

**BROWN COUNTY KANSAS SPECIAL EDUCATION INTERLOCAL #615**  
**301 S. FIRST STREET HIAWATHA, KS 66434**  
**Phone (785) 742-7108**

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

October 1, 2025

(These minutes are not official until approved at the November 5, 2025 board meeting.)

The Board of Education of the Brown County Kansas Special Education Interlocal #615 held its regular October Board of Education meeting at 6:00 p.m. on October 1, 2025 at the Special Education Annex in Hiawatha.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Shelby Rice called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Those present were:

John West, Director  
Jon Boller, USD 430 Board Member  
Rex Lockwood, USD 430 Board Member  
Shelby Rice, USD 430 Board Member  
Brooklyn Schuetz, USD 415 Board Member  
Jacquie Spihlmann, USD 415 Board Member  
Roni Tietjens, USD 415 Board Member  
Amy Larson, Board Clerk/Business Manager

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Roni Tietjens moved to approve the agenda. Jon Boller seconded and the motion passed with a vote of six to zero.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

There were no comments from the public.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Shelby Rice commented that the September 16 goal setting meeting was productive.

## **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA**

Roni Tietjens moved to approve the consent agenda. Brooklyn Schuetz seconded and the motion passed with a vote of six to zero. Included in the consent agenda was:

1. Approval of the minutes of the September 3, 2025 regular board meeting.
2. Approval of the bills for the month of October 2025.
3. Accept the treasurer's report for the month of October 2025.
4. Approve the hires of Alexander Starnes (Hiawatha Elementary) and Gayla Cummings (Hiawatha Middle) as special education paras.
5. Accept the resignation of Ryan Ostrander, HMS special education para.

## **DISCUSSION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION STAFF RECOGNITION**

The board members discussed a monthly special education staff recognition for both districts. One special education employee from each district would be recognized each month. The staff would also be recognized on the appropriate district's Facebook page.

## **DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF 2025-26 INTERLOCAL GOALS**

After the September 16 goal setting meeting with KASB, there are four goals that the director and the Interlocal have set for 2025-26.

1. Transition to an Integrated PreK Model.
2. Develop Parent and Staff Handbooks.
3. Implement a Paperless IEP System.
4. Refresh Website and Strengthen Identity

After discussion, Roni Tietjens moved to approve the 2025-26 goals for the director and the Interlocal. Jacquie Spihlmann seconded and the motion passed with a vote of six to zero.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Director West stated the telespeech feedback is mostly positive. Letters were sent to parents about telespeech.
- Director West stated that para staffing continues to evolve. Two paras resigned and one para has been hired to fill one of the vacant positions.
- Director West stated that negotiations paperwork has been mailed to the state. Future negotiations need to start earlier from now on.
- Director West stated that he has been going to many meetings, both for IEPs and other matters.
- Director West and the board members discussed the 2026-2027 school psychologist position opening. After discussion, Roni Tietjens moved to hire Tori Mace as a School Psychologist for the 2026-2027 school year. Jon Boller seconded and the motion passed with a vote of six to zero.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS, NON-ELECTED PERSONNEL, STUDENT PERSONNEL**

There was no executive session.

**OTHER**

There was no other business.

**ADJOURN**

Rex Lockwood moved to adjourn the Board meeting. Jon Boller seconded and the motion passed with a vote of six to zero. The meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BCK-SEI Board of Education will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at the Special Education Annex in Hiawatha.

Board

\_\_\_\_\_, President

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_, Date

\_\_\_\_\_, Date