

Board Briefs

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

Education Beyond Expectations

September 11, 2023

Board honors David Duane and Lindsay Gamble

The Board honored David Duane, a SPED Para at Cottonwood Point Elementary, with the Distinguished Service Award. Duane has been in the district for 10 years. The Board also honored Lindsay Gamble, the band teacher at Pleasant Ridge Middle School, with the Excellence in Education Award. Gamble has also been in the district for 10 years.

Board recognizes 2022-23 Board of Education President

Board member Patrick Hurley was recognized for his leadership as Blue Valley's Board of Education President from January of 2022-July of 2023. Hurley is serving his ninth year on the Board representing the Northwest area of the district.

Board recognizes 2023 Kansas Outstanding Biology Teacher

The Board recognized CAPS veterinary medicine instructor, Kelley Tuel. Tuel was awarded the 2023 Kansas Outstanding Biology Teacher. Tuel has helped develop the veterinary curriculum for the CAPS program and inspires students to pursue their passion for animals.

Board approves the 2023-24 Legal Maximum Budget and Estimated Tax Rate

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The Board approved the Legal Maximum Budget and Estimated Tax Rate for the 2023-24 school year. The maximum mill levy for the budget has been consistently dropped over the last few years, and this year's decrease is 1.11 mills. With the approved budget in place, it enables the district to maintain a solid financial position and continue to support the schools and meet the needs of our valued staff and exceptional students.

Board hears design and construction updates

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Jake Slobodnik, Executive Director of Operations, updated the Board on bond projects completed across this district.

- Renovations to the Blue Valley Academy building including an updated library media center and new spaces for the GEAR program and construction tech program.

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- Addition of flexible learning environments at Timber Creek Elementary and Wolf Springs Elementary.
- Updates to all middle school Family and Consumer Science (FACS) classrooms.

With these renovations being completed, all major Bond 2020 projects are finished. Slobodnik also updated the Board on Bond 2023 planning. To learn more about the completed work and future projects, you can [view the presentation](#).

Board hears update on Chinese Immersion Task Force

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

Superintendent Dr. Tonya Merrigan provided the Board of Education with an update on the work of the Chinese Immersion Task Force. Currently task force members are focused on evaluating and refining proposals in preparation for a report to the Board of Education planned for the November 13 meeting.

Board reviews and approves Policy 6610

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

The Board voted to approve [Policy 6610](#). The policy updates leave language (time off) for classified and administrative employees to match the leave language for certified staff.

Board reviews and approves Policy 6100

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

The Board voted to approve [Policy 6100](#). The equal employment opportunity policy will make a minor change to update an incorrect Board policy that was listed.

Board appoints patrons to Board Advisory Committees

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The Board appointed two patrons to Board Advisory Committees.

- Melanie Shashindranath will serve a two-year term on the Health and Wellbeing Board Advisory Committee.
- Geoff Tavelli will serve a two-year term on the Communications Board Advisory Committee.

Board appoints delegate to the Kansas Association of School Boards' delegate assembly

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The Board appointed two of its members to the Kansas Association of School Boards' delegate assembly. Jodie Dietz will serve as the KASB delegate and Jan Kessinger will serve as the alternate delegate. This assembly receives the legislative and nominating committee reports, establishes legislative positions, and elects the KASB president-elect.



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