

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 7:00 p.m., Monday, February 9, 2026 at the Board of Education office in Leoti, Kansas.

People Present

2. Members present were: Maegan Berry, Bruce Loy, Adam Marcotte, James Myers, Eryka Smith, and Farrin Watt.

Also present were: Superintendent, Lori Maxwell; Clerk, Tammy Mason; WCJSHS Principal, Brant Douglas; WCES Principal Misty Gardner; and guests: Sara Brown, Andrea Bauck, and Haydon Parks.

Approved Consent Agenda

3. Eryka Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Bruce Loy motioned and Maegan Berry seconded to approve the consent agenda, consisting of:
  - A. Agenda for the meeting.
  - B. Minutes for the January 12, January 14, and January 21, 2026 meetings.
  - C. Payments of bills and payrolls.
  - D. Approve the disposition of two high school desks as presented by Buck Bishop.
  - E. Gifts and Grants:
    - 1) Accept a donation of \$800 from CSA Cattle for the high school football team.
    - 2) Accept a donation of \$1,000 from the Wichita County Outdoorsmen for Reality U.
    - 3) Accept a donation of \$225.67 from the Wichita County Community Foundation for high school cross country.

Motion passed 6-0.

Accountability Report for 2024-2025

4. Superintendent Maxwell presented the Accountability Report for 2024-25. Some of the information provided in the yearly report is the school district's student achievements, resources, and demographics. Discussion was held.

Enrollment Capacity (JBCC)

5. Ms. Maxwell provided the current enrollment projections and nonresident enrollment capacity policy, JBCC. The Board reviewed the projected enrollment numbers for next school year. Discussion was held.
6. Farrin Watt motioned and Bruce Loy seconded to approve the USD 467 nonresident enrollment capacity (JBCC) of 36 students in grades kindergarten through third grades and 40 students in fourth through twelfth grades. Motion passed 6-0.

Consideration of Elkhart's Request to Leave HPEC

7. Elkhart is requesting to leave the High Plains Educational Cooperative Interlocal Agreement which requires a motion from each school district participating in the cooperative. The districts would be required to pay more money to High Plains Educational Cooperative to allow HPEC to cover their costs. Discussion was held.
8. Adam Marcotte motioned and Bruce Loy seconded to reject Elkhart's request to leave the High Plains Educational Cooperative Interlocal Agreement. Motion passed 6-0.

Advisory Board Updates

9. **HPEC**-Bruce Loy-Elkhart is requesting to leave the High Plains Educational Cooperative Interlocal Agreement.
10. **Rec**-Eryka Smith-Currently looking for a new board member, soccer will start soon.
11. **PDC**-Farrin Watt-Meeting this Wednesday.
12. **Fort Hays Tech**-Carol Laws-New President is a good addition. Looking for funding opportunities. New childcare center opening on campus.
13. **Eco Devo**-Matt Price-Not present.
14. **Negotiations**-Bruce Loy & Matt Price-Nothing to report.
15. **Calendar**-Farrin Watt & Jim Myers-Nothing to report.

16. **CCC**-Eryka Smith-Math committee is continuing to meet.

17. **Grow & Learn**-Maegan Berry-Director is doing a great job, discussing long term sustainability and not relying on grants.

KASB Board Training Opportunities

18. KASB offers New Board Member Training. Discussion was held. The Board has declined training at this time.

Consideration of Out of State Trip

19. The Board was asked to consider the 5<sup>th</sup> grade field trip request to the Indian Kiva and Bent's Old Fort in LaJunta, Colorado on May 7, 2026.

20. Farrin Watt motioned and Adam Marcotte seconded to approve the field trip request for 5<sup>th</sup> grade to the Indian Kiva and Bent's Old Fort in LaJunta, Colorado on May 7, 2026. Motion passed 6-0.

WCES Principal's Report

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

A. Students participated in "Wellness Week" February 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, which has the following:

- 1) Monday-Move It Monday
- 2) Tuesday-Teamwork and Try It Tuesday
- 3) Wednesday-Wellness Wednesday
- 4) Thursday-Thirsty Thursday
- 5) Friday-Superhero Strength Friday

B. Kansas Day was celebrated. The kindergarten class went to the museum and made butter.

C. Joaquin Wedel is the Spelling Bee winner and Parker Morefield is runner up. State Spelling Bee is March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

D. January 28<sup>th</sup> was the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. Mrs. Gardner hid 100 pictures around the school for students to find.

E. Fifth grade teacher, Amber Porter, created a Winter Olympics Medal tracking for the students to follow.

F. Mrs. Gardner will be helping with athletic duties for wrestling over the next couple of weeks.

- G. Mrs. Bauck and Mrs. Gardner are planning activities to celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- H. Playground estimates are in progress. It will most likely be done in sections, possibly starting with the student soccer ball area.
- I. Read Week is March 9-12. The Board is asked to judge decorated doors as one of the many activities.

WCJSHS Principal's Report

22. WCJSHS Principal, Brant Douglas, presented the following updates:
- A. The iReady testing will be completed and reviewed.
  - B. KELPA testing will be completed by Mrs. Cortez and staff.
  - C. The JSHS participated in "Wellness Week" and finished with Mrs. Nickelson presenting on Friday.
  - D. Handbooks are being reviewed by staff to update.
  - E. Junior High Wrestling has started practices.
  - F. Winter sports are coming to a close.
  - G. We will be hosting JH Scholars Bowl next Thursday.
  - H. ACT tests will be given to students that wish to participate.
  - I. There is an open JH Track Coach position.

Athletics & Activities

23. Discussion was held on balancing sporting events and other activities to allow students to be well rested and focus on academics. Haydon Parks is working on scheduling fewer events while still allowing students to be competitive.

Superintendent's Report

24. Superintendent Maxwell presented the following district updates:
- A. The field trip and activity policy may need to be reviewed and limits set on distance and overnight trips with Board approval to allow for students to be well rested and for budget considerations.
  - B. The district does not currently have a formal policy on closing schools due to illness.

- C. An AED simulation will be presented during early release on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Stephanie Thelen-West will be the presenter.
- D. Superintendent Maxwell has applied for the Patterson Grant again to help offset the cost of new teachers in the district that are transitioning or in other state programs.

Executive Session for Calendar and Negotiations

25. Farrin Watt motioned and Bruce Loy 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 8:38 p.m. and return to open session in the board room at 9:08 p.m. Motion passed 6-0.

26. The meeting returned to open session at 9:08 p.m. No action was taken.

Executive Session for Personnel

27. Farrin Watt motioned and Adam Marcotte seconded to enter into executive session with Ms. Maxwell present to discuss matters adversely or favorably affecting non-elected personnel exception under KOMA. The matters affecting the non-elected certified staff member is their performance and employment. The Board will enter into executive session at 9:10 p.m. and return to open session in the board room at 9:40 p.m. Motion passed 6-0.

28. The meeting returned to open session at 9:40 p.m., No action was taken.

Executive Session for Personnel

29. Bruce Loy motioned and Maegan Berry 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 9:41 p.m. and return to open session in the board room at 10:26 p.m. Motion passed 6-0.

30. The meeting returned to open session at 10:26 p.m. No action was taken. Mrs. Bauck and Mr. Parks exited.

Executive Session for  
Personnel

31. Farrin Watt motioned and Eryka Smith seconded to enter into executive session with Ms. Maxwell 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 10:27 p.m. and return to open session in the board room at 10:37 p.m. Motion passed 5-1, with Bruce Loy voting no.

32. The meeting returned to open session at 10:37 p.m. Farrin Watt motioned and Bruce Loy seconded to renew the principal contract with Mrs. Misty Gardner, with compensation to be discussed at a later time. Motion passed 6-0.

Adjournment

33. Eryka Smith officially adjourned the meeting at 10:38 p.m.

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Eryka Smith, President

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Tammy Mason, Board Clerk