

Board Briefs

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

Education Beyond Expectations

May 8, 2023

Board recognizes Overland Trail Elementary Counselor Emily Harsch

The Board recognized and celebrated Emily Harsch, Overland Trail Elementary counselor. Harsch was named the winner of the Promise Award, presented by the Kansas School Counseling Association. The Promise Award, given to first-year counselors, recognizes emerging school counselors who demonstrate outstanding leadership, advocacy and collaboration in the school counseling field.

Board recognizes students named Shooting Stars by the Arts Council of Johnson County

The Shooting Stars program celebrates student artists and their art educators with recognition and college scholarships. Since 1997, more than 1,000 high school seniors throughout the Kansas City Metro have been recognized for their artistic excellence.

The board recognized 7 Blue Valley students who were selected as first and second-place recipients and received college scholarships:

- Mira Becker — BVW
- Tess Vanberg — BVH
- Sophia Volovoy — BVNW
- Lisa Ji — BVW
- Brynn Friesen — BVH
- Audrey Roberts — BVNW
- Patty Morales — BVN

Board celebrates students who earned a perfect ACT score

Academic excellence has been a cornerstone of Blue Valley's foundation for more than 50 years and each year, we continue to have students setting new academic achievement standards. 11 students received a perfect 36 composite score on the ACT when they tested in February. This accomplishment is incredibly rare, and less than 0.5% of the 1.3 million students who take the ACT earn a perfect score.

Reese Burgener — BVSW
Caleb Deng — BVN
Noor Haideri — BVH
Edward Mu — BVN
Megan Wang — BVNW
Aiden Juhl — BVN

Board Briefs

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

Education Beyond Expectations

Nickan Safi — BVH
Quinten Schafer — BVN
Avery Vogel — BVW
Soumya Takalkar — BVW
Elizabeth Lim — BVN

Board honors Sue Butler and Melissa Askren

The Board recognized Sue Butler, Budget Manager for the District, with the Distinguished Service Award and Melissa Askren, Director of Bands at Oxford Middle School, with the Excellence in Education Award.

Board approves professional learning 5 year plan

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

The Board heard from Dr. Kelly Wessel, Director of Human Resources - Retention and Recruitment, about Blue Valley's professional learning 5 year plan. With an unwavering commitment to all students, Professional Learning in Blue Valley Schools, advances educator effectiveness and is:

- relevant
- collaborative
- sustainable
- results-oriented

The Board of education voted to approve the professional learning 5 year plan. To learn more, please [watch this section of the livestream](#) or [view the plan on BoardDocs](#).

Board receives Facility Planning Committee Update

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

The board heard from Kyle Hayden, Deputy Superintendent, about updates from the Facility Planning Committee around boundary changes. After reviewing enrollment, capacity projections and tools for adjustments, the Facility Planning Committee has proposed the following boundary adjustments for the 2024-25 school year:

- Autumn Park (Arcadia), Villages of Overland View and Executive Hills boundaries would be adjusted to attend Indian Valley Elementary. This adjustment would also include a change in feeder pattern to Oxford Middle and Blue Valley Northwest.
- Deer Creek boundaries would be adjusted to attend Overland Trail Elementary.
- Sandstone Creek, Savoy and Plaza Gardens boundaries would be adjusted to attend Harmony Elementary. This adjustment would also include a change in feeder pattern to Harmony Middle and Blue Valley Northwest.
- Villas of Carrington Square Area boundaries would be adjusted to attend Heartland Elementary.

Board Briefs

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

Education Beyond Expectations

- Glen Abbey & Villas of Chapel Green, and Highland Villas and Highlands Creek boundaries would be adjusted to attend Prairie Star Elementary. This adjustment would also include a change in feeder pattern to Prairie Star Middle and Blue Valley High.

Public hearings are scheduled as followed:

- 5:30-6:30 p.m. May 16 at Harmony Elementary School
- 7-8 p.m. May 16 at Valley Park Elementary School
- 5:30-6:30 p.m. May 18 at Overland Trail Elementary School

Learn more about proposed options on the [Facility Planning Committee web page](#) or [watch the livestream of this board presentation](#).

Board votes to eliminate the payrider school bus transportation program for all middle and high school students beginning the 2023-24 school year

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

The Board of Education voted to discontinue Payrider services for middle and high school students, beginning with the 2023-24 school year. Services will continue for students residing 2.5 miles or farther from home to school within their attendance area or have transportation as part of their Individual Education Plan (IEP). The change does not impact Payrider services for elementary students.

The difficult decision was made after an administrative update on the state of transportation followed by recommended changes for the board to consider. The shortage of bus drivers negatively impacts families who participate in the Payrider program and students the district is required by state law to transport. The report notes that throughout this spring, Durham School Services, the district's transportation provider, is 12-18 drivers short daily.

Current middle and high school Payrider program families should expect a notification letter from Durham about service changes.

Board receives legislative update

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

The Board received an update from superintendent Dr. Tonya Merrigan on the 2023 legislative session, including an overview of key dates, the district's priority level positions and testimony submitted by the district for various bills. Patrons can review the district's legislative positions and read the district's testimony on [Blue Valley's legislative web page](#). View [this section in the livestream](#) for more information.

Board Briefs

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

Education Beyond Expectations

Board adopts Board Vacancy Resolution

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

A vacancy will exist as of May 21, 2023, in the membership of the Board of Unified School District No. 229, Johnson County. The Board of Education will fill such vacancies no sooner than fifteen (15) days following publication of notice in a newspaper after May 21, 2023, having general circulation in the school district.

A [video recording](#) of the live-streamed meeting is available for viewing on the [Blue Valley Board of Education YouTube channel](#).



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