

May Regular Meeting

Monday, May 11, 2026 7:00 PM

BHS Multi Media Room, 830 Cross Street, Burlington , KS 66839

1. Opening Items

1.A. Call to Order

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Consent Agenda

2.A. Approval of the Agenda

2.B. Approval of the Linkage Minutes

2.C. Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes

2.D. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes

2.E. Approval of the Bills and Financial Reports

2.F. Approval of Personnel Items

2.G. Approval of Donations

2.H. Approval of Consent Agenda

3. Student Recognition

3.A. State FBLA

4. Public Comment

4.A. Concerns of Burlington USD 244 Patrons

5. Communications

5.A. Written Communications

6. Administrative Reports

6.A. BES May 2026 Report

Burlington Elementary School
Board of Education Report
May 5, 2026
Submitted by: Darla Long

- Fourth grade presented their annual music program, “*A Night at the Musicals*” on Monday, April 13th. The student performance showcase included a variety of songs from different musicals such as Annie and The Greatest Showman. Students played their recorders during the performance as well. We have been very fortunate to have Mr. Cooper Carlson filling the long-term substitute position at BES in Mrs. Dunaway’s absence.
- State Assessments are complete at BES. Student results are anticipated later this spring. Our classroom teachers, special education teachers, support staff and technology team gave a lot of time and effort into helping accomplish this task. 3rd and 4th grade students received a lot of encouragement to “test their best” from other grade levels at BES as well as from BHS students. In addition, we held an assembly prior to the start of testing to recognize the students for academic excellence that were recognized at a previous board meeting this year. Students received certificates and families were invited to this event.
- Our friend Happy Bear visited students in PreK- 2nd grades this month sharing important information with our students about safe and unsafe touches. Parents are given information about this presentation prior to it occurring and can choose to opt-out their child out of this programming or join this programming if they desire.
- Pre-School Update for 26-27: We have held two spring Pre-school screenings that have been very well attended. Currently, we have 24 applications on file for 3-year-old pre-school and 19 applications on file for 4 year old pre-school in addition to 11 students (five 3 year olds and six 4 year olds) that will be attending for special services. Our capacity is 20 kids/class, so we would have a maximum of 80 slots available. Applications for slots are due by June 30, 2026. We hope to be able to notify families in late July or early August of acceptance.
- A Kindergarten orientation event was held on April 22nd for incoming kindergarten students. This year we changed the format of this event. We had an optional session for families whose students already attend BES for Pre-school, sharing a few things about kindergarten and then allowed time for Q &A. We then held a longer session for new families and presented information about the upcoming year. The kindergarten teachers and Amanda Briggs were present at this event. We have an anticipated enrollment of 52 students at this time and 82% of these students are current PreK students at BES.
- Have you seen Bigfoot? This was a popular question around BES as our student body and staff participated in our annual One School, One Book project. This year we read, “*Big Foot and Little Foot,*” a fun story about a human boy and a sasquatch. As always, the daily trivia time was a big hit. Our technology staff highlighted this by asking staff to come onto our recordings of the Pawsitive Press for daily announcements to share the questions. Mrs. Allen also incorporated some of the additional activities during her library time as well. This was a fun 10-day project!
- Mrs. Caceres, BHS science teacher, along with her students, hosted an Earth Day learning event for students in 1st – 4th grades. Students traveled to the high school and participated in station-based learning sessions taught by BHS students. Feedback from our students was very positive!

- Mrs. Kathy Freeman has been nominated for the KAHPERD Elementary Physical Education Teacher of the year award. Kathy has been notified of the nomination and the process to apply for this honor.
- The following students were named Wildcats of the Month for demonstrating the Wildcat Way, being safe, respectful, and responsible. These students were recognized over the announcements, will be identified on the bulletin board, and earned a Casey's coupon for a free slice of pizza.

Wildcat of the Month	
Nominated by	Nominee
<i>Kindergarten</i>	
Mrs. Ditto	Elizabeth Hulcy
Mrs. Garland	Emma Hendershot
Mrs. Griffith	Lydia Willey
<i>1st Grade</i>	
Ms. Ford	Emmaline Allen
Mrs. Hegwald	Abel Tompkins
Mrs. Lawrence	Lily Saueressig
<i>2nd Grade</i>	
Mrs. Higgins	Amelia Kuhlmann
Mrs. Lundin	Rylee Meyer
Mrs. Stukey	Gracie Thomsen
<i>3rd Grade</i>	
Mrs. Gonzales	Nora Thomsen
Mrs. McVey	Carrson Reeves
Mrs. Rice	Addyson Schmidt
<i>4th Grade</i>	
Mrs. Bazil	
Mrs. Kuhlmann	AR Baez
Mrs. Racine	Hudson Howard
<i>Specials</i>	
Mrs. Allen (Library)	Savanna Wright (4R)
Mr. Carlson (Music)	
Mrs. Freeman (PE)	Brigham Birk (KD)
<i>Others</i>	
Mrs. Sturm (Counselor)	Daivie Sigg (4K)
Mrs. Long (Principal)	Molli Posey (4K)



Burlington Middle School

Unified School District #244

720 Cross Street, Burlington, KS 66839

P (620) 364-2156 F (620) 364-8560

Dear Board of Education and Superintendent Marshall,

On May 1st, we hosted our Burlington Middle School Track Invitational. Once again, we received positive feedback on how well the meet was ran. This success is a direct reflection of the hard work and organization of Mr. Wilson and our coaching staff—Mr. Schuster, Ms. Anderson, Mrs. Altic, and Ms. Sleezer.

We also want to extend a sincere thank you to Diane Marshall for checking in athletes and organizing numbers, Dan Haller for announcing, the high school FBLA and Rachel Belcher for managing the concession stand, and Leah Pedersen along with her high school track athletes for their help with medals and field events. Additionally, thank you to Brian Shank and his crew for having the grounds in outstanding condition.

We appreciate everyone who contributed to making this event such a success for our students and community.

CURRENT GRADING SCALE

A 95% to 100%
A- 90% to 94%
B+ 87% to 89%
B 83% to 86%
B- 80% to 82%
C+ 77% to 79%
C 73% to 76%
C- 70% to 72%
D+ 69%
D 66% to 68%
D- 65%
F 64% and below

PROPOSED GRADING SCALE

A 100-90%
B 89-80%
C 79-70%
D 69-60%
F 59% and below

Reasons for the Proposed Change

1. Equity in GPA Calculation and Scholarship Opportunities

Under the current grading scale, a 64% is recorded as an F (0.0 GPA), while most districts classify it as a D (1.0 GPA). This difference puts our students at a disadvantage when compared to peers across the league and state.

Even small GPA gaps can affect class rank, college admissions, and scholarship eligibility. Students demonstrating minimal proficiency are penalized more harshly under the current system. Aligning our grading scale with common practices would ensure fairer evaluation and better protect students' postsecondary opportunities.

- 2. Reduction in Failing Grades and More Accurate Representation of Student Performance**
A significant number of students fall in the 60–64% range—about 30% at BMS and 35% at BHS of those currently failing. With a traditional scale, these students would receive a D instead of an F.

This adjustment does not lower expectations; it more accurately reflects partial understanding and progress. Recognizing this range as passing better differentiates achievement and can improve student motivation by providing a clearer path to success.

- 3. Impact on Student Eligibility and Participation**

Extracurricular eligibility is often tied to grades, and students earning 60–64% are more likely to receive multiple Fs under the current system—even when they are close to meeting expectations. This can lead to ineligibility for grades that would be considered passing in other districts.

Participation in activities supports engagement, attendance, and school connection. Adjusting the grading scale would reduce eligibility loss due to marginal grades, allowing students to stay involved while still being held accountable for improvement.

- 4. Alignment with Comparable Districts and Consistency in Standards**

Most districts in our league and across the state consider a 60% a passing grade. Maintaining a stricter cutoff creates inconsistency and makes it harder to compare student performance across districts.

Aligning our grading scale promotes fairness and clarity for students, families, and staff. It ensures grades carry the same meaning as elsewhere, which is especially important for transfers and college applications.

- 5. Support for Student Growth and Long-Term Achievement**

The purpose of grading is to communicate learning and support growth. A system that over-labels students as failing can discourage effort and reduce confidence, especially for those already struggling. Adopting a more traditional scale encourages persistence and better recognizes progress toward mastery.

This change maintains accountability while providing a more balanced framework, ensuring grades serve as a tool for growth rather than a barrier to success.

This summer we will again offer to our 7th and 8th grade students a Summer Conditioning Program. This will run the same dates as the high school, but from 10:30AM-12:00PM, Monday-Thursday running from June 1st-July 30th.

Burlington Middle School students continue to demonstrate excellence both in the classroom and through their involvement in extracurricular activities recognized by Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA).

KSHSAA recognizes schools with two levels of scholastic achievement:

- **Distinguished Scholastic Award:** Team GPA of 3.25–4.0
- **Outstanding Scholastic Award:** Team GPA of 3.00–3.24

We are proud to share that **26 of our 28 extracurricular activities** earned the **Distinguished Scholastic Award** this year. Two did not have any participants both 7th grade Girls and Boys Cross Country.

Additionally, students who participated in at least one extracurricular activity achieved an impressive **average GPA of 3.77**.

This accomplishment highlights the strong connection between student involvement and academic success at Burlington Middle School.

Activity/Team	Number of Participants	Collective Team GPA
Football (7 th)	20	3.76
Football(8 th)	14	3.71
Volleyball (7 th)	16	3.82
Volleyball (8 th)	16	3.79
Cross Country, Girls (7 th)	N/A	N/A
Cross Country, Girls (8 th)	2	4.0
Cross Country, Boys (7 th)	N/A	N/A
Cross Country, Boys (8 th)	3	3.58
Girls Basketball (7 th)	13	3.79
Girls Basketball (8 th)	10	3.89
Wrestling, Girls (7 th)	6	3.85
Wrestling, Girls (8 th)	9	3.90
Wrestling, Boys (7 th)	4	3.68
Wrestling, Boys (8 th)	3	3.68
Boys Basketball (7 th)	15	3.80
Boys Basketball (8 th)	18	3.67
Scholars' Bowl (7 th)	10	3.93
Scholars' Bowl (8 th)	9	3.86
Track, Girls (7 th)	16	3.88
Track, Girls (8 th)	12	3.71
Track, Boys (7 th)	15	3.89
Track, Boys (8 th)	16	3.72
Band (7 th)	14	3.78
Band (8 th)	12	3.58
Vocal (7 th)	2	3.81
Vocal (8 TH)	2	3.50
TOTALS	257	3.77

On May 12th, in partnership with Coffey County Health System, Burlington Middle School was able to offer sports physicals for the 2025–2026 school year. Thank you to Mr. Wilson and Coffey County Health System for their willingness to extend this opportunity to our middle school students this year.

Yours in Education,

Matt Spring

6.C. BHS May 2026 Report

6.D. CCSEC May 2026 Report

Board of Education Report
Coffey County Special Education Cooperative, CCSEC
Lindsey Graf, Director
May, 2026

State Reports/Data

- Indicator 13 (Transition) canceled for this year
- Working on Indicator 14
- Working on File Review Updated Data

Staffing Updates

- Certified Openings for 26-27: 244- Elementary Special Education Teacher, Coop: ½ Gifted
- Looking at staffing needs for paras for next year

Director's Focus

- Updating CAPS Personnel Systems with Whitnie to ensure appropriate FTE's claimed to gain maximum reimbursement.
- Collaborating with the state department to ensure staff is appropriately licensed in all content areas.
- Preparing professional development schedule for fall 2026
- Collecting and Reviewing Para evaluations
- Attending state and regional SPED Director Meetings (KASEA and State)
- Participating in monthly SPED administrators Webinars
- Interviews/Hiring/Transfers – continuing to replace paras that leave and on board para sub applications as they are submitted-see above staffing needs
- Student programming/needs – attending meetings; communicating with parents
- Corresponding with Legal Services regarding programming
- Collaborating with Administration
- Collecting information and data on professional development needs and staffing needs to best serve CCSEC for next school year.
- Finalizing the end of the year paperwork for staff including para in-service hours, para evaluations, Compliant IEP paperwork, etc.

6.E. Technology May 2026 Report

Board Report
Technology Department
May 2026

e-Funds for Schools has been a positive addition for us. It is so easy for us to add items to the “store” on our own rather than having to coordinate with a support team with our past product. It has also been nice to be able to have funds deposited directly into building accounts as well as the district account so that additional transfer transactions don’t have to be made.

The technology staff has been organizing end of year technology check-ins, working on plans for summer cleaning and upgrading, working with vendors on renewals and product setups, checking in equipment which has been delivered for summer upgrades, and assisting counselors with scheduling students into courses since this is the first year in Skyward Qmlativ to do “next year scheduling.”

From the buildings:

BES:

Our 3rd and 4th graders have officially wrapped up state testing, and this week they’re finishing their Spring Benchmark assessments.

In the classroom/lab, 2nd and 4th graders have been diving into Excel and learning the basics of graphing. Second graders completed a survey and practiced entering their data into Excel to create a visual bar graph.

4th graders worked on a “Day at the K” project, where they calculated the cost of attending a Royals game with their family. They entered details such as parking, tickets, and concession choices into Excel. Once their data was organized, we discussed how turning it into a graph makes the information easier to understand. Students then choose whether to display their results using a bar graph or a pie chart.

Our 1st graders learned all about their digital trail. We read *Once Upon a Time... Online* and talked about how everything we do on the internet leaves a mark. Students explored the idea of thinking before they click and how online behavior can affect real life.

After our discussion, each student created their own “digital trail” by adding examples of the things they do online.

BMS:

5th Grade Tech Rotation students have been working with the Tynker coding program, where they are beginning to explore more advanced, text-based languages like Python. They are currently focused on a basic introduction to Python, building foundational skills and understanding.

Mrs. Caldwell’s class was reading about Harriet Tubman and her courageous efforts to lead enslaved people to freedom along the Underground Railroad. After learning about her life and the risks she took, the students created “Wanted” posters describing her as she might have been portrayed during that time period. Each poster included details about her appearance, her actions, and why she was considered a threat. Students used Microsoft 365 apps or Canva to create unique and creative posters.

FastBridge testing is in progress and will be completed soon for all grade levels!

The 8th Grade Computer Applications class has spent the semester working through technology standards. To wrap up the course, students will use the Tynker coding program to gain an introduction to JavaScript.

BHS:

BHS students have finished all testing for the 2025/2026 school year.

Mrs. Marshall has this to say about the technology she uses:

We use Polaris for library circulation, and the State Library provides databases and other research tools. We use Edgenuity for online courses provided to students in enrichment classes and for credit recovery.

Mrs. Danyell Ziegler uses these tools to help her in the classroom: I use BrainPOP, IXL, GIMKIT, Blooket, Flocabulary, Safeshare, and YouTube for my students to help supplement or repeat what we are learning in class. I use Canva, Microsoft Programs, Teams, and Blocks! personally, and my students use them as part of daily access to instruction and materials. I use Your Next Move and Webkidss for IEP's. As for classroom technology, I use the newline board, 2 laptops, extra screen, printer, copier, and hovercam. My student(s) use an extra-large screen, Jupiter, headphones, and chargers.

Mrs. Jamie Cox says: I use my desktop computer and laptop computer, Newline board, printer, Hover Cam, some programs through the internet (Socrative), copiers for printing and making copies, and Teams.

Burlington USD 244
Board of Education Meeting
May 11, 2026
Superintendent's Report

1. BHS Graduation is set for May 16. Please let Mr. Baldwin know if you are attending by May 13 so he will have a seat for you on stage.
2. Our USD 244 Service and Retirement Celebration will occur on May 20 starting at 2 PM at BHS. We will be honoring many employees for years of service and other honors. I have attached our years of service report that shows the many years our staff have served USD 244. The board is invited to attend the celebration.
3. BHS received the All-Star High School Award in 2026. This award focuses on student preparation for post-high school success. It involved us hosting an Apply Kansas Application Event, FAFSA Completion Event, and a College Signing Day/Senior Signing Day.
4. I have attached a special thank you from Stacy Augustyn directed at the BMS civics class taught by Ms. Jenny Anderson. This is one of many positive examples our schools do for our community.
5. I want to thank our staff, students, families, and our board members for another excellent year. There are too many positives to mention. We are very fortunate to have a strong educational culture in USD 244.

7. **Board Member Items**

7.A. Board Reports

8. **Results Monitoring Report**

8.A. Results Report

9. **Contracts/Approvals/Appointments**

9.A. Recreation Commission Board Appointee

9.B. KN Complaint Investigation Report

9.C. OPAA 2026-2027 Contract Renewal

10. **Negotiations**

10.A. Executive Session Regarding Negotiations

11. **Personnel**

11.A. Executive Session Regarding Personnel

11.B. BMS Supplemental Positions

11.C. BHS Supplemental Positions

12. **Student**

12.A. Executive Session Regarding Student Issue

13. **Closing Items**

13.A. Debriefing

13.B. Adjournment