

USD 382 Board Meeting Minutes

Work Session

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

5:30 pm

Board Members Present

Jeremy Demuth, President
Jennifer Hopkins

Seth Thibault, Vice President
Kimberly Staats

Chris Drake - arrived at 5:35
Jenna Zimmerman - arrived at 5:37

Michelle Ferbert

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
Joy Schmidt - KESA Chair

I. Call to Order

The Board of Education of Pratt Unified School District 382 met in special session on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 5:31 pm in the BOE Meeting Room in the PAC Building, 401 S Hamilton, Pratt, KS. President Jeremy Demuth called the meeting to order.

II. Approval of the agenda

Seth Thibault moved, and Jennifer Hopkins seconded the motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Vote 5/0

III. Team Exercise (IO)

IV. Work Session Topics (IO)

KESA Overview - Joy Schmidt, KESA District Chair - Received Approval for our KESA Goal from the state. Structured literacy and standards alignment are what we will be working on in February. Quality instruction will implement items from the Michael McDowell training next.

Professional Development - When we added PD days we wanted to make sure we structured the times by the DLT for PD days. Using PLC groups to mix and match staff to create impactful learning experiences.

Strategic Plan - Mid Point Review - Four goal areas - Student Success, Facilities, Health and Wellness, Greenback Team. Discussion of adding KESA goals to the plan. Reviewed Diploma Pathways.

Budget Overview - Gave a broad overview of the budget and process.

Capital Outlay Strategic Planning - discussed capital outlay needs

V. BOE Governance Discussion (IO) Boardmanship sessions - was not discussed.

- VI. 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 8:00 seconded by Chris Drake. Vote 7/0
 Resumed regular meeting at 8:00
- 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 8:00. Seconded by Seth Thibault. Vote 7/0
 Resumed regular meeting at 8:10
- VIII. 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 8:10. Seconded by Seth Thibault. Vote 7/0
 Resumed regular meeting at 8:20
- IX. 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 8:20. Seconded by Seth Thibault. Vote 7/0
 Resumed regular meeting at 8:35
- X. 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 8:45. Seconded by Seth Thibault. Vote 7/0
 Resumed regular meeting at 8:45
- XI. 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 8:55. Seconded by Seth Thibault. Vote 7/0
 Resumed regular meeting at 8:55
- XII. 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 9:05. Seconded by Seth Thibault. Vote 7/0
 Resumed regular meeting at 9:05
- XIII. Other: None
- XIV. Adjournment(AI)

Michelle Ferbert moved, and Jenna Zimmerman seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 pm.
Vote 7/0

_____ BOE Clerk