

# USD 382 Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 9, 2026

7:00 pm

## Board Members Present

Jeremy Demuth, President  
Jennifer Hopkins

Seth Thibault, Vice President  
Kimberly Staats

Chris Drake  
Jenna Zimmerman

Michelle Ferbert - arrived at 7:39

## Administration Present

Tony Helfrich, Superintendent  
Steve Blankenship, Principal PHS  
Stephanie Thompson, LMS Principal  
Jessica Hanvey, Assistant Principal SW

Antonia Villa, Assistant Superintendent  
David Swank, AD/Assistant Principal PHS  
Kirsten Blankenship, Principal SW  
David Inslee, Director of Maintenance

### I. Call to Order

The Board of Education of Pratt Unified School District 382 met in regular session on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the BOE Meeting Room in the PAC Building, 401 S Hamilton, Pratt, KS. President Jeremy Demuth called the meeting to order.

Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

Moment of self-reflection

### II. Recognition of Guests: Molly Swank, Emilly Gilpin, Alicia Pitman, Caleb Robins, Erica Householter, Sarah Melvin, Jennifer Ryan, Natalie King, Kevin Younie from Younie Lawnsapes, Chris Rohling from CR Services

### III. Approval of Agenda (AI)

Kimberly Staats moved, and Jenna Zimmerman seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Vote 6/0

### IV. Approval of the minutes of the January 12, 2026, Regular Meeting and January 14th, January 21st, January 28th, and February 4th Special Meetings.

Chris Drake moved, and Jennifer Hopkins seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2026, regular meeting. Vote 6/0

Jenna Zimmerman moved, and Jennifer Hopkins seconded the motion to approve the January 14, 2026, special meeting minutes. Vote 6/0

Jenniifer Hopkins moved, and Jenna Zimmerman seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2026, special meeting. Vote 6/0

Jenna Zimmerman moved, and Jennifer Hopkins seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2026, special meeting. Vote 6/0

Kim Staats moved, and Jenna Zimmerman seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2026, special meeting. Vote 6/0

### V. Teacher Presentation: Emily Gilpin & Alicai Pitman - AIMSWEB Data. (IO) - Showing growth in English and Math. They focus more on reading than math at this point. Able to track by several demographics. We focus the title dollars at SW, although we could use them throughout the district. All staff K-2 are trained in Pathways to Reading. Alicia Pitman spoke about MTSS at the PAC, using Aimsweb as our screening

tool, and added IXL to work with the older students. Students take a diagnostic test every Monday and can track their progress.

- VI. Approval of the payment of bills, treasurers, and financial reports. (AI)  
Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Chris Drake seconded the motion to approve payment of bills and the treasurer's and financial reports. Vote 7/0
- VII. Reports. (IO)

**SCKSEC Report** – Chris Drake - January Board Recognition Month. Zoom meetings had 10 members join by Zoom, and the other 3 were in person. Looking at Esdack for health insurance, KICS insurance, and Strong's insurance. The KPP grant was due in January. In-service dates have been set for August 5 & 6th. Looking at SPED assessments and whether it will go up.

**Governmental Relations** – Jennifer Hopkins- HB2411 decreases the wait time for retired teachers so they are able to return to teaching with a smaller wait time of 45 days. HB2637 proposes that the local government provide free meals if the poverty level is high enough in your community. HB2593 requires local government to hold an open meeting to approve any legal services and grants the attorney general the right to intervene if local boards don't meet those requirements.

**Maintenance/Facility Report**- David Inslee - Issues with the Samsung system on the east side of SW. Kruse will be out next Friday to discuss options to replace the system. The possibility of using rooftop units, the cost savings is noted to be better with these systems.

**Asst Superintendent/Curriculum Report**—Antonia Villa - At-Risk reporting per district 26-27 will have two cohort groups that will be followed for four years, and there needs to be 100% growth. The state is in discussions about taking funding away if those goals are not met. 12 districts are piloting this program now, but we don't know which schools are participating.

**Superintendent Report** – Tony Helfrich

**Administration succession update** - Approvals tonight

**Budget Update** - Shared spreadsheet with expenses and revenue. We have a drop in enrollment, so we should have 1.06% increase. We may have a slight balance left. Added expenses are an extra teacher at SW, JAG, Special Education assessment, utility, property insurance, workman's comp, and health insurance. The state average is a 1.1% increase with most of our surrounding districts seeing a lower increase or even a drop in funding.

**Pad Refresh** - Looking at iPad refresh for SW PreK-1st grade. Most of the devices at SW are at the end of their life. Lexia was the driving force behind the upgrade in 2018. Teachers use the iPads for Reflex Math, splash learning, enrichment, and remediation. Title I and ESOL also use the devices in several ways.

**Turf Update - Walk-through** of turf project tomorrow before they start adding the rubber. Installation should be finished next week for the sign-off. Leave the walking lights on to add another layer of security for the new turf.

**School Illness** - Absences are starting to slow down, with the peak of the flu being reported last week. We can stay in session because we have been able to provide staffing.

**SCCF donation update** - \$5,000 toward E-sports and \$2,000 towards Golf Simulator.

**Track RFP** - Bid for track resurfacing. Bannen gave us the specs to send out for bid. Exchange zones would be gold and are optional.

**Route Bus** - Clint got some numbers for replacing a route bus from Thomas on Kansas Pricing for a new bus \$125,000. A used route bus would cost about \$75,000. There is an option to add a warranty, which would drive the cost up to \$80,000. Mileage would be around 30,000 miles on a used bus.

## VIII. Business

Action Item: LMS Turf bid presentation - LMS Principal Stephanie Thompson asked Kevin Younie from Younie Lawscapes and Chris Rohling from CR Services to present their bids for the Gold Project at LMS. The BOE requested more information due to grading concerns. Tabled for lack of motion, due to questions on grading the west side of the project.

Action Item: BOE Policy updates. (AI)

Chris Drake moved, and Michelle Ferbert seconded the motion to approve the BOE policy updates BCBK, BG, IK, IKCA form, IKD, IKDA opt-out form, IKDA, JBCC, JCAC, JDDC, JQI, and KMS. Note: first read of IHF and IIBE.  
Vote 7/0

Action Item: PHS football Helmets

Seth Thibault moved, and Michelle Ferbert seconded to approve the purchase of 65 football helmets from Riedle for \$36,790.00 out of capital outlay.  
Vote 7/0

Action Item: BOE Negotiations Committee reps. (AI)

Seth Thibault moved, and Chris Drake approved the motion to approve Jennifer Hopkins, Michelle Ferbert, and Jeremy Demuth as the BOE Committee Reps for the 2026-27 negotiations.

Action Item: December 18th BOE minutes. (AI)

Discussion notes: Seth Thibault questioned why Jeremy Demuth's comments were removed from the superintendent's evaluation.  
Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Chris Drake seconded to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on December 18, 2025. Vote 5/2  
Kim Staats and Seth Thibault voted against approving the minutes.

Action Item: PreK Fees for 023-2027(AI)

Kimberly Staats moved, and Jennifer Hopkins seconded to approve the PreK Fee increase as presented. Vote 7/0

Action Item: BOE Governance changes (AI)

Seth Thibault moved, and Chris Drake seconded to approve the Board Governance changes as presented, excluding item #8 and tabling item #2 for more information. Vote 6/1  
Michelle Ferbert voted against the Governance changes.

IX. Executive Session - Safety

I, Jeremy Demuth, move that the board and superintendent go into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss school safety and resource deployment pursuant to the non-elected personnel exemption under KOMA, and that the open meeting shall resume at 11:18. Seconded by Seth Thibault. Superintendent Tony Helfich and PHS Principal Steve Blankenship were invited to stay. Vote 7/0

Resumed regular meeting at 11:18

X. Personnel Updates - no discussion

Hannah Ritz	PHS Assistant Boys Golf	Replaces Jake Eisenhauer
Destani Miller	PHS Assistant Volleyball	Resignation
Mike Loganbill	SW Custodian	Retirement
Denise Loganbill	PHS AD Secretary/Bookkeeper	Retirement
Lauren Koehler	SW 2nd Grade Teacher	Replaces open position
Emily Hacker	1st Grade Teacher	Replace Karen Schoenberger
Kelli Barker	PHS Head Boys Tennis(7%)	Replaces Chris Battin(7/9)
Ginny Titus	PHS Asst Boys Tennis(2%)	Replaces Chris Battin(2/9)
David Swank	PHS Principal	Replaces Steve Blankenship
Chris Battin	PHS Asst Principal/AD	Replaces David Swank
Joy Schmidt	PAC Principal/Asst Supt	Replaces Antonia Villa

XI. Approval of personnel updates. (AI)

Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Kimberly Staats seconded approval of the personnel updates as listed. Vote 7/0

XII. Negotiations - overview of the process of negotiations and training requirements

XIII. Other:(IO) KASB Boardsmanship workshop hosted by USD 382 in the BOE meeting room on February 21st.

XIV. Adjournment(AI)

Jenna Zimmerman moved, and Jennifer Hopkins seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 pm. Vote 7/0