

## **Media Summary – Drexel R-IV Board of Education Meeting April 20, 2026**

The Drexel R-IV Board of Education held its regular meeting on April 20, 2026, at the district office. Superintendent Gary French called the meeting to order, and all in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

During public participation, a community member addressed the Board regarding a student's eligibility to participate in the upcoming May 10, 2026, commencement ceremony.

The Board approved the meeting agenda and consent agenda, including prior minutes, financial reports, and routine operational items. Several checks were approved separately due to board member abstentions related to conflict-of-interest considerations.

The Board officially certified the results of the April 7, 2026, election. Following certification, outgoing board members Andy Gorsage and Leah Martin were recognized for their service and presented with plaques of appreciation.

Newly elected board members Jennifer Thomas, Shawna Hettinger, and Craig Kimbrough were administered the oath of office. The Board then reorganized and elected officers, with Jennifer Thomas selected as President, Tim Eastwood as Vice President, and Callie LaBeth as Treasurer. Sara Borden was approved to continue serving as Board Secretary. Jennifer Thomas was also appointed as the district's Missouri School Boards' Association (MSBA) delegate.

Under old business, the Board received updates on MSIP 6 Cycle 2 and the MEUHP program. No action was taken on these items.

In new business, the Board discussed upcoming new board member training, reviewed the 2026–2027 employee medical insurance renewal, and approved continuing coverage with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City. Additional items included a first reading of the MSBA 26A policy update and discussion of a potential 2027 spring golf program.

## **Drexel R-IV Board of Education**

### **Media Summary – Closed Session**

The Drexel R-IV Board of Education met in closed session with all board members present, along with district administrators.

The Board approved the meeting agenda and previous minutes by unanimous vote.

During personnel discussions, the Board approved several staffing decisions for the 2026–2027 school year.

The Board accepted the retirement of Business/Computer Teacher Holly Bennett.

Bailey Cox was hired as the Vocational Agriculture Teacher and FFA Sponsor, and Amy Basore was hired as a Business/Computer Teacher.

Due to anticipated numbers of kindergarten students entering school next year, the Board approved the addition of a second kindergarten classroom. The non-certified staff list was also approved, with two members abstaining.

The Board approved multiple supplemental coaching assignments. Some votes included abstentions due to potential conflicts of interest. Non athletic supplemental contracts will be addressed during the May meeting. The following is a list of approved coaching duties.

HS Cheer-FB Head		L. Wheeler	
HS Football-Head		Littrell	
HS Football-O/D Coordinator		Richardson	
HS Football-Asst.		Hettinger	
HS Football-Asst.		<b>TBA</b>	
HS Girls Basketball-Head		Richardson	
HS Girls Basketball-Asst.		Hettinger	
HS Boys Basketball-Head		Roach	
HS Boys Basketball-Asst.		Gilbert	
HS Baseball-Head		Eastwood	
HS Baseball-Asst.		Jacobs	
HS Volleyball-Head		J. Duncan	
HS Volleyball-Asst.		O. Shipps	
HS Volleyball-Asst.		D. Duncan	
HS Girls Track-Head		J. Wheeler	
HS Boys Track-Head		<b>TBA</b>	
JH Volleyball-Head		Faulkner	
JH Volleyball-Asst.		J. Thomas	
JH Football-Head		<b>TBA</b>	
JH Football-Asst.		Jacobs	
JH Boys Basketball-Head		Rolfs	
JH Boys Basketball-Asst.		Roach	
JH Girls Basketball-Head		Good	
JH Girls Basketball-Asst.		J Jacobs	
JH Track		J. Duncan	
JH Track- Asst.		O. Shipps	
AD & Transportation Director		Roach	
Summer Weights		Littrell	
Summer Weights		Roach	

In student matters, the Board reviewed a request regarding participation in the May 10, 2026 commencement ceremony. After consideration, the Board voted to deny the request.

The closed session adjourned at 9:19 p.m. following completion of all agenda items.

