

DTA Meeting Agenda & Minutes

Date & Time: Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Location: Zoom

Link: <https://knea.zoom.us/j/2967859511?omn=89898734459>, Meeting ID: 296 785 9511

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

☒ Jennifer Wackerla	Lexington Trails Middle School
☐ Nikki Leisten	Lexington Trails Middle School
☐ Brandi Roberts	Mill Creek Middle School
☒ Chelsea Cassell	Monticello Trails Middle School
☒ Kelly Hart	Monticello Trails Middle School
☒ Renee Cahoy, ESP At-large	Monticello Trails Middle School
☒ Amanda Sweet	De Soto High School
☒ Jennifer Sosna	De Soto High School
☐ Laura Sixta	De Soto High School
☒ Angie DalBello	Mill Valley High School
☒ Linda Sieck, UniServ Director	KNEA

Discussion Topics:	Notes:
Monthly Business	
- October BOE Meeting Recap - Date: October 6 - Representation: EC & BE - November BOE Meeting - Date: November 3 - Representation: CCE & LTMS	- September - Staff recognitions...congrats! - KS Assessment Program Data Presentation - Long-range Planning Update - Click HERE to subscribe to the email notification list - Consider resubscribing as there was an error with the website in late March...
- Budget Update, Gina Miller - Treasurer's Report attached	- Budget Update - October review
Committee Updates	
- Membership, Chair: D. Arter - Certified staff update - Classified staff update (ESP) - Process for dropping membership after September 1 - Recruitment challenge	- Membership: - Bargaining Unit: 563 - Certified: 313, 55.59% of BU - Four new members 😊 - Classified (ESP): 13 - Two new ESP members 😊 - Process for dropping membership after September 1

	■ Per membership contract & DTA By-laws, requests to drop after September 1 must be approved by the Executive Board. ■ Staff wanting to drop membership don't have to continue membership but may be required to pay their dues in full by the end of the contract year. ■ DTA has prepared and approved a formal letter that will be sent to members seeking to drop that outlines their options. ○ Recruitment challenge ■ Prizes for the top two buildings that recruit the highest percentage of members between August 1 and November 21 ● 1st place: Donuts & coffee/tea ● 2nd place: Sonic drinks
● Negotiations, Chair: J. Wieland	● Negotiations: ○ No update
● Political Action, Chair: A. Sweet ○ Board of Education election this November	● Political Action: ○ DTA does not endorse political candidates. Instead, candidates will be invited to complete a questionnaire to be posted on our website. We will direct members and the local community to our website to learn more about the candidates as they form their own opinions ahead of the Nov. 4 election. ○ Vote to approve the 2025 BOE candidate questionnaire ○ DTA worked with several other local Associations to publish and send an advertising postcard. The mailer will go to the communities within each local. You can see the postcard below...
● Education Foundation, Chair: E. Minton	● Education Foundation: ○ See updates below... ○ Dandra will follow-up with the feedback from the EB

	■ Payroll deduction concerns ■ Incentivizing the initiative doesn't feel good when considering those that can't support the fund ■ Would the fund ever help a teacher in need?
New Business	
● Social Media and the Law ○ Recap ○ Planning round two...	● The first Social Media & the Law PD offered on Oct. 2 was amazing! We have over 20 members in attendance and learned so much. ● Watch your email for a link to register for round 2 on Wednesday, November 19 at 4:30pm at the Starside library.
● Ad Astra Board Seat ○ Ad Astra Ad Board, DTA Reps ■ D. Arter, Vice-Chair ■ G. Miller, Member ■ A. Sweet, Member ■ ?	● Ad Astra Board Seat ○ 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.
● American Education Week Celebration ○ "Order" your FREE DTA t-shirt by Oct. 15. Late orders will not be accepted. ○ Link: https://forms.gle/XCYbWEuiAWbbwnzP9	● AWE, Nov. 17-21 ○ The DTA Executive Board would like to treat our members in honor of American Education Week. This profession is hard and our members are giving their all everyday. We see you and we thank you for making a difference in the lives of our students. ○ Use the link to "order" your FREE, newly designed t-shirt. ■ Order = select your size and color, the cost is on us! 😊 ■ The only way to get your shirt is to order at this link. ■ Orders are due by Oct. 15. Late orders will not be accepted. ○ The cost of this giveback will come from reserves/unspent funds from previous fiscal years per the discussion at the summer retreat.
● Annual "Adopt-a-Family" Outreach ○ Angie DalBello	● Adopt-a-Family ○ Would the Executive Board like to adopt a family again this holiday season? ○ Would we like to open the

	opportunity to our members, too? ■ The EB would like to open the opportunity to all DTA members. Because more members can help, we'd like to adopt two families this year. ■ Angie DalBello will send communication soon...
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Action Taken/Action Needed:	Notes:
● Vote to approve "Membership Drop Process" ● Vote to approve 2025 BOE Candidate Questionnaire	● Angie DalBello motioned to approve the "Membership Drop Process" document ○ Jen Mead 2nd the motion ■ 14 yes ■ 1 no ■ Motion passes ● Angie DalBello motioned to approve the updated questionnaire for candidates ○ Emily Valdez 2nd the motion ■ 19 yes ■ 0 no ■ Motion passes



Helpful Links for Members:	Notes:
DTA Website	The home of the De Soto Teachers' Association...access the current PNA, salary schedules, membership form/link, and negotiations updates.
KNEA Website	The home of the Kansas National Education Association...access links to action, advocacy, and resources.
NEA Website	The home of the National Education Association...access information regarding your rights, professional excellence, and advocacy efforts.
KNEA Access Card	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
NEA Member Benefits	Access benefits and discounts designed exclusively for educators. 😊
Under the Dome	Keep up to date with legislative events, track bills, review committee work, and easily access your legislators' contact information at this link.
VESi	KNEA has partnered with Baker University to offer up to NINE graduate credits for only \$250! Learn more here...



Education Foundation Update

Subject: Student Care Fund Information

Thanks Erica for your time today. I appreciate you taking this info to DTA for their feedback.

As I mentioned, YTD the Student Care fund has had requests totaling \$3,420 (12 requests). In all of last year, we had requests totaling \$3,520 (14 requests). While the balance in this account is still solid, we are looking to the future to make sure it's adequately funded to meet the requests we receive.

The Student Care fund originated when Dr. Wimmer was our superintendent. The idea behind the fund was to have funds available to fill short term emergency needs to support our students and their families that would reduce some of the barriers to learning for these students. This could mean funds for food, clothing, rent, and utilities (this is a greatly simplified version of the vision for the fund).

Several individuals in the community gave sizable contributions to initially fund it, and for many years, district employees have made monthly contributions through payroll deductions to the Student Care Fund and some give directly to the Education Foundation. There have been no comprehensive appeals in the recent past to raise additional funds, other than employee giving. Through retirement over the last few years, the number of employees and dollars contributed have diminished.

Currently, 14 district employees continue to contribute through payroll deduction to both the Student Care Fund and the Foundation General Fund, broken down as follows:

Student Care Fund – 6 teachers (\$62/month), 2 Classified (\$50/month)
Foundation General Fund – 4 teachers (\$46/month), 2 Classified (\$30/month)

As you can see at this rate of \$122 / month, the annual contributions are falling short of meeting the needs being presented to us.

We are seeking feedback from the DTA to see if they feel an appeal to teachers, with a new program, such as The 232 Society, where teachers could give \$2.32 per pay check to the care fund through payroll withholding, would be something we should pursue.

Thanks for the help in soliciting some feedback for us.

Kevin Jeffries, Executive Director
USD 232 Education Foundation



October Treasurer's Report 10.08.2025

Account balance 9.30.2025	\$12,772.35
Additional deposits: Direct Deposit from KNEA 10.1.2025	347.20
Available balance 10.08.2025	\$13,119.55
No additional or outstanding expenses/withdrawals	
**USD232 check not received as of 10.6.2025	
Account Funds	\$13,010.71

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	\$240	\$500	\$260
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$240	\$6,490	\$6,250

Gianna Miller
10/8/2025

School Board Election Postcard

Members of Blue Valley NEA,
De Soto Teachers' Association,
Olathe NEA and
NEA-Shawnee Mission
remind you:

***It's an
election
year!***

Election Day is Nov. 4.



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Make a plan to vote on or before Nov. 4!

The following candidates are the recommendations of the corresponding KNEA local. Candidates have been evaluated based on issues important to education. Party affiliation wasn't a factor.

Blue Valley USD 229

Dr. Sonya Evans
Member 4
Gina Knapp
Member 5
Dr. David Benson
Member 6

De Soto USD 232

The De Soto Teachers' Association doesn't make recommendations. Instead, it provides candidates with questionnaires, and their answers are published at desototeachers.org.

Johnson County Community College

Lee Cross, Trustee At-Large
Dawn Rattan, Trustee At-Large
Chad Carroll, Trustee At-Large
Geoff Holton, Trustee At-Large

Olathe USD 233

Julie Steele
Member 3

Shawnee Mission USD 512

Mary Sinclair
Member 2
April Boyd-Noronha
Member 4
Heather Ousley
Member 6, At-Large

Early in-person
voting begins
Oct. 25.

Visit the Johnson
County Election
Office website
for more
information.



bit.ly/jocoelections