

September Regular Meeting

Monday, September 14, 2026 7:00 PM

District Office, 301 Neosho Street , Burlington, Kansas 66839

1. Opening Items

1.A. Call to Order

1.B. Pledge of Allegiance

1.C. Additions to the Agenda

2. Consent Agenda

2.A. Approval of the Agenda

2.B. Approval of the August 10, 2026, Minutes

2.C. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes – 8/12/2026
Board Retreat

2.D. Approval of the Bills and Financial Reports

2.E. Approval of Personnel Items

2.F. Approval of Donations

2.G. Approval of Mental Health Intervention Team
Grant

2.H. Approval of Consent Agenda

3. Public Comment

3.A. Concerns of Burlington USD 244 Patrons

THE BOARD

The Constitution of the State of Kansas delegates many responsibilities for the governance and operation of school districts to locally elected Boards of Education. Among these duties and responsibilities are: establishment of general policies for the school systems, employment of school personnel upon recommendation of the superintendent, adoption and revision of the annual operating budget, informing the public of the needs and the progress of the educational systems, exercise of the legal powers conferred or implied by the legislature in administering school functions, and selection of the superintendent of schools.

The board is comprised of seven members elected to four-year terms. The members are elected from six geographic districts and one is elected at large. The president and vice-president are elected each year at the first meeting in July. Board members receive no pay for their service.

BOARD OF EDUCATION BURLINGTON USD 244

James Higgins - President
Lucas Allen - Vice President
Johnny Hernandez
Nolan Strawder
Ron Hess
Selena King
Bob Plummer

Please direct comments or questions to the district administration office.

Superintendent, Craig Marshall
Clerk of the Board, Christy Hess

USD 244 Central Office
301 Neosho Street
Burlington, KS 66839

620-364-8478

Thank you for attending. Your continued interest in our district's schools will guarantee their excellence.

MISSION STATEMENT

Burlington Schools are committed to developing each student to become a responsible citizens and lifelong learners.



WELCOME!

TO A
BURLINGTON UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO. 244
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING



THE MEETING

The regular meetings of the USD 244 Board of Education are held at 7:00 p.m. on the second Monday of each month. The meetings are held at the District Administration Building located at 301 Neosho Street, Burlington, Kansas. In addition, the board may hold special meetings at times and locations as announced to accomplish specific purposes.

All regular and special meetings are open to the public and all actions authorized or required by law are taken at these meetings. The board may, however, meet in closed (executive) session to discuss matters dealing with personnel, acquisition of property, consultation with the board attorney, matters relating to action adversely or favorably affecting students or personnel, confidential data relating to financial affairs, and consultation regarding employee negotiations. Any voting board action dealing with these items will be taken in public. At any meeting of the board, a majority of the membership of four members constitutes a quorum for the purpose of conducting business. Minutes of the Board of Education meetings are available at the District Administration Building.

THE AGENDA

Unless there are unusual or special circumstances, board meetings proceed in the order prescribed on the agenda:

- ☞ Call to Order
- ☞ Approval of Agenda, Minutes of prior meetings, Bills, Financial and Administrative Reports, and other items requiring board approval that may be submitted on the consent agenda
- ☞ Recognition of visitors and requests by visitors to address the board
- ☞ Discussion and Action Items (if executive session is necessary, it will be at this time)
- ☞ Adjournment

The agenda for each board meeting is prepared by the superintendent. Meetings are conducted by the board president in the prescribed order. The superintendent provides a packet of informational and background materials to board members concerning items to be presented on the meeting agenda. This is delivered to board members at least three days prior to the meeting so that they may come to the meeting prepared to question, discuss, and take action on each item. An extra copy of this information will be available for public examination at the administration office.

MAKING A PUBLIC COMMENT

The Board of Education wishes to be responsive to the community and welcomes patrons at all meetings. If a visitor wishes to make a brief statement, express his/her viewpoint, or ask a question regarding matters related to the school system he/she needs to be present at the beginning of the board meeting. Requests to speak may be made when the board president asks if any visitors have items to bring to the attention of the board. Speakers are asked to limit their remarks to five (5) minutes or less and groups with the same special interest may be asked to appoint a spokesperson. The board president may impose different time limits on presentations if other circumstances dictate doing so.

While there is no legal requirement that the public be given an opportunity to speak at each board meeting, it is the practice of the present board to make this time available to residents of the district. If pressure of business or other circumstances dictate, the board president may decide to curtail this practice.

The purpose of hearing public comment is to enable patrons to address the board concerning matters that do not require immediate board action. Charges or complaints against individual employees of the district or challenges to the instructional material used in the district are not allowed during the public comment portion of the meeting. Requests for board action shall be presented to the superintendent and charges, complaints, or challenges against staff or the curriculum shall be presented to the clerk of the board in accordance with procedures outlined below.

In the event that a speaker fails to observe the board's rules for public comment, any board member may request the individual cease speaking until the board president determines if the speaker should be allowed to complete his/her remarks.

DISCUSSION OF AN AGENDA ITEM

At meetings, the Board of Education spends its time reviewing and making decisions regarding information concerning student learning and other board concerns. While the meetings are conducted in public, public participation in the discussion of agenda items is not solicited unless the board requests a member of the public comment on that item. If a member of the public wishes to comment on an agenda item, that comment should occur during the Public Comment portion of the meeting.

PLACING AN ITEM ON THE AGENDA

Any patron wishing to speak to the board regarding a specific concern requiring board action should discuss his/her request with the superintendent at least seven days prior to the scheduled board meeting. This request may be made by phone or in writing. Following this discussion, the superintendent will determine whether the request can be solved by staff or will place the item on the next regular board meeting agenda. If the superintendent refuses to place an item on the agenda, the patron may place his/her request in writing and submit it to the clerk of the board. Any such requests shall state the specific action requested of the board of education. The clerk shall include any statement with the agenda for the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board. (Such items must be received by the clerk not later than Tuesday of the week preceding the regular board meeting) In the event the board wishes to discuss the patron's request, the board may modify its agenda to do so or may direct the superintendent to place the item on a future regular or special meeting agenda.

CONDUCT AND ORDER

These guidelines have been adopted to give patrons an opportunity to address the board in an orderly and constructive manner. The board's function is decision -- time spent answering routine questions or criticisms takes away from other important board business. If a patron has a question about the operation of the schools, he/she is encouraged to contact the teacher or administrator closest to the situation.

Undue interruptions or other interference with the orderly conduct of Board of Education meetings cannot be allowed. The board president may terminate a speaker's privilege to speak if, after being called to order, he/she persists in improper conduct or remarks. As stated earlier, at a board meeting no person shall orally indicate charges or complaints against individual employees of the district or challenge instructional material used in the district. All such charges, complaints, or challenges shall be presented to the superintendent and/or board clerk in accordance with established board practice.

4. **Communications**

4.A. Written Items

5. **Administrative Reports**

5.A. BES September 2026 Report

Burlington Elementary School

Board Report

September 8, 2026

- Current Class Enrollment as of 9/8/26

PreK AM	30
PreK PM	29
KDG	53
1 st Grade	46
2 nd Grade	45
3 rd Grade	49
4 th Grade	61

- Back to School Events were held on August 18th. This meet and greet opportunity allows families to drop off school supplies in preparation for the 1st day and find classrooms ahead of the first day. We changed the format for AM preschool students and held their event in the morning—at a time frame like the school session they will be attending. There was a positive response to this change! The evening come and go event always brings positive vibes to the building as well. The attendance for this night is shown below.

Grade Level	Attendance	Percentage
PreK Spring	26/28	92.8%
PreK Totty	26/27	96.3%
Kindergarten	50/53	94.3%
1 st Grade	43/45	95.5%
2 nd Grade	44/45	97.7%
3 rd Grade	45/49	91.8%
4 th Grade	54/60	90.0%

- Beginning of the year benchmark testing is complete for literacy and math. BES utilizes Aimsweb Plus for our testing. This data is sorted our Title team and then MTSS services are determined. We have been fully utilizing our additional staff funded by the Mobilizing Literacy Grant to complete this process. Letters regarding instructional groups will be sent home this week and services will begin this week as well. Literacy data as required for state reporting will also be pulled from these benchmark tests.
- The 21st Century program is underway along with the changes to our program. We had a few bumps the first week with no Friday session, but in week 2, this was not an issue. Enrollment capacities are full in the following grade levels: Kindergarten and 4th grade. Open slots are very limited in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. We currently have 5 fifth grade students attending and have had communication with parents of this grade level requesting homework help. Our average daily

attendance is currently 57. Our program will have on-site evaluations by Greenbush and Kansas Enrichment Network in October. Required reports for the conclusion of the last grant cycle have been submitted.

- BES has had to change course with menu offerings at BES, going down to 2 lunch options at this time due to staff shortages. We are hopeful these spots will be filled soon, and 3 choices can continue. We have a lot of students participating in all food service offerings: breakfast, 2nd chance breakfast and lunch.
- New para-educator hires have been in the process of required testing (ACT WorkKeys) to meet the highly qualified status as required by the Kansas State Department of Education. Paras at BES must be highly qualified since we are a Title 1 Schoolwide building and meet these qualifications:
 - Have a high school diploma or a GED certificate and
 - Complete 48 hours at an institution of higher education* OR
 - Obtain an associate's (or higher) degree OR
 - Pass a State approved assessment that assesses the ability to assist in instructing reading, writing, and mathematics (or reading, writing, mathematics readiness).
- The BES Parents are Active Within Schools (PAWS) group is working hard to support our students! They have sponsored spirit wear t-shirts for all students to kick off the year with Wildcat Pride and are also currently sponsoring a mum fundraiser where they hope to fund expenses for student field trips. This group provides many positives to our school system.

5.B. BMS September 2026 Report



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 Biehler,

It is wonderful to have both our students and staff back in the building. The 2026–2027 school year is off to an excellent start at BMS, and that is a true credit to our outstanding staff and their commitment to creating a positive learning environment for our students.

During our Back-to-School professional development, we revisited the High Impact Instructional Practices and Strategies (HIIPS) from both HIIPS 1 and HIIPS 2, which our staff completed during the 2025–2026 school year. Our focus was not simply on reviewing the strategies, but on putting them into practice immediately within our classrooms.

Staff were challenged to select and implement at least one HIIPS strategy at the beginning of the school year. They embraced that challenge and ran with it. We have already seen staff intentionally incorporate these high-impact practices into their lessons, creating more purposeful opportunities for student engagement, learning, and understanding.

Seeing these strategies move from professional development into daily classroom instruction is exciting. It demonstrates our staff's willingness to continually grow as educators and, more importantly, their commitment to doing what is best for our students. This is a great way to begin the 2026–2027 school year, and I look forward to seeing how our continued focus on high-impact instructional practices positively impacts student learning throughout the year.

This year, our Back-to-School Nights were very well attended by students and their families, with more than 97% participation across both evenings. The feedback we received, particularly from our 5th grade parents, was overwhelmingly positive again.

For 5th grade, we began the evening with a welcome in the gym, where teachers shared important information to help students and families prepare for a successful transition to middle school. Following the welcome, parents and students had the opportunity to walk through their child's schedule, visit classrooms, meet teachers, and become familiar with the building and daily routines.

For grades 6–8, families also had the opportunity to follow their student's schedule and visit each classroom. This provided teachers with an opportunity to begin building positive relationships with students and families.

Our current enrollment at BMS is **230 students**.

Our current enrollment by grade level is:

- **5th Grade:** 56 students — 25 females / 31 males

- **6th Grade:** 53 students — 25 females / 28 males
- **7th Grade:** 59 students — 19 females / 40 males
- **8th Grade:** 62 students — 30 females / 32 males

Overall, our enrollment remains relatively stable at BMS.

Our fall sports teams have been working hard in preparation for the upcoming season, and it promises to be an exciting time for our BMS student-athletes. Participation numbers remain strong, reflecting the continued interest and commitment of our students to extracurricular activities.

- Football: 30 participants — 14 seventh graders and 15 eighth graders, with one manager
- Cross Country: 10 runners — 9 seventh graders and 1 eighth grader
- Volleyball: 33 participants — 14 seventh graders and 18 eighth graders, with one manager
- Dual-Sport Participation: 2 students are participating in both volleyball/cross country and football/cross country

The BMS Wildcats kicked off fall competition on Friday, August 28, with volleyball hosting Paola. Football opened its season on the road against Anderson County, while Cross Country began competition with the Wildcat Classic at John Redmond on Saturday, September 5.

We completed our FastBridge testing during the week of August 24–28. The data gathered will provide valuable information about student performance and help guide whole-group interventions in both Math and Reading at each grade level. Staff will use this information to identify areas of need, target instruction, and provide appropriate support as we begin the school year.

We will continue to recognize and celebrate our students and staff through our 8 Keys of Excellence program and Staff Member of the Month recognition. These programs provide meaningful opportunities to highlight the accomplishments, character, dedication, and positive contributions of the individuals who make BMS such a great place to learn and work.

Both programs are generously sponsored by Kent Medlock with Fittings Export and Clint Belcher with The Appliance Store. Their continued support allows us to recognize and celebrate our students and staff throughout the school year.

A huge thank you to Kent and Clint for their ongoing generosity and commitment to BMS. Their support of our student and staff recognition programs is greatly appreciated and makes a positive difference in our school community.

Matt Spring
BMS, Principal
GO WILDCATS!!

**Burlington High School
September Board Report (26)**

[Stay current with BHS](#)

Enrollment:

Cumulative	9th	10th	11th	12th	Total
Boys	35	33	29	17	114
Girls	21	21	18	29	89
Total	56	54	47	46	203

Spec Ed	7	6	14	8	35
BHS Total	63	60	61	54	246

Fall Athletic Participation:

Cheer: 12
Cross County: 24
Football: 48
Volleyball: 23
Total: 107

Fall Activities:

FBLA, FCA, FFA :
FCCLA
MOM
STEAM

Academics:

- We have 33 juniors and seniors in internships. Teaching at BMS & BES, Golf course maintenance, nursing, occupational therapy, advertising/marketing, engineering/business, physical therapy, cosmetology/nails, business/insurance, dental, early childhood, local government/newspaper, veterinary, agriculture/sales, fittings/hoses, cabinets/countertops, and car sales/service,
- College course enrollment
 - Allen County – 58
 - ESU Jump Start – 11
 - FHTC – 5
 - NCC – 2
 - 5 students are taking both ESU and Allen classes for a total of 71 kids taking college classes while in high school. Huge savings for our college-bound kids taking college classes for reduced rates as high schoolers.

- We currently have 33 students taking courses through Edgenuity along with 24 students enrolled in online Spanish.
- Back to school night attendance was 70%

Activities/Athletics:

Student Council is made up of the 4 elected officers, the class of officers from each class and a representative from each club. StuCo met before school started and planned the back-to-school dance and the first day of school assembly. For the assembly, StuCo members interviewed new teachers and created videos introducing each teacher, a video advertising the dance, and a video that reiterated changes to the cell phone policy and other school rules. StuCo meets once a week and will be planning Homecoming activities.

Cross Country has the biggest HS and MS team we have had out in years! There are 26 HS students (17 boys, 8 girls, 1 manager) and 10 MS students out. The season has started off very hopefully and excitingly. We believe our boys varsity team is capable of seeing a lot of success this season. The depth within the entirety of our team is creating a positive culture of hard work and encouraging the entire team to grow and push harder for success. We hosted a Mock Meet and a team breakfast on Saturday, August 29th at John Redmond. We will host the first meeting of the year this Saturday at John Redmond. The girls' varsity race will start at 8:00 followed by boys' varsity, JV, and the middle school races. Volunteers are still needed.

Cheer has had a great start to the school year. The team has been working on stunting, learning new positions, and preparing for game days. On the first day of school, the cheerleaders debuted a new spirit dance and introduced it to the crowd at the football scrimmage. It is interactive and loads of fun! The team is off to a strong start and is working hard for a successful season!

Football had a great turnout for our 2nd Annual Burlington Football Night - the 5th/6th grade 8 man tackle team starts the night off with a little scrimmage. Then 1st through 4th grade flag football teams get announced. We have two 3rd/4th grade flag teams; they scrimmaged each other while the MS and HS did a combine warm up. Middle school and High School teams closed out the night. Great performances by the band and cheer teams as well! It's an awesome night for our whole community. We have 48 players out this year, which is a huge improvement from when I first started 4 years ago at 32. Very excited for this season to get started this Friday at Central Heights!

Band has had our drumline and band camps and are currently learning our halftime show for this year. Choir is just now starting, but we have a solid group.

BHS Testing

Fastbridge Math	August 31 and September 1st
Fastbridge Reading	September 2, 2026
	September 3, 2026

ACT WorkKeys	September 30, 2026
PreACT 9	September 30, 2026
PreACT 10	September 30, 2026

Administrative Report:

- Continued partnership for SOTM donations
- New policies have been a smooth transition
 - Cell phone
 - Energy drinks
 - Late work policy
- Eliminated two entry points into the building
- Scheduled crisis management training for October 19th^h
- Completed pre conferences for all teachers on first semester evaluation
- Completed two new administrative mentorship conferences
- Completed student handbook overview with each grade level

5.D. CCSEC September 2026 Report

Board of Education Report
Coffey County Special Education Cooperative, CCSEC
Tara Glades
September 14, 2026

State Reports/Data

- USD 244 Continued Non-Compliance for IDEA file review-files pulled Oct. 8
 - Notification/ guidance/compliant examples for 244 Sped Licensed staff and administrators

Staffing Updates

- No teacher vacancies currently. I will attend ESU career Fair with admin on 11/4/26.
- Paraprofessional vacancies-BHS-0, BMS-0, BES-Fully staffed to meet current needs (1.5 FTE available)

Director's Focus

- Consistent processes
 - Approval of Intensive Duty Pay Requests per CCSEC criteria
 - Work agreements/Change request process
 - District and Building visits
- KASEA Region 4 Director meeting at USD 244 district office 9/25/26
 - Region 4-Ottawa, Baldwin Coop, Paola Coop, Emporia Coop, Lyndon Coop, CCSEC
- Staff observation and evaluation
- First Burlington Autism Team (BAT) meeting

Teaching and Learning

- New Sped Teacher Mentor talking points/Infographics-New Teachers
- Discipline (Indicator 4) talking points-Administrators
- Expanded IEP Development Guidance-All Special Education Licensed staff members
- Quarterly Compliance Updates-video and website

Board Report
Technology Department
September 2026

What a great start to the school year! Things have been running smoothly, and we have lots of great things happening with technology for our students and teachers.

Our back-to-school training with teachers went well. We had great discussions about cell phone and social media policies and use. We also focused on responsible use of Artificial Intelligence in the classroom, worked through the official policy and the district “operating document” for best practices, and trained with both ChatGPT for Teachers and SchoolAI. The education-specific tools meet the standards set out by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA), and the Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA).

Over the past year, across the nation there has been a lot of talk about limiting screen time with students, and we’ve had those discussions too. The Kansas Board of Education has been having meetings focused on screen time throughout the summer, and they are expected to make recommendations in the coming months. As a district, we have always believed in a technology-infusion model, meaning the technology should be infused into the learning that it almost seems like it isn’t there. We’ve never had the belief that every lesson needs technology; teachers have never been required to include technology in a lesson. We have always said – teach your lesson using the best resources – if that resource happens to be a worksheet made 30 years ago -- use it. If the lesson is best taught with a computer-simulation – use it. At this point, we will continue to focus on best-use practices and have asked teachers to make conscious efforts to think about how, when, and how much technology they are using with students.

Christy Hess and I attended the Kansas Kids Count Day workshop to review needs for the upcoming enrollment count day and data submissions for the school year, and I’ll be attending the Career and Technical Education coordinator’s workshop on September 24th to learn about current and upcoming changes in the state’s CTE programs.

There’s a lot of great hands-on, learning-centered uses of technology happening in the buildings!

At the elementary school, Fall AIMSweb testing has been completed which contains a technology-based component for testing and scoring. Computer lab rotations have begun. During the first two weeks, the focus has been on the “Wildcat Way Digital” curriculum. We are teaching students what it means to be safe, responsible, and respectful Wildcats in the classroom and online.

At Burlington Middle School, Fastbridge testing is complete. In the fifth-grade technology rotation, students have been developing important digital literacy skills by learning how to check their grades in Skyward and use Microsoft Outlook to communicate safely and responsibly through email. Fifth-grade students also explored a variety of Microsoft Word tools, including adjusting font size and color, centering text, and using other formatting features. They concluded the lesson by learning how to save, organize, and locate their documents in OneDrive.

Mrs. Haller shared: In 6th grade we used Microsoft Word to create collages over Family Traditions. In 7th grade, the students completed a WebQuest over the New Food Pyramid and recommendations from the USDA. The students are also using Kahoot and Blooket to create study tools for their first unit test. I’ve used ChatGPT for teachers to reduce assignments for students on IEP’s. It’s been great because I can upload the assignment I have already created, give it guidelines of how much needs to be reduced and what kind of format I want it in, and it will create it for me. I have also used it to help me create a meal planning project for students, by giving it my standard, the guidelines of what I wanted the students to do, and the grade level. Then I’m able to take that same assignment and have it modify the project to meet individual student needs.

Students in Mrs. Over's class used Canva to make Vision Boards for social-emotional learning in Cat time. Her students also used a shared PowerPoint to collaborate on research over Kansas history.

At the high school, students in Mrs. Gifford's English classes have used Word and Canva to create and update their resumes.

Mr. Over's students created animated caricatures as Patriots of the Revolutionary War, and he uses Microsoft Teams to share assignments and have students submit their work. They also use Gimkit and Kahoot for review. He has also used features in SchoolAI for bellringer activities and used VideoExplorer in SchoolAI which stops videos at different points to ask students question about the content.

Ms. Carden and her students have been using Inkscape and SolidEdge to create projects and then transferring the designs to the new CNC torch cutter.

In Mr. Bruening's science, students are creating, sharing, and modifying data in Excel documents including data run analysis. Engineering students are using CAD software and 3-D printing slicing software to design a create prototypes and projects. Physics class is studying the physics of Minecraft for Education, creating Redstone timers, calculating velocity on different terrains, and finding acceleration due to gravity using Minecraft. He also uses his Newline board to annotate over PowerPoints and use the "Glass feature" to show examples over PDFs of worksheets.

Mrs. Ecton shared that internship students share a document out to her at the beginning of the year, and there are assignments and interviews which they must conduct throughout their internship. She is able to check their continued progress at any time through the shared document and can comment back to them regularly.

5.F. Maintenance September 2026 Report

5.G. Superintendent September 2026 Board Report

September Board Report

Enrollment update

BES	312
BMS	228
BHS	239

We'll be holding a pre-count day meeting next week to review the data more closely and ensure that we're reporting all things accurately before September 21st (the 20th is on Sunday this year).

Facilities committee: I am in the process of filling the slots on this committee. I've recruited a few other people to help me find members. My mid-September timeline was a bit ambitious. I am looking to walk-through the buildings with this group by the end of the month.

Activity Pass Sales: This has become a hot topic in the past couple of days. Activity pass sales had been handled through the HS/District up until a few years ago. At that time, Catbackers was struggling with very low account balances. They approached building administration about taking over pass sales as a way to boost their "income". That shift was allowed. The sponsorship levels that Catbackers charge don't match the board approved amounts. They charge quite a bit more than the Board previously agreed to charge. This has negatively impacted the revenue stream for the HS and MS athletics accounts. I held a brief conversation with Lisa Matz last night at the VB matches about this. She expressed that Catbackers has healthy balances now, but they're not willing to give pass sales back to the district. I proposed that Catbackers give a percentage of pass sales back to the district. She didn't have much appetite for that suggestion. We will continue to communicate and work out a solution that benefits both the district and Catbackers.

6. **Board Member Items**

6.A. Board Reports

7. **Budget Adoption**

7.A. Establish the Supplemental General Fund and
Capital Outlay Fund

7.B. Adoption of the 2026-2027 Budget

8. **Contracts/Approvals/Appointments**

9. **Results**

9.A. Results Report

10. **Personnel**

10.A. Executive Session Regarding Personnel

11. **Student Issue**

11.A. Executive Session Regarding A Student
Issue

12. **Closing Items**

12.A. Debriefing

12.B. Adjournment