artificial Intelligence, IIBE to allow additional time for review.

Adam Rentschler made a motion to approve the KASB Board Policies with the exception of IIBE. Joe Wiehl seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

## **Item 11. Reports**

- a. Libby McDonald, NCKSEC Interlocal #636 Report  
Nothing to report
- b. Greg Koelsch, Jr-Sr. High Principal Report
  - Thank you to A.J. Kuhlmann and his crew for sprucing up the building over Christmas break.
  - Thank you to the Hubbard Foundation for a generous donation to replace the lights at the football field.
  - The student body voted to have a winter informal instead of a winter formal this year. It will still be hosted by the student council and will be a time for the students to play some games, listen to music and have some snacks.
  - All the sports teams, as well as forensics and scholar's bowl are in full swing with their competitions.
  - Junior class will be taking the ACT on February 24th in the gym for free.
  - Smith Center will be hosting Sub-State Basketball on March 6th and 7th.

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- c. Michelle Stamm
- Mrs. Stansbury and our 3rd grade students will host the Wax Museum on January 21st
  - Elementary SITE Council met on Wednesday, December 17th
  - 5th and 6th grade students are beginning the Too Good for Drugs program with Nora Rhoades.
  - Finished winter Fastbridge assessments in December
  - Thank you for the donation for playground equipment from the Lebanon United Methodist Church
- d. Dustin McEwen, Superintendent Report
- KSHSAA Regional and Sub-State Sites Announced
    - Basketball - Smith Center 2/26/26-3/7/26
    - Boys Wrestling - Norton 2/21/26
    - Girls Wrestling - Trego 2/13/26-2/14/26
    - Regional Speech & Drama - Claflin 4/18/26
    - Scholar's Bowl - Wakeeney 2/5/26
  - KESA Action Plan has been approved
  - Roofmasters - the auditorium ceiling has been repaired. The only remaining item is some dirt infill.
  - District Inservice
    - Test Security
    - Mandated Reporting Requirement - reminder and training
    - Conference Scheduling
    - Math Curriculum Work
    - Calendar Committee Work
    - KESA Collaboration time for staff
  - Legislative Session
    - The session started on Monday, January 12th
    - A bill hearing is scheduled that deals with a statewide ban on cell phone use in K-12 schools during the school day

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## **Item 12. Discussion of Student Absences**

Mr. McEwen reviewed key state statutes and Board of Education policies that cover school attendance.

Dennis Miller arrived at 7:46 p.m.

## **Item 9. Audit Report - June 30, 2025 - Mapes & Miller, CPA's**

The board welcomed Mr. Denis Miller to the meeting. Mr. Miller presented a draft report of the district's June 30, 2025 fiscal year audit. Mr. Miller reviewed the Independent Auditor's Report. The audit is conducted with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the Kansas Municipal Audit and Accounting Guide (KMAAG). He suggested that the staff continually review their procedures for opportunities to increase the segregation of duties. He stated in a district our size, segregation of duties is not always possible. Professional standards require that we provide the district with the information about the responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and time of the audit. The report includes the aggregate cash and unencumbered cash balance of USD 237 as of June 30, 2025. Compliance with Kansas Statutes - Mandatory Purchase of Products: K.S.A. 75-3322 requires districts to make purchases of products offered by Kansas Industries for the Blind and Severely Disabled. The district failed to make mandatory purchases offered by these industries during the year ending June 30, 2025. He explained that because of the quality and cost associated with the products, most schools do not purchase any products. The District is not aware of any non-compliance with Kansas statutes.

Mr. Miller explained the operating transfers from General and Supplemental General to the funds as required by Statutory Authority. Mr. Miller discussed Summary of Expenditure, actual and budget. He talked about the certified budget numbers and expenditures chargeable to current year, the variance over (under) if there are any positive numbers, it is considered a budget violation, ours were all under. He went on to review all the funds, receipts and expenditures for the funds.

Mr. Miller reviewed all items in the budgetary process and stated that the audit did not find any budget violations. Mr. Miller was pleased with the district building up the cash.

Mr. Miller asked the Board to make a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Audit Report.

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## Item 10. Approval of Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Audit Report

Libby McDonald made a motion to approve the Audit Report for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 as presented by Denis Miller. Sara Pruden seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

The board members thanked Denis Miller for his firm's work in completing the 2024-2025 district audit.

Marty Hanson and Susan Panter signed the Management Representative Letter for Mapes & Miller, CPA's.

Denis Miller left the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

## Item 12. Discussion of Student Absences

The board returned to discussion of item 12. The definition of chronic absenteeism and truancy was also shared with the board. Attendance statistics from the first semester were shared. The current handbook policies in place for Smith Center Elementary School and Smith Center Jr/Sr High School were discussed. Ideas were shared on ways the current attendance policies might be updated, keeping in mind the goal of reducing the district's percentage of chronic absenteeism.

## Item 13. Executive Session - Discuss Confidential Student Information - the Exception Relating to Actions Adversely or Favorably Affecting a Student Under KOMA

Libby McDonald made a motion that only the board members and Mr. McEwen move into Executive Session - Discuss Confidential Student Information - the Exception Relating to Actions Adversely or Favorably Affecting a Student Under KOMA for a period of five (5) minutes, returning to the open meeting in this room at **9:40 PM**. Jodi Frydendall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **9:35 PM**

Michelle Stamm, Greg Koelsch and Susan Panter left the closed meeting. **9:35 PM**

The board members and Mr. McEwen discussed student matters.

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

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## Item 14. Executive Session - Personnel - Board's Evaluation of the Superintendent

Libby McDonald made a motion that the board members move into Executive Session - Personnel - Board's Evaluation of the Superintendent pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA for a period of five (5) minutes, returning to the open meeting in this room at **9:45 PM**. Jodi Frydendall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **9:40 PM**

Mr. McEwen and Susan Panter left the closed meeting. **9:40 PM**

The board members discussed personnel matters.

Susan Panter returned to the open meeting. **9:45 PM**

Libby McDonald made a motion that the board members move into Executive Session - Personnel - Board's Evaluation of the Superintendent pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA for a period of two (2) minutes, returning to the open meeting in this room at **9:47 PM**. Jodi Frydendall seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote. **9:45 PM**

Susan Panter left the closed meeting. **9:45 PM**

The board members discussed personnel matters.

Mr. McEwen and Susan Panter returned to the open meeting. **9:47 PM**

## Item 15. Approval of Superintendent's Contract

Jodi Frydendall made a motion for Approval of Contract Extension for Mr. McEwen for the 2027-2028 school year. Libby McDonald seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 7-0 vote.

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## Item 16. Board Comments

None

## Item 17. Adjourn

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

**9:55 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marty Hanson".

Marty Hanson, President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Susan Panter".

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

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