



Board of Education Meeting Summary
March 9, 2026 - [Packet](#) • [Meeting Recording](#)
Derby Public Schools Administrative Center

Below are highlights from the [March 9, 2026](#) Board of Education meeting. Note: This is a summary of the BOE meeting from the Communications Department. Approved minutes are posted by the Board Clerk.

Agenda

- The Board adopted the agenda as presented. Approved 7-0.

Routine Action

- **Board Member Reports:** Board Members shared highlights of recent activities, including Panther Pal games, the Parents As Teachers Teddy Bear Clinic, a recent tour of the Learning Lab, Read Across America Week activities, tours of Project LIFE, Project SEARCH and Tri-City Day School in Haysville, opportunities available at WSU Tech, feedback from a high school student forum and more. Shoutouts were also shared for recent postseason success in athletics and extracurriculars. Lastly, incredible kudos were given on the 11th Annual Community Food Drive.
- **DNEA:** Kathleen O'Brien, DNEA President and DHS Science Teacher, shared about the recent negotiations letter exchange between DNEA and the district. Additionally, she highlighted success from State HOSA and DECA, as well as our Derby student visionaries' Blood Cancer United fundraising.

Presentations

- **Tanglewood Elementary Presentation and Years of Service:** Shannon Demel and Maretta Unruh, Interim Principals, shared building-specific goals from the Kansas State Department of Education Needs Assessment for the 2025-2026 school year. ([page 7](#)). ([see presentation](#))
- Interim Principals Shannon Demel and Maretta Unruh recognized Madi McClung, a 3rd grade student, and Jeannie Haag, a 4th grade teacher,



from Tanglewood Elementary.

- Madi consistently puts forward her best effort in everything she does. She is a tenacious learner who embraces challenges with determination and grit. Madi's quiet leadership is respected by her peers, and she is known for her positive behavior and genuine character.
- Jeannie is known for her kindness and the example she sets for others. She maintains high expectations for her students while also being a supportive colleague to staff across the building. Her knowledge and willingness to help make her a valued member of the team.
- Tanglewood staff were recognized for their years of service at Derby Public Schools. Congratulations to (10 Years) Angel Brown, Cindy Blagg, Dr. Jenn Cox, Kay Khanu, Jessica Pignataro, Joyce Wells, (15 Years) Tara Nussbaum, Andrea Henderson, Katie Windorski, Cindy Vietti, Stephanie Hull, (20 Years) Sharis Bannon, Traci Kohler, Amy Steadman, Devin Tarrant, (25 Years) Tamara Sammons, (30 Years) Eric Seyb and Jeannie Haag. Additionally, Cindy Blagg and Jayson Miller received the University of Kansas School of Education 25 Year Certificate for completing 25 years of teaching and/or administrative service in public or private schools. Thank you for your dedication!



Consent Agenda

- Donation to Swaney Elementary from The Kroger Family of Companies (Joel Addis); Donation to El Paso Elementary from Various Donors (Ginger Baerg); Donation to Stone Creek Elementary from Bittersweet (Sandy Rusher); Donation for Share Good News Recognition from Ziggi's Coffee - Derby (Katie Carlson); Out of State Travel Request for Derby High School Journalism to Kansas City, Missouri (Gretchen Pontious); Update Authorized Signature at Official Bank of Deposit (Pamela Kelly) Certified and Classified Personnel Reports (Becky Moeder); and Claims (Pamela Kelly) ([page 8](#)).

Discussion

- **Middle School Communications and Technology and Careers Course Resource:** Dr. Holly Putnam-Jackson, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning and Kati Thul, Director of Teaching and Learning. After implementation and reflection, the middle

school communications committee is recommending that they maintain their current instructional resources, which include Character Strong, Xello Individual Plan of Study (IPS) activities, CTE and scheduling support, and add Typing.com. The total cost for this program would be \$6,114. ([page 17](#)).

Action

- **Vehicle Purchases:** Burke Jones, Director of Operations, is asking for approval to purchase eight new vehicles for the district. After this approval, \$101,796.24 will be remaining encumbered, with a plan to issue a bid yet for minivans to utilize these funds. Approved 7-0. ([page 18](#)).
- **Commercial Realtor Recommendation:** Burke Jones, Director of Operations, is recommending a commercial realtor. After issuing an RFP and interviewing five local commercial real estate firms, proposals were evaluated. Based on those results, Lange Real Estate was recommended to be the district's commercial realtor. Approved 7-0. ([page 33](#)).
- **Summer School:** Dr. Holly Putnam Jackson, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, is asking for approval of Summer School 2026. This will be offered for high school and K-8 students, with sessions running from late May through July, including online, in-person and remote learning options. Fees vary by program (high school \$145, K-8 \$40, some programs free), and additional summer opportunities include STEMKAMP and free AmeriCorps tutoring and kindergarten readiness camps. Approved 7-0. ([page 51](#)).
- **Driver's Education:** Dr. Holly Putnam Jackson, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, is asking for approval for driver's education for the summer of 2026. This Driver's Education course will be offered to 76 students from Wednesday, May 27, through Thursday, July 2, 2026. Classes will be offered at 8-10AM, with a total of 27 days in session. The fee for this program is \$300. Approved 7-0. ([page 53](#)).
- **Derby High School Chemistry and PreAP Chemistry:** Dr. Holly Putnam Jackson, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, and Kati Thul, Director of Teaching and Learning, are asking for approval for World of Chemistry by National Geographic as new Chemistry course resources for Derby High School. Approved 7-0. ([page 58](#)).