

Board Briefs

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

Education Beyond Expectations

February 12, 2024

Board honors Darla Bradley with Distinguished Service award

The Board honored Darla Bradley, a custodian at Blue Valley Academy, with the Distinguished Service award. Bradley has been in the district 12 years.

Board honors Chris Huggard and Carrie Lahey with Excellence in Education awards

The Board honored two educators with the Excellence in Education award:

- Chris Huggard, ELA teacher at Aubry Bend Middle School, has been in the district 9 years.
- Carrie Lahey, second grade teacher at Blue River Elementary, has been in the district 23 years.

Board recognizes Kansas Teacher of the Year candidates

The Board recognized Dan Freeman, a teacher and band director at Blue Valley North, and Sherry Kenny, a first-grade teacher at Cottonwood Point Elementary, for being selected as Blue Valley's candidates for Kansas Teacher of the Year. Freeman and Kenny will both be considered for the 2025 Kansas Teacher of the Year.

Board recognizes four National Board Certified Teachers

The Board recognized four educators for being named National Board Certified Teachers:

- Ben Wray, a music teacher at Stilwell Elementary and Aspen Grove Elementary, received a certification in early and middle childhood music.
- Jennifer Eckroat, a kindergarten teacher at Leawood Elementary, received a certification in reading-language arts.
- Manny Patino-Jiminez, a Spanish teacher at Blue Valley West, received a certification in world languages other than English.
- Lynn Franey, a fourth-grade teacher at Overland Trail Elementary, received a generalist certification.

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Board recognizes students who earned a perfect ACT or SAT score

The Board recognized nine students who earned a perfect score on the ACT or SAT when they tested during the summer and fall:

- Nikhil Maddipoti, junior, BVH
- Pranith Surapaneni, junior, BVNW
- McKenzie Glover, senior, BVW
- Arden Peterson, senior, BVH
- Sarah Jiang, junior, BVW
- Edward Jiang, senior, BVH
- Arnesh Sharma, junior, BVW
- Shreyas Krishan, senior, BVNW
- Anna Pearson, senior, BVN

Board honors Kenneth Smith Award winner, Hadley Neese

The Board honored Hadley Neese, junior at Blue Valley High, for being named Kansas City's top female high school golfer with the Kenneth Smith award. Hadley was the two-round Blue Valley individual champion, three-round Eastern Kansas League (EKL) individual champion, Kansas class 6A regional champion and the state runner-up.

Board honors Thomas A. Simone Award winner, Dylan Dunn

The Board honored Dylan Dunn, senior at Blue Valley Southwest, for being named the Kansas City area's most outstanding high school football player with the Thomas A. Simone award. Dunn passed for 3,777 yards with 47 touchdowns and five interceptions and averaged 315 yards a game.

Board honors Otis Taylor Award winner, Alex Parks

The Board honored Alex Parks, senior at Blue Valley Southwest, for being named the Kansas City area's best receiver/tight end with the Otis Taylor award. Parks recorded 1,381 receiving yards, with 83 receptions and 20 touchdowns, this season.

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Board recognizes Kansas Music Educator Association's Music Teacher of the Year

The Board recognized Paul Aubrey, Prairie Star Middle's band director, for being named Music Teacher of the Year by the Kansas Music Educators Association (KMEA). Aubrey has taught in the district for 24 years. KMEA selected Aubrey out of seven other finalists across the state for this prestigious award.

Board hears district updates from Superintendent

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

The Board heard district updates from Superintendent, Dr. Tonya Merrigan. The updates include details about Blue Valley's Next Steps program, the upcoming community connection point, and student and educator achievements. You can view all of this month's updates in [Dr. Merrigan's presentation](#).

Board hears 2023-2024 enrollment report

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The board heard the 2023-2024 enrollment report from Assistant Director of Planning and Operations, Erik Pollom. The report included comparing Blue Valley's enrollment to other schools in Johnson County as well as enrollment projections for the next 5 years. You can read more about enrollment data in the [full report](#).

Board hears the 2025-26 calendar proposal

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

The Board of Education heard the 2025-26 school year calendar proposal. The calendar is available for review on [Blue Valley's website](#). Comments can be sent via email to bvinfo@bluevalleyk12.org. The board will vote on the 2025-26 calendar at the March meeting.

Board hears Legislative update from Superintendent

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

The Board heard legislative updates from Superintendent, Dr. Tonya Merrigan. The updates include bills related to Blue Valley's six legislative priorities and the district's submitted testimonies. Visit www.bluevalleyk12.org/legislative to read testimony, learn about Blue Valley's priority positions, contact information for state representatives and more.

Board Briefs

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

Education Beyond Expectations



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