

Board Briefs

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

Education Beyond Expectations

September 12, 2022

Board honors Monica Skilling and Jeff Wataha

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The Board recognized Monica Skilling, Para II (navigators) at Sunrise Point Elementary, with the Distinguished Service Award. Skilling has been with Blue Valley for 11 years. The Board also honored Jeff Wataha, a technology teacher at Prairie Star Middle, with the Excellence in Education Award. Wataha has been with Blue Valley for 29 years.

Board approves the 2022-23 Legal Maximum Budget and Estimated Tax Rate

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In the state of Kansas, all boards of education adopt annually a local option budget percentage resolution. The maximum percent that may be authorized is the statewide average (31%) unless the district has adopted a resolution to exceed the statewide average up to the maximum state-prescribed percent (33%). Blue Valley's Board approved the 2022-23 legal maximum budget and estimated tax rate. [For more budget information visit the district website.](#)

Board hears summer 2022 construction update

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Jake Slobodnik, director of facilities and operations, updated the board on construction work that was done in the schools during the summer. A majority of projects completed this summer were funded by Bond 2020. [Check out this video that highlights Bond 2020 projects](#) and the impact it has had on students and staff. Slobodnik reported the total Bond 2020 project costs to date are \$106,826,406, which is \$284,784 under budget.

Board approves crisis alert system, Centegix

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The Board heard recommendations from administration on a safety and security system called Centegix. This system would add to the layered approach Blue Valley takes to safety and security. Centegix would provide crisis alert badges for all Blue Valley staff and a system where staff can immediately notify administrators or proper staff of medical emergencies or student emergencies. The badges can also trigger an immediate building-wide lockdown in the event of a security breach to the school. The Board voted to unanimously approve a contract with Centegix. The district plans to implement this system in January of 2023.

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

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The board appointed two of its members— Jodie Dietz to serve as KASB delegate and Jan Kessinger to serve as an alternate—for the delegate assembly. This assembly receives the legislative and nominating committee reports, establishes legislative positions, and elects the KASB president-elect.

Board appoints patrons to Board Advisory Committees

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The Board voted to appoint applicants to their respective Board Advisory Committees. To learn more about Board Advisory Committees and to apply, [visit the district website](#).

Board amends commencement date for Northeast District Commissioner Blue Valley Recreation Commissioner

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Administration recommended amending the commencement date of Blue Valley Recreation Commissioner, Mike Lewis of the Northeast District, for the purpose of voting. The Board voted to amend the commencement date.

Board appoints Blue Valley Recreation Commissioner

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The Board appointed Thomas McBride of the Northwest district as the Northwest Commissioner for the Blue Valley Recreation Commission for a term of four years, beginning September 21, 2022, and expiring September 20, 2026.

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.