

RV B.O.E. OKs new district goals

*By Ali Holcomb*

The Royal Valley Board of Education has approved new goals as the 2025-26 school year gets under way in the district.

At the board’s meeting last Wednesday evening, the board reviewed and approved an updated list of goals for the new school year.

Following suggestions from board members, the board now has seven core goals, Superintendent Aaric Davis said.

This year’s goals include the addition of creating a positive school climate for staff and students and ensuring that teachers and administrators have the training and continued education they need to be effective in their roles.

The goals include:

**The board of education will ensure a high priority for the safety of all district students and staff.**

How do we know?

- \* Annual review and revision of the district crisis plan and of district safety and security policies.
- \* Ongoing communication and collaboration among district personnel and community emergency services representatives, including the county health official.

**The board of education will continue to plan for and provide the best possible facility upgrades to serve our students, teachers and community.**

How do we know?

- \* Classroom student-to-teacher ratios will be planned for and maintained within acceptable parameters, as allowed by available facilities and district budget.
- \* Bi-annual reporting and review of district facility maintenance and repair needs documented with board of education agendas.
- \* Architectural involvement in planning for facility upgrades and facility expansion may be evidenced within annual board of education agendas.
- \* Development of a site plan utilizing the land purchased around the elementary and high school.
- \* Development of a prioritized list of facility upgrades for long-range planning.

**The board will identify opportunities to recognize efforts of district staff and support the certified, classified and administrative staff so that they can work together, focusing on students and creating a positive school climate.**

How do we know?

- \* Implementation of staff climate survey.
- \* Assessment of district needs based on the results of the climate survey.
- \* Creation of action steps to address school climate areas of growth.
- \* Through continuation of annual board of education employee recognition events.
- \* Continued board of education recognition of individual employees or employee groups.

**The board will support the continued efforts of students, parents, staff and administration to meet the district academic achievement goals and improving outcomes for the Royal Valley students.**

How do we know?

- \* As evidenced by parental participation opportunities offered within district schools and in the parental support shown for the pre-K through 12 educational programs.
- \* Trimester review of the district academic progress reports.
- \* Annual review of the district state assessment test scores.
- \* Annual review of the dis-

trict high school graduation rate.

- \* Annual review of USD 337 Post-Secondary Success data.

**The board will work to ensure that teachers and administration have the training and continuing education that they need to grow and increase effectiveness in their professional roles.**

How do we know?

- \* Regular updates from the superintendent and director of curriculum and instruction on the training initiatives taking place within the district.
- \* Annual professional learning goals written by certified staff based upon growth areas from previous evaluations.
- \* Support teachers and administrators in providing training opportunities to address professional growth areas.

**The board will support the effort of staff and administration to meet the mental health and behavioral needs of students within the district.**

How do we know?

- \* As evidenced by the implementation of social-emotional curriculum by classroom teachers.
- \* Through annual review of our social-emotional data collection and statistics.

**The board will support the effort of staff and administration to reduce chronic absenteeism in the district.**

How do we know?

- \* Through support of administrative policies to increase accountability for students and families.
- \* Through financial support to incentivize and motivate good student attendance.

Davis said the board checks in on the progress of the goals in January.

Board member Ruth Slocum suggested reviewing the goals quarterly, and the other board members agreed.

In other business, the board:

- \* Held a special meeting from 5:30 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. to walk through each school building at Hoyt and Mayetta. Davis and the building principals highlighted the facility upgrades and summer work.
- The board also received a report from RVHS FCCLA members, who attended the National Leadership Conference this summer.
- \* Approved the agenda for the regular meeting.
- \* Approved consent items as presented, including the minutes from the previous meeting, the treasurer’s report and warrants.
- \* Held public comment. No comments were made.
- \* Held board discussion. No discussion was held.
- \* Was introduced to two new staff members who attended a portion of the meeting, including Emma Poort, sixth-grade math and social studies teacher, and Brody Bliss, eighth-grade history teacher.
- \* Reviewed and approved the 2024-25 needs assessment from each building and the barrier report as presented.
- \* Reviewed and discussed a potential design for a new sign for the north side of the RVHS gym.

Davis said he plans to request bids for the project from local contractors.

- \* Received a preliminary enrollment report from Davis, who estimated this year’s headcount to be 837 students, compared to 856 students last year.

This year’s kindergarten class is smaller than last year’s, but the district has more pre-school students this year than in years past, he said.

He said the district’s full-time equivalency is estimated at 812.5 students compared to 837.2 last year.

The district has 83 nonresident students for the 2025-26 school year compared to 97 last

year.

- \* Approved the Early Childhood Special Education calendar for the 2025-26 school year as presented.
- \* Approved the propane bid from Prairie Band Propane at an initial fill price of \$1.20 a gallon (five cents less than last year). After that, the bid cap price will be \$1.35 a gallon, which is the same as last year.
- \* Approved a motion to have ADS Distributing Inc. repair the roof at the bus garage at a total cost of \$13,050.
- \* Approved the following resignations, Garret Platt (assistant softball coach), Samantha Swank (RVHS lunchroom monitor), Tyler Roberts (RVHS assistant baseball coach) and Edith Sieve (RVES kindergarten paraprofessional).

The board also offered new employment contracts to Bailey Shultz (pre-k paraprofessional), TJ Michaels (reading paraprofessional), Roxanne Fraunfelter (bus paraprofessional), Thomas Fraunfelter (substitute van driver and substitute bus paraprofessional), Tana Frost (RVES kindergarten paraprofessional), Dale Traxler (Vo-Tech bus driver) and Garret Platt (RVMS girls assistant basketball coach).

The board also approved the transfer of Josh Jackson from assistant middle school girls basketball coach to head middle school girls basketball coach.

- \* Adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m. Board members Kelli Lambrecht was absent from the meeting. No executive sessions were needed.

Tax Sale...

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If no one bids on a tract of land, then the county will own the property, and the commissioners can try to resell it at a later date.

The last tax sale was held in August 2021, during which 10 tracts of land were sold for a total of \$34,925. There was no minimum bid for the properties at that sale, it was reported.

JACKSON COUNTY RESOLUTION NO. 2025-18

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF JACKSON COUNTY, KANSAS THE PROPOSITION OF LEVYING A ONE-QUARTER PERCENT (.25%) COUNTY-WIDE RETAILERS’ SALES TAX FOR RURAL HEALTH RESOURCES IN JACKSON COUNTY, KANSAS**

ON THIS 11<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF AUGUST, 2025, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF JACKSON COUNTY, KANSAS, are duly assembled at a regular meeting of such County Commissioners for the purpose of transacting business on behalf of Jackson County, Kansas.

WHEREAS, THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF JACKSON COUNTY, KANSAS being advised of the actions of the Kansas Legislature to pass an amendment to K.S.A. §12-187 allowing for the imposition of a one-quarter (.25%) countywide retailers’ sales tax for the purpose of supporting hospital services in Jackson County by Rural Health Resources of Jackson Co., Inc. doing business as Holton Community Hospital, and for authority to place said proposition on an election ballot, with said amendment being passed into law, and thus the County being presented with the opportunity to submit the question to the qualified electors of the County.

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 12-187, et seq., as amended, authorizes the Governing Body to submit to the qualified electors of the County of Jackson, State of Kansas, the question of levying retailers’ sales tax for support of hospital services in Jackson County, such tax to be collected by the State Department of Revenue with the revenue therefrom returned to the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE



Scott Foster (center) of Foster Ford was recently honored for 40 years in business in Holton. Foster is shown with Tom Evans (at left), regional manager of Ford Credit, and Bryan Shay, Ford Credit representative (at right).

Foster Ford...

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“The bottom line is we treat people how we’d like to be treated,” he said. “I’ve always had the attitude that if you’re going to buy a car, it ought to be a pleasure. You ought to enjoy it because it’s a major investment.”

The business became Foster Ford Inc. in 2011, and Foster’s son, Jordan, joined the dealership in 2012.

In 2016, the business underwent a major remodel to align with Ford’s corporate branding.

The business now employs 12 full-time staff, and most of them have worked for the dealership for 25 years or more, Foster said.

The business offers full service and repairs, as well as new and used car and truck sales.

He said that the auto industry has seen significant changes through the years, including new regulations and challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“If anybody had ever told me I’d sell a \$100,000 car, I’d tell them you’re nuts,” he said. “The price of things and the amount of capital it takes to buy a car can be challenging.”

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF JACKSON COUNTY, KANSAS,

Section 1. A question shall be submitted in the manner prescribed by law at the general election on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2025, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of Jackson County, Kansas the question of levying a retailers’ sales tax countywide, in the amount of one-quarter percent (.25%), for the purposes of supporting hospital services in Jackson County, Kansas, with such tax to take effect on January 1, 2026, and for a period not to exceed ten (10) years, if approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon.

Section 2. If approved by a majority of the electors voting thereon, such tax shall be subject to all applicable state laws and administrative rules and regulations of the Kansas Department of Revenue. The services of the Department of Revenue shall be utilized to administer, enforce and collect such tax.

Section 3. The County election officer shall cause notices to be published of this special question election, as provided by law.

ADOPTED this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2025 by the Board of County Commissioners of Jackson County Kansas, and to be Published of record in *The Holton Recorder*.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JACKSON COUNTY, KANSAS**

*/s/ Mark Pruett*  
**MARK PRUETT,**  
Chairman

*/s/ Keith Kelly*  
**KEITH KELLY,**  
Commissioner

*/s/ Linda Gerhardt*  
**LINDA GERHARDT,**  
Commissioner

[SEAL]

ATTEST:

*/s/ Kristie Richter*  
**KRISTIE RICHTER,**  
County Clerk

Foster said Ford has recently shifted its focus towards electric vehicles (EVs), and the dealership now offers a few EVs for sale.

“I don’t think it’s going to work in the rural communities today. Technology might get to the point where we start selling more,” he said. “It hasn’t been very successful so far.”

Currently, Foster Ford has the only public EV charging station in the county.

In addition to operating the business, both Scott and Jordan are active in the community, serving on various organizational boards.

“My dad was always involved in the community,” Foster said.

“As a family, we always feel that there’s people in every community who need to stand up and assist when they can.”

Both men say they are optimistic about the future of the business.

“The sky is the limit. It’s amazing the technology that’s available now,” Jordan said.

Foster added that he’s grateful to have Jordan on as a partner.

“The overhead costs of being in business, and the unforeseen expenses, has increased. It’s a challenge. It’s times like these that I appreciate having a partner,” he said. “I hope Jordan can continue what we’ve started. We appreciate our local community very much.”

Pool...

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“You’re still going to have people who want to go to the aquatic park in north Topeka, or to Sabetha, where they have the ‘lazy river’ and other little things that we don’t have,” Rogers said. “But for being a small community pool and to be able to offer those little extras, I think it’s huge for our numbers. We have the slides and the diving boards, and they’re huge for keeping people here.”

The slides also had a positive effect on evening admissions this year, she added.

“We were probably busier in the evening this year than we had been, and I think those slides kind of helped boost that,” Rogers said. “Plus, you can be little and go down

the slides because we let the parents catch the kids.”

Local businesses also offered sponsorships for pool attendance, with Holton Community Hospital, Prime Cattle Company and Zwonitzer Propane offering to cover the first 50 admissions at the pool on certain days.

“We didn’t have as many this year as we had in the past, but we also didn’t go out and ask for sponsors,” Rogers said.

“If we were sponsored, it was because they came to us and wanted to do that... Zwonitzer Propane picked up the whole last week we were open, Monday through Friday. And it wasn’t because I asked them — they just like doing that in the community.”

Public Notice

*(First published in The Holton Recorder, Holton, Kan., on Wednesday, Aug. 13, 2025.)*

CITY OF HOYT, KANSAS  
NOTICE OF HEARING ON APPLICATION TO CHANGE ZONING CLASSIFICATION

Please take notice that pursuant to the requirements of the City of Hoyt, Kansas Zoning Regulations, an application has been filed by Bob Ehrhart, Nick Ehrhart and Lisa Engler to rezone the following described property from B-1 (business) to I-1 (light industrial):

A tract of land located in Jackson County, Kansas described as follows: S22, T09, R15E, ACRES 34.2,

BEG 1202.78W NE/C NE/4 S1680 E974.45 SW525.08 SE179.3 S275.49 W1447.96 N948.81 E136 NW308.67 E173.68 NE400.83 Deed Book/Page 359 /609 314 /620 N1000 E50 TO POB LESS ROW

The property is located on the NW corner of US Hwy 75 and 110 Road in Hoyt, Jackson County, KS.

A hearing on this matter will be held by the governing body of the City of Hoyt at 7:00 P.M. on Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at Hoyt City Hall in the City of Hoyt. All persons interested may appear and be heard on this matter at that time and location.

L3312

**Circleville Masonic Lodge**  
**LABOR DAY BREAKFAST**  
**SAUSAGE GRAVY & BISCUITS**  
*Served with Orange Juice & Sausage*  
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**7 a.m. to 10 a.m.**  
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