

# USD 382 Board Meeting Minutes

Special Session

Wednesday, February 4, 2026

6:00 pm

## Board Members Present

Jeremy Demuth, President  
Jennifer Hopkins

Seth Thibault, Vice President  
Kimberly Staats

Chris Drake  
Jenna Zimmerman

Michelle Ferbert

## Administration Present

Tony Helfrich, Superintendent

Steve Blankenship, PHS Principal

### I. Call to Order

The Board of Education of Pratt Unified School District 382 met in special session on Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 6:08 pm in the BOE Meeting Room in the PAC Building, 401 S Hamilton, Pratt, KS. President Jeremy Demuth called the meeting to order.

### II. Recognition of Guests:

### III. Approval of the agenda(AI)

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

### IV. 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 6:39. Seconded by Jenna Zimmerman. Tony Helfrich and Steve Blankenship were asked to stay. Vote 7/0  
Resumed regular meeting at 6:39

### V. Executive Session - Personnel

I, Jeremy Demuth, move that the board and superintendent go into executive session for 15 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 6:54. Seconded by Kimberly Staats. Tony Helfrich and Steve Blankenship were asked to stay. Vote 7/0  
Resumed regular meeting at 6:54

### VI. Executive Session - Personnel

I, Jeremy Demuth, move that the board and superintendent go into executive session for 15 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 7:09. Seconded by Kimberly Staats. Tony Helfrich and Steve Blankenship were asked to stay. Vote 7/0  
Resumed regular meeting at 7:09

### VII. Executive Session - Personnel

I, Jeremy Demuth, move that the board and superintendent go into executive session for 10 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 7:19. Seconded by Kimberly Staats. Tony Helfrich and Steve Blankenship were asked to stay. Vote 7/0  
Resumed regular meeting at 7:19

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- VIII. **Executive Session - Personnel**  
 I, Jeremy Demuth, move that the board and superintendent go into executive session for 5 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 7:24. Seconded by Kimberly Staats. Tony Helfrich and Steve Blankenship were asked to stay. Vote 7/0  
 Resumed regular meeting at 7:24
- IX. **Approval of Personnel Updates (AI)**  
 Chris Drake moved, and Jenna Zimmerman seconded the motion to approve David Swank as the PHS Principal starting with the 2026-27 school year. Vote 7/0
- X. **Board Governance(IO)**  
 Discussion on board policy and minutes  
 Being more transparent for the community  
 Showing all financial information and budget information  
 Bond financing transparency, that we are only paying interest only until the PHS bond is retired.  
 Live stream meetings  
 BOE Clerks' duties  
 Public Comment added to the agenda with advanced notice of what a person would like to present. A Google form or a paper form could be used to accomplish this.  
 Budget needs making sure we use the building needs assessment. Being more aware of the tax dollars and how they are spent.  
 Moving Site Council meetings to another evening and not right before the board meeting.  
 Change site council format to more of a discussion than a presentation.  
 Using Facebook and other social media to keep the community informed about meetings and and other board items.
- XI. **Executive Session - Personnel**  
 I, Jeremy Demuth, move that the board and superintendent go into executive session for 5 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 8:51. Seconded by Chris Drake. Vote 7/0  
 Resumed regular meeting at 8:51
- XII. **Approval of Superintendent Contract (AI)**  
 Seth Thibault moved, and Kim Staats seconded the motion to approve the Superintendent's contract pending legal counsel review. Vote 7/0
- XIII. **Adjournment(AI)**  
 Michelle Ferbert moved, and Kim Staats seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 pm. Vote 6/0

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 BOE Clerk