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# Board Briefs

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B L U E V A L L E Y S C H O O L S

*Education Beyond Expectations*

August 9, 2021

## **Board receives an update on the return to school**

The Board received an update from Dr. Katie Collier and Dr. Mark Schimdt on the district's plan and oversight for returning for the 2021-22 school year. Dr. Collier presented the board with several topics such as: providing safe learning environments, the transitions for back to in-person learning, operations, and COVID-19 protocols. The return to learn plan was formed in conjunction with Johnson County Board of Health Order No. 001-21. The Board then asked questions and heard from Elizabeth Holzschuh, epidemiologist for the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE).

## **Board votes to extend masking for grades 9-12 and the 18-21 Program**

The Board voted 6-1 to extend the Johnson County Board of Health Order No. 001-21 for Blue Valley Schools to include grades 9-12 and the 18–21-year-old program for the 2021-22 school year, to be reviewed at least quarterly at board meetings. All students, staff, and visitors are required to mask while inside Blue Valley schools regardless of vaccination status. For COVID-19 protocols, please [visit the COVID-19 page on the district's website](#).

## **Board approves the proposed 2021-22 tentative budget**

Jenni Daniel, Director of Finance, presented to the Board the 2021-22 tentative budget. The Board voted to approve the 2021-22 tentative budget and to approve exceeding the tax revenue neutral rate for publication. The Board will meet on August 30, 2021, for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of tax to be levied.

## **Board approves BVEA and BVNEA-RSP agreements and salary/wage increases for all employee groups**

The Board heard from Dr. Eric Punswick, Chief Human Resources Officer, and voted to approve the 2021-22 and 2022-23 tentative agreements with BVEA and BVNEA-RSP. This is a two-year agreement that lifts the starting salaries while increasing all areas of the schedule, provides a zero increase on health insurance benefits for employees, and includes an additional leave day. The Board also approved increasing starting wages and increasing all wages on the classified salary schedule. This increase creates a highly competitive schedule. In addition to classified wages, the Board approved increasing all administrator salaries in a two-year contract.

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## **District taps ESSER funds for staff retention payments**

The Board received an update from Dr. Punswick on how the district plans to use some of the ESSER (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds to distribute an additional payment to employees. The state legislature suggested a portion of this fund be used toward retention payments for employees for dealing with the challenges of COVID-19. Blue Valley employees will receive \$700 if they are .5 FTE or greater, and \$350 if they are below .5 FTE on September 30. Punswick noted that the superintendent and the superintendent's cabinet are not included.

## **Board votes to appoint Blue Valley Recreation Commissioners**

The board voted to appoint candidates for the Blue Valley Recreation Commission Commissioners of the South and Northwest district for a term of four years, beginning August 1, 2021, and expiring July 31, 2025. For more information on the Blue Valley Recreation Commissioners please [visit our BVRC page on the district's website](#).

## **Board votes to appoint patrons to Board Advisory Committees**

The board voted to appoint applicants to their respective Board Advisory Committees. To learn more about Board Advisory Committees, [visit our district website](#).

A [video recording](#) of the live-streamed meeting is available for viewing on the [Blue Valley Board of Education YouTube channel](#).



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*Board Briefs* is published by the Blue Valley School District Communications Department following each Board of Education meeting.