

# BLUE VALLEY SCHOOLS

## **ACADEMICS & ACTIVITIES**

### BOARD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### **MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday, November 20, 2025 | 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Board of Education Room | 15020 Metcalf Avenue | Overland Park, KS

**FACILITATOR(S):** Kelly June & Matt Ortman

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP:** Philon Barr-Manning, Brenna Bidwell, Kaci Brutto, Sean Burrell, Dr. Katie Collier, Brooke Davids, Jodie Dietz, Lauren Dreher, Kim Grosdidier, Amy Hill, Ryan Hussey, Kelly June, Gina Knapp, Ayden McGibboney, Tvisha Nair, Adrienne Newlin, Lucia Noll, Ava Middleton, Clay Norkey, Matt Ortman, Nova Rule, Brittany Verrett, Matt Wachel, Scott Wright and Melody Xue

**Guests:** Adam Wessel and Chad Ralston

#### **WELCOME & UPDATES**

Members were welcomed by Kelly June. Adam Wessel shared that Dual Degree Night at JCCC was standing room only, reflecting rapid growth in the program—from fewer than 10 students in its first year to 125 students this year.

Jodie Dietz reported that JOCO superintendents met with legislators in Topeka. While many legislators are supportive and understand the importance of public education as a key economic driver, the district faces an \$18 million special education funding shortfall due to inadequate state funding. Dr. Chapman was noted for a strong presentation.

Clay Norkey shared that 19 of 37 elected JOCO representatives attended the meeting. Legislative topics include a proposed cell phone ban and firearms on district facilities.

The board is also working to adopt KASB's comprehensive board policies.

Dr. Chapman reflected positively on attending the statehouse with board members, noting their strong relationships and credibility with legislators.

## **THINKING FORWARD: CAREER-READY PROGRAMMING**

Overview: Kelly June reviewed the four umbrellas of Career Ready Programming (CRP) and facilitated table discussions focused on expansion, improvements, community value, and future considerations.

### **Key Themes & Feedback**

#### Awareness & Communication

- Students want earlier and clearer communication, beginning in freshman year, with continued reinforcement during enrollment periods.
- Suggestions included grade-level meetings, program representatives speaking to students, and an annual student-created video.
- Parents need more information about CRP options and their financial and career impact.

#### Access, Scheduling & Counseling

- Students often must drop classes or leadership roles to participate in CAPS due to scheduling conflicts.
- Ideas included exploring two-hour CAPS blocks, expanding AP access for sophomores, and addressing inequities across strands.
- Counseling capacity is a major barrier; participants suggested dedicated Career Ready/college counselors and additional staff to support expansion.

#### Program Balance & Expansion

- There was strong interest in expanding client-connected projects, internships, and industry partnerships beyond CAPS into more classrooms.
- Participants emphasized strengthening high school CTE programs, including making accounting, marketing, and other courses more applied and industry-connected.

#### Workforce Alignment & Safety

- Questions were raised about how the district can prepare students for high-demand, high-wage careers, potentially offering more in-district options rather than relying on JCCC.
- Relationships with businesses and community partners were identified as

essential to scaling opportunities.

#### AI & Instruction

- There is a disconnect between how students and teachers view AI use in classrooms.
- Businesses expect AI competency; participants emphasized the need to integrate AI safely and intentionally into learning.
- Teachers need resources, toolkits, and guidance to support this shift while maintaining strong instructional practices.

#### Student Voice & Engagement

- Students shared that working on real-world, client-connected projects—especially with professionals in leadership roles—helps them feel valued, confident, and engaged.
- Expanding these experiences within school buildings was seen as a significant opportunity to increase student belonging and relevance.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on February 19, 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 a.m.