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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairperson Estes
Members of the House Committee on Education

From: The Office of Revisor of Statutes

Date: March 11, 2025

Subject: SB 47 – Requiring school districts to publicly list the names and email addresses of current school board members, authorizing local school board members to add new items to board meeting discussions, ask questions or engage in discussion with members of the public and access school property, authorizing members of the public to address school boards at board meetings and authorizing payment of annual dues to any not-for-profit organization that provides services to member school districts.

Senate Bill No. 47 (SB 47) amends statutes providing for the powers and duties of local boards of education. The amendments pertain to the publication of contact information for board members, conduct of board meetings, membership of board members in associations, and access of board members to school property.

First, SB 47 amends K.S.A. 72-1138, which provides for the general powers and duties of boards of education for school districts. New paragraph (a)(4) requires each board of education to publish the name and email address of each member of the board on the school district website. Further, the list of such names and email addresses is to be sent to the Department of Education, and the Department is required to maintain a public database of such information.

Second, new paragraph (a)(5) directs that board members may add one discussion item to the agenda of a board meeting and ask questions or otherwise engage in discussion with members of the public at board meetings. A public comment period must also be provided at each regularly scheduled meeting.

Third, SB 47 amends K.S.A. 72-1145, which authorizes the payment of dues for membership in the Kansas Association of School Boards. The bill replaces the specific

association with a general description of not-for-profit organizations that provide guidance, resources, and other services to school board members.

Finally, SB 47 amends K.S.A. 72-1416, which generally governs control of school district property. New subsection (b) provides that school board members have access to school district property during school hours or when the property is open to events.

SB 47 passed the Senate and on a final vote of 21-19.

If enacted, SB 47 would become effective on July 1, 2025.