

# Board Briefs

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

*Education Beyond Expectations*

March 4, 2024

## **Board honors Max Sundquist, Tim Huwar and Orkie Bradley with Distinguished Service award**

The Board honored three staff members with the Distinguished Service award:

- Max Sundquist, a Registered Behavior Technician at Hilltop Learning Center, has been in the district seven years.
- Tim Huwar, a Pool Maintenance Specialist in the district, has been in the district 26 years.
- Orkie Bradley, a Food Service Maintenance Technician in the district, has been in the district 14 years.

## **Board honors Denise Young with Excellence in Education awards**

The Board honored Denise Young with the Excellence in Education award. Young is a math teacher at Blue Valley West High School and has been in the district 37 years.

## **Board recognizes Kansas Music Education Association's 3 and 4 year all-state members**

The Board recognized 28 students for being KMEA all-state members for 3 and 4 years:

- Lincoln Dahl, senior, Blue Valley High
- Elliese Thurlby, senior, Blue Valley Northwest
- Maggie Ruckman, senior, Blue Valley North
- Grace Schlueter, senior, Blue Valley Northwest
- HarAnsh Singh Gugnani, senior, Blue Valley Northwest
- Rishi Venkatesh, junior, Blue Valley Northwest
- Miles Kim, senior, Blue Valley North
- Jacqueline Chang, junior, Blue Valley High
- Ethan Oppold, senior, Blue Valley High
- Megan Wang, senior, Blue Valley Northwest
- Maddie Gener, junior, Blue Valley Northwest
- Noah Tarjan, senior, Blue Valley North
- Kevin Ward, senior, Blue Valley Southwest
- Solomon Wu, junior, Blue Valley Northwest
- Jacqueline Lee, senior, Blue Valley Northwest
- Kevin Li, senior, Blue Valley Northwest
- William Clark, senior, Blue Valley West
- Edward Jiang, senior, Blue Valley High
- Aileen Ng, senior, Blue Valley West

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

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- Eric Seo, senior, Blue Valley West
- Lily Seitz, senior, Blue Valley West
- Ella Lim, junior, Blue Valley High
- Gabriel Decker, senior, Blue Valley North
- Benjamin Ding, senior, Blue Valley North
- Hannah Kim, senior, Blue Valley North
- Aaron Tseng, senior, Blue Valley North
- Miles Gelman, senior, Blue Valley High
- Henry Monahan, senior, Blue Valley High
- Maia Bajich, senior, Blue Valley High

## 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 Kansas Master Teacher winner, Music in Our Schools month, and other student and educator achievements. You can view all of this month's updates in [Dr. Merrigan's presentation](#).

## Board hears legislative update

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

With the legislative session halfway through, the Board heard legislative updates from district lobbyist, Patty Markley. The updates include bills related to Blue Valley's six legislative priorities, the district's submitted testimonies, and how the district will proceed through the rest of the session. Visit [www.bluevalleyk12.org/legislative](http://www.bluevalleyk12.org/legislative) to read testimony, learn about Blue Valley's priority positions, contact information for state representatives and more.

## Board hears ESOL program update

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

The Board heard ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Program updates from Jackie Dearth, ESOL District Coordinator, and Jennifer Luzenske, Director of Curriculum and Instruction. [The presentation](#) included multilingual learner stats and common questions regarding the program.

## Board hears mental health supports update

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

The Board heard a [mental health supports presentation](#) from Dr. Mark Schmidt, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education. The presentation included information on the district's Flight Team and communication and mental health support systems in times of crisis.

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## **Board appoints board liaisons for Kansas Association of School Boards' Region 11**

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The Board appoints board liaisons for Kansas Association of School Boards' Region 11 Nominating and Legislative Committees.

- Gina Knapp reappointed for a one-year term on the Kansas Association of School Boards' Nominating Committee
- Jan Kessinger reappointed for a one-year term on the Kansas Association of School Boards' Legislative Committee



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