

# USD 382 Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 12, 2026 7:00 pm

## Board Members Present

Jennifer Hopkins, Interim President  
Jeremy Demuth, President  
Jenna Zimmerman

Michelle Ferbert, Interim Vice President  
Kimberly Staats

Chris Drake  
Seth Thibault, Vice President

## 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, January 12, 2026, at 7:00 pm in the BOE Meeting Room in the PAC Building, 401 S Hamilton, Pratt, KS. President Jennifer Hopkins called the meeting to order.

Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

- II. Recognition of Guests: Brandie Osenbaugh, Tyler Zimmerman, Scarlett Zimmerman, Nora Zimmerman, Blake Zimmerman, Lori Myers, Chis Battin, Taylie Foerder, Porter Loomis, Anne Loomis, Eric Killough, Tammy Killough, Jeff Krehbiel, Liz Krehbiel, Nathan Bales, Jason Roberts, Richelle Haskin, Karsyn Bailey, Jim Gatz, Cindy Gatz, Shaphan Staats, Blakelyn Riedel, Jeff Craft, Shasta Craft, Byran Kirby, Johanna Forssberg, Emersyn Bailey, Denali Schelling, Kaitlyn Vega, Tiger Thomspson, Nas Miller, Zach Deeds, Linda Fletcher, Randy Ford

### III. Board Organization: (AI)

Chris Drake moved, and Michelle Ferbert seconded the nomination of Jennifer Hopkins as president. Seth Thibault moved, and Kim Staats seconded the nomination of Jeremy Demuth as president.

Jeremy Demuth

Vote 4/3

Kim Staats moved and Jenna Zimmerman seconded the nomination of Seth Thibault as vice president. Chris Drake moved, and Jennifer Hopkins seconded the nomination of Michelle Ferbert as Vice President.

Michelle Ferbert  
Seth Thibault

Vote 3-4  
Vote 4- 3

### IV. Approval of Agenda (AI)

Chris Drake moved, and Michelle Ferbert seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Vote 7/0

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- V. Approval of the minutes of the December 8, 2025, Regular Meeting.  
Chris Drake moved, and Jennifer Hopkins seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2025, Regular Meeting. Vote 6/1
- December 18, 2025, Special Meeting to approve the meeting minutes - tabled to the February meeting for corrections. Vote 7/0
- VI. Food Service Presentation - Taylie Foerder (IO) - presented on OPAA meal service. Participation is down because parents can provide any type of food, and federal regulations restrict the food service department. Adding more options to improve participation. Spoke about staffing, production, and costs.
- VII. Teacher Presentation: Chris Battin and Lori Myers (IO) - College and Career summary. Kansas Star Recognition IPS - Silver. We participate in the Apply Kansas Program to get more students to apply to college. There are three days in October when colleges allow students to apply for free without charge. We participate in the FAFSA work night, Apply Kansas Day, in May, we participate in senior signing day to qualify as a Star School. Student meetings are set up to help guide students toward their career path. We offer internships, campus visits, and career fairs.
- VIII. Approval of payment of bills, treasurer, and financial reports. (AI)  
Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Jenna Zimmerman seconded the motion to approve payment of bills, the treasurer's report, and financial reports. Vote 7/0
- IX. Reports. (IO)
- SCKSEC Report** – Chris Drake - South Barber has asked to leave the coop; the board can vote on the motion, but the state has the final approval. They have had some late resignations and are keeping the fees due to issues in finding replacements. Looking at new insurance between Strongs and KICS.
- Governmental Relations** – Legislature has opened, HB 2421, SB 302 - cell phone ban for all students.
- Maintenance/Facility Report**- David Inslee - Working out bugs on controls with CNC to save money on HVAC costs. Boiler at the high school, there is a valve that opens and closes to restrict water from using both boilers. LMS has a bad controller and will have to replace sensors there also. Integreen to test backflow preventers in the boiler rooms. This has to be done annually.
- Asst Superintendent/Curriculum Report**—Antonia Villa - worked on professional development on structured literature and dyslexia. Keys to Literacy K-5 and Keys to Literacy Secondary.
- Superintendent Report** – Tony Helfrich
- Site Council Building Tours** - Building tours in January during site council meeting.

**Turf Update** - We are on the third step for installation, pellet removal, and turf removal. We are in the process of leveling the field. Next week, we could potentially have turf laid next week.

**PreK Tuition 2026-27** - We run our preK with several options for our students. We want to have as many students attending preschool as possible. They show success in Kindergarten if they attend preschool. If students qualify for at-risk we receive .5 funding from the state. Next month we will have an action item to update tuition costs.

**Fundraising Update** - \$5000 donation for E-Sports and a \$400,000 donation from Bill Keller for the turf.

**LMS Assistant Wrestling Coach addition** - We have 60 students out for girls wrestling.

X. Business

Information Only:

Randy Ford - audit presentation.

Action Item:

Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Jenna Zimmerman seconded the motion to approve the 2025 audit by Busby, Ford, and Reimer as presented.

Vote 7/0

Action Item:

Seth Thibault moved, and Chris Drake seconded to put the LMS Turf project out for bid and consideration for the Feb meeting.

Vote 7/0

Information Only:

BOE Policy update 2nd read. Will be on the Feb board meeting agenda.

Action Item:

Kim Staats moved, and Chris Drake seconded the appointment of Jennifer Hopkins as the BOE Governmental Relations liaison. Vote 7/0

Action Item: Math Curriculum Updates (AI)

Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Kim Staats seconded to approve the purchase of K-5 Envision math curriculum, materials, and professional development from Savvas Learning per the presented quote for \$100,728.90.

Vote 7/0

Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Jenna Zimmerman seconded to approve the purchase of the 6-8 math curriculum and virtual coaching from Carnegie Learning for the presented quote of 62,685.68. Vote 7/0

Action Item: SW Teacher authorized numbers

Kim Staats moved, and Jenna Zimmerman seconded to authorize 17  
K-3 elementary classroom teaching positions for Southwest  
Elementary. Vote 7/0

XI. Executive Session - Personnel

I, Jeremy Demuth, move that the board and superintendent go into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss potential hires and personnel evaluations pursuant to the non-elected personnel exemption under KOMA, and that the open meeting shall resume at 11:08. Seconded by Seth Thibault. Vote 7/0

Resumed regular meeting at 11:08

XII. Executive Session - Personnel

I, Jeremy Demuth, move that the board and superintendent go into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss potential hires and personnel evaluations pursuant to the non-elected personnel exemption under KOMA, and that the open meeting shall resume at 11:38. Seconded by Chris Drake. Vote 7/0

Resumed regular meeting at 11:38

XIII. Personnel Updates

Taylor Gentry	LMS 7th ELA teacher	Resignation
Antonia Villa	PAC Principal/Asst Superintendent	Resignation
Kati Westerhaus	LMS Scholars Bowl Head Coach	Replaces M Stegman
Ron Hill	LMS Scholars Bowl Head Coach	Replaces B Stegman
Gloria Pelland	LMS Assistant Wrestling Coach	New Position

XIV. Approval of personnel updates. (AI)

Chris Drake moved, and Seth Thibault seconded approval of the personnel updates as listed. Vote 7/0

XV. Other: None

XVI. Adjournment(AI)

Michelle Ferbert moved, and Kim Staats seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:41 pm. Vote 7/0

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BOE Clerk