

Riverton USD#404 Approves Date for Budget Hearing

U.S.D. 404 Board of Education met on Tuesday, July 8th, and conducted the following business:

Matt Darnaby nominated Cyle Haywood as President of the Board of Education for the 2025-26 school year. The board unanimously elected Cyle Haywood as President of the Board of Education for the 2025-26 school year.

Judy Adams nominated Kyle Anderson as Vice-President of the Board of Education for the 2025-26 school year. The board unanimously elected Kyle Anderson as Vice-President of the Board of Education for the 2025-26 school year.

Judy Adams moved to approve the consent agenda as presented with the additions of XII-A: approval of the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan; XII-B: approval of employment termination; XII-C: approval of resignation. Jennifer Edwards seconded; carried unanimously.

The board set the publication date for the proposed 2025-26 budget for August 27th, and the hearing date and time for the RNR and budget will be held September 11th at 6:15 p.m. (RNR) and 6:30 p.m. (budget).

Kyle Anderson moved to adopt all current written policies and manuals of the school district. Judy Adams seconded; carried unanimously.

Judy Adams moved to appointed Matt Darnaby to serve as the board representative to the SEK Regional Service Center. Jennifer Edwards seconded; carried unanimously.

Kyle Anderson moved to appoint Keeley Adams to serve as the board representative to the SEK Interlocal #637. Matt Darnaby seconded; carried unanimously.

Judy Adams moved to appoint herself (Judy Adams) to serve as the board representative to the Riverton Community Center Board. Jennifer Edwards seconded; carried unanimously.

Justin Wilson, Maintenance Director,

reported on the recent fire alarm inspection, football field irrigation repair, and summer projects.

Jon Bruce, Transportation Director, reported on bus inspections and bus/car summer maintenance.

Adam Thomasson, Elementary Principal, reported on Summer School, Jumpstart, PreK numbers for 2025-26, and the playground equipment installation.

Chad Harper, High School Principal, reported summer activities were still underway at the High School.

Kevin Cooper, Superintendent, reported on the following:

- ♦ Non-certified work schedule proposal
- ♦ Revenue Neutral Rate timelines and requirements

Kyle Anderson moved to approve the non-certified work scheduled as proposed. Jennifer Edwards seconded; carried unanimously.

Kevin Cooper, Superintendent, reported that bids were currently being accepted for a/c units in the woodshop, cafeteria, greenhouse, and field house. The bid deadline is Friday, July 11th at 2:00 p.m.

Cooper reported that bids are currently being accepted for flooring in the building. The bid deadline is Friday, July 11th at 2:00 p.m.

Kyle Anderson moved to approve the Cardiac Emergency Response Plan as presented. Judy Adams seconded; carried unanimously.

Judy Adams moved to go into executive session to consider employment recommendations, under the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the boardroom in twenty (20) minutes at 6:48 p.m. Jennifer Edwards seconded; carried unanimously.

The board retained Kevin Cooper, Chad Harper, and Justin Wilson. Chad Harper left the executive session at 6:37 p.m.; Justin Wilson left the executive session at 6:40 p.m.

Judy Adams moved to go into executive session to consider employment recommendations, under the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the boardroom in fifteen (15) minutes at 7:05 p.m. Jennifer Edwards seconded; carried unanimously.

The board retained Kevin Cooper. The board returned to the open meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Judy Adams moved that the board go into executive session to discuss teacher contract negotiations under the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA for five (05) minutes, and the board will return to the open meeting at 7:11 p.m. Jennifer Edwards seconded; carried unanimously.

The board retained Kevin Cooper. The board returned to the open meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Jennifer Edwards moved to fill the following vacancies for the 2025-26 school year: Emren Akdamar - Secondary Instrumental, Trey Shannon - Orchestra, Judy Adams seconded; carried unanimously.

Matt Darnaby moved to approve the termination of employment of Glenda Bunce effective June 17, 2025. Kyle Anderson seconded; carried unanimously.

Judy Adams moved to approve the resignation of Catherine (Kitten) Gilmore as Kindergarten paraprofessional. The board expressed its appreciation to Kitten for her years of service and dedication to the District. Matt Darnaby seconded; carried unanimously.

Judy Adams moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. Jennifer Edwards seconded; carried unanimously.

Board members present: Cyle Haywood (arrived at 6:05), Kyle Anderson, Gary Neal (arrived at 6:13 p.m.), Jennifer Edwards, Matt Darnaby, and Judy Adams.

Board members absent: Keeley Adams.

Baxter Springs USD#508 Accepts Daycare Worker Resignations

The USD 508 board of education held a regular meeting on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at 1108 Military Ave. Members present were: Linda Crotts, Casey Eaton, Kerri Jensen, Jami Thiessen, and Carrie Williams. Members absent were: Josh Sweaney. Also present were: David Pendergraft, Superintendent; Carrie Oakes, Board Clerk; Cory White, HS Principal; Cord Baldwin, HS Assistant Principal; Jason Walker, MS Principal; Kevin Wade, CS Principal; Kenny Boeckman, LS Principal; Art Roberts, Virtual Director, and Arthur Commons, Curriculum Director.

President Eaton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Jami Thiessen led the board and guests in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kerri Jensen made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Carrie Williams seconded. Carried 5-0.

Jami Thiessen made a motion to approve the consent agenda, which included approval of the bills, approval of minutes from June 12, and approval of the treasurer's report. Linda Crotts seconded. Carried 5-0.

Superintendent Pendergraft informed

the board of Revenue Neutral Rate intentions for 2025-2026.

Superintendent Pendergraft discussed the District and Building Needs Assessment for the 2025-2026 School Year. Carrie Williams made a motion to accept the District and Building Needs Assessment for the 2025-2026 School Year. Kerri Jensen seconded. Carried 5-0.

Linda Crotts made a motion to make additional changes to the transportation student policy. Jami Thiessen seconded. Carried 5-0.

Superintendent Pendergraft presented updates to policies JBCD, JGFGB, JH, KBC, KGB, KM, and KN. Kerri Jensen made a motion to adopt the policy updates as presented. Carrie Williams seconded. Carried 5-0.

Jami Thiessen made a motion to add a new student cell phone policy at the high school. Linda Crotts seconded. Carried 5-0.

Jami Thiessen made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss employer-employee negotiations under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in 10 minutes in the boardroom. This meeting is to include the board, Superintendent, and administrators as needed. Kerri Jensen seconded.

Carried 5-0.

6:22 p.m. Enter executive session.

6:32 p.m. Resume regular session.

Jami Thiessen made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss an individual employee under the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in 10 minutes in the boardroom. This meeting is to include the board, Superintendent, and administrators as needed. Kerri Jensen seconded. Carried 5-0.

6:32 p.m. Enter executive session.

6:42 p.m. Resume regular session.

Superintendent Pendergraft presented a resignation from Caitlin Creech, Daycare Director, and Aleigh Grimes, Daycare Worker. Kerri Jensen made a motion to accept the resignations as presented. Linda Crotts seconded. Carried 5-0.

Superintendent Pendergraft recommended hiring Melanie Tash, Bus Monitor, Ryleigh Price, Daycare Director, and Jessica Judd, USD 508 Para. Jami Thiessen made a motion to accept the recommendations as presented. Carrie Williams seconded. Carried 5-0.

6:44 p.m. Meeting adjourned.

Local Students Complete Degrees at Wichita State University

WICHITA, Kan. (July 10, 2025) - More than 1,950 students completed a total of 2,122 degrees and certificates at Wichita State University in spring 2025.

The breakdown of degrees and certificates granted includes:

- Undergraduate: 1,430 degrees and certificates for 1,340 undergraduate students
- Graduate: 692 degrees and certificates for 611 graduate students

For bachelor's degrees, honors were conferred to the following:

- Summa cum laude: 108 students
- Magna cum laude: 425 students
- Cum laude: 336 students

Undergraduate students who have attained a grade point average of 3.9 out of a possible 4.0 received the summa cum laude award; those with an average of 3.55 received the magna cum laude award; and those with an average of 3.25 received the cum laude.

Columbus - Gabrielle M Moss, Bachelor of General Studies, General Studies Psychology, Cum Laude; Tysie Z Smith, Bachelor of Arts in Education, ECU/Elementary Educ Apprentice, Magna Cum Laude.

Local Students Named to Dean's Honor Roll at Wichita State University

WICHITA, Kan. (July 10, 2025) - Wichita State University has announced the names of 3,710 students who were on the WSU Dean's Honor Roll for spring 2025.

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CONTACT NUMBERS FOR THE
GALENA POLICE DEPARTMENT

1) If you have an Emergency call: 911

2) If you need an officer to respond to your location
non-emergency or talk to an officer call Dispatch:
(620) 783-5066 or (620) 783-1900.

3) For information or talk to Administrative Staff/
Main Office call:
(620) 783-5065

4) Other contact info:
Web: www.galenaks.gov
Email: police@galenaks.gov
TIP Line: (620) 783-0911