

Editorial

Back so soon?!?

It’s hard to believe that summer is now in its “dog days” and that in the blink of an eye, all of our community’s youngsters will begin another school year. Time passes so incredibly fast sometimes, and I firmly believe that the older my kids get, the quicker it seems to go!

I sit and think sometimes about how quickly the time will come that my boys will be grown, and ready to go on their own, and I wonder how much of my teaching has sunk in and how much they never hear as they bicycled down the street to my “be careful”’s and “I love you”’s...will they remember their manners as young adult men without their mama there to remind them? Will they be productive in the communities they end up living and working in? Will they take care with their words, and think before they speak? So many questions...I just always sigh and hope for the best.

But as I do, I remember enrollment has opened up, and I am faced with the realization that they haven’t just been hearing these life lessons from me. They’ve also been listening to the reinforcement of my moral structures from their teachers and educators.

These individuals who stand like targets at the front of a classroom, filled with such an eclectic mix of student minds and variety of learning skills and abilities, it’s enough to make my head spin.

How these amazing people do the “teaching” thing every day for 9 months has baffled and amazed me since I was old enough to look back on my school years and really appreciate the work they do. I’ll never forget the day I WANTED to return to my high school alma mater to visit my favorite teachers, Mrs. Cindy Hertel and Mrs. Karen Madorin, and tell them they were right all along, tell them I appreciated the impact they had on me, and that I still used the skills they taught me in my everyday life.

Now, the impact that situation has when a student comes full-circle and thanks a past teacher for their influence is why these teachers continue the struggle each year. Whether they love teaching or not, the work is stressful, and aside from the fact that our teachers are MASTERS

at herding cats, the mental effort and energy required to teach classrooms of kids in this day and age is an effort and energy that is oftentimes underappreciated but a service that our little communities could not, I repeat COULD NOT, do without.

As the school year gets moving and our children prepare to enter the classrooms once again, please remind these students of their educators’ values, that the lessons learned in school are some of the most valuable lessons you’ll learn in life, and encourage them to thank their teacher, and tell them they’re doing a good job.

As parents, I encourage you to do the same for your child’s teachers. Tell them you appreciate their work with your student. Have patience with the public school processes these individuals must follow, even if we don’t agree with it all. And most of all, keep open dialogue and an open door policy with these educators.

Kids can be a lot to handle as they grow up and learn lessons along the way. We as parents know this all too well (unless you’re completely blind to the fact that all kids misbehave and make mistakes, even yours, in which case there are a few lessons in reality you need to look into), and the only thing worse than trying to help your own child learn through the falls and mistakes and growing process is helping 15-20 kids who are not your own through those very same “growing pains.”

The patience and understanding, the reminders and daily reinforcements offered by our teachers and educators can never be supported enough. Never.

Because there is really no explanation for one individual having that much patience and understanding. The only explanation I have ever come up with is that our teachers are angels on Earth, and we quite frankly do not deserve them.

They are an invaluable asset to our families, communities and world, and the least we can do is thank them profusely, from the bottoms of our hearts, and possibly get them gifts of chocolate and coffee...both of which can make a tough day a little brighter and sweeter. – Nickole Byers

THE USD #110 BOARD OF EDUCATION

I. CALL TO ORDER: The regular meeting of USD #110 was called to order by President Staci Foreman at 7:00pm. Other members present were Kathy Holling, Justin Abbott, Ali Hadley, and Tina Dennis. Also present were Jeff Yoxall and Heidi Struckhoff.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Kathy Holling moved to approve the agenda as presented. Tina Dennis seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

III. REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: None.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Ali Hadley moved to approve the minutes from the June 9, 2025, Regular Meeting and the June 30, 2025, Special Meeting. Kathy Holling seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

V. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Staci Foreman moved that the board go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, and the board return to open session at 7:16pm. Justification for the executive session is the exception relating to non-elected personnel under KOMA (Kansas Open Meetings Act). Justin Abbott seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. Jeff Yoxall was invited to the executive session. Heidi Struckhoff left the meeting at 7:01pm. The board returned to open session at 7:16pm. Heidi Struckhoff returned to the meeting at 7:16pm.

VI. SELECTION OF MONTHLY MEETING TIME AND DATE: Kathy Holling moved that the second Monday of each month be designated as the regular monthly board meeting day, with a starting time of 7:00pm. Meetings will be held in the Board of Education Room in the Elementary School unless

otherwise scheduled. Tina Dennis seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

VII. ACTION ITEMS:

A. Consent Agenda: Tina Dennis moved to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda, as recommended by Jeff Yoxall:

1. Clerk of the Board: Heidi Struckhoff
2. Treasurer of the Board: Dale Stephens
3. Truancy: Jeff Yoxall, High School; Beth Norris, Elementary/Middle School
4. KPERs: Heidi Struckhoff
5. Title 1 Programs: Jeff Yoxall
6. Title VI, VII, IX, ADA: Beth Norris
7. Section 504: Jeff Yoxall, High School; Beth Norris, Elementary/Middle School
8. F/R Application Hearing Officer: Heidi Struckhoff
9. F/R Application Determining Officer/Food Svc. Rep: Jessica Haney
10. Activity Funds Manager: Jeff Yoxall, High School; Beth Norris, Elementary/Middle School
11. Homeless Children Coordinator: Jeff Yoxall
12. Freedom of Information Officer: Jeff Yoxall
13. Impact Aid Representative: Heidi Struckhoff
14. Designation of Depository of Funds: Farmers National Bank, Kensington/Phillipsburg
15. Designation of District Newspaper: Phillips County Advocate (since consolidation)
16. Waiver of GAAP Accounting Procedure:

WHEREAS the USD 110, Thunder Ridge Schools in Kansas, has determined that the financial statements and financial reports for the year ended June 30, 2026, to be prepared in conformity with the requirements of K.S.A. 75-1120a(a) are not relevant to the requirements of

the cash basis and budget laws of this state and are of no significant value to the USD 110 Thunder Ridge Schools or the members of the general public of USD 110 and

WHEREAS there are no revenue bond ordinances or resolutions, or other ordinances or resolutions of the municipality which require financial statements and financial reports to be prepared in conformity with K.S.A. 75-1120a(a) for the year ended June 30, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by USD 110 of Phillips County, Kansas, in the regular meeting duly assembled this 14th day of July, 2025, that the Board of Education waives the requirements of K.S.A. 75-1120a(a) as they apply to the USD 110 for the year ended June 30, 2026.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT USD 110 shall cause the financial statements and financial reports of the USD 110 Thunder Ridge Schools to be prepared on the basis of cash receipts and disbursements as adjusted to show compliance with the cash basis and budget laws of this State.

18. Mileage Reimbursement: 70 cents/mile

19. Petty Cash Limits: \$1,500

20. Adopt 1116 hour calendar 2025-2026

21. Approve Title 1 Program: Targeted Assistance Program Grades K-8

22. Textbook Rental: \$25 per student

23. Student Fees: \$15 voluntary Activity Fee

24. Milk Price 2025-2026:

All milk: \$0.50

Juice: \$0.25

25. Meal Prices 2025-2026:

Noon Meals: Breakfast: K-8 - \$2.60 K-12 - \$2.00 9-12 - \$2.90

•Continued on page 10

Political Happenings

By Larry Lambert

The views expressed here are solely those of the author.



: West New York Street in Smith Center. Looks like 6" or more of concrete. At one time around 75 years ago this was U.S. Highway 36.

Russia is insisting it achieve its war goals against Ukraine despite President Trump's ultimatum however, a new round of ceasefire has taken place. President Trump has threatened Russia with severe sanctions if there is no ceasefire within 50 days.

Will more trade deals be announced before the August 1st deadline?

President Trump is threatening to intervene if the Washington DC football Commanders don't change their name back to the Redskins. Times are different now.

Newly declassified material confirms that President Obama manufactured and politicized intelligence to create the narrative that Russia was attempting to influence the 2016 Presidential election despite information from the intelligence community stating Russia was not. President Obama reportedly directed staff to ignore intelligence reports that showed Russia was not interfering in the 2016 election and instead craft a report using knowingly false claims of the opposite. Obama's actions on December 9, 2016, were a direct betrayal of the American people, including Hillary Clinton, James Clapper, James Comey, and John Brennan, among others. They disregarded their Constitutional oath. They could not get over the fact that Donald Trump beat Hillary Clinton. There for sure needs to be accountability. This should never happen in this country.

The main stream media is now only downplaying Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard's report of Barack Obama's treasonous type activities during the first Trump Administration. Gabbard released hundreds of pages of evidence.

Is there a connection between the 2022 FBI raid on Mar-a-lago and the need for a Russian collusion investigation?

The Epstein debacle just won't go away. This continues to be in the news. A reflection of the bipartisan uni-party swamp system. The most wealthy and powerful among us on both the left and right are not being held accountable. This leads to lack of trust in our Federal Government. Maybe President Trump is coming around but now a

Florida Judge has declined to unseal Epstein Grand Jury transcripts.

Eternal vigilance is the price of Liberty. Where does Satan want the U.S. in terms of what is true.

The U.S. had a budget surplus in June for the first time in nearly 10 years.

From the time President Trump was elected and President Biden left office, 76 days, \$93 billion or more than twice as much as in the previous 15 years went out the door at the Department of Energy in loans and commitments.

Coca Cola said that it will add a cane sugar version to its U.S. market. Coca Cola has been using high fructose corn syrup for sweetening.

Starting in 2026 children born between 2025 and 2028 will receive a \$1000 Federal deposit into a new Trump account to jump start long term investing.

California has lost 18,000 jobs at fast food industries because they raised the minimum wage to \$20 an hour.

The "One Big Beautiful Bill" goes a long way toward beefing up our military.

Churches are the bedrock foundation of freedom in our country. They should be preaching on this. They should be protected under Constitutional rule of law to have the freedom to do so. Politics is the application of our faith in the community square.

President Trump says he will not fire the Federal Reserve Chairman. Sounds like the Chairman needs to go. In June existing sales of houses we're down 2.7% reversing a prior month gain.

Harvard University wants \$2.6 billion dollars of funding for the University restored. Harvard is a hotbed for liberalism and antisemitism. Why do they get taxpayer funding?

Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern Railroads are in advance merger talks. The new freight service would then stretch from the East Coast to the West coast.

The birth rate in the U.S. has dropped to a record low 1.6 children per woman. In the early 1960s the birth rate was around 3.5.

Inflation is not expected with the new round of tariffs. Inflation hasn't been effected so far.

Gas is usually the cheapest in the Southeast and

Plain states and New England is paying the most for gasoline.

A clarification of the Johnson Amendment. LBJ was having some problems because some Churches in Texas recognized he was less than stellar and were saying so publicly so LBJ concocted this ruse to entice Churches into silence by saying if you will register for this 501c3 status then the Government will grant you tax exemption. The threat has been that if you endorse candidates from the pulpit then you risk losing your tax exempt status. Now the IRS Head Commissioner Billy Long has agreed with the plaintiffs in the lawsuit that the Johnson Amendment cannot be applied to Churches in this way. Churches have the lawful authority that within the scope in houses of worship where Pastors are teaching their congregants and parishioners the Word of God they have the lawful authority to also include electoral politics including this discussing candidates because it is within the framework of what congregations do with there congregants in teaching basically the full council of Gods word. So simply put the IRS admitted in a court filing that in the Church you have the lawful authority to not only discuss politics but candidates from the pulpit.

Kansas has an August 5th primary for municipal elections but it believed a primary is not needed in Smith County.

Ty Masterson, President of the Kansas Senate is running for Kansas Governor. In his newsletter he says "As Governor, I'll keep up my fight to lower taxes. I'll side with law enforcement, not criminals. And I'll push for our educational outcomes to match our investments." Rep. Pat Proctor is running for Kansas Secretary of State.

Kansas Rep. Pat Proctor in his newsletter said " Kansas is a trailblazer in election security. In fact, we are rapidly becoming the "gold standard" across the United States."

Romans 2:7-8 paraphrased. "God rewards us with eternal life either in glory or with punishment based on whether we do righteousness or unrighteousness."

I. CALL TO ORDER: The special meeting of USD #110 was called to order by President Staci Foreman at 5:30pm. Other members present were Kathy Holling, Bridget Wyrill, Justin Abbott, and Tina Dennis. Also present were Jeff Yoxall and Heidi Struckhoff.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL: Staci Foreman moved that the board go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, and the board return to open session at 5:51pm. Heidi Struckhoff returned to the meeting at 5:51pm.

Staci Foreman moved that the board go into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, and the board return to open session at 6:02pm. Justification for the executive session is the

exception relating to non-elected personnel under KOMA (Kansas Open Meetings Act). Bridget Wyrill seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Jeff Yoxall was invited to the executive session. Heidi Struckhoff left the meeting at 5:52pm. The board returned to open session at 6:02pm. Heidi Struckhoff returned to the meeting at 6:02pm.

IV. ADJOURNMENT: Justin Abbott moved to adjourn the meeting. Kathy Holling seconded. Motion carried 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:11pm.

USD#110 Special Meeting