

# USD 382 Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 11, 2026

7:00 pm

## Board Members Present

Jeremy Demuth, President  
Jennifer Hopkins

Seth Thibault, Vice President  
Kimberly Staats

Chris Drake  
Michelle Ferbert  
Jenna Zimmerman

## Administration Present

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

Antonia Villa, Assistant Superintendent - absent  
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, May 11, 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: Gina Bates, Yudany Fernandez, Cash Voss, Dylan Lehman, Emerson Bailey, Denali Schelling, Kathryn Wiltshire, Zoe Hopkins, Cade Clarkson, and Tiger Thompson. Levia

### III. Public Comment: Executive Session - Individual performance

I, Jeremy Demuth, move that the board and superintendent go into executive session for 20 minutes at 7:27 to discuss an individual or individuals' performance, pursuant to the non-elected personnel exemption under KOMA, and that the open meeting shall resume at 7:47. Seconded by Kim Staats. Steve Blankenship, Stephanie Thompson, and Joyce Lavia were invited to join at 7:40. Vote 7/0

Resumed regular meeting at 7:47

### IV. Approval of Agenda (AI)

Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Michelle Ferbert seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Vote 7/0

- V. Approval of the minutes of the April 13, 2026, regular meeting and April 22, 2026, work session.

Michelle Ferbert moved, and Kimberly Staats seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the April 13 and the April 22, 2026, regular meetings. Vote 7/0

### VI. Presentation/Student Outcomes:

**Graduation Numbers** - USD 382's graduation rates have remained steady at the top of the state scale. Under SB45, schools may now exclude students who enter our schools credit-challenged to avoid negatively impacting graduation rates. Online transfers are also excluded from the graduation rate, marking a change from prior

years. The SARB program and updated attendance policies have also contributed positively to these rates.

**Yudany Fernandez: ESL & Kansas Future Teacher Academy(10)**

Yudany has attended KFTA for the last three years. Teachers from Kansas and Oklahoma advise students about a career in education. Gina Bates has been a great teacher in guiding her towards a successful education as a non-native English speaker. Teachers put in the work to help students grow, and that is why she wants to become a teacher. She would love to come back to Pratt to be part of the Greenback Family. This year, she will be attending KFDA as a counselor and could potentially receive a scholarship towards her college education. Yudany is also working as a teacher's aide in the PreK.

- VII. Approval of the payment of bills, the treasurer's report, and financial reports. (AI)  
Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Michelle Ferbert seconded the motion to approve payment of bills, the treasurer's reports, and financial reports. Vote 7/0

- VIII. Reports. (10)

**SCKSEC Report** – Chris Drake - PBIS MOU with Harper Elementary and Chaparral High School for the 26-27 school year. Upped the rent at Medicine Lodge for the day school.

**Governmental Relations** – Jennifer Hopkins - No new bills, just further discussion on several old bills.

**Maintenance/Facility Report**- David Inslee - Booster heater has been installed at PHS. A new float valve assembly has been installed on the cooling tower at PHS. The staff has been getting ready to set up for graduation. Looking at maintenance agreement costs to see if we need to continue with them going forward.

**Asst Superintendent/Curriculum Report**—Antonia Villa - absent

**Superintendent Report** – Tony Helfrich

**Cell Phone Ban** - Updates in the handbooks regarding the cell phone bill.

**NPR Discussion** - Neighborhood Revitalization update

**Lunch Balances** - High lunch balances: how do we manage them and still provide meals for students?

**Staff Survey** - Steve has the information and can send it to you. We can benchmark this with other schools. The survey showed a positive response from our staff. The President of the company that did the survey compared USD 382 results with other districts and stated, "In a nutshell, you guys are rock stars."

**Budget** - At this point, we are below expenses compared to last year. Due to a milder winter, our utility costs have been lower. Budget expenses are tracked as a percentage spent out of each fund and comparing 25-26 with 24-25. Board members were given those spreadsheets as well.

**Maintenance Agreements** - Were discussed during David Inslee's report.

IX. New Business

Information Only: LMS camera/entry system (IO)

The entry system at LMS is eligible for funding through the Safe and Secure Schools grant, which provides a 50% match. Due to issues with the current system, the camera and door entry upgrades will be addressed if we receive the funding.

Action Item: SW, PAC, LMS, & PHS Handbook Changes. (AI) Discussion about the changes due to the cell phone bill passing.

Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Chris Drake seconded to approve the handbook changes as presented regarding the cell phone policy at SW, PAC, LMS, and PHS.

Vote 7/0

Action Item: Instructional Fees (AI) Discussion about keeping the current fee schedule.

Jenna Zimmerman moved, and Kimberly Staats seconded to approve the instructional fees for 2026-27 as presented.

Vote 7/0

Information Only: SRO MOU (IO) Discussion on SRO position.

X. Old Business

Action Item: Cytek BOE room meeting streaming bid (AI) - The board discussed the purchase of equipment for streaming meetings in the BOE room. While the equipment was previously approved by the board. The hardware was not ordered due to a miscommunication; equipment costs have since increased. Jennifer Hopkins stated that this would be a way to cut non-instructional expenses. Michelle Ferbert made a comment on the importance of the public knowing the discussion we have since it is difficult for many to make it to the meetings. Seth Thibault commented that non-instructional expenses make up 45% of our budget which is over \$10 million this year.

Seth Thibault moved, and Michelle Ferbert seconded the motion to approve the Cytek BOE room streaming equipment purchase at \$10,494.00. If the price increases, the board will approve going ahead with the purchase. Jennifer Hopkins and Chris Drake voted no.

Vote 5/2

XI. Executive Session - Personnel

I, Jeremy Demuth, move that the board and superintendent go into executive session for 30 minutes at 9:20 to discuss personnel, pursuant to the non-elected personnel exemption under KOMA, and that the open meeting shall resume at 9:50. Seconded by Michelle Ferbert. Steve Blankenship was invited to stay.

Vote 7/0

Resumed regular meeting at 9:50

XII. Executive Session - Personnel

I, Jeremy Demuth, move that the board and superintendent go into executive session for 10 minutes at 9:50 to discuss personnel, pursuant to the non-elected personnel exemption under KOMA, and that the open meeting shall resume at 10:00. Seconded by Jenna Zimmerman. Steve Blankenship was invited to stay.

Vote 7/0

Resumed regular meeting at 10:00

XIII. Executive Session - Personnel

I, Jeremy Demuth, move that the board and superintendent go into executive session for 10 minutes at 10:00 to discuss personnel, pursuant to the non-elected personnel exemption under KOMA, and that the open meeting shall resume at 10:10. Seconded by Michelle Ferbert. Steve Blankenship was invited to stay. Vote 7/0  
Resumed regular meeting at 10:10

Personnel Updates

Kynleigh Nation	SW/District Part-time Social Worker	Replaces behavioral para
Leighton Rudd/Sandy Foster	LMS 7 <sup>th</sup> ELA Teacher Job Share	Replaces Tayler Gentry
Tim Rector	PHS KESA Chair	Replaces Joy Schmidt
Dustin Hildebrand	PHS Fall Assistant AD	Replaces Chris Battin
Regan Rhodes	PHS Assistant Forensics	Replaces unfilled position
Melissa Rector	PHS NHS Co-Sponsor	Resignation
Kari Eastes	PHS NHS Sponsor	Replaces Melissa Rector
Kari Eastes	PHS Match teacher	Resignation
David Inslee	District Maintenance Director	Resignation
Lori Smith	PHS Asst Volleyball Coach	Replaces Destani Miller
Gwen Gimpel	SW Title Para	Resignation (moving to SCKSEC)
Bryce Corfee	PHS Custodian	Resignation (effective May 13 <sup>th</sup> )
Jake Eisenhauer	PHS Online coordinator	Resignation (moving to SCKSEC)

XIV. Approval of personnel updates. (AI)

Michelle Ferbert moved, and Jennifer Hopkins seconded the motion to approve the personnel updates as listed. Chris Drake voted no. Vote 6/1

XV. Executive Session - Personnel

I, Jeremy Demuth, move that the board and superintendent go into executive session for 10 minutes at 10:12 to discuss personnel, pursuant to the non-elected personnel exemption under KOMA, and that the open meeting shall resume at 10:22. Seconded by Kimberly Staats. Steve Blankenship and Stephanie Thompson were invited to stay. Vote 7/0  
Resumed regular meeting at 10:22

XVI. Open Math Position at PHS (AI)

Seth Thibault moved, and Michelle Ferbert seconded to advertise the math position at PHS for a highly qualified certified teacher for the 2026-27 school year. Vote 7/0

XVII. Negotiations and Budget Planning: Discussion on negotiations and insurance costs for the coming year. There is a meeting for all staff on Tuesday at 4:00 to discuss insurance costs.

XVIII. Other:(IO) Athletic Banquet and Scholarship Banquet, Graduation Schedule

XIX. Adjournment(AI)

Michelle Ferbert moved, and Jennifer Hopkins seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 pm. Vote 7/0