

**SANTA FE TRAIL USD 434 BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**April 8, 2026**  
**6 p.m.**  
**District Administrative Center**

<b>Call to Order</b>	Tanner Black called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.
<b>Board Members Present</b>	Tanner Black, Michelle Schmale, Stephenie Ganger, Kylie Hastings, Justin Ramsdell, Amy Huizenga, and Jamie Sowers
<b>Board Members Absent</b>	None
<b>Administrators &amp; Others present</b>	Amy Hill, Faith Flory, Kyle Ellis, Carrie Mugridge, Andy Lohmeyer, Mike Maloun, Tosha Smith, Ciara Arnold, Trent Robb, Katy Black, district patrons.
<b>Agenda Approval</b>	Motion by Justin Ramsdell, second by Michelle Schmale, to approve the amended agenda adding to Item 3.5 Resignations Nicholson, Thompson, Hurla; and moving Item 8.1 to 8.4. Motion carried 7-0.
<b>Consent Agenda Items</b>	<p>Motion by Justin Ramsdell, second by Kylie Hastings, to approve the amended consent agenda.</p> <p>Motion carried 7-0.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Approved the minutes of the March 11, 2026 meeting.</li><li>● Approved the March 2026 treasurer's report.</li><li>● Approved the presented check journal.</li><li>● Accepted the resignations of Lindsey Wendleton, music teacher; Cael Johnson, HS asst wrestling; Casey Barezinsky, CAC custodian; Jessica Nicholson, HS English teacher; Amber Thompson, HS asst volleyball; Rose Hurla, HS math.</li><li>● Approved the HS girls basketball golf fundraiser in June 2026.</li></ul>
<b>Presentation to the BOE</b>	
<b>Charger Spirit Club</b>	Katy Black and Alissa Menke, representing the Charger Spirit Club, spoke of high school projects being considered. Motion by Justin Ramsdell, second by Kylie Hastings, to approve the placement of a banner in the dome gym. Motion carried 7-0

**HS Wrestling Recap & Out of State Travel Request**

Trent Robb spoke to the board giving a recap of the boys and girls wrestling season. He presented information about a summer wrestling camp at the Univ of Northern Colorado. Motion by Kylie Hastings, second by Jamie Sowers, to approve the use of district vans and out-of-state travel for camp attendance. Motion carried 7-0.

**FFA Update**

Sponsor Ciara Arnold and Macey Berkley recapped to the Board the FFA activities for the year and requested attendance approval to Nationals in Indiana in Oct. 2026. Motion by Justin Ramsdell, second by Kylie Hastings, to approve out of state travel and use of school van for the national conference. Motion carried 7-0.

**Personnel Report**

Motion by Justin Ramsdell, second by Michelle Schmale, to enter executive session for 15 minutes to discuss personnel pursuant to non-elected personnel exception under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the boardroom at 6:47 pm with Faith Flory present. Motion carried 7-0.

**Executive Session**

Tanner Black, Justin Ramsdell, Jamie Sowers, and Michelle Schmale returned to open session at 6:47 pm. Motion by Justin Ramsdell, second by Tanner Black, to extend executive session 18 minutes to 7:05 pm. Motion carried 4-0.

Tanner Black, Justin Ramsdell, Jamie Sowers, and Michelle Schmale returned to open session at 7:05 pm. Motion by Tanner Black, second by Justin Ramsdell, to extend executive session ten minutes to 7:15 pm. Motion carried 4-0.

Tanner Black left the meeting at 7:16 pm. Justin Ramsdell presided over the meeting.

**Employment**

Motion by Kylie Hastings, second by Michelle Schmale, to approve the presented employment of personnel. Motion carried 6-0.

Employed: Emily Roberts, JH/HS head cross country coach; Erica French, HS dance coach; Ashley Swanson,

asst. cross country coach; Kaitlyn Mercer, transfer to OAC interventions teacher; Casey Barezinsky, summer CAC custodian; Gretchen Stebbins, JH head cheer coach; Sarah Van Aalst, CAC STUCO sponsor.

**Administrators**

Administrators recapped the busy activities season, music state competition, high school prom, a trial run of the HS coffee shop, state assessment progress, chargers of the month, kindergarten round up, PK music program, and KESA update.

**Items from the Past for Consideration**

**Capital Outlay Update**

Special board meeting will be needed at 12 noon on April 22 or 23 to consider bids for the HVAC control project.

**New Items for Discussion & Consideration**

**Petition to Protest School Closure**

USD 434 has been informed by the Kansas State Dept of Education that a protest petition has been received regarding the closure of the Scranton Attendance Center. Petition signatures need verification and a waiting period will be in place. Any decisions regarding SAC are on pause.

**Reconfiguration Discussion**

HTK & Piper Sandler answered questions and provided cost information.

**Meeting Recess**

Motion by Justin Ramsdell, second by Michelle Schmale, to recess for fifteen minutes to 8:41 pm. Motion carried 6-0.

Tanner Black returned to the meeting at 8:39 pm.

Meeting resumed at 8:41 pm with Tanner Black presiding.

**Consideration to Call an Election**

Stephenie Ganger made a motion for a resolution authorizing and providing for the calling of a bond election in Unified School District No. 434, Osage County, Kansas (Santa Fe Trail) for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of the district the question of issuing general obligation bonds of the district; authorizing application to the State Board of Education for the authority to call the bond election and

for capital improvement state aid; and providing for the giving of notice of the bond election. Second by Michelle Schmale.

Motion carried 6-1 with Ramsdell abstaining.

Motion by Kylie Hastings, second by Stephenie Ganger, to proceed with an August 4 bond election. Motion carried 6-1 with Ramsdell abstaining.

The new cell phone bill was mentioned and implementation will be considered by administrators.

**Legislative Update**

Motion by Justin Ramsdell, second by Kylie Hastings, to enter executive session for fifteen minutes to discuss negotiations pursuant to the exception for employer-employee negotiations under KOMA, and the open meeting will resume in the boardroom at 9:32 pm with Faith Flory. Motion carried 7-0.

**Executive Session - Negotiations**

The board returned to open session at 9:32 pm. No action taken.

No report as the meeting is next Monday.

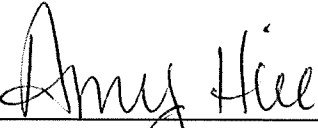
**Superintendent's Report**


**Next Regular Board Meeting**

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

**Adjournment**

President Tanner Black adjourned the meeting at 9:33 pm

  
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Amy Hill, Clerk

  
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Tanner Black, President