

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
APRIL 15, 2019  
12:00 P.M.**

The Board of Education of Unified School District 234, Fort Scott, Kansas, met in special session at their offices at 424 S. Main at 12:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Jamie Armstrong, Gary Billionis, Janet Braun, Michelle Hudiburg, David Stewart, James Wood

ABSENT: Jordan Witt

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Ted Hessong, Board Clerk Gina Shelton

OTHERS PRESENT: Connie Billionis

**FLAG SALUTE**

**OPEN THE MEETING – 12:00 P.M.**

President Armstrong opened the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

It was moved by Mrs. Braun, seconded by Mrs. Hudiburg, and carried by unanimous vote that the board go into executive session to discuss the employment of personnel for the 2019-20 school year pursuant to the non-elected personnel exception under KOMA and that the board returns to open meeting in the board room at 12:10 p.m.

The executive session was required to protect the privacy rights of an identifiable individual.

The board invited Superintendent Ted Hessong to attend the executive session.

**OPEN SESSION – 12:10 P.M.**

**CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT**

It was moved by Mrs. Hudiburg, seconded by Mrs. Braun, and carried by unanimous vote that the board approve the following employment items:


- A. Resignation of Stacia Weilert, Winfield Scott kindergarten teacher, effective at the end of the 2018-19 school year

April 10, 2019

Dear Joy,

I am resigning from my Kindergarten position. I am sad to leave my Winfield Scott family and have thoroughly enjoyed working for you and with my Kindergarten team.

Sincerely,



Stacia Weilert

B. Resignation of Heather Schnichels, middle school paraprofessional, effective April 9, 2019

4/10/2019

USD 234 Fort Scott Mail - Fwd: Resignation



Connie Billionis <cbillionis@usd234.org>

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## Fwd: Resignation

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Ted Hessong <ted.hessong@usd234.org>  
To: Connie Billionis <cbillionis@usd234.org>

Wed, Apr 10, 2019 at 11:06 AM

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brian Weilert** <bweilert@usd234.org>  
Date: Wed, Apr 10, 2019 at 7:01 AM  
Subject: Fwd: Resignation  
To: Ted Hessong <ted.hessong@usd234.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Heather Schnichels** <hschnichels@usd234.org>  
Date: Tue, Apr 9, 2019 at 7:16 PM  
Subject: Resignation  
To: Brian Weilert <bweilert@usd234.org>

Hello,

As of 4/9/19 I have decided to resign to further the care of my children. I have sent my resignation to Nikki Traul and greatly appreciate everything/ everyone at the school. I did not make this decision easily, it has been a lot of tear shed. I have never loved a job more.

Thanks,  
Heather Schnichels

--  
Brian Weilert  
FSMS Principal

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*Be Connected...*

Ted Hessong  
Superintendent  
Fort Scott School District  
**TIGER PRIDE!!!**  
620-223-0800

"The best kind of PRIDE is that which compels a person to do their best when no one is watching."

C. Resignation of Chanel Thrush, Winfield Scott paraprofessional, effective April 10, 2019

March 27

Today I am submitting my 2 weeks  
notice. Thank you,  
Chanel Thrush

D. Resignation of Staci Sinn Black as middle school PRIDE sponsor, effective at the end of the 2018-19 school year

April 4, 2019

Matt Harris  
Assistant Principal  
Fort Scott Middle School  
1105 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fort Scott, KS 66701

Dear Mr. Harris,

Please accept this letter as notice that I will be resigning my position as PRIDE sponsor effective at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Staci Sinn Black".

Staci Sinn Black

E. Transfer of Russ Gordon, Winfield Scott/Eugene Ware art teacher, to Winfield Scott art teacher for the 2019-20 school year

**Winfield Scott Elementary**

316 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Fort Scott, KS 66701-2697  
www.usd234.org  
620-223-0450 Fax 620-223-6420

*Joy McGhee, Principal*



4-12-19

Mr. Ted Hessong  
Superintendent

I recommend the transfer of Russ Gordon, Winfield Scott/Eugene Ware art teacher, to Winfield Scott art teacher for the 2019-20 school year.

Respectfully,

Joy McGhee

F. Transfer of Kelsey DeMott, Winfield Scott first grade teacher, to Eugene Ware special education teacher for the 2019-20 school year

## Unified School District 234

424 South Main  
Fort Scott, KS 66701-2697  
[www.usd234.org](http://www.usd234.org)  
620-223-0800 Fax 620-223-2760

TED HESSONG  
Superintendent



NICKI TRAU  
Assistant Superintendent

04/14/2019

Kelsey DeMott interviewed for the position of special education teacher. I recommend transferring her from 1<sup>st</sup> grade at Winfield Scott to special education teacher at Eugene Ware Elementary for the 2019-2020 school year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicki Traul".

Nicki Traul  
Assistant Superintendent

G. Resignation of Pat Harry, high school music teacher aide, effective at the end of the 2018-19 school year

April 12, 2019

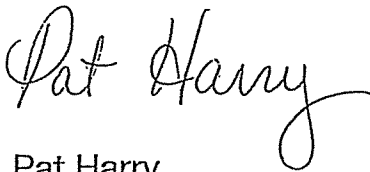
Mr. Hessong  
Superintendent  
USD 234, Ft. Scott, KS

Dear Mr. Hessong,

I am resigning my position as high school choral accompanist at the end of this school year.

It has been a great pleasure to work with Mrs. Reid and the choral students here.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Harry". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Pat Harry



## H. Contract extension for Angella Curran, high school debate/forensics teacher

To: USD 234 Board of Education  
Mr. Hessong

From: Angella Curran

I am the current debate and forensics coach at Fort Scott High School. I also have the honor to be the National Speech and Debate Association Sponsor. This is my first year at Fort Scott High School, and I am very proud of the success that my team has had this year. I am writing to request an extension of my contract to help defray the personal costs and time that the National competition involves every summer.

The coaching season for debate and forensics is an entire school year. We start a week before school starts in August, compete at the State debate competition and KSDC before the end of winter break, and we practice up until the National competition in June. This year, hosting the State Debate tournament was an extensive endeavor that took many extra hours, as well. Coaching forensics means not only working with students, but also doing all of our secretarial duties and fundraising. This year, we have already qualified nine students to the National competition and 16 entries to the State Forensics Competition. Under my coaching and guidance we had the 2018 State Debate Champions and Runners-Up, as well as the 4th place state team. Fort Scott high school has a winning tradition and that tradition continues this year. We are currently ranked in the top 6% of the schools in the Nation out of 2700 schools and we are ranked 15th in the state of Kansas. We currently have five students over 1,500 points which puts them in a category that only 1/3 of 1% achieve. We also can boast that one of our students in an Academic All American and we have four students in line to qualify for that same honor next year. Fort Scott also has three students ranked in the top 30 competitors in the state of Kansas for 2019.

Keeping track of points and scoring debate and forensics information to be logged for national competition and bids and state is a time consuming and ongoing process each and every week. It is something I do through a national database that allows students this opportunity to compete nationally and open the door to represent Fort Scott High School at the National Level, providing students valuable experiences as well as opening doors to many scholarships at various post-secondary institutions.

When students qualify for the National tournament and are able to attend and compete, they are more likely to secure scholarships and more effectively compete at the college level. Preparing for this prestigious event takes many hours throughout the school year, but it also involves 4-5 hours per day outside of school (after the end of the school year) until we leave for the National tournament. The National tournament is seven days long. I do not believe that this is part of my contractual duties. The total time involved with competition, driving, and 24-hour supervision, greatly exceeds 200 hours. This is more time than a coach spends in an entire season of a sport. My supplemental duties include Debate, Forensics, and the NSDA club. I do not see this as an extension of a "normal" season in comparison to other activities because I, too, send teams to compete at state competitions, and do well, having won the State Debate trophy this year. NSDA is a worthwhile organization that is promoted by the National Principals' Association. I am respectfully requesting a one-week extension of my contract to help compensate the time spent with the national tournament.

Respectfully,

Angella Curran

- I. Employment of Tracy King as a high school teacher for the 2019-20 school year
- J. Employment of Ashlea Taylor as a Winfield Scott special education teacher for the 2019-20 school year

**ADJOURN – 12:11 P.M.**

**ATTEST:**

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Board President

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Board Clerk