



USD #417
Morris County BOE
Meeting Notes

The USD #417 Board of Education met Monday, September 14, 2026 at the District Office.

The board passed a resolution to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate followed by the Budget Hearing. Several patrons spoke and asked questions during the hearing.

Of particular interest locally during the September regular meeting was the discussion of the possible closure of Prairie Heights Elementary School in Alta Vista. This was only a discussion item after the superintendent reviewed a summary of school facilities, enrollment, cost per pupil ratio and financial details per building.

Student spotlight included spring and summer state medalists. Students and sponsors recognized during the meeting included Kyler Rose, Macey Hensley, Laramie Mayer, Haylee Nielsen and their sponsor Taylor Green.

- FFA recognition included:
- Macey Hensley, 2nd in state in prepared public speaking LDE with her speech, “Where are the Vets?”
 - Castyn Andres received her state FFA degree.
 - The horse judging team (Castyn Andres, Macey Hensley, Haylee Nielsen and Laramie Mayer) was 5th out of 44 teams in the state.
 - The livestock judging team: Macey Hensley was 6th and Castyn Andres was 8th individually out of 326 contestants. Haylee Nielsen and Laramie Mayer were also on the team.
 - The ag mechanics team placed 11th out of 54 teams.
 - Kyler Rose was 12th placing him as a “Gold Division” finisher and Cooper Andres was 22nd, putting him in the “Silver Division”. Drake Moses was also on the team.

State Track & Field recognition: Logan Stockwell - 7th in the 110 hurdles and 6th in the 300 hurdles
Matt Wilkens was recognized for being named the Kansas Baseball Coaches Association 3A Coach of the Year.

Everyday Difference Makers for September were: Danielle Blue, CGES 2nd Grade Teacher, was “Elementary Difference Maker”; Kymbr Simmons, CGJSHS Music Teacher, was recognized for Secondary Difference Maker and Dawn Hershberger, PreK & SPED route driver was recognized for Classified Employee Difference Maker.

Joe Fricilone of Council Grove spoke in favor of BA Therapy and Third Party MOU in Open Forum.
Discussion items included:
• Valerie Gehr, director of teaching, presented information on Kindergarten Readiness results
• Danielle Blue and Lena Gosnell presented on the NCTM/NCTE join conference

Danielle Blue was recognized as being named Teacher of Promise by WSU

- Early Childhood task Force recognition from Child Care Aware as a Child Care Community Champion
- Discussion on policies CEA, CEB, CEC and CEE

Future district facilities discussion included Jeremy Niederwerder of Switchgrass presented on the capital outlay workbook for project tracking and budget forecast along with Supt. Eslinger’s report.

- Action items included:
- Approval of the addition of an early graduate for 2027
 - Monthly policy review of policies CA, CB, CC and CE
 - Official adoption of the 2026-2027 USD #417 Budget

- Adoption of the LOB resolution
- Approval of the contract with Emergent 3 for the School Safety App in the amount of \$7,500.
- Adoption of Third Party Best Practices and Third Party Service Provider MOU

Jessica Rohloff, Patty Talley and Travis Schweger were appointed to the high school schedule committee
• Approval of employment for: Kymbr Simmons (assistant play, instrumental music, vocal music and assistant musical sponsor) and Deron Reddick (FBLA sponsor)

Resignation was approved for Karla McNeese (CGES cook)
Retirement approved was Kent Gant (High School Math teacher at the conclusion of the 2026-2027 contract year)

There was one executive session regarding student information with action taken and two executive sessions regarding personnel with action taken.

Good news by board members:
Travis Schweger - CGHS football defeated Osage City for the first time in a decade. On Saturday at ESU, several CG alumni participated in the football, dance and cheer teams.
Kelsey Hartman - CGHS football team is ranked #1 and will be fun to watch.

Jessica Rohloff - emphasized appreciation for the healthcare staff in the schools and taking care of the students.

Patty Talley shared appreciation for Matt Weaver and the bus drivers
James Blue appreciated that the roof project is wrapping up and there are new air conditioners

TinaRae Scott - Mentioned that several of the district’s students are participating in the state fair.

Next meeting of the USD #417 Board of Education will be on Monday, October 12, at 6 pm at the district office in Council Grove.

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**Education is a fundamental human right that shapes societies, drives economic growth, and fosters lifelong learning.**

**Local Sports,**

cont. from pg. 4

Stroda for a 30 yd TD pass, while they teamed up for another 15 yd pass to set us up in good position.

Evan Tate added another 42 yds on 6 carries. Brighton Lorson added another 15 yds on 2 carries.

Dalton Davidson was credited with 3 completions for 55 yds through the air.

Defensively the Heat was led by Evan Tate recording 8 tackles and 4 assists while Stroda contributed 6 tackles, 1 assist and 1 SAC dropping the Bulldogs with a 10 yd loss leading to their only punt of the game.

August Carson had the only interception of the game, returning it 35 yards only to have some of the yardage lost due to a block in the back penalty and was credited with 2 solo tackles.

Dalton Davidson provided 6 tackles with 2 assists and David Anderson tossed in 2 tackles with 1 assist. Keegan Hoff added 4 tackles from the defensive end position while Josh and Jameson Lault contributed with 2 tackles and 2 assists each.

Next up for the JV will be Monday, September 28 at White City vs Cair Paravel followed by October 12 at White City vs Burlingame and finally on October 19 at Hope vs Lebo.

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ORDINANCE NO. 1092  
AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE OWNERSHIP AND KEEPING OF FOWL  
IN THE CITY OF ALTA VISTA, KANSAS  
AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF ALTA VISTA, KANSAS:

**SECTION 1.** There shall hereafter be an additional Article added to Chapter II of the Code of the City of Alta Vista. Such Article shall be Article 5 and shall be entitled: **FOWL**.

**SECTION 2.** Section 2-501 shall be added to the Code and shall read as follows: “PERMIT. Any person wishing to keep fowl within the City Limits of Alta Vista shall file an application to do so with the Public Officer. Such application will then be reviewed by the Public Officer who will either grant or deny the permit. If a permit is granted, the cost of such permit shall be five dollars (\$5.00). A permit shall allow the owner thereof to own no more than 6 female chickens, 3 ducks and 15 quail. Permits are non-transferable and shall not run with the land. All tenants are required to present a letter of written permission from the land owner prior to a permit being granted. Permits will be granted only for property whose primary use is for a single-family dwelling. Applicants must also pay a fifteen dollar (\$15.00) building permit fee along with the application fee. An annual five dollar (\$5.00) fee is required to keep the permit current.”

**SECTION 3.** Section 2-502 shall be added to the Code and shall read as follows: “GENDER OF FOWL. Only female chickens, ducks or quail shall be allowed within the city, with no limitation on species. **(NO ROOSTERS ALLOWED)**.”

**SECTION 4.** Section 2-503 shall be added to the Code and shall read as follow: “HENHOUSE”. Henhouses shall be provided for all chickens kept within the city and shall be designed to provide safe and healthy living conditions for the chickens while minimizing the adverse impacts to city residents. All henhouses shall be well maintained. All henhouse structures shall be enclosed on all sides and have a roof and doors. All henhouse access doors must be able to be shut and locked at night. Windows and vents must be covered with predator-proof and bird-proof wire containing less than one (1) inch openings. Chicken wire/fencing is allowed for henhouse/coop purposes only.”

“QUAIL ENCLOSURE”. Quail enclosures shall be provided for all quail kept within the city and shall be designed to provide safe and healthy living conditions for the quail while minimizing the adverse impacts to city residents. All quail enclosures shall be well maintained. The quail enclosure should be one (1) square foot per bird, minimum 4ftx4ft for up to 15 quail. The height of the pen to be no more than sixteen (16) inches and the structure should be covered in hardware cloth.

“DUCK PEN”. Duck pens shall be provided for all ducks kept within the city and shall be designed to provide safe and healthy living conditions for the ducks while minimizing the adverse impacts to city residents. All duck pens shall be well maintained. Duck pens shall be provided for all ducks with a minimum 4ftx4ft house and a minimum run of 6ftx8ft.

**SECTION 5.** Section 2-504 shall be added to the Code and shall read as follows: “CHICKEN PENS. Enclosed chicken pens shall be provided for all chickens kept within the city. Such pens must be made of sturdy wire fencing, aviary netting or solid roofing.

**SECTION 6.** Section 2-505 shall be added to the Code and shall read as follows: “SANITARY CONDITIONS. All henhouses, chicken pens, quail enclosures and duck pens shall be kept clean, dry, and odor-free and in a sanitary condition at all times. All henhouses, chicken pens, quail enclosures and duck pens shall also be constructed and repaired to prevent rats, mice or other rodents from being underneath or within such structures. All feed and other items associated with the keeping of chickens, quail and ducks that are likely to attract or to become infested with or infected by rats, mice or other rodents shall be protected so as to prevent rats, mice or other rodents from gaining access to or coming into contact with them.”

**SECTION 7.** Section 2-506 shall be added to the Code and shall read as follows: “MANURE. Provision must be made for the storage and removal of chicken, quail and duck manure. All stored manure shall be covered by a fully enclosed structure with a roof or lid over the entire structure. All manure not properly stored and not used for composting or fertilizing on the premises shall be removed.”

**SECTION 8.** Section 2-507 shall be added to the Code and shall read as follows: “LOCATION OF FOWL; SLAUGHTERING. FOWL must be kept within a henhouse, chicken pen, quail enclosure or duck pens at all times. No fowl may be slaughtered within the limits of the city.”

**SECTION 9.** Section 2-508 shall be added to the Code and shall read as follows: “LOCATION OF HEN HOUSES, CHICKEN PENS, QUAIL ENCLOSURE and DUCK PENS. No henhouse, chicken pen, quail enclosure or duck pen shall be located closer than 10 feet to any property line or any adjacent property. All henhouses, chicken pens, quail enclosures and duck pens must be located at least 25 feet from the nearest neighbor’s residence. All henhouses, chicken pens, quail enclosures and duck pens shall be located in the backyard of the residence at issue. “Backyard”, as used in the Section, shall mean that area of a lot that is located between the back of a house and the rear property line.”

**SECTION 10.** Section 2-509 shall be added to the Code and shall read as follows: “REVOCATION AND DENIAL OF PERMITS. A permit to keep chickens, quail or ducks within the City may be denied or revoked by the Public Officer where there is a risk to public health or safety or for any violation or failure to comply with any provisions of this Article. In the event that a person, corporation, partnership or association have chickens, quail or ducks at large during the normal city hours, the city clerk will contact the owner by phone to locate chickens, quail or ducks and return them back to the chicken pen, quail enclosure or duck pen. The owner has 24 hours to get the chickens, quail or ducks back in the pen from the time they have been notified by phone. In the event the permit holder has at least 6 complaints of chickens, quail or ducks at large in 1 calendar year, the governing body will request the henhouse/pen be inspected by the public officer to make improvements. Any denial or revocation shall be in writing and shall include notification of the right to appeal as set forth in this Article.”

**SECTION 11.** Section 2-510 shall be added to the Code and shall read as follows: “NOTICE: Any person, corporation, partnership or association found by the Public Officer to be in violation of any provision of this Article or any such person, corporation, partnership or association who has been denied a permit or had a permit revoked, shall be served a notice of such violation, denial or revocation. The notice shall be served on the owner or agent of the owner of the property at issue by restricted mail or by personal service, or if the property is unoccupied and the owner is a nonresident of the city, then by mailing the notice by restricted mail to the last known address of the owner.”

**SECTION 12.** Section 2-511 shall be added to the Code and shall read as follows: “SAME; CONTENTS. The notice shall state the condition(s) which is (are) in violation of the provisions of this Article. The notice shall also inform the person, corporation, partnership or association that:

- (a) He, she or they shall have 10 days from the date of serving the notice to abate the condition(s) in violation of the provisions of this Article; or
- (b) He, she or they have 10 days from the date of serving the notice to request a hearing before the governing body as provided by section 2-514;
- (c) Failure to abate the condition(s) or to request a hearing within the time allowed may result in prosecution as provided by section 2-512 and/or abatement of the condition(s) by the city as provided by section 2-513”

**SECTION 13.** Section 2-512 shall be added to the Code and shall read as follows: “FAILURE OF COMPLY; PENALTY. Should the person, corporation, partnership or association fail to comply with the notice to abate the conditions that are in violation of this Article or request a hearing, the Public Officer may file a complaint in the municipal court of the city against such person, corporation, partnership or association and upon conviction of any violation of provisions of this Article, such person, corporation, partnership or association, as appropriate, may be fined in an amount not to exceed \$100 or be imprisoned not to exceed 30 days or be both fined and imprisoned. Each day during or on which a violation occurs or continues after notice has been serviced shall constitute an additional or separate offense.”

**SECTION 14.** Section 2-513 shall be added to the Code and shall read as follows: “ABATEMENT. In addition to, or as an alternative to prosecution as provided in Section 2-512, the Public Officer may seek to remedy violations of this Section in the following manner. If a person to whom a notice has been sent to pursuant to section 2-510 has neither alleviated the conditions causing the alleged violation nor requested a hearing before the governing body within the time periods specified in section 2-511, the Public Officer may present a resolution to the governing body for adoption authorizing the public officer or other agents of the city to abate the conditions causing the violation at the end of 10 days after passage of the resolution. The resolution shall further provide that the costs incurred by the city shall be charged against the lot or parcel of round on which the violating conditions were located as provided in Section 2-515. A copy of the resolution shall be served upon the person in violation in one of the following ways:

- (a) Personal service upon the person in violation;
- (b) Service by restricted mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested; or
- (c) In the event there whereabouts of such person are unknown and the same cannot be ascertained in the exercise of reasonable diligence, an affidavit to that effect shall be made by the public officer and filed with the city clerk, and the serving of the resolution shall be made by publishing the same once each week for two consecutive weeks in the official city newspaper and by posting a copy of the resolution on the premises where such condition exists.”

**SECTION 15.** Section 2-514 shall be added to the Code and shall read as follows: “HEARING. If a hearing is requested within the 10 day period as provided in section 2-511, such request shall be made in writing to the governing body. Failure to make a timely request for a hearing shall constitute a waiver of the person’s right to contest the findings of the public officer before the governing body. The hearing shall be held by the governing body as soon as possible after filing of the request therefore, and the person shall be advised by the city of the time and place of the hearing at least five days in advance thereof. At any such hearing, the person may be represented by counsel, and the person and the city may introduce such witnesses and evidence as is deemed necessary and proper by the governing body. The hearing need not be conducted according to the formal rules of evidence. Upon conclusion of the hearing, the governing body shall record its determination of the matter by means of adopting a resolution and serving the resolution upon the person in the manner proved in section 2513.”

**SECTION 16.** Section 2-515 shall be added to the Code and shall read as follows: “COSTS ASSESSED. If the city abates any condition in violation of this Article, the cost of abatement shall be charged against the lot or parcel of ground on which the violating conditions were located. The city clerk shall, at the time of certifying other taxes to the county clerk, certify the costs as provided in this Section. The county clerk shall extend the same on the tax roll and it shall be collected by the county treasurer and paid to the city as other city taxes are collected and paid.”

**SECTION 17.** REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES. Any ordinance or parts of ordinances of the City of Alta Vista, Kansas, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

**SECTION 18.** This ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the official city newspaper as provided by law.  
PASSED by the Council this 17th day of August, 2026.

Ryan Armbrust, Mayor

ATTEST:  
Pamela M. McDiffett, City Clerk

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