

USD 382 Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 9, 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
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, February 9, 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 reflection

II. Recognition of Guests: Brelynn Gimple, STUCO member, Jayden Redick, STUCO member, Erika Householter, LMS MTSS Coordinator, Jeff Poort, PHS Band Instructor, Tim Rector, Skills USA, Clint Jones, Transportation Director

III. Public Comment: There were no requests at this time.

IV. Approval of Agenda (AI)

Jennifer Hopkins moved to add the rollover administrator contracts to the personnel, and seconded by Jenna Zimmerman, the agenda was approved with the addition. Vote 7/0

V. Approval of the minutes of the February 9, 2026, Regular Meeting.

Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Michelle Ferbert seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2026, regular meeting with the correction of Michelle's name. Vote 7/0

VI. Presentation/Student Outcomes:

Tim Rector - Skills USA Nationals - PHS took 17 students to Hutchinson for the state competition. We have 3 students who qualified for nationals: Sydmele Cullen Sanchez, Johanna Forssberg, and Cadenance Holmes. Tim Rector and Melissa Rector would attend as sponsors for our students.

Jeff Poort - Out of state band camp - Would like to take several students to attend band camp at Oklahoma State University from Wednesday to Saturday, and the students will participate in the half-time show. There is no cost to our students other than transportation.

Erika Householter - LMS IXL Data (IO) Stephanie Thompson and Erika Householter presented data about their students' demographics, including free and reduced, SPED, Gifted, and ESL. Character Strong and Greenback Match are serving Tier II students. We also have 35 students receiving services outside of school. LMS uses AIMSweb for ELA only; they use IXL for Math. Erika sends an email to students every Monday with the week's requirements. The students then go through their individual sections. Remediation happens twice a week during GoTime. Outside of GoTime, we use KITE Interims twice a year, which show how our students are meeting state standards.

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

- VIII. Reports. (IO)

SCKSEC Report – Chris Drake - Met on the third Monday of February. Approved an MOU for students who had moved and approved the negotiations team. Renewed Skyward under a three-year contract, and they will be moving to Qmlative in the next year. Questioned if the coop was discussing dropping adaptive physical education.

Governmental Relations – Jennifer Hopkins- SB387 - requiring the USD to verify income for free meals for all students who qualify. HB2468 tax credits for scholarship grants would take funds from public education and give them to private schools. HB2299, the cell phone ban bill, passed the House and has gone to the Senate. Also adds a provision where teachers will not be allowed to use social media to contact students. SB350 requires age-appropriate school activities on school devices.

Maintenance/Facility Report- David Inslee - Sandifer will be out next week to do the semi-annual fire inspections. Looking at the new intercom system at SW due to an issue where the tornado drill would sound. Darrin Clay with CCR roofing will complete roof assessments on all buildings for our long-term plan for the board.

Asst Superintendent/Curriculum Report—Antonia Villa - ESEA webinar for federal funding to close the gap for social classes, we will be audited in Title I. Joy will be part of the preparation for the audit. The state asked for a comprehensive list of the curriculum used by the district that meets the criteria for ED Reports.

Superintendent Report – Tony Helfrich

Simpson Construction & Pratt Childcare Coalition Grant funding- Received 175,000 from Pratt Childcare Coalition to make some updates for the childcare center. We are looking at new shelving and a new intercom system that will allow us to exclude the daycare center.

Budget Update - Budget planning guide Mental Health Grant, approved the fees, so that was removed from the planning guide.

Hall of Fame committee member - will be decided in April

Track RFP - Committee to review the RFP bids for the track and bring a recommendation on the track. Jenna Zimmerman volunteered to take part in the discussion.

Route Bus - There is a grant available from VW to pay for 75% of a new bus. We can purchase as many buses as we want. One piece of the grant mandates that the bus must be in service to be able to use grant funds. The bus must then be destroyed. This is part of the settlement for the Clean Air Act lawsuit.

Capital Outlay - long-term plan update, going over items that are accounted for but may not have been paid for. Looking at items that may be needed for the next ten years.

Regular Noon Meeting - The idea was to have 4 board meetings a year at noon at each of the district buildings. The noon meetings would allow the board to schedule work sessions for the year.

IX. New Business

Building Handbook Changes: first read (IO) - discussion and will look at handbooks at the April meeting.

Action Item: Van Purchase - Clint Jones discussed the option needed: 6 seats and a wheelchair for transportation to Kingman next year. Clint prefers the Ford over the Dodge.

Chris Drake moved, and Jenna Zimmerman seconded to approve the purchase of the Ford Van from Shawnee Mission for \$81,553.00, including the step bars, tow package, and trailer brake package.

Vote 7/0

Action Item: Daycare Projects

Seth Thibault moved and was seconded by Michelle Ferbert to approve Simpson Construction to continue as Construction Manager for projects to the PAC for the purpose of spending daycare grant dollars in the amount of \$175,316.00.

Vote 7/0

Action Item: PHS Gym floor repair - Discussed the lack of communication from the company. They installed the original floor, and other companies are out of Kansas City.

Seth Thibault moved, and Chris Drake seconded to approve ACME or another acceptable company to remediate the PHS gym floor per the terms of the quote up to \$40,000.00.

Note: This includes some dollars to account for an unknown extent of the area to be remediated.

Vote 7/0

Southwest HVAC options discussion (IO) update from Kruse Corporation came out and looked at long-term options for SW HVAC for both sides on the VRF system. Several options were presented, from updating the whole system to just the East side. There is also the option to use a combination of styles during the updates.

Action Item: Skills USA Nationals trip

Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Jenna Zimmerman seconded to approve the Skills USA Nationals trip as presented. Vote 7/0

Action Item: Out-of-state band camp - discussion about transportation, just approving the trip; details will be discussed once the students/instructors are signed up to attend.

Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Michelle Ferbert seconded to approve the out-of-state band camp as presented. Vote 7/0

X. Old Business

Action Item: LMS turf bid presentations: Discussion by Principal Thompson, both companies will be able to get the ground leveled further to make the area as flat as possible. The Heartland Foundation donated the final \$25,000 for the project. LMS has raised \$31,000.00 total towards the project.

Jenna Zimmerman moved, and Kimberly Staats seconded to approve the LMS front turf project for \$37,765.00 by CR Services. Vote 7/0

Action Item: BOE policy updates

Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Jenna Zimmerman seconded to approve BOE policy updates IHF and IIBE as presented. Vote 7/0

Action Item: Livestream equipment purchase

Michelle Ferbert moved, and Kimberly Staats seconded to approve the purchase of the equipment required for livestreaming for the PAC BOE room per the quote from Cytek for \$9,444.00 Vote 6/1

Chris Drake voted against.

Public Comment form (IO) - Discussion about the form being too restrictive. Tony and Lori will work on a more user-friendly form.

XI. Executive Session - Personnel Updates

I, Jeremy Demuth, move that the board and superintendent go into executive session for 15 minutes to discuss personnel pursuant to the non-elected personnel exemption under KOMA, and that the open meeting shall resume at 10:55.

Seconded by Kimberly Staats. Superintendent Tony Helfich and PHS Principal Steve Blankenship, Asst Principal/AD David Swank, LMS Principal Stephanie Thompson, Assistant Superintendent/PAC Principal Antonia Villa, and SW Elementary Principal Kirsten Blankenship were invited to stay. Vote 7/0

Resumed regular meeting at 10:55

XII. Executive Session - Personnel Updates

I, Jeremy Demuth, move that the board and superintendent go into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss personnel pursuant to the non-elected personnel exemption under KOMA, and that the open meeting shall resume at 11:00. Seconded by Kimberly Staats. Superintendent Tony Helfich and PHS Principal Steve Blankenship, Asst Principal/AD David Swank, LMS Principal Stephanie Thompson, Assistant Superintendent/PAC Principal Antonia Villa, and SW Elementary Principal Kirsten Blankenship were invited to stay. Vote 7/0
Resumed regular meeting at 11:00

XIII. Executive Session - Personnel Updates

I, Jeremy Demuth, move that the board and superintendent go into executive session for 5 minutes to discuss personnel pursuant to the non-elected personnel exemption under KOMA, and that the open meeting shall resume at 11:05. Seconded by Jennifer Hopkins. Superintendent Tony Helfich was invited to stay. Vote 7/0
Resumed regular meeting at 11:05

XIV. Executive Session - Personnel Updates

I, Jeremy Demuth, move that the board and superintendent go into executive session for 2 minutes to discuss personnel pursuant to the non-elected personnel exemption under KOMA, and that the open meeting shall resume at 11:07. Seconded by Jennifer Hopkins. Superintendent Tony Helfich was invited to stay. Vote 7/0
Resumed regular meeting at 11:07

XV. Approval of Personnel Updates

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

Kyle Farmer	PHS Head Scholars Bowl	Resignation
Misty Roberts	SW Lead Secretary	Resignation
Linsley Bergner	Co-Stuco Sponsor	Replaces ½ M Popovich
Emma Stroyan	Co-Stuco Sponsor	Replaces ½ M Popovich
Kim Keiser	SW/PAC Counselor	Resignation
Nicole Moreland	SW BTB Sub	New Hire
Tim Rector	LMS Head Football Coach	Replaces Chris Battin
Yudany Fernandez	Translator	Open Position
Olivia Pope	Lilypad Asst Teacher	Resignation
Brooke Wright	Lilypad Asst Teacher	Replaces Shandy Hall
Madison Sullivan	Lilypad Asst Teacher	Replaces Gloria Web
Merenda Jack	SW Lead Secretary	Replaces Misty Roberts
Meranda Jack	SW/PAC Behavioral Para	Transfer to SW Lead Secretary

XVI. Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Jenna Zimmerman seconded to approve the rollover of the administrative contracts for Jessica Hanvey, Assistant Principal at SW, Kirsten Blankenship, Principal at SW, and Stephanie Thompson, Principal at LMS, for 2-year contracts under existing terms through June 30, 2028. Vote 7/0

XVII. Other:(IO) Board questions about social media posts and how to handle them. Discussion about the chain of command for requests. Jenna discussed the BOE training she attended. Tony talked about surveys we could send out.

XVIII. Adjournment(AI)

Jenna Zimmerman moved, and Kimberly Staats seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 pm.

Vote 7/0

BOE Clerk

