

USD 382 Board Meeting Minutes

Special Session

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

6:00 pm

Board Members Present

Jeremy Demuth, President
Jennifer Hopkins

Seth Thibault, Vice President
Kimberly Staats

Chris Drake, Michelle Ferbert arrived 6:05
Jenna Zimmerman - arrived at 6:03

Administration Present

Tony Helfrich, Superintendent

Steve Blankenship, PHS Principal - arrived at 6:30

I. Call to Order

The Board of Education of Pratt Unified School District 382 met in special session on Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at 6:00 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)

Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Kim Staats seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented. Vote 5/0

IV. Technology Purchase(AI)

Seth Thibault moved, and Kim Staats seconded to accept the quote for the purchase of 50 HP Fortis B1M Chromebooks with licensing from VIG for \$13,750.00.

Vote 7/0

V. Executive Session - Personnel

I, Chris Drake, 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 6:40. Seconded by Jenna Zimmerman. Vote 7/0

Resumed regular meeting at 6:40

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 6:55. Seconded by Jennifer Hopkins. Vote 7/0

Resumed regular meeting at 6:55

VII. 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 7:20. Seconded by Jennifer Hopkins. Vote 7/0

Resumed regular meeting at 7:20

VIII. 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 7:50. Seconded by Jennifer Hopkins. Steve Blankeship joined at 7:35

Vote 7/0

Resumed regular meeting at 7:50

IX. 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 7:50. Seconded by Kim Staats. Steve Blankeship was asked to stay.

Vote 7/0

Resumed regular meeting at 8:00

X. Personnel Update

Steve Blankeship

Replaces Tony Helfrich as Superintendent

XI. Approval of Personnel Updates (AI)

Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Jenna Zimmerman seconded the motion to approve the personnel updates as presented, pending a signed contract.

Vote 7/0

XII. Board Governance(IO) - tabled to next meeting, February 4 @ 6:00

XIII. Adjournment(AI)

Michelle Ferbert moved, and Kim Staats seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 pm.

Vote 7/0

BOE Clerk