

# DTA Meeting Agenda

Date & Time: Wednesday, September 10, 2025


Location: CTEC, Room 226

Attendance:	Building:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dandra Arter, President	Clear Creek Elementary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Emily Valdez, Vice-President	Starside Elementary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeff Wieland, Vice-President	Mill Valley High School
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Courtney Arnote, Secretary	Clear Creek Elementary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gina Miller, Treasurer	Mill Creek Middle School
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lisa Miller-Best	Early Childhood @ CTEC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jackie Sparks Lecki	Early Childhood @ CTEC
<input type="checkbox"/> Jen Mead	Belmont Elementary
<input type="checkbox"/> Dara Thompson	Belmont Elementary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sara Gehrt	Clear Creek Elementary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Madison Finley	Clear Creek Elementary
<input type="checkbox"/>	Horizon Elementary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shelly Sounders	Mize Elementary
<input type="checkbox"/> Madison Friesen	Mize Elementary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Laurie Hoover	Prairie Ridge Elementary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kerri Ptacek	Prairie Ridge Elementary
<input type="checkbox"/> Erica Minton	Prairie Ridge Elementary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Traci Seyb	Riverview Elementary
<input type="checkbox"/> Amanda Smith	Riverview Elementary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lindsay Summers	Starside Elementary
<input type="checkbox"/> Jessica Young	Starside Elementary
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Wackerla	Lexington Trails Middle School

<input type="checkbox"/> Nikki Leisten	Lexington Trails Middle School
<input type="checkbox"/> Brandi Roberts	Mill Creek Middle School
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chelsea Cassell	Monticello Trails Middle School
<input type="checkbox"/> Kelly Hart	Monticello Trails Middle School
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Renee Cahoy, ESP At-large	Monticello Trails Middle School
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amanda Sweet	De Soto High School
<input type="checkbox"/> Jennifer Sosna	De Soto High School
<input type="checkbox"/> Laura Sixta	De Soto High School
<input type="checkbox"/> Angie DalBello	Mill Valley High School
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Linda Sieck, UniServ Director	KNEA

Discussion Topics:	Notes:
<b>Special Presentation</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Brian Schwanz, Chief of Operations</li> <li>○ Deb Atwell</li> <li>○ HTK Architects</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long range planning for USD232 facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Questionnaire and share out with DTA members and guests</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Monthly Business</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September BOE Meeting Recap <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Date: September 8</li> <li>○ Representation: All!</li> </ul> </li> <li>• October BOE Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Date: October 6</li> <li>○ Representation: EC &amp; BE</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Insurance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ DTA has been a part of the conversations</li> <li>■ Highest rate increase we have seen recently</li> <li>■ Unforeseen circumstances with no fault to any party</li> <li>■ Our “open enrollment” opportunity is set for the end of October</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Click <a href="#">HERE</a> to subscribe to the email notification list <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Consider resubscribing as there was an error with the website in late March...</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Update, Gina Miller <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Treasurer's Report attached</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New fiscal year = 9/1/25</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Committee Updates	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Membership, Chair: D. Arter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Certified staff update</li> <li>○ Classified staff update (ESP)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bargaining Unit increased: 563</li> <li>○ Certified: 309, 54.88% of BU</li> <li>○ Classified (ESP): 11</li> <li>○ AutoPay Flips: 139 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ If you haven't yet, consider enrolling in AutoPay now in case we lose our right to pay dues via payroll. This will ensure your membership doesn't end overnight.</li> <li>■ Members that enroll now will still pay via payroll and simply sit in the "waiting room" until September 2026. At that time, payroll deductions will be cancelled for the next contract year.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Not too late to join...certified or classified!!</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Negotiations, Chair: J. Wieland</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Negotiations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Check contracts (regular and supplemental) to ensure correct "step" and "column"</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Political Action, Chair: A. Sweet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Board of Education election this November</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Political Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ DTA does not endorse political candidates.</li> <li>○ DTA will provide BOE candidates with questionnaires to complete and return. These will be placed on the DTA website and an email notification will be sent to members when they are posted. We encourage visitors to our site to use this information to help them make their own informed, personal decision.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Education Foundation, Chair: E. Minton</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Education Foundation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ See updates below...</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
New Business	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Social Media and the Law <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Thursday, October 2, 2025</li> <li>○ PD Provided by DTA &amp; KNEA</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Members only, must register</li> <li>● <del>CTEC, Room 226</del></li> <li>● Location change: CCE Library</li> <li>● KNEA lawyers will be present to explain social media and the law as it relates to educators</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ad Astra Board Seat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ad Astra Ad Board, DTA Reps <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ D. Arter, Vice-Chair</li> <li>■ G. Miller, Member</li> <li>■ A. Sweet, Member</li> <li>■ ?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ad Astra Board Seat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We are looking for a volunteer to represent DTA at these meetings. There are typically four a year and dinner is provided. You can also submit a voucher to be reimbursed for mileage. You don't have to be a building rep to get involved.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 2025 Food Drive</li> </ul> <p>Link:  <a href="https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=S4S2B3ARKKFCS&amp;scrlybrkr=1caf286d">https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=S4S2B3ARKKFCS&amp;scrlybrkr=1caf286d</a></p> <p>QR Code:</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Stats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Supporting the De Soto Food Pantry which in turn supports our families</li> <li>○ 1128 items collected</li> <li>○ Roughly 50 items were expired</li> <li>○ \$115 collected</li> <li>○ Still want to donate? You can do so with PayPal!</li> <li>○ Thank you for your support! 😊</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Building Rep Resource Folders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BR Resource Folders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ See the "Table of Contents"</li> <li>○ Membership rosters</li> <li>○ ONE certified recruitment folder provided, copy as needed</li> <li>○ ONE classified recruitment folder provided, copy as needed</li> <li>○ ONE set of benefits paperwork provided, consider setting up a bulletin board to advertise</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Action Taken/Action Needed:	Notes:
●	●

Helpful Links for Members:	Notes:
<a href="#">DTA Website</a>	The home of the De Soto Teachers' Association...access the current PNA, salary schedules, membership form/link, and negotiations updates.
<a href="#">KNEA Website</a>	The home of the Kansas National Education Association...access links to action, advocacy, and resources.
<a href="#">NEA Website</a>	The home of the National Education Association...access information regarding your rights, professional excellence, and advocacy efforts.
<a href="#">KNEA Access Card</a>	Use your union membership to access deals on things you purchase everyday from food to clothing to vacations. Need login information? Contact Betty Woods @ 913.268.4005
<a href="#">NEA Member Benefits</a>	Access benefits and discounts designed exclusively for educators. 😊
<a href="#">Under the Dome</a>	Keep up to date with legislative events, track bills, review committee work, and easily access your legislators' contact information at this link.
<a href="#">VESi</a>	KNEA has partnered with Baker University to offer up to NINE graduate credits for only \$250! Learn more here...



## Education Foundation Update

### June

- Reviewed the 2025-2026 budget & approved it; there was a long discussion about increasing the amount budgeted for the 'Breakfast of Exploration' as it's moving from CTEC to a convention center/hotel convention center type place.
- Marketing Discussion: last year the board gave keychains to all Kindergarten students with their graduation year but they had a long discussion about this. They said they were handed out at conferences. I suggested handing them out at back to school night when everyone is so excited-also called them backpack tags instead of keychains. This passed but there were a couple board members opposed to spending all the \$\$ on the tags. The discussion was basically "Are we getting a return on the \$800?" and the other side was saying, "These are for our youngest community members to connect with their families...etc". Someone made the point that if 5% of families donated \$25 they would make the money back.
- They are wanting to have a table at all elementary schools for back to school night (and possibly middle?) to be visible, make connections etc. They mentioned having QR codes at tables where parents could scan and fill out for more information. From what I have gathered they are wanting to be more visible, have invested in a marketing strategy and branding. Want to share with community/families what the foundation does, how they help our students & teachers etc.
- Voted to streamline the grant process for next year-they won't have so many different grants (Spotlight, Innovative... etc). They are streamlining with the tagline "Elevate" and there will be four deadlines throughout the year and teachers will be able to apply for grants (and they will be communicating at convocation & new teacher academy) and there will be \$12,500 allocated for grants for each quarter. Grant amounts will range from \$250-\$5,000
- The Giving Circle program will continue and be a separate larger grant program as it has been over the past few years.

### July

- Stephanie Makalous gave the school board report and shared that an orchestra teacher has been hired and is hosting an event at Cause Coffee.
- Board Members will be at Convocation and present the Making a Difference Award
- Ed. Foundation Board Members will set up tables at Back to School Nights at all Elementary schools and want to emphasize that they are NOT competing with PTO/PTA 😊
- Kevin Jeffries will be at New Teacher Academy to share about the Foundation & what it provides for teachers & students in our district-encouraging them to be part of the foundation
- Board Elections:
  - President: Norm Messner
  - VP: Nancy Neighbors
  - Secretary: Susan Mohn
  - Treasurer: Casey McBride
- Nominating New Board Members-President Rachelle Zade is stepping down, leaving a possible opening. They had a lot of conversations about the timeline of board members. They mentioned that many board members have older kids, in high school or kids who have graduated, and might like to have more 'young' representation or people with younger kids. Think of your super involved parents, people who are well connected and have varied skill sets that could benefit the board.

Kevin invited Dane Baxa from the Goddard School District Foundation to share about their foundation and what they are able to do-a very similar sized district. Here are some key points I took away:

- They've established an endowment (had a one time LARGE donation-\$615,000-that helped kick start this) so that their foundation is mostly 'self-sufficient' and they don't have to 'pull' from the endowment. They have about \$2.5 million in their endowment! They have several LARGE donors!
- They raise about \$200,000-\$250,000 per year and award \$35,000 in grants; essentially they raise a lot but don't give as much in grants-they spend more to get more.

- They do a few programs they call "Friendraising" that are more focused on building relationships:
  - Goddard Hall of Fame- recognize alumni, staff, members of the Goddard community with a really cool 'homecoming' sort of event (this was an event that cost a lot of money-and is more of a relationship/community builder)
  - Staff Back to School gifts & luncheon
  - School Supplies for Elementary kids
  - District Mailer-this was a really cool publication (he said cost about \$35,000) that they mail to EVERYONE in their district as well as every graduate that they have an address for. It showcased and highlighted all the great things happening in their district, invited alumni back to the football game where the two high schools play each other... listed all the teacher of the year award winners as well as that year's "Hall of Fame" inductees.
- They have ONE big fundraiser in the spring where they sell tables, have games, auctions etc. They invite all teachers who have won grants. It was a way for donors to connect with teachers/see the effects of their donations
- They DO NOT tend to give out grants for PD because it's hard to measure the impact-hard to tell the story of this to donors.

#### August

- Stephanie Makalous gave a 'district' update from the School Board and noted that enrollment is up this year (by about 100 students). The orchestra program that's started at the middle school is off to a great start and they are looking at an after school 'club' for high school students. She also said that the city of De Soto approved a data center construction that would be worth \$50 Billion (yes BILLION there was MUCH debate about the accuracy of that number)-much bigger than Panasonic. So this could be interesting for future school district/economic growth.
- The Board voted to approve the budget for the year, as well as approve the grants as recommended by the Grants Committee who reviewed them. All but one grant were approved and they were happy to have as many grants submitted as they did.
- The Board also voted to approve a new member to the Board of Directors: Erin Guest will be a new member and has a lot of great experience with fundraising and grants.
- There was quite a bit of discussion about the Breakfast that is taking place on Thursday Oct. 30 and is a big fundraiser for the Foundation. They've moved the Breakfast from CTEC to the Olathe Conference Center in the Embassy Suites. They already have \$46,050 in donations/sponsorships!





## September Treasurer's Report

9.10.2025

Budget year start date 9-1-2025	
Account balance	\$12,513.97
Additional deposits: 1) KNEA Direct Deposit	\$23.67
Available balance 9.9.2025	\$12,537.64
Outstanding deposits: 1) USD232 check #65650	\$473.07
No additional or outstanding expenses/withdrawals	
Account Funds	\$13,010.71

*Gina Miller*

9/9/2025



# END OF BUDGET YEAR

## DTA Budget 2024-25 - starting 9/1/2024

MONEY SPENT IN BUDGET YEAR		BUDGET	AVAILABLE
Member Recruitment	\$731	\$200	-\$531
Member Retention	\$0	\$800	\$800
Member Engagement	\$0	\$250	\$250
Leadership	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
Scholarship	\$800	\$800	\$0
Community Outreach (website)	\$322	\$235	-\$87
Negotiations	\$0	\$150	\$150
Teacher of Excellence	\$593	\$550	-\$43
Ad Astra Sectional Meeting	\$0	\$50	\$50
KS Representative Assembly	\$674	\$375	-\$299
National Representative Assembly	\$669	\$560	-\$109
End of Year Gifts (Retirements)	\$317	\$520	\$203
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$795	\$500	-\$295
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$6,402	\$6,490	\$88

# PROJECTED BUDGET 25-26

**DTA** Budget 2025-26. (starting 9/1/2025)

MONEY SPENT IN BUDGET YEAR		BUDGET	AVAILABLE
Member Recruitment	\$0	\$200	\$200
Member Retention	\$0	\$800	\$800
Member Engagement	\$0	\$250	\$250
Leadership	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500
Scholarship	\$0	\$800	\$800
Community Outreach (website)	\$0	\$235	\$235
Negotiations	\$0	\$150	\$150
Teacher of Excellence	\$0	\$550	\$550
Ad Astra Sectional Meeting	\$0	\$50	\$50
KS Representative Assembly	\$0	\$375	\$375
National Representative Assembly	\$0	\$560	\$560
End of Year Gifts (Retirements)	\$0	\$520	\$520
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$0	\$500	\$500
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$0	\$6,490	\$6,490