



MINUTES
USD #325 BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2025

The Board of Education of Phillipsburg USD 325 met in regular session Monday, June 9, 2025 beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Office, 240 S. 7th Street, Phillipsburg. Members present when the meeting was called to order were Brock Johnson, Vice-President; Danielle Bohl, member; Rick Dusin, member, and Justin Taylor, member. Shawn Hoover joined the meeting by phone at 6:50 p.m. Tyson Wisinger, member, was absent.

Officials present: Michael Gower, Superintendent; and Angela Thompson, Clerk.

Other interested persons: Crystal Laurin, Elementary School Principal; and Aaron Hale, Iron Insurance Partners.

CALL TO ORDER

Brock Johnson, Vice-President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF
CONSENT AGENDA

Justin Taylor moved the consent agenda including the May 12, 2025 regular meeting minutes, treasurer’s report, and warrants, be approved as presented. Danielle Bohl seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS
BEFORE THE BOARD

None

REPORT TO THE BOARD
BY THE SUPERINTENDENT

The Superintendent updated the Board on summer projects including preparation for exterior painting and installation of new windows at the middle school, removal of asbestos and refinishing of floors in the high school science classrooms and main restrooms, and plank flooring installation in some classrooms at the middle school and some classrooms around the circle and the library at the high school. Projects at the elementary school include repair and casing of the plumbing pipes in the kitchen area, and the addition of concrete to the parking area off of the alley.

Mr. Gower discussed the proposed part-time student policy for senior Nex-Generation Internships/Work Study. Students will be required to be in good standing with good attendance, having earned a minimum of 21 credits with a cumulative GPA to be determined. An application and letter to the Board of Education requesting part-time student status are also required. Students will be approved on a case-by-case basis.

The Superintendent further discussed proposed changes to the Student Drug Testing Policy to allow for increased testing to include cotinine, which will result in positive tests for those students who use vaping devices and any tobacco products.

Mr. Gower also proposed a policy to ban student cell phones, smart watches, and all outside wireless communication devices during the school day. Cell phones and devices must remain out of sight from the beginning bell to the last bell of the day. If any device is visible even within a pocket, the student will be subject to disciplinary action.

NEW BUSINESS

WORKERS COMPENSATION
AGREEMENT

Following discussion, Danielle Bohl moved the Board approve the renewal in the amount of \$33,873.00 from Iron Insurance Partners, Norton, KS (First Dakota Indemnity-Risk Administration Services) for workers compensation insurance coverage from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026. Rick Dusin seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

PROPERTY/CASUALTY
INSURANCE

Mr. Gower presented a proposal from Iron Insurance Partners (Kansas Insurance Cooperative for Schools – KICS). Following discussion, Justin Taylor moved the Board approve the proposal in the amount of \$152,209.00 from Iron Insurance Partners (KICS) for property/casualty insurance effective July 1, 2025. Rick Dusin seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

2024-2025 BUDGET
AMENDMENT HEARING

Following discussion, Danielle Bohl moved the Board approve republishing the 2024-2025 Budget as amended to give the district the authority to spend additional funding from the State of Kansas. Justin Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

DISTRICT HEALTH
INSURANCE RENEWAL

Following discussion, Danielle Bohl moved the Board approve renewal of the District Health Insurance with Blue Cross Blue Shield Kansas to offer to district employees, as recommended by the Superintendent. Justin Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

2026 SCHOOL LUNCH
PROGRAM AGREEMENT

Following discussion, Justin Taylor moved the Board approve the 2026 School Lunch Program Agreement, as recommended by the Superintendent. Danielle Bohl seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

BUILDING HANDBOOK
AND POLICY REVIEW

The Board received copies of the recommended handbook and policy changes to review for approval at the July Board meeting. The Board will be asked to approve policy handbooks at the July meeting. No major changes are expected other than those already mentioned under the Superintendent's Report.

NCKSEC INTERLOCAL
#636 REPORT

Mr. Gower reported on the recent interlocal meeting.

PERSONNEL

Brock Johnson moved the Board enter into executive session for a period of 5 minutes, until 6:42 p.m., for the purpose of discussing personnel matters of non-elected personnel, to protect the privacy interests of an identifiable individual(s). Mr. Gower was asked to be present. Justin Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

The Board returned to regular session at 6:42 p.m.

Brock Johnson moved the Board re-enter into executive session for a period of 5 minutes, until 6:48 p.m., for the same purpose as stated above. Mr. Gower was asked to remain. Justin Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

The Board returned to regular session at 6:48 p.m. No action taken.

END OF YEAR AUTHORITY

Danielle Bohl moved the Board pass a resolution stating that any unused budget can be transferred to the special education, driver education, capital outlay, in-service, contingency reserve and food service fund(s) at the discretion of the Superintendent of Schools. Rick Dusin seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS

VACANT BOARD POSITION

Following discussion, Rick Dusin moved the Board appoint Jesse Pfortmiller to fill the At-Large Position on the Board of Education until the next general election. Justin Taylor seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-1.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Vice-President Brock Johnson adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED:

MINUTES RECORDED:

DATE: