

BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

Blue Valley Unified School District No. 229

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Monday, September 14, 2026, 5:30 PM

Board of Education Room, District Office, 15020 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS 66223

A. OPENING ITEMS.

1. Pledge of Allegiance.

Presented by Kaci Brutto, Chief Communications Officer

The Pledge of Allegiance will be led by Eric Muilenburg, a 5th-grade student from Indian Valley Elementary.

2. Recitation of the Blue Valley Mission Statement

Presented by Kaci Brutto, Chief Communications Officer

[Mission](#): Cultivating lifelong learners prepared to navigate their future with purpose.

3. Conduct the Hearing to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate for 2026-27.

Presented by Jeremy McFadden, CFO

Chief Financial Officer Jeremy McFadden provided a quick overview of the published Revenue Neutral Tax Rate Notice. Board President Jan Kessinger opened the Hearing to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2026-27 for comment from the public.

The following three patrons provided public comment regarding the concerns related to rising property taxes:

- Marty Godolphin
- Erika Sheets
- Jim G.

President Jan Kessinger asked if there were any additional comments regarding the Hearing to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate for 2026-27. There being none, he closed the hearing.

The Board of Education adopted, by roll call vote, the Resolution to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate.

In accordance with state statute, the Board of Education will now record a roll call vote whether to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Tax Rate for the 2026-27 Budget. Gina Knapp voted YES; Dr. Sonya Evans voted YES; Patrick Hurley voted YES; Jodie Dietz voted YES; Dr. David Benson voted YES; Clay Norkey voted YES; Jan Kessinger voted YES;. This motion, made by Jan Kessinger, Carried.

Dr David Benson: Yea

Jodie Dietz: Yea

Dr. Sonya Evans: Yea

Patrick Hurley: Yea

Jan Kessinger: Yea

Gina Knapp: Yea

Clay Norkey: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

4. Conduct the Hearing for the Legal Maximum Budget and Estimated Tax Rate for 2026-27.

Presented by Board President Jan Kessinger

Chief Financial Officer Jeremy McFadden provided a quick overview of the published Budget Notice. Board President Jan Kessinger opened the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget Hearing for comment to the public. No comments were made. President Jan Kessinger closed the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget Hearing.

5. Awards and Recognitions.

Presented by Kaci Brutto, Chief Communications Officer

Distinguished Service Award Recipient: Kathy Weldon, Administrative Assistant to the Chief of Support Services

Excellence in Education Recipient: Brian Bollinger, English Language Arts Teacher at Harmony Middle School

National School Public Relations Association Golden Achievement Award: Addison Smith, Communications Specialist

Kansas Speech Communication Association Educator of the Year: Brian Box, Debate Teacher at Blue Valley North

2026 NextGen Kansas Under 30 winners: Mary Hearn, Spanish Teacher at Liberty View Elementary School; Landon Parker, Communications Coordinator at Blue Valley Schools

6. Public Comments.

Presented by Board President, Jan Kessinger

No comments were made.

B. REGULAR AGENDA.

Presented by Board President Jan Kessinger

1. Call the Regular Board of Education Meeting to Order.

Board President Jan Kessinger called the September 14, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting Agenda.

I move that the Board of Education approve the September 14, 2026, Regular Board of Education meeting agenda as published. This motion, made by Dr David Benson and seconded by Jodie Dietz, Carried.

Dr David Benson: Yea

Jodie Dietz: Yea

Dr. Sonya Evans: Yea

Patrick Hurley: Yea

Jan Kessinger: Yea

Gina Knapp: Yea

Clay Norkey: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

C. CONSENT AGENDA.

Presented by Board President Jan Kessinger

1. Approve the Consent Agenda.

Our rules of Parliamentary Procedure provide for a consent agenda listing several items for approval of the Board by a single motion. Documentation concerning these items has been provided to all Board members and the public in advance to ensure an extensive review. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any board member.

I move that the Board of Education approve the September 14, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting consent agenda as published with minor edits deemed necessary by legal counsel. This motion, made by Gina Knapp and seconded by Clay Norkey, Carried.

Dr David Benson: Yea

Jodie Dietz: Yea

Dr. Sonya Evans: Yea

Patrick Hurley: Yea

Jan Kessinger: Yea

Gina Knapp: Yea

Clay Norkey: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

2. Approve the Meeting Minutes.

Meeting minutes shall be considered draft until formally approved by the Board of Education.

The Board of Education approved the prior meeting minutes.

3. Approve the Cash Summary & Investment Report.

The Board of Education approved the Cash Summary and Investment Report.

4. Approve the Bids and Contracts.

Bids and contracts may not be available until the day of the Board meeting. All agreements and contracts are subject to the final approval by the Board of Education's attorney.

The Board of Education approved the Bids and Contracts.

5. Approve the Human Resources Personnel Report and the Addendum.

The Human Resources Personnel Report and Addendum may not be available until the day of the Board meeting.

The Board of Education approved the Human Resources Report and HR Addendum.

6. Approve the Claims Report, the Disbursement Report, and the Special Fund Transfers.

The Board of Education approved the Claims Report, the Distribution Report, and the Special Transfers.

7. Appoint Deputy Board Clerk.

The Board of Education appointed Alisha Graham as Deputy Board Clerk.

8. Appoint the Kansas Association of School Boards Delegate Assembly.

The Board of Education appointed Jodie Dietz as the KASB delegate and Jan Kessinger as the alternate.

9. Approve Early Graduate Candidates.

The Board of Education approved the early graduate candidates list.

D. REPORTS AND DISCUSSION ITEMS.

1. Board of Education Reports.

Board Member Dr. Sonya Evans presented the September 10, 2026, Finance & Operations meeting minutes.

2. Superintendent's Report.

Presented by Dr. Gillian Chapman, Superintendent of Schools

E. ACTION ITEMS.

1. Approval of the 2026-27 Legal Maximum Budget and Estimated Tax Rate.

Presented by Board President Jan Kessinger

Board President Jan Kessinger stated that the Building Needs Assessments and State Assessments Review was provided to and evaluated by the USD 229 Board of Education and used in the Budget Approval Process in determining the authority of the local option budget, cost of living, extraordinary growth, special liability, and capital outlay mill levies. I move that the Board of Education approve the 2026-27 Legal Maximum Budget and Estimated Tax Rate, including the approval of a 33% local option budget resolution. This motion, made by Dr David Benson and seconded by Dr. Sonya Evans, Carried.

Dr David Benson: Yea

Jodie Dietz: Yea

Dr. Sonya Evans: Yea

Patrick Hurley: Yea

Jan Kessinger: Yea

Gina Knapp: Yea

Clay Norkey: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

2. Approve the agreement with CDW Government Inc.

Presented by Kent Corser, Executive Director of Technology Operations

Microsoft Enrollment for Education Solutions master agreement.

I move that the Board of Education approve the CDW Government Inc. agreement with minor edits deemed necessary by legal counsel. This motion, made by Gina Knapp and seconded by Jodie Dietz, Carried.

Dr David Benson: Yea

Jodie Dietz: Yea

Dr. Sonya Evans: Yea

Patrick Hurley: Yea

Jan Kessinger: Yea

Gina Knapp: Yea

Clay Norkey: Yea

Yea: 7, Nay: 0

F. CLOSING ITEMS.

1. Board Comments.

Board Member Jodie Dietz thanked district staff for explaining the state school finance formula and emphasized the importance of helping the public understand how the state-mandated 20-mill levy is collected and distributed. She expressed empathy for residents' concerns regarding rising property taxes and acknowledged the financial challenges facing taxpayers while recognizing the district's budget realities. Board Member Jodie Dietz requested clarification regarding the state-mandated 20-mill levy and how those funds are distributed. Chief Financial Officer Jeremy McFadden explained that school district general fund authority is determined by a statewide formula and that revenue generated by the 20-mill levy is remitted to the State of Kansas and used, along with other state tax revenues, to fund public education statewide. He noted that Blue Valley receives funding through the state formula and that the relationship between local tax contributions and statewide funding allocations is complex.

Board Member David Benson recognized the contributions of long-serving administrators, faculty, and staff, noting that their commitment, institutional knowledge, and dedication to the district's vision and culture are essential to Blue Valley's continued success. He thanked employees for their service to the district.

Board Member Clay Norkey thanked the patrons who provided public comment and encouraged community members to participate in Community Connections meetings as an opportunity for dialogue and questions. He also expressed appreciation to the district's finance team, CFO Jeremy McFadden, and Dr. Chapman for their extensive work on the

budget process, efforts to manage costs, and commitment to maintaining the district's high standards while addressing financial challenges.

Board President Jan Kessinger echoed appreciation for the district's staff and administration and noted the Board's pride in Blue Valley's reputation and continued success as a high-performing school district.

2. Adjournment.

Board President Jan Kessinger adjourned the September 14, 2026, Regular Board of Education meeting at 6:24 p.m.