



USD 497 News Release

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Special Recognition

The Lawrence Board of Education on Monday recognized Quail Run Elementary as part of the district's showcase of schools. Principal James Polk shared a video highlighting how students and staff build community. He mentioned several activities supporting strong connections, including monthly assemblies educating students about important topics, such as Native American and Hispanic Heritage Months. Quail Run is a Special Olympics Unified Champion School for its dedication to inclusion. Teachers meet with multiage groups of students, called Coveys, once a month to build relationships and focus on social emotional learning and character development. The focus this month is on showing gratitude.

Sunset Hill Elementary Principal Jeremy Philipp honored Stephanie Dickson, the Kansas Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, & Dance Elementary 2023 P.E. Teacher of the Year. Philipp described Dickson as "amazing" and said, "She is energetic and gifted at creating engaging lessons." Dickson also serves as the district's lead elementary P.E. teacher, supporting colleagues and mentoring new physical education teachers. In addition, she coaches girls basketball at West Middle School.

"I am only as awesome as the school that I am at, working with the staff and students I love," said Dickson. "I am thankful to be a part of USD 497."

Consent Agenda

Due to a scheduling conflict, a report about the school crossing guard and Safe Routes to School programs was postponed. The board approved several items as part of its Consent Agenda. These are items considered routine and adopted by one motion unless any board member requests an item be removed and voted on separately.

Consent Agenda approvals included:

- October 23, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes
- Financial reports for the Cash Summary, Budget to Actual Summary, and Budget to Actual Summary for Donations, Grants, Athletics, and Activities for the period ending September 30, 2023.
- November 13, 2023, Personnel Report
- Board Policy GAOA - Drug-Free Workplace (First Reading)
- Board Policy GARID - Military Leave (First Reading)
- Board Policy KN - Complaints (First Reading)
- Authority to Purchase District Vehicles – The purchase of seven vehicles from Laird Noller Automotive Inc., at a total cost of \$357,609, using governmental fleet pricing and funds from the Capital Outlay Budget.
- Renewal of Security Software, ConvergeOne – Approval of Year Three of a five-year subscription, through ConvergeOne, of Cisco Umbrella and Cloudlock and AMP4E Essentials at a cost of \$193,012.06 from Technology Capital Outlay funds.
- Renewal of Employee Assistance Program - Renewal of the Employee Assistance Program with New Directions Behavioral Health for \$44,544.

Board members removed these three items from the Consent Agenda for discussion before approving them:

- Amended Board Policy JBCC – Enrollment of Nonresident Students – Approved on Second Reading after an amendment to fix the omission of a date.

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- TrustCentric Consulting Proposal – Approved TrustCentric Consulting services to assist in providing a framework for organizational and leadership trust at a cost of \$12,500 to be paid from Contingency Funds. The contract includes facilitation of school board and Executive Leadership Team retreats, an organizational trust assessment, development of an Organizational Trust Blueprint, and professional development.
- 1000 New Hampshire Street Neighborhood Revitalization Rebate – Approved participation in a 15-year, 95% Neighborhood Revitalization Area rebate to enable Flint Hills Holdings Group, LLC to construct an affordable housing mixed-use, live-work, and residential project at 1000 New Hampshire Street.

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