

# Board Briefs

B L U E V A L L E Y S C H O O L S

*Education Beyond Expectations*

October 9, 2023

## **Board honors Amelework Yitbarek and Taylor Schmelder**

The Board honored Amelework Yitbarek, an evening custodian at Blue Valley Southwest, with the Distinguished Service Award. Yitbarek has been in the district for 17 years. The Board also honored Taylor Schmelder, a speech pathologist at Morse Elementary, with the Excellence in Education Award. Schmelder has been in the district for six years.

## **Board recognizes athletic trainer Caitlin Truhe**

The Board recognized Caitlin Truhe, Blue Valley High athletic trainer, for handling a potentially life-threatening injury at a football game. Thomas Hoskins, senior at Blue Valley High, became injured during the game after taking a hard hit to his side. Truhe assessed his injuries and recognized the signs of a torn spleen and with the help of Truhe's assessment, Hoskins was taken to the emergency room where he received immediate medical attention.

## **Board recognizes The University of Kansas Health System athletic trainers as a Friend of Education**

The Board recognized The University of Kansas Health System athletic trainers for their 10-year partnership with Blue Valley. This partnership has been important to the safety and support of Blue Valley student athletes. The trainers were welcomed into a special group of people, organizations, and businesses that Blue Valley considers Friends of Education.

## **Board hears district updates from Superintendent**

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The Board heard district updates from Superintendent, Dr. Tonya Merrigan. The updates include recent district accolades, a special publication being sent to families, and events celebrated throughout the month. You can view all October updates in [Dr. Merrigan's presentation](#).

## **Board hears the proposal to change graduation requirements beginning with the class of 2028**

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The Board heard a proposal from Kelly Ott, Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Innovation, to change the graduation requirements beginning with the class of 2028. The proposal

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does not make changes to Blue Valley's current 24 credit requirement to graduate but does include additions of communications, STEM, and financial literacy course requirements. To learn more about the changes, [view the proposal presentation](#). The Board will vote on the proposal at the November meeting.

## **Board appoints patrons to Board Advisory Committees**

[Jump to this section in the livestream](#)

The Board appointed Lindsay Weiss to a new two-year term on the Diverse, Equity, and Inclusion Board Advisory Committee.

## **Board hears the proposals regarding new enrollment and nonresident transfer policies**

[Jump to this section in the livestream](#)

The Board heard proposals regarding new enrollment and transfer policies for nonresident students after the passing of Kansas House Bill 2567. This bill requires any Board of Education in any school district to allow nonresidents to enroll and attend if there are open seats in the district. As a result the district established policy and guidelines that will guide the nonresident transfer process. View [the presentation shared](#) with the Board to learn more details on the process. The Board will vote on these proposals in December. The Board will hold a hearing on the districts proposed transfer policies on November 13, prior to the start of the regularly scheduled Board meeting.

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BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

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