



District Mission: Students graduate with the knowledge, skills and behaviors to be college and career ready.

Hutchinson Public Schools

2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR

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Board looks at soft skills

So, how do you put a hard number to soft skills?

During the USD 308 Board of Education meeting Monday (Feb. 8, 2016), members heard a report on how the district is documenting certain soft skills employers have told the district are important. These soft skills are under the category of “employability skills matrix” in the district’s Results Policies 3 through 6.

Those soft skills include creativity; problem-solving; critical thinking; writing, speaking and listening; financial, productivity, responsibility, work ethic, goal setting; and flexibility and adaptability. No formal test or assessment is available for these skills.

Instead, the district cataloged classes and programs that teach or develop these skills in students. Those programs ranged from music and art classes to cross-grade reading buddies to Black History Month poster contests to United Way Work Day to student council to Rachel’s Challenge to Mad City Money.

In all, the inventory of these programs and classes included 85 at the elementary level, 20 at Hutchinson Middle School and 26 at Hutchinson High School.

Also during Monday’s meeting the Board:

- Heard a Continuous Improvement Report from Morgan Elementary School.
- Approved minutes of the Jan. 25, 2016, Board meeting.
- Approved the Accounts Payable Report for January 2016.
- Approved an out-of-state student activity trip for Hutchinson Career and Technical Education Academy welding students to attend a competition at Tulsa, Okla.
- Approved an Early Head Start interagency agreement with the Reno County Health Department for prenatal services.
- Approved an E-Rate applications for the district’s life-safety phone service.
- Began the formal process of the superintendent’s evaluation.
- Debriefed a listening session the Board had with district staff in January.
- Held an executive session for non-elected personnel.

USD 308 does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in employment or in access to or the use of its programs and activities.

Personnel Report

The Board approved the formal personnel changes in the district.

Hired

- Lindsey Palmer, Grade 1 Teacher, Faris Elementary School, effective 2016-17 school year
- Bobbi Franz, Classified Substitute Secretary, District,

Resignations

- Jodi Ackerman, Kindergarten Teacher, Lincoln Elementary School, effective end of 2015-16 school year
- Jennifer Mencl, Grade 1 Teacher, Avenue A Elementary School, effective end of 2015-16 school year
- David T. Patterson, Principal, Hutchinson Middle School, effective end of 2015-16 school year
- Diane O'Neal, Instructional Support Teacher, Faris Elementary School, effective end of 2015-16 school year
- Ayla George, Resource Room Para, Faris Elementary, effective February 5, 2016
- Tiani Snyder, CSS Para, Wiley Elementary, effective January 21, 2016

Retirements

- Lori Blakesley, Executive Director of Fiscal Management and Business Operations, Administration Center, effective December 30, 2016
- Suzann Shea, Grade 2 Teacher, Faris Elementary School, effective end of 2015-16 school year

Position Changes, From, To

- Mandy Malone, Substitute Teacher/District, Science Teacher/Hutchinson Middle School - 8, effective Feb. 2, 2016
- Amy Allen, Kindergarten Teacher/Avenue A Elementary School, Library Media Specialist/Morgan, effective 2016-17 school year
- Ashley Mercado, Grade 3 Teacher/McCandless Elementary School, Grade 3 Teacher/Avenue A, effective 2016-17 school year
- Elvia Puga, ESL Aide/Hutchinson High School, ESL Aide/Hutchinson Middle School - 8, effective February 8, 2016
- Kimberly Steinert, Health Assistant/Avenue A, Substitute Nurse Health Assistant/District, effective January 14, 2016

Gifts to Schools

The Board formally accepted and thanked donors of the following gifts.

- \$1,800 Communities that Care Grant to Hutchinson Magnet School at Allen for STEM projects.
- Two bags full of beanie babies from Rosemary Sutton and Darlene Swarnborn to Hutchinson Magnet School at Allen.
- Paint, valued at \$6,100, from Color By Design to the HHS Art Department.
- Gift boxes for each student, valued at a total of \$11,240, from First Church of the Nazarene to Lincoln Elementary School.
- \$300 from Grace Episcopal Church to Lincoln Elementary School for student and family needs.

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Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Board will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 22.