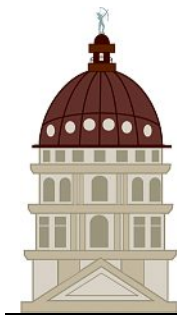




# Inside Darting’s ability to host international hoops players

SPORTS, 1B



# THE TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL

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## BOE answers claims made by Kobach

**Jack Harvel**  
Topeka Capital-Journal  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Kansas State Board of Education responded to Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach, after he claimed nondiscrimination clauses in school contracts violate federal law.

Kobach sent a letter to the Kansas State Board of Education on June 25, alleging that contracts for vendors participating in the Child Nutrition and Well-

ness Programs inclusion of gender identity and sexual orientation as grounds for discrimination violate federal law.

Kobach cited an executive order issued by President Donald Trump ordering the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education to strike gender identity from the definition of sex discrimination and a temporary injunction granted in federal court.

The Kansas Department of Education responded to Kobach in a press re-

lease on July 9, saying that the anti-discrimination language is standard for all contracts and is dictated by the Kansas Department of Administration.

“The language at issue is part of the mandatory contractual provisions included in all state contracts to secure goods or services through the Kansas Department of Administration’s Office of Procurement and Contracts,” the press release said.

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**Kansas Attorney General Kris Kobach claims nondiscrimination language for school contractors could risk federal funding.** CAPITAL-JOURNAL 2024 FILE PHOTO



**Mayoral candidates answered questions at Topeka’s Justice, Unity and Ministry Project forum on July 10.**  
PHOTOS BY STACEY SALDANHA-OLSON/THE CAPITAL-JOURNAL

## Mayoral candidates address homelessness and violence

**Stacey Saldanha-Olson**  
Topeka Capital-Journal  
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All six mayoral candidates took the mic to explain their views on some of Topeka’s top issues.

Topeka Justice, Unity and Ministry Project hosted a candidate forum July 10 for both the mayoral race.

The mayoral candidates include Chad Fay, Ed Patton, Gabriel Killman, Henry McClure, James Bolden Jr. and Spencer Duncan. This race will require a primary election on Aug. 5.

The panel was moderated by the Rev. Harry Christian and Anna Ramirez. Questions asked were based on JUMP’s main priorities of homelessness and violent crime.

### Do mayoral candidates support getting a low barrier shelter?

For the homelessness portion, moderators asked if candidates support having a low barrier shelter and one-stop shop — and if they’d be willing to advocate for funding for the two ideas.

Patton said he has faced homelessness in his life and now is the time to rally and work together to solve the issue.

“We need to get behind the homeless,” Patton said. “They wake up every



**Rev. Harry Christian asked candidates about violent crime reduction and homelessness issues in Topeka.**

day, praying that they just make it through another day. And homelessness is kind of like the prisons, out of side out of mind. We can’t do this any longer. Even prisoners have food, have a bed and on and on. But the home was still gone.”

Duncan said he’s always supported the low barrier shelter and one-stop shop. He said he has actively worked with JUMP to bring the concepts to Topeka.

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## Kansas may tweak the definition of dangerous schools

**Jack Harvel**  
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Kansas could reconsider a long-time, but seldom-used, statute defining persistently dangerous schools that allows students to transfer out of an unsafe environment.

The No Child Left Behind Act allowed students to transfer out of persistently dangerous schools, but allowed states to define what makes a school persistently dangerous. In Kansas, for a school to be considered dangerous, for three years it must:

- Have one student expelled for a federal gun free schools violation.
- Have 2% or five students, whichever is greater, of its student population use the option to transfer.
- Have 2% or five students, whichever is greater, expelled for a violent offense.

The definition has been a high bar, and no school in Kansas has ever been deemed persistently dangerous. The Kansas State Board of Education discussed persistently dangerous schools at its regular meeting, after the U.S. Department of Education sent guidance on defining dangerous schools.

Kansas State Board of Education member Debbie Potter said Kansas’s definition is a higher bar than what the federal government recommends.

“We’re not going to have any persistently dangerous schools in Kansas in that definition,” Potter said during the July 8 board meeting.

### U.S. Department of Education gives guidance on dangerous schools

The letter says that in the most recent school year, only five states identified persistently dangerous schools. Arkansas accounted for 15 of the 25 schools, leading to praise from the U.S. Department of Education.

“Arkansas is proud to lead the way in compliance with the Unsafe School Choice Option to help ensure every child has the opportunity to learn in a safe environment,” Jacob

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