

Riverside School Board meeting

**Unofficial minutes
By Clerk Vicki Wyatt**

The Revenue Neutral Tax Rate Hearing of the Riverside USD 114 Board of Education was held Monday, September 8, 2025, in the Board Room of the District Office in Elwood for the purpose of discussing exceeding the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate for the 2025-26 school year.

Erin Shackelford moved and Jessica Herbster seconded the motion to call the RNR hearing to order at 5:00 PM. The motion was unanimously approved. Members present were Erin Shackelford, president, Christopher Hewins, vice-president, Sue Bartley, Barb Derrick, Jessica Herbster, and Jennifer Davis. Dustin Robinson was absent. Also present were Jennifer Gatz, Superintendent, Vicki Wyatt, Clerk, Joel Euler, Attorney, and Aimee Addington, EC Principal.

Jennifer Gatz shared the 2025-2026 Revenue Neutral Tax Rate information and resolution that states that the district needs to exceed the RNR of 3.575 on Capital Outlay. Taxes levied in 2024-25 was \$1,871,455 to 2025-26 \$1,838,033. Even when exceeding the RNR of 3.575 and passing a mill rate of 3.60 on Capital Outlay, the Supplemental Mill rate will drop from 20.278 to 19.254, an overall decrease of 1.024 Mills. The General Fund will stay at 20.00 Mills, by state law it will stay at this level. The overall mills will be reduced from 43.878 in 2024-25 to 42.854 for the 2025-26 fiscal year budget. Mrs. Gatz shared additional explanations and a discussion followed where Jennifer Davis voiced opposing views and Erin Shackelford stated we need an updated five-year plan of capital outlay projects.

After a discussion, the resolution No. 2025-10 exceeding the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate of 3.575 mills for Capital Outlay for the 2025-26 budget was voted on. The resolution failed with a roll call vote of, yes-1 (Bartley) no-5 (Davis, Derrick, Hewins, Herbster, and Shackelford). A discussion followed on how to handle the RNR failing. The superintendent and clerk will call KSDE to find out proper procedures going forward.

Jennifer Davis moved and Chris Hewins seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.

The RNR Hearing was adjourned at 5:27 PM.

The Budget Hearing of the Riverside USD 114 Board of Education was held Monday, September 8, 2025, in the Board Room of the District Office in Elwood for the purpose of hearing public comment on the adoption of the 2025-2026 budget.

Erin Shackelford moved and Jennifer Davis seconded the motion to call the budget hearing to order at 5:27 PM. The motion was unanimously approved. Members present were Erin Shackelford, president, Christopher Hewins, vice-president, Sue Bartley, Barb Derrick, Jessica Herbster, and Jennifer Davis. Dustin Robinson was absent. Also present were Jennifer Gatz, Superintendent, Vicki Wyatt, BOE Clerk, Joel Euler, Attorney, and Aimee Addington, EC Principal.

Jennifer Gatz shared the 2025-2026 Budget documents. The overall mills will be reduced from 43.878 in 2024-25 to 42.854 for the 2025-26 fiscal year budget, less the Capital Outlay 0.025 mills from failed RNR. In deciding the budget priorities and allocation of budget funds, the needs assessment is considered. The needs assessment is based on the analysis of state assessment results and other data sources by building and district leadership teams and was discussed with the Board of Education throughout the 24-25 school year. A short discussion followed.

Davis moved and Jessica seconded the motion to adjourn. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 PM. The regular meeting of the Riverside USD 114 Board of Education was held Monday, September 8, 2026, in the District Office Conference Room, 1409 Vermont, Elwood, KS 66024.

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 PM by the president, Erin Shackelford. Members present were vice-president Christopher Hewins, Sue Bartley, Jessica Herbster, Dustin Robinson, and Jennifer Davis. Dustin Robinson was absent. Also present were Jennifer Gatz, Superintendent, Vicki Wyatt, BOE Clerk, Joel Euler, Attorney, and Aimee Addington, EC Principal.

Chris Hewins offered a prayer. Erin Shackelford read the mission statement: Provide a safe environment that equips each student to reach their

full potential.

Jennifer Davis moved and Erin Shackelford seconded the motion to adopt the agenda and approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

No public comments.

President Erin Shackelford asked if everyone had seen the Principals Reports and had questions for them. Davis had several questions about the FastBridge Screening & MTSS, homecoming, and enrollment. Mrs. Gatz shared information about fees. A discussion followed about homecoming concerns.

DCEC Report-minutes are posted and Sue Bartley shared the DCEC has had more Para resignations. Discussion followed about potential reasons including: not a 40-hour week, low wages, and no health insurance offered.

No other information and announcements.

Jennifer Davis moved and Barb Derrick seconded the motion to adopt the 2025-26 USD 114 Budget as published with the change of not exceeding the RNR rate on the Capital Outlay Fund. The motion passed unanimously. The needs assessment has been reviewed throughout the 2024-25 school year.

Shackelford moved and Herbster seconded the motion to approve resolution No. 2025-11 adoption of local option percentage in the amount of 32.3% for the 2025-26 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

Gatz presented her Superintendent's Report as follows: Student Success:

A. Capturing Kids Hearts: Mrs. Gatz shared that they had the professional development at the beginning of the school in-service days. The students and staff are seeing a change in the school culture. The administration will have monthly and quarterly huddles.

B. Enrollment Update: Mrs. Gatz shared preliminary enrollment updates: Grades Pre-K -2nd =170, Grades 3rd-5th =130, Grades 6th-8th =139, Grades 9th-12th =192, Virtual=2. Preliminary total of 633 students.

C. ALWAYS School Mental Health: the district will have a mental health provider working with students later this month. Parent permission will be required. Mrs. Gatz shared this is a service for our students and community.

Engaging Culture:
A. T-Mobile Friday 5G Lights Update: Mrs. Gatz thanked everyone who has been tagging and highlighting the amazing things happening in our district and community for getting Riverside involved. The finalists are expected to be announced around September 25th. Discussion/brainstorming followed.

B. Site Council: List of site council members will be shared at the next meeting.

Facilities & Resources
A. Gym Floor Update: Mrs. Gatz shared a letter from Hillyard and the plan to fix the issue and stated that the ding in the floor from the volleyball standards has been repaired.

B. Maintenance Truck: Mrs. Gatz is still working on finding a 4x4 maintenance truck.

C. Bus Purchase: The new bus has arrived and been sent to a couple of events. Mrs. Gatz is working on finishing up the grant requirements in order to receive the 25% purchase price grant reimbursement.

Chris Hewins left the meeting at 6:15 PM.

Mrs. Gatz stated that there is nothing new to report on financial and legislative.

Mrs. Gatz shared an overnight request from Mr. Cera for his students of SAFE/SADD. After a short discussion, Jennifer Davis moved and Barb Derrick seconded the motion to allow the SAFE/SADD overnight request. The motion was unanimously approved.

Herbster moved and Davis seconded the motion go into executive session for 10 minutes 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 6:29 PM. The motion was unanimously approved.

Herbster moved and Jennifer Davis seconded the motion to extend the executive session 5 minutes 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 6:36 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



Mustangs Shine at Nemaha Central Invitational

By Chris Lackey

After missing the Hiawatha meet on September 18 due to heavy rain, the Doniphan West cross country team was eager to return to competition. They did just that on Thursday, September 25, at the Nemaha Central Invitational held at Spring Creek Golf Course in Seneca.

Senior Belle Smith continued her outstanding season, placing 2nd in the varsity girls' race with a time of 21:57. In the junior varsity girls' division, Alexis Crawley finished 8th in 31:47, adding another top-ten finish for the Mustangs.

On the boys' side, freshman Jackson Cole led the way with a 9th-place varsity finish in 18:45, securing another medal. He was followed by Bronson Koehler (24th, 20:14) and Derek Blanton (40th, 21:27). In the junior varsity boys' race, Graysen Goodpaster placed 7th in 24:10, while Kalvin Pottorf finished 15th in 25:53.

It was another strong outing that highlighted both veteran leadership and young talent, as the Mustangs showed depth across varsity and JV divisions.

The team will now turn their attention to upcoming meets as they continue to build toward postseason competition.

Photo: Senior Belle Smith powers through the course at Nemaha Central, finishing 2nd in the varsity girls' race with a time of 21:57.



The Doniphan West Mustang defense lines up against Valley Heights during the varsity home opener at Schroeder Field.

Mustangs Split Week: JV Earns Win, Varsity Falls at Home

By Chris Lackey

The Doniphan West HS junior varsity squad picked up another strong victory on Monday, September 15, at Schroeder Field. The Mustangs topped Pleasant Ridge 40-22, building confidence in their second outing of the season and giving fans plenty to cheer about.

On Friday, September 19, the varsity Mustangs faced Valley Heights under the lights for their home opener. In a matchup of two teams carrying the Mustang mascot, Doniphan West battled hard but ultimately came up short, falling 14-33. Despite the loss, Doniphan West showed flashes of determination and continues to grow early in the season.

Mustangs Continue to Battle in Road Matchup at Valley Heights

The Doniphan West Junior High Mustangs traveled to Valley Heights on Thursday, September 18, for their third game of the season. The Mustangs fought hard but came up short, falling 12-44.

Doniphan West found the end zone twice in the contest, showing progress on the offensive side of the ball. Despite the final score, the team continues to gain valuable experience and remains focused on steady improvement each week.

Mustangs Collect Wins in C-Team Quad and Valley Heights Triangular

By Chris Lackey

The Doniphan West volleyball program turned in another strong week of competition with big performances across all levels.

September 22 – The C-Team hosted Horton, Hiawatha, and Jackson Heights in Highland and came away with a perfect 3-0 night. The Mustangs swept Jackson Heights 25-21, 25-18, then handled Hiawatha 25-16, 25-16. They capped off the evening with a 25-15, 25-19 victory over Horton, showcasing balanced play and consistent execution.

September 23 – The Lady Mustangs traveled to Blue Rapids for a triangular against Valley Heights and Clifton Clyde. After falling to Valley Heights 14-25, 14-25, D-West rebounded with an impressive win over Clifton Clyde, 25-17, 25-18. The JV squad also turned in strong results, rallying past Valley Heights in three sets (17-25, 25-21, 17-15) and sweeping Clifton Clyde 25-21, 25-10.

On Saturday, October 4, Doniphan West will host the JV Volleyball Tournament, while the Varsity team heads to Riverside East Campus for the Varsity Tournament.

unless otherwise noted.

Davis moved and Herbster seconded the motion to approved Danny Rials as a custodian effective September 2nd. The motion was unanimously approved.

Davis moved and Shackelford seconded the motion to recess for the East Campus tour at 6:38 PM. The motion was unanimously approved. Herbster stated her list of questions



Doniphan West JH Cross Country

First row: RayLynn Grippando, Mya Hennigan, Hadisyn Idol. Second row: Thea Idol, Jace Thompson, Tristan Zent, Ariel Koehler. Third row: head coach Courtney Wolvington, Eli Freeman, Jagger Edie, Ian Johnson, assistant coach Carl Johnson. Not pictured: Kohl Zent.

Riverside Calendar

Oct. 2 - 3:00/5:00 MS/HS CC at Hummer Sports Park, Topeka; 4:30 MS VB at Everest; 6:30 MS FB vs. Everest at Horton

Oct. 3 - 7:00 HS FB at Horton

Oct. 4 - 9:00 HS VB JV at Don. West Tournament; 9:00 HS VB Varsity at Riverside Tournament; 9:00 MS VB NEKL at JCN

Oct. 6 - 4:00 MS CC NEKL at Jackson Hts.; 6:00 HS JV FB vs. Oskaloosa home

Oct. 7 - 5:00 HS VB Riverside, ACCHS at Oskaloosa

Oct. 8 - 4:30 C-team VB at Valley Falls

Oct. 9 - 4:00 HS CC at Sabetha; 5:00 HS VB vs. Valley Falls home



The Doniphan West Mustang defense lines up against the Centralia Panthers during varsity action on September 26 at Highland Community College.

Mustangs Look to Bounce Back After Centralia Matchup

By Chris Lackey

The Doniphan West Mustangs continued their 2025 football season with a challenging varsity contest on Friday, September 26, at Highland Community College. Facing the Centralia Panthers, the Mustangs struggled to generate offensive momentum and fell by a final score of 0-30. Despite the setback, Doniphan West showed determination on defense, working to slow down a disciplined Centralia attack.

On the junior varsity side, the Mustangs' September 22 game at Valley Heights was postponed and rescheduled for October 13. The JV team will next take the field on Monday, September 29, when they head to Centralia.

Looking ahead, the varsity Mustangs will travel to Troy on Friday, October 3, for a rivalry matchup against the Trojans as they continue to battle through their season schedule.

Troy HS Football

By Derek Jasper

September 26, 2025: Horton: 0-0-0-14=14; TROY: 6-20-12-0=38.
Scoring Summary: 1Q: T-Caden Rosenberger 16 yard pass from Kaston Jasper (pass fail). 2Q: T-Colt Jensen 1 yard pass from Jasper (pass fail); T-Sawyer Ashburn 83 yard pass from Jasper (run fail); T-Colt Jensen 5 yard pass from Jasper (Rosenberger pass). 3Q: T-Caden Rosenberger 48 yard pass from Jasper (run fail); T-Colt Jensen 26 yard pass from Jasper (pass fail). 4Q: H-Thomas 90 yard interception return (Chartier run); H-Gaskell 50 yard interception return (run fail).

Turnovers: Troy 0, Horton 2 (2 interceptions)

Team Stats: Rushing: Troy 9-30; Horton 19-34; Passing: Troy 26-45-411; Horton 3-9-14.

Troy Individual Stats: Rushing: Tucker Jarrett 2-7, Lane Hartman 2-15, Bryer Ferris 1-11, Ripken Whetstine 2-6, Jack Nelson 2-3.

Passing: Kaston Jasper 23-38-385-6 TD-0 INT, Ripken Whetstine 3-7-26-2 INT.

Receiving: Caden Rosenberger 8-113, Colt Jensen 10-138, Sawyer Ashburn 2-84, Lane Hartman 3-39, Riley Grable 2-26, Gavin Woodruff 1-11.

Defense-tackles (other): Jace Johnson 1, Caden Rosenberger 5, Tucker Jarrett 4, Colt Jensen (1 INT), Lane Hartman (1 INT), Bryer Ferris 1, Sawyer Ashburn 1, Marcus McKittrick 6, Ty Horner 4, Henry Geiger 4, Masson Kessler 8.

Mustang JH Cross Country Shines at Nemaha Central & JCN

The Doniphan West junior high cross country team continued their strong season with impressive showings at Nemaha Central on September 25 and Jefferson County North (JCN) on September 27.

Nemaha Central – Sept. 25 at the Spring Creek Golf Course in Seneca, the Mustang girls ran to a 2nd place team finish.

Thea Idol – 6th – 14:11; Hadisyn Idol – 7th – 14:14; RayLynn Grippando – 9th – 14:21; Mya Hennigan – 22nd – 15:18; Ariel Koehler – 24th – 15:31.

On the boys' side, Jagger Edie led the way with a 13th-place finish in 13:05. Ian Johnson, Jace Thompson, and Tristan Zent rounded out the team effort.

Jefferson County North – Sept. 27 the Mustangs followed up with another strong performance in Nortonville.

7th Grade Girls: Hadi Idol – 1st (15:57, new course record!), Thea Idol – 2nd (15:58), and Mya Hennigan – 3rd (17:29) swept the podium.

7th Grade Boys: Jagger Edie – 1st (14:41, course record!), Jace Thompson – 5th, Tristan Zent – 12th.

8th Grade Boys: Ian Johnson – 5th, Kohl Zent – 15th.

With those results, the Mustangs claimed 2nd place overall as a team. The team now turns its focus to their next competition at Horton on Thursday, October 2.