

Riverside School Board meeting

Unofficial minutes By Clerk Vicki Wyatt

The Reorganizational meeting of the Riverside USD 114 Board of Education was held Thursday, July 10, 2025, in the District Office Conference Room, 1409 Vermont, Elwood, KS 66024.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by the president, Erin Shackelford. Members present were vice-president Jennifer Davis, Sue Bartley, Jessica Herbster, Dustin Robinson, Chris Hewins and Barb Derrick (arrived at 5:33 PM). Also present were Jennifer Gatz, Superintendent, Vicki Wyatt, Clerk, Aimee Addington, EC Principal, Joel Euler, attorney, and Leslie Rullman, Technology Director. (Arrived at 5:32 PM) Chris Hewins offered a prayer.

Erin Shackelford read the Mission Statement: Provide a safe environment that equips each student to reach their full potential.

Reorganization of Board for 2025-26:

Jennifer Davis moved and Chris Hewins seconded the motion to approve the resolution to establish election of school board officers. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chris Hewins moved and Jennifer Davis seconded the motion to nominate Erin Shackelford as president of Riverside USD 114 Board of Education for 2025-26. The motion was unanimously approved. Erin Shackelford was unanimously elected president of the Riverside 114 Board of Education for 2025-26.

Sue Bartley made the motion to nominate Dustin Robinson as Vice-President. Dustin Robinson declined the nomination. Jennifer Davis moved and Erin Shackelford seconded the motion to nominate Chris Hewins as vice-president of Riverside USD 114 Board of Education for 2025-26. The motion was unanimously approved. Chris Hewins was unanimously elected vice-president of the Riverside 114 Board of Education for 2025-26.

Jennifer Davis moved and Erin Shackelford seconded the motion to approve the resolution to establish regular meeting dates (second Monday of each month), time (5:30 p.m.), & location (District Office Board Room, 1409 Vermont St., Elwood, KS). The motion was unanimously approved.

Jennifer Davis moved and Jessica Herbster seconded the motion to nominate Sue Bartley and Erin Shackelford as the DCEC Representatives for the 2025-26 school year. The motion was unanimously approved.

Davis moved and Jessica Herbster seconded the motion to adopt the agenda and approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

The consent agenda is listed below:
a. Adopt official depository (Farmers State Bank) K.S.A. 9-1401
b. Adopt 1,116 hour calendar for 2025-26

c. Appoint clerk (Vicki Wyatt)
d. Appoint treasurer (Terry “Bob” Lance)

e. Appoint deputy clerks (Terri Heater & Karla Root)

f. Appoint truancy officers (Aimee Addington, Lynn Laipple, & Jennifer Gatz) K.S.A. 72-3121

g. Appoint KPERS Agent (Vicki Wyatt)

h. Appoint school attorney (Joel Euler)

i. Adopt early payment policy for bills due before the board meets and designate the treasurer to make such payments. (Terry Lance & Jennifer Gatz) K.S.A. 12-105b(c)

j. Designate official newspaper (Kansas Chief) K.S.A 64-101

k. Appoint Freedom of Information Officer (Jennifer Gatz)

l. Appoint Keepers of Records Officers (Vicki Wyatt, Terry Lance, Jennifer Gatz, Aimee Addington, Rashelle Meers, Terri Heater, Karla Root, & Lynn Laipple)

m. Appoint representative for all state & federal programs (Jennifer Gatz)

n. Approve Title I, II, and At-Risk Programs

o. Authorize clerk to destroy records as authorized by K.S.A. 72-1629 & K.S.A. 72-1630.

p. Appoint Homeless Liaisons for homeless children (Shelly Vertin & Korri Paden)

q. Appoint Compliance Director for federal anti-discrimination laws including Title VI, Title VII and Title IX, ADA and Section 504. (Joel Euler, for first 3 and Jennifer Gatz for the last two).

r. Adopt the annual resolution waiver of requirements for generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP Waiver), K.S.A. 75-1120a.

s. Adopt Home Rule Resolution for 25-26.

t. Establish Mileage Reimbursement Rate - \$0.70 PER MILE, K.S.A. 75-3203a

u. Resolution to establish Petty Cash Fund & Limits (\$1,000.00) K.S.A. 72-1177

v. Approve warrant register

w. Approve all financial reports for June 2025

x. Approve minutes of 6-19-25.

y. Appoint Jennifer Gatz as determining official for food service free/reduced lunch applications.

z. Appoint food service authorized representative (Terri Heater)/Approve Food Service Agreement.

aa. Adopt resolution to rescind all policy actions from the previous year and adopt current written policies as those that will govern for the school year.

bb. Adopt resolution to establish activity funds and gate receipts, K.S.A. 72-1178. (East & West Campus)

Additional Consent Agenda items: Approve Agenda, Minutes, Check register & Financial Reports. Approve Waiver of Date

No Public Comments.

No Principal Reports.

DCEC Report-minutes are posted and Sue Bartley shared information that negotiations will be starting on July 15th. Mrs. Gatz shared that the DCEC still has openings for Para positions at Riverside. A short discussion followed.

Mrs. Gatz shared information about the Annual KASB Convention on November 14th-16th and asked if any of the Board of Education Members would like to attend. Sue Bartley and Barb Derrick plan to attend.

Jennifer Gatz presented her Superintendent’s Report as follows:

A. Capital Outlay Projects: Mrs. Gatz thanked the custodial staff for progress on painting, lighting, and new ceiling tiles. Elwood gym floor refinishing and copper pipe projects will start next week.

B. Negotiations: Mrs. Gatz shared that the negotiations team met on July 1st and July 8th, they have finished the process. We are just waiting on the teachers to approve the list of negotiated items. This will be discussed further later in the meeting.

C. Used Vehicle Purchase: Jim Kline’s maintenance truck is having trouble with the starter and has over 100,000 miles. Mrs. Gatz would like to start looking for a used truck. Chris Hewins suggested getting a truck with a 8 ft bed. A short discussion followed.

D. KSDE Conference Presentation: Mrs. Gatz shared that the administration will be presenting on the KESA Alignment process at the KSDE Conference on 7/29/2025.

E. Sink Hole: Mrs. Gatz shared that Jim Kline and MCON have looked at the sink hole on the East Campus. They hope to start working on this next week.

Mrs. Gatz shared the legislative and financial updates: Year End Transfers from General Fund & Supplemental General(LOB). The district will receive approximately \$128,000 in new money due to the increase in the per pupil account. Federal funds are frozen currently for title funds, the superintendents have been told to budget like the district will get those funds, but spend like you don’t have the funds. A short discussion followed.

Mrs. Gatz shared information on some of the policy updates. After a short discussion, Barb Derrick moved and Sue Bartley seconded the motion to approve the policy updates as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Gatz shared information on the CERP Plan. After discussion on the Cardio Emergency Response Plan, Jessica Herbster moved and Barb Derrick seconded the motion to approve the CERP Plan as presented with the additional of the MS/HS nurse to the Safety and Security Team. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Gatz shared information on the Milk Bids received. After a discussion, Jennifer Davis moved and Barb Derrick seconded the motion to approve the Hyland Dairy milk bid. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Gatz shared that we have not received the Food Service Bids yet and asked for board approval to approve a bid based on the rubric outlined by the state food service auditors. After a discussion, Jennifer Davis moved and Barb Derrick seconded the motion to give Mrs. Gatz the approval to use the guidelines to approve a food service bid. The motion was unanimously approved.

After a short discussion, Jennifer Davis moved and Erin Shackelford seconded the motion to set textbook

and other fees for 2025-26. The motion was unanimously approved.

After a short discussion on the RNR and county clerk deadline of July 18th, Jennifer Davis and Barb Derrick made the motion to approve September 8, 2025 for the RNR hearing with the budget hearing to follow. The motion was unanimously approved.

Erin Shackelford then shared information from the negotiation’s meetings:

A. 3.5% Base Salary increase \$44,300 to \$45,851.

B. \$800.00 a month towards insurance (no change)

C. Athletic Salary Schedule High School % changes: Volleyball, Basketball, Football, Wrestling, Cheer Head Coach 10.5% to 11.5%. Assistants for the above 5.5% to 7.5%

D. Athletic Salary Schedule Middle School % changes: Volleyball, Basketball, Football, Wrestling Head Coach to 8% and Assistants to 5%.

E. Athletic Salary Schedule: Add Powerlifting 5%

F. Non-Athletic Supplemental Salary Schedule-Track, Scholars Bowl Judges & Moderators, Forensics Judges \$15.00 per hour.

G. All Nonathletic supplementals will be paid as a percentage of the base salary. Prior staff placed on the nonathletic supplemental schedule will be grandfathered at their current salary with no further advancement.

H. Removed the following clubs: Science, Math, Speech & Drama Club, Quill & Scroll, Art, Business, and Volunteer Coordinator. The Sixth/Seventh Grade sponsors will be deleted in 26-27.

I. The teacher duty days for the school year shall not exceed 180.5 days. The 2025-26 calendar will be updated with the changes.

J. Probationary Process-Deleted

K. Evaluation Process-Added

Jessica Herbster moved and

Chris Hewins seconded the motion to go into executive session to discuss the latest proposal for negotiated agreement changes pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the board room at 6:35 PM. The motion was unanimously approved.

Jennifer Davis moved and Barb Derrick seconded the motion to give the support staff a 3.5% increase for 2025-2026.

The motion was unanimously approved.

Jessica Herbster moved and Jennifer Davis seconded the motion to go into executive session to discuss an individual employee’s performance pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the board room at 6:45 PM and invited Lynn Laipple and Aimee Addington. The motion was unanimously approved.

Davis moved and Barb Derrick seconded the motion increase Substitute pay to daily rate of \$115.00 and long-term daily rate to \$140.00 for 2025-2026. The motion was unanimously approved.

Erin Shackelford moved and Jennifer Davis seconded the motion to extend the executive session to discuss an individual employee’s performance pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the board room at 6:49 PM. The motion was unanimously approved.

The above executive sessions were needed to protect the privacy rights of identifiable individuals. Present were Jennifer Gatz, and Joel Euler unless otherwise noted.

Davis moved and Barb Derrick seconded the motion to approve Annie Jensen as FACS teacher for the 2025-26 school year. The motion was unanimously approved.

Davis moved and Herbster seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Wathena City meeting minutes

Unofficial minutes By Clerk Tammy Bembrick

The Wathena City Council met in session Monday, July 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Wathena City Hall. The meeting was called to order by City Clerk Tammy Bembrick. Mayor John Hontz and Council President Bob Halter were both absent. Council members present were Jarod Jackson, Cory Shue and Bob Ryser. Aaron Cluck arrived at 6:04pm. Bob Ryser was nominated and voted to conduct the meeting by a unanimous vote of Council members present. Prayer was offered by Jarod Jackson. Also present were City Clerk Tammy Bembrick, City Superintendent Tim Smith, Police Chief Dennis Thompson, City Attorney Alan Boeh, Deana Brown, Julie Feldkamp and Melanie Davis.

Motion was made by Cory Shue to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2025 council meeting. Motion failed and tabled until next meeting for approval.

Council reviewed the bills presented for approval by the City Clerk.

Motion was made by Jarod Jackson, second by Cory Shue to approve the bills as listed. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried.

There were 2 building permits submitted for approval. Robert Long of 104 St. Joseph Street to install a 10x16 cover for an existing deck, and Ron Gabriel of 509 Fremont, to place a 10x12 storage shed.

Motion was made by Cory Shue, second by Aaron Cluck to approve all three building permits as submitted. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried.

Deana Brown approached Council concerning a nuisance citation she had recently received from the City for her property at 805 Sherman. Discussion followed. Reaching no solution, council deferred it to municipal court to be resolved.

Police Chief Dennis Thompson presented the police department activity report to Council and discussed the following items: the activity report, hiring another part time officer, several out of the ordinary cases recently, State traffic campaigns such as seatbelts and an no issues with 4th of July fireworks or celebrations. Discussion followed.

City Superintendent Tim Smith presented the maintenance department activ-

ity report to Council and discussed the following items: Activity report, installing new water meters, Approved Paving bid for 169th Road, Asplundh tree trimming around the city, lease purchase options for a new bucket truck, purchasing new electric meters for installation and inventory and status of waterline replacement project along Harding Avenue. Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Aaron Cluck, second by Jarod Jackson to approve the bid from Approved Paving in the amount of \$9,400.00 for chip & seal to be put on 169th Road from 36 Highway to the gate at the end of City property. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Cory Shue, second by Aaron Cluck to accept the bid from Asplundh in the amount of \$8,982.00 for tree trimming around primary lines within the city. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried.

Council discussed the following with the City Attorney: Resolution to designate the Pony Express Scenic By-Way within the City limits and the property condition of 2210 Highway 36, as well as zoning issue concerning the residential land use.

Council discussed the following with the City Clerk: 2026 budget and Revenue Neutral Rate projections, bidding out materials for ballfield lighting, rules and process of starting a sidewalk repair/replacement cost sharing program and status of the Wathena Park Homes water meters. Discussion followed.

Motion was made by Jarod Jackson, second by Cory Shue to approve the submission of a Revenue Neutral Rate of 20.668 to the County Clerk. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried.

The Council discussed the following items: Scope of work for renovating the east portion of City Hall, status of letters sent to the State regarding highway markings, Highway 36 sidewalk project near completion, first floor residential on main street properties and status of 401 Benton nuisance property. Discussion followed.

There being no further business, motion was made by Cory Shue, second by Aaron Cluck to adjourn the meeting. Vote – unanimous. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:52pm.

(First published in the Kansas Chief July 31, 2025)

NOTICE OF HEARING TO EXCEED THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE AND BUDGET HEARING 2025-2026 BUDGET

The governing body of Highland Community College in Doniphan will meet on August 20th, 2025 at 6:30 PM at 606 W Main St, Highland, KS 66035, Admin Conference Room for the purpose of answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds, and the amount of the revenue neutral rate, and to consider amendments. Detailed budget information is available at Highland Community College and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

The Expenditures and the Amount of 2025 Tax to be Levied (as shown below) establish the maximum limits of the 2025-2026 budget. The "Est. Tax Rate" in the far right column, shown for comparative purposes, is subject to change depending on final assessed valuation.

	2023-2024		2024-2025		Proposed Budget 2025-2026		
	Actual Expend. & Transfers	Actual Tax Rate*	Actual Expend. & Transfers	Actual Tax Rate*	Budgeted Expend. & Transfers	Amount of 2025 Tax to be Levied	Est. Tax Rate*
Current Funds Unrestricted							
General Fund	14,812,665		15,807,069		17,253,318	2,834,393	18.447
Postsecondary Tech Ed	4,785,046		4,242,581		4,528,081	xxxxxxx	xxx
Adult Education	181,798		164,918		132,306	0	0.000
Adult Supp Education	0	xxx	0	xxx	0	xxxxxxx	xxx
Motorcycle Driver	0	xxx	0	xxx	0	xxxxxxx	xxx
Truck Driver Training	0	xxx	0	xxx	0	xxxxxxx	xxx
Auxiliary Enterprise	2,976,694	xxx	2,832,282	xxx	3,183,363	xxxxxxx	xxx
Plant Funds		xxx		xxx		xxxxxxx	xxx
Capital Outlay	0		146,428		105,500	158,250	1.030
Bond and Interest	0		0		0	0	0.000
Special Assessment	0		0		0	0	0.000
No Fund Warrants	0		0		0	0	0.000
Revenue Bonds	0	xxx	0	xxx	0	xxxxxxx	xxx
Total All Funds	22,756,203	0.000	23,193,278	0.000	25,202,567	xxxxxxx	19.477
Revenue Neutral Rate**							16.477
Total Tax Levied	2,139,659		2,531,619		xxxxxxx	2,992,644	
Assessed Valuation	158,223,711		155,868,703		153,648,977		

Outstanding Indebtedness, July 1

	2023	2024	2025
G.O. Bonds			
Capital Outlay Bonds			
Revenue Bonds			
No-Fund Warrants			
Temporary Notes			
Lease Purchase Principal	3,843,608	3,824,728	3,291,271
Total	3,843,608	3,824,728	3,291,271


Highland Community College, Chairman,
Board of Trustees

* Tax Rates are expressed in mills.

**Revenue Neutral Rate as defined by
KSA 79-2988