

# BOARD BRIEFS

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## BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

June 10, 2024

### **Board honors Alex Lahasky for being named Milken Award winner**

The Board honored Alex Lahasky, a social studies teacher at Blue Valley West, who was named a Milken Award winner during a surprise announcement at an all-school assembly. This award rewards early-to-mid-career educators nationwide who represent the top 1% of the teaching profession. Recipients receive \$25,000 that can be used without restrictions.

### **Board honors three students for earning perfect scores on the ACT**

The Board recognized three students who earned a perfect score on the ACT when they tested during the spring: Akhil Reddy, Blue Valley High, Varun Rastogi, Blue Valley High and Shaun Wall, Blue Valley West.

### **Board honors Business Professionals of America winners**

The Board honored eight students, six of whom were able to attend the meeting, for placing first in their respective categories at the Business Professionals of America (BPA) spring conference. BPA is a national organization that aims to develop and empower student leaders to discover their passion and change the world by creating unique opportunities for learning, professional growth and service.

- Michelle Young, Blue Valley West, BPA National Champion in Digital Media Production and Multimedia and Promotion
- Nischay Rawal, Blue Valley West, BPA National Champion in e-Sports
- Arya Ganne, Blue Valley West, BPA National Champion in e-Sports
- Rishabh Anand, Blue Valley West, BPA National Champion in e-Sports
- Madhava Bhadriraju, Blue Valley West, BPA National Champion in Financial Analyst Team
- Rishi Goli, Blue Valley West, BPA National Champion in Financial Analyst Team
- Barrett Bergmann, Blue Valley High, BPA National Champion in Health Administration Concepts
- Malavika Aravind, Blue Valley West, BPA National Champion in Multimedia and Promotion
- Branden Xiao, Blue Valley West, BPA National Champion in e-Sports

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### **Board honors Sam Dunton for winning National Silver Medallion for 1st place at the spring DECA conference**

The Board honored Sam Dunton, a 2024 Blue Valley High graduate, for receiving a National Silver Medallion for 1st place in the accounting applications role play event at the DECA conference. DECA is an international organization that prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for marketing, finance, hospitality and management careers.

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

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The Board heard district updates from Superintendent, Dr. Tonya Merrigan. The updates include details about student and educator achievements. You can view all of this month's updates in [Dr. Merrigan's presentation](#).

### **Board hears notice on amending the 2023-24 budget**

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The Board heard the proposed amended 2023-24 budget. Proposed amendments to the budget are due to increased special education transportation costs, including increased special education state aid and reclassification of eligible at-risk expenditures. Following the hearing, the Board gave an opportunity for the public to comment on the amended budget.

### **Board approves 2023-24 Amended Legal Maximum Budget**

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

The Board approved the 2023-24 amended legal maximum budget. You can learn more about the amended budget through [BoardDocs](#).

### **Board appoints patrons to Finance and Operation Board Advisory Committee**

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The Board voted to appoint the following patrons to the Finance and Operations Board Advisory Committee for new two-year terms: Ryan Rutkowski and Megan Senatore. The Board also voted to reappoint the following patrons for additional two-year terms beginning July 11, 2024: Michelle Mitchell, Tom Robinett, Lewis Pisani, and Brenda Stasiulis.

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### **Board appoints patrons to Blue Valley Recreation Center Commissioner**

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The Board voted to reappoint the following patrons to the Blue Valley Recreation Center Committee for a four-year term effective until October 1, 2024:

- Henry Abbott, South Commissioner seat
- Amy Daniels, Northeast Commissioner seat

### **Board approves technology refresh for K-5**

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The Board voted to approve technology purchases for K-5, in which these grade levels will be switching to chromebooks. This change follows a 5-year cycle of refreshing technology at the elementary level.

### **Board approves the restated and amended Superintendent contract**

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The Board voted to approve the restated and amended Superintendent contract. The most recent contract extension was approved in June of 2023, which extended Dr. Tonya Merrigan to June 30, 2026. The newly approved, restated and amended Superintendent contract extends Dr. Merrigan to June 30, 2027.

### **Election of Board Leadership to begin July 1, 2024**

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The Board voted to appoint leadership within the Blue Valley Board of Education. The Board voted to appoint Gina Knapp to Board of Education President effective July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. The Board also voted to appoint Jan Kessinger to Board of Education Vice President effective July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025. To learn more about the members, [visit the district website](#).



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*Board Briefs* is published by the Blue Valley School District Communications Department following each Board of Education meeting.