

September 3, 2025

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING

September 3, 2025

(These minutes are not official until approved at the October 1, 2025 board meeting.)

The Board of Education of the Brown County Kansas Special Education Interlocal #615 held its regular September Board of Education meeting at 6:00 p.m. on September 3, 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
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
Loren Henry, SBS Insurance Agent
Ginny Herrera, IRC Instructor

Those absent were:

Jon Boller, USD 430 Board Member

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Roni Tietjens moved to approve the agenda. Rex Lockwood seconded and the motion passed with a vote of five to zero.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments from the public.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

There were no comments from the president.

APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

Rex Lockwood moved to approve the consent agenda. Brooklyn Schuetz seconded and the motion passed with a vote of five to zero. Included in the consent agenda was:

1. Approval of the minutes of the August 15, 2025 regular board meeting.
2. Approval of the bills for the month of September 2025.
3. Accept the treasurer's report for the month of September 2025.
4. Approve the hire of Mykela Ostwald, Horton Elementary Special Ed para.

REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF 2025-26 INSURANCE BY LOREN HENRY OF SBS AGENCY

Loren Henry of SBS Insurance Agency presented the 2025-26 insurance quote. There is an increase of \$1,414 mostly with vehicle insurance. Loren stated that vehicle insurance is increasing for many other clients as well. There was discussion that followed.

Roni Tietjens moved to approve the 2025-26 insurance quote from SBS Insurance Agency. Jacquie Spihlmann seconded and the motion passed with a vote of five to zero.

Loren Henry left the meeting at 6:10 pm.

2024-25 FINANCIAL AUDIT REVIEW AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL WITH VARNEY'S AND ASSOCIATES

Varney's and Associates auditor Jessica Lindsley provided the 2024-25 financial audit report via speakerphone. The interlocal received a clean opinion which is the highest opinion given, and there were no concerns. There is a new statement regarding internal controls within the governance letter that the audit firm is now required to make for all clients. Ms. Lindsley discussed this statement with the board.

Jacquie Spihlmann moved to approve the 2024-25 financial audit with Varney's and Associates. Rex Lockwood seconded and the motion passed with a vote of five to zero.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Director West stated the first negotiations meeting is set for Thursday, September 4, in the morning.
- Director West stated that School Psychologist Leanna Streeter is going to take CPI training in October 2025. This training is similar to Mandt training.
- Director West reviewed his KELI mentorship training in late August.
- Director West stated concerns regarding para attendance and is continuing to search for para applications.
- Director West discussed the prevalence rate of IEPs. The state average prevalence rate is 17%. Hiawatha's prevalence rate is 23% and Horton's prevalence rate is 28%. Ginny Herrera contributed to the conversation regarding diagnoses and IEPs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS NEGOTIATIONS

At 6:30 pm, Jacquie Spihlmann moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss negotiable items as allowed for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA, and reconvene at 6:35 pm. Roni Tietjens seconded and the motion passed with a vote of five to zero. The executive session was necessary to ensure a fair and equitable contract. Those present for the executive session were John West, Rex Lockwood, Shelby Rice, Brooklyn Schuetz, Jacquie Spihlmann, and Roni Tietjens. At 6:35 pm, Jacquie Spihlmann moved to go into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss negotiable items as allowed for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA, and reconvene at 6:40 pm. Brooklyn Schuetz seconded and the motion passed with a vote of five to zero. The executive session was necessary to ensure a fair and equitable contract. Those present for the executive session were John West, Rex Lockwood, Shelby Rice, Brooklyn Schuetz, Jacquie Spihlmann, Roni Tietjens, and Amy Larson. At 6:40 pm, the board came out of executive session.

POSSIBLE ACTION FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no action following executive session.

OTHER

There was no other business.

ADJOURN

Jacquie Spihlmann moved to adjourn the Board meeting. Roni Tietjens seconded and the motion passed with a vote of five to zero. The meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the BCK-SEI Board of Education will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 1, 2025 at the Special Education Annex in Hiawatha.

_____	Board _____, President	_____	_____, Clerk
_____	_____, Date	_____	_____, Date