

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 467  
WICHITA COUNTY  
LEOTI, KANSAS

- Meeting Time and Place
1. The Board of Education of Unified School District #467, Wichita County, Kansas met at 6:00 p.m., Monday, January 13, 2025 at the Board of Education office in Leoti, Kansas.
- People Present
2. Members present were: Maegan Berry, Jesse Harbrige, Bruce Loy, Eryka Smith, Farrin Watt, and Josh Young.  
  
Also present were: Superintendent, Lori Maxwell; Clerk, Tammy Mason; WCJSHS Principal, Brant Douglas; and WCES Principal Misty Gardner.
- Board Appreciation Dinner
3. The Board met at 6:00 p.m. for a Board Appreciation meal at the Board of Education office. The meal ended at 6:59 p.m.
- Board Meeting
4. At 7:00 p.m. the following guests were also present: Andrea Bauck, Nate Brown, Sara Brown, Hallie Means, Courtney Young, Bridgette Carpenter, Brianna Bjurstrom, Brenley Rogers, Brecken Norton, Maria Ximena Valdez-Bautista, Evan Cach-Amara, and students' parents.
- Approved Consent Agenda
5. Josh Young called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Jesse Harbrige motioned and Maegan Berry seconded to approve the consent agenda with the addition of a sixth grade presentation and notation that the items being disposed of from Leslie Niswongers's class were in poor condition, consisting of:
    - A. Agenda for the meeting.
    - B. Minutes for the December 9, 2024 meeting.
    - C. Payments of bills and payroll.
    - D. Approve the request to use one of the school gyms for the 2025 elections if the Wichita County Community Building is unavailable on November 4, 2025, as requested by Lynda Goodrich, Wichita County Clerk and Election Officer.
    - E. Approve the disposition of the following books from Leslie Niswonger's class: 3 Angus Thongs

and Full-Frontal Snogging; 3 Beauty Queens, and 4 Going Bovine.

F. Gifts and Grants:

- 1) Accept donations of \$1,000 from RAM Farms, Inc. and \$1,000 from Security State Bank for football scoreboard sponsorship.
- 2) Accept a grant of \$1,929.22 from BlueCross/BlueShield Foundation for PE equipment.

Motion passed 6-0.

Sixth Grade Presentation

6. Students from Mrs. Young and Mrs. Carpenter's classes presented to the Board. Brenley Rogers and Evan Cach-Amara explained their winter scene snow globes using different types of energy. Brianna Bjurstrom and Brecken Norton shared their Alexander the Great Wanted poster depicting whether they believed he was a villain or hero. Maria Ximena Valdez-Bautista and Brianna Bjurstrom shared their menu illustrating descriptive and figurative writing. The Board thanked the teachers and students for their presentation. Mrs. Young, Mrs. Carpenter, students and parents left the meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Hallie Means, Ag Teacher

7. Hallie Means, Agriculture teacher, updated the Board on the greenhouse. The greenhouse has small gaps in the structure walls, the computer system to regulate temperature is not working correctly, and there has been a rodent problem. Mrs. Means currently teaches one horticulture class. Without the problems to the greenhouse being addressed, it will be difficult to have horticulture production in the greenhouse. Discussion was held. The Board thanked Mrs. Means for her presentation. Mrs. Means left the meeting at 7:26 p.m.

Organization of the Board

8. Maegan Berry motioned and Eryka Smith seconded to nominate Josh Young for Board President for 2025. Motion passed 4-2, with Josh Young abstaining and Bruce Loy voting no.
9. Bruce Loy motioned and Farrin Watt seconded to nominate Jesse Harbrige for Board Vice President for 2025. Motion passed 6-0.

Appointment of Elected  
Personnel to Advisory Board

10. **High Plains Educational Cooperative**-Bruce Loy,  
Jesse Harbrige as alternative

11. **Wichita County Recreation**- Eryka Smith

12. **USD 467 Professional Development Council**-  
Farrin Watt

13. **Northwest Kansas Technical College**- Board  
appoints Carol Laws

14. **Wichita County Economic Development** – Josh  
Young

15. **Negotiations Committee**- Jesse Harbrige and  
Bruce Loy

16. **Calendar Committee**- Josh Young and Farrin Watt

17. **Curriculum Committee** – Eryka Smith

18. **Grown & Learn Childcare Center Board** – Maegan  
Berry

Eryka Smith motioned and Maegan Berry seconded  
to approve the appointments as listed. Motion  
passed 6-0.

Negotiations Training

19. The negotiations team members from the Board will  
be required to attend training before negotiations  
begin. The closest in-person trainings are in Dodge  
City on February 5, 2025; Oakley on February 11,  
2025; or Hays on February 12, 2025. Webinars are  
also offered if unable to attend in person. Jesse  
Harbrige and Bruce Loy will let the Superintendent  
know which training they are available to attend.

FastBridge Data

20. Mr. Douglas presented FastBridge data from fall to  
winter. The testing monitors reading and math skills  
in order for staff to evaluate how best to educate  
each student. Discussion was held.

CD Bids

21. The district bid out certificates of deposit for  
\$250,000; \$350,00; and \$500,000 from Western  
State Bank and Security State Bank. The bids are  
as follows:

22. Security State Bank -3 months 4.48% (4.57% APY), 6 months 4.42% (4.51% APY), 9 months 4.32% (4.41% APY).

23. Western State Bank-3 months 4.25% (4.33% APY), 6 months 4.20% (4.27% APY), 9 months 4.15% (4.19% APY).

24. Jesse Harbrige motioned and Maegan Berry seconded to approve the bid from Security State Bank for a \$250,000 certificate of deposit for 3 months 4.48% (4.57% APY), \$350,000 certificate of deposit for 6 months 4.42% (4.51% APY), and a \$500,000 certificate of deposit for 9 months 4.32% (4.41% APY). Motion passed 6-0.

#### Auditor's Report

25. Pat Friess entered the meeting at 7:51 p.m. Pat Friess, Kennedy McKee & Company LLP, presented the 2023-2024 independent auditor's report. There were no discrepancies or significant findings. All state and federal accounting guidelines were followed. The district ended the school year in good financial standing. Discussion was held. Mr. Friess left the meeting at 8:31 p.m.

#### WCES Principal's Report

26. WCES Principal, Misty Gardner, presented the following updates:

- A. "Buddy the Elf" visited the grade school on the last day before break.
- B. "Cookies with the Principal" was held before winter break. Mrs. Gardner read a story to each grade.
- C. Staff is participating in "Undercover Dress Up Days" January 13-17. The staff will dress up in a theme each day to see if the students notice.
- D. January 29<sup>th</sup> is "Kansas Day". The grade school has chosen a western theme for the day. Mrs. Gardner will play the state song in the gym in the morning.
- E. The spelling bee is January 28<sup>th</sup> for grades 3 through 8 at 1:30 p.m.
- F. The 100<sup>th</sup> day of school will be celebrated.
- G. Mrs. Gardner attended KELI training for new principals last week.

- H. At the staff meeting on Wednesday, Sherriff Casper and Steve Baum will train staff on emergency interventions to treat burns.
- I. Burn kits have been placed in the necessary locations.
- J. Five new students enrolled after winter break, bringing the enrollment up to 222 for Prek through sixth grades.
- K. There were twenty five students out today with illnesses.

WCJSHS Principal's Report

27. WCJSHS Principal, Brant Douglas, presented the following updates:
- A. Ninety nine students were on the honor roll for the second quarter.
  - B. KELPA testing will take place in January.
  - C. State testing will take place in March and April.
  - D. High Plains League Basketball Tournament is next week.
  - E. Junior High League Basketball is February 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - F. Wrestling is at Scott City on January 18<sup>th</sup> and home on February 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - G. Homecoming is this Friday against Moscow.

School Communication

28. Discussion was held on school communication via text messaging and social media.

Superintendent's Report

29. Superintendent Maxwell presented the following district updates:
- A. The School Board will be recognized at the January 31<sup>st</sup> basketball game.
  - B. Superintendent Maxwell presented a "Buy Down Policy for Deductibles" from Associated Services.
  - C. Nate Brown explained the nationwide PowerSchool breach and how it has been handled.

Executive Session for Personnel

30. Farrin Watt motioned and Bruce Loy seconded to enter into executive session with Ms. Maxwell, Mrs. Gardner, and Mr. Douglas present to discuss matters adversely or favorably affecting non-elected personnel exception under KOMA. The matters affecting the non-elected certified and classified staff members is their performance and employment. The Board will enter into executive session at 9:18 p.m. and return to open session in the board room at 9:48 p.m. Motion passed 6-0. Andrea Bauck left the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

31. The meeting returned to open session at 9:48 p.m., no action was taken.

Executive Session for Superintendent Evaluation

32. Farrin Watt motioned and Jesse Harbrige seconded to enter into executive session to discuss matters adversely or favorably affecting non-elected personnel exception under KOMA. The matters affecting the non-elected certified staff member is the Superintendent evaluation. The Board will enter into executive session at 9:49 p.m. and return to open session in the board room at 10:04 p.m. Motion passed 6-0.

33. The meeting returned to open session at 10:04 p.m., Jesse Harbrige motioned and Eryka Smith seconded to approve the resignations of Morgan Fluent, third grade teacher, and Logan Douglas, ESL and FACS teacher at the end of the 2024-2025 school year. Motion passed 6-0.

Executive Session for Calendar and Negotiations

34. Farrin Watt motioned and Eryka Smith seconded to enter into executive session with Ms. Maxwell, Mrs. Gardner, and Mr. Douglas present to discuss calendar and negotiations pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA. The Board will enter into executive session at 10:05 p.m. and return to open session in the board room at 10:12 p.m. Motion passed 6-0. Nate and Sara Brown left the meeting at 10:07 p.m.

35. The meeting returned to open session at 10:12 p.m. No action was taken.

Adjournment

36. Josh Young officially adjourned the meeting at 10:12 p.m.

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Josh Young, President

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Tammy Mason, Board Clerk

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