

**Minutes of the Board of Education
Unified School District No. 435
Dickinson County**

Abilene, Kansas

June 08, 2026

The Board of Education of Abilene Unified School District No. 435 met for their regular monthly meeting in the board room of the district office at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, June 08, 2026, with the following members:

Present: Tom Schwartz, Veronica Murray, Chris West, Leslie Hoffman

Absent: Kylie Kilmer, Megan Armstrong, Jeff Bathurst

Others attending all or part of the meeting: Superintendent – Dana Sprinkle; Assistant Superintendent – Rick Rivera; Board Clerk – Amanda Cornell; Technology Director – Mike Liby; Building Administrators: Dr. Jenna Delay, Derek Berns, Robyn Pekarek; Kyle Becker – Smart Insurance, Shelly Alderson

Opening of Meeting

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order by President Chris West at 7:00 p.m. The Board began their meeting by saying the Pledge of Allegiance and Portrait of a 5 Star Graduate.

Approval of the Agenda

Veronica Murray moved to approve the agenda as presented. Leslie Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Consent Agenda

Superintendent Sprinkle summarized the following items on the consent agenda:

- Minutes
- Financial Reports
- Personnel Update List
- Surplus

Veronica Murray moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Tom Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion of any item(s) removed from the Consent Agenda

None

Presentation

2025-2026 District Property-Casualty Insurance

Kyle Becker from Smart Insurance presented the district's property/casualty/workers comp renewal policy. The insurance premium renewal is \$578,546.20, which is a decrease of 4%. The dividend program that EMC is a part of returned some savings for the district after costs being much higher over recent years. Discussion was held.

Veronica Murray moved to approve the renewal for property/casualty/workers comp insurance with Smart Insurance as presented. Tom Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Reality U

Dr. Jenna Delay, AMS Principal shared a video about the benefits of the Reality U program for 8th grade and 10th grade students. It gives the students a real-life view of how their choices can affect their futures after high school. Reality U uses local businesses and patrons to support lessons and encourage students to ask questions. Discussion was held.

Action/Discussion Item

Out of State Travel

AHS Band is requesting permission to attend and play a spot on March 11-14, 2027 at Branson On Stage Live! Performance and Workshop.

AHS FFA is requesting permission to attend the National FFA Convention and Expo in Indianapolis, IN on October 19-23, 2026.

Veronica Murray moved to approve the Out of State travel requests as presented. Tom Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Family Athletic Season Passes

Mrs. Sprinkle shared with the Board that last year the family athletic passes were increased in price and offered online. Participation also increased from 2024 where 24 passes were sold to 2025 where 46 passes were sold. The sliding fee scale was implemented and received well by patrons. It is being recommended that family athletic season passes be increased this year to support the increasing costs of officials and ticketing.

Veronica Murray moved to approve the pricing for the athletic passes as presented. Tom Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion approved 4-0.

Classified and Administrator Compensation

Mrs. Sprinkle reviewed a recommended increase in compensation for classified staff, grant program staff, and administrators for 2026-27. This would increase the base pay by 1.73%. Discussion was held.

Tom Schwartz moved to approve the recommended increase in compensation for classified staff, grant program staff, and administrators for 2026-27. Veronica Murray seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

2026-27 ABC Program Fees

Mrs. Robyn Pekarek, McKinley Principal, shared some changes that were made to the first read last month to include increasing staff to student ratios, updating payments for full pay to \$90, reduced pay \$60, and free pay to \$40 per month. Shortfall between the revenue and expenditures will be addressed with extraordinary funds giving a year to adjust the budget considerations. Discussion was held.

Veronica Murray moved to approve the recommendations as presented for the 2026-27 Before and After School Program. Leslie Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Instructional Technology Quote

Mrs. Sprinkle shared the need to order iPads to replace 4th and 5th grade devices as well as iPad cases and charging cords. This quote also includes MacBooks to rotate out PK-5 teacher devices and replace the elementary secretaries' desktops. The quote is for \$106,084.

Veronica Murray moved to approve the purchase of the instructional technology items as presented. Tom Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Handbook Review

Student Handbooks

This is a second read for the Board on updates requested for the student handbooks. Discussion was held.

Veronica Murray moved to approve the student handbooks as presented. Tom Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Classified and Certified Staff Handbooks

This is a second read for the Board on updates requested for the classified and certified employee handbooks. Updates were made to the meal reimbursement policy, and the classified handbook was updated on the use of personal leave. Discussion was held.

Veronica Murray moved to approve the certified and classified staff handbooks as presented. Leslie Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Student Development

District Learning Report

The 2026 State assessment results were shared. Mr. Rivera shared how important aligning instruction with state standards as well as vertical alignment in departments in supporting students. Positive trends are expected to continue next year. Discussion was held.

Board-Administrator Communication

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Administrator reports were shared. Discussion was held.

Summer Requests for Proposal

Mrs. Sprinkle updated the Board on two upcoming requests for proposal. The AHS HVAC request for proposal is to replace the 2nd and 3rd floor HVAC systems that were originally part of the 3rd floor bond project. They were pulled due to the concern that there wouldn't be enough money to complete that project. After all the bills have been paid for bond, there is money left to make those repairs. The second request for proposal is for the Eisenhower Elementary gym floor. Parts of the floor have had some water damage. The floor will need to be repaired, stripped and refinished. Discussion was held.

Close Out 2025-26 Fiscal Year

It was recommended to give the superintendent and board clerk the authority to make the necessary year-end transfers to close out the fiscal year.

Leslie Hoffman moved to give authority to the superintendent and board clerk to make the necessary year-end transfers to close out the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Tom Schwartz seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

District Policy Review

The following policies were presented to the Board: JCDC Student Personal Electronic Communication Devices along with the USD 435 Abilene Personal Electronic Communication Device Handbook policy, IIBGG Staff Online Activities with the USD 435 Abilene Public School Approved Social Media and Staff-Student Communication policy, and an update to the GADCB-2 District Early Retirement Plan. Discussion was held.

Veronica Murray moved to approve the KASB policy JCDC, IIBGG, and GADCB-2 along with the student and staff handbook policy with typo corrections as presented. Leslie Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Updated KASB Policies

The following KASB policies were presented for review: DFE Investment of Funds, EBBE Emergency Drills, EE Food Services Management, GAAC Sex-Based Discrimination, IDAD Title I Programs, IDAD Title I Programs Regulation, IHF Graduation Requirements, JB Attendance Records, JBC Enrollment, JBCB Foster Care Student Regulations, JBCC Enrollment of Nonresident Students, JBD Absences and Excuses, JGEC Sex-Based Discrimination, JGFGA Administration of Emergency Opioid Antagonists, JGFGAA Stock Supply of Emergency Medication, JGFGBA Student Self-Administration of Medications, JQKA Foreign Exchange Student, and JRB Release of Student Records. These are presented as a first read and the Board will consider approval during the July regular meeting. Discussion was held.

Coach to Athlete Ratio & Considerations

Mr. Derek Berns, District Athletic Director, shared the rationale of sports and activities ratio of coaches to athletes. These ratios remain flexible due to changing KSHSAA guidelines but also to prioritize student safety and supervision. Discussion was held.

Other

None

Executive Session

Personnel

None

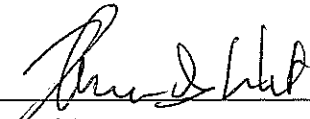
Adjournment

Veronica Murray moved to adjourn. Leslie Hoffman seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

7-13-26

Date



President



Clerk

Personnel Update

Action for June 8, 2026

Resignations and Retirements

<u>Category</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Status</u>
Classified	Cheyenne Tracy	St. Andrews Title Aide	Resignation
Classified	Maria Tischhauser	KEN PK Aide	Resignation
Classified	Cassie Crider	ABC Lead K-1	Resignation

*Employment, Transfers and Other Action

<u>Category</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>
Transfer	Kira Towery	Full time to Part time PK Aide
Classified	Deb Roth	Drivers Education Aide
Classified	Christian Sommers	Summer Lunch Program Substitute
Certified	Dallas Meneley	AHS Asst Principal
Certified	Dorian Bryson	7 th Grade Math Teacher
Transfer	Lorie Rimmel	Full time to Part time PK Aide and Part Time Library Aide

Employment – Substitute Teachers

<u>Category</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Position</u>
Classified	Mark Anderton	Substitute Bus Driver

For current USD 435 job openings please go to

<https://www.abileneschools.org/o/aps/page/job-listing>

*Upon receipt of signed contracts, the Board of Education President is authorized to sign.