

# USD 382 Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 11, 2025

7:00 pm

## Board Members Present

Bill Bergner, President  
Jeremy Demuth

Donna Queal, Vice President  
Michelle Ferbert

Tim Barker - arrived at 8:03  
Jennifer Hopkins

Chris Drake

## Administration Present

Tony Helfrich, Superintendent  
Steve Blankenship, Principal PHS  
Stephanie Thompson, Principal LMS  
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, Pratt Unified School District 382, met in regular session on Monday, August 11, 2025, at 7:00 pm in the BOE Meeting Room in the PAC Building, 401 S Hamilton, Pratt, KS. President Bill Bergner called the meeting to order.

Please stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

### II. Recognition of Guests: Will Ponder, JAG-K instructor, Liam Slocum, JAG-K Pratt President, Gina Bates, and Seth Thiabault.

### III. Approval of Agenda (AI)

Donna Queal moved, and Jennifer Hopkins seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Vote 6/0

### IV. Approval of the minutes of the July 14, 2025 Regular Meeting.

Jeremy Demuth moved, and Michelle Ferbert seconded to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2025, regular meeting Vote 6/0

### V. Teacher presentation: JAG-K program. Will Ponder and Liam Slocum presented on how the JAG-K program has helped him learn life skills. He attended the career development conference that revolved around leadership and public speaking. He was able to tour the capital and visit with our state legislature. He would like to work on volunteering more this year as he serves as President of Pratt's JAG-K program. Pratt won the 6x6 Award, which underscores JAGS outcomes for graduates.

### VI. Approval of payment of bills, treasurer, and financial reports. (AI)

Jennifer Hopkins moved, and Chris Drake seconded to approve payment of bills, treasurer, and financial reports Vote 6/0

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## VII. Reports. (IO)

- a. SCKSEC Report – Chris Drake - discussed that South Barber would like to leave the Co-op. Para and Staff training were held, and Tonya Younie was SCK Teacher of the year, and Gunner Jones was awarded Secondary Para of the year.
- b. Governmental Relations – Donna Queal - meeting in Hutchinson, Sept 10
- c. Maintenance/Facility Report- David Inslee - Sandifer out Sept 4th for the fire alarm inspection and will be replacing a bad unit at LMS. Shout out to Kian Helfrich and Carlito Lara for their work this summer. Integreen fixed the leak on the boiler.
- d. Asst Superintendent/Curriculum Report—Antonia Villa - all curriculum is purchased and ready to go.
- e. Superintendent Report – Tony Helfrich
  - i. Budget Needs Assessment - Per legislative directive, the school district follows the process for budget development in addition to its own strategic development of the budget. In the April Site Council mtg, building principals surveyed parents to get input for the Building Needs Assessment. Principals also use BLT's (building leadership teams) to get info to help set priorities. That info then feeds into the Building Needs Assessment and combines with the plan for strategizing improvement, through the deployment of resources, for raising state assessment scores. The state's goal is to have all students move toward scoring a 3 on assessments. The superintendent relayed that the middle of Level 2 correlates with a college-ready ACT score and the college prep curriculum is key to achieving a level 3. Because we have many students whose career goals are not centered around attending a 4-year university, we feel that strictly pushing the college-prep curriculum is not the best move for all students. The overall goal, at this stage, is to move all students out of Level 1 on the State Assessment because a Level 1 score correlates with a drop-off in post secondary effectiveness. On the budget needs assessment, the district committed to the following goals:
    1. Maintaining small class sizes
    2. Continue MTSS data position after the federal dollars were ended.
    3. Continue character education programs after the federal dollars were ended.
    4. Continue reading intervention programs and put dollars towards professional development and classroom differentiation.
    5. Maintain competitiveness with other districts for school personnel.
  - ii. Budget Overview - Before publishing publishing the Code 99 for the budget, the superintendent presented the budget to the board members for study. He also highlighted items in the budget. The budget changes were all connected to items that had been discussed in the spring on the budget planning sheet. Raises are the main reason for the rise in the budget. The superintendent reminded the board that the BOE approves the Budget Authority to spend the funds, but we usually don't spend all dollars in funds that can be rolled over, such as Capital Outlay, Special Education, CTE, Bilingual, etc, but we need the authority to do so. The superintendent also highlighted that the budget will have a higher bottom line spending number than is actually spent because expenditures are double counted for many funds. For example, funds are first "spent" through the general fund and

transferred to special education. Then, they are expended from capital outlay. This is the case with at-risk, preK at-risk, CTE, bilingual, and several other funds. We used the 2024 enrollment number. Title I dollars are flat, and 51,000 is available for salaries from Title IIA and that was restored. The hope is that there aren't recissions from the federal level, although there are rumors of them. Special Education funding is flat. Tax collection percentage is down; we should get the late collection this year. For this year, the expected mill level is flat, but we will exceed revenue neutral. Mill levy is expected to come in at 54.798, which is flat from 2024-25. This is an increase of 3.842 from 2018-19 with the bond issue coming on to the budget in 2023-24. We did not raise it as much as presented during the bond campaign. In the bond campaign the increase was expected to be 6.5 mills but we are 41% less than that increase. 2 mills will come off in 2032. The state subsidy for Pratt on the LOB is 41% so we get 41 cents for each dollar of LOB. This means that the state kicks in 41 cents and local property is taxed 59 cents for each dollar.. Capital Outlay is taxed subsidized at 37 cents for each dollar of capital outlay revenue by the state..

- iii. Student drug testing & tobacco - Teacher concern about testing for tobacco use. We do not test for tobacco. The cost was an additional \$5.00 per test, and would make the test \$75.00. This is just a preliminary look into it. This will be presented to the site council for parental input.
- iv. PD and DLT mtgs review - Partnered with Maize for PD, beefed up the PLCs in the district, small teams, and the structure to implement the learning. Use one to two strategies. September PD will be Keys to Literacy, and October will be PLCs. DLT reviewed the strategic plan and score sheet, looking at goals. Diploma pathways will be presented in September. Class of '30 would be the first group to follow the new diploma pathways if that is passed. Enrollment in our school may be down. More students are looking at online schools and going virtual. We have been looking at students who need to attend a different type of school. Students think it will be easier to attend virtual school. They will not be on our dropout report.

## VIII. Business

- a. Action Item: Classified Handbook update. (AI)  
Jeremy Demuth moved, and Chris Drake seconded to approve the classified handbook as presented. Vote 7/0
- b. Action Item: BOE policy updates—BBC, CN, DFE, DFH, GAACB, IB, JBC, JBCD, JGFGB, JH, KBC, KGB, KM, & KN. (AI)  
Chris Drake moved, and Jennifer Hopkins seconded to approve the KASB policy updates as presented. Vote 7/0
- c. Action Item: KASB delegate selection. (AI)  
Chris Drank moved and Donna Queal seconded to approve Tim Barker as USD 382's delegate to KASB. Vote 7/0
- d. Action Item: LMS roof overhaul. (AI)  
Donna Queal-Honer moved, and Michelle Ferbert seconded to approve the bid by AR Roofing in the amount of \$287,000 for an overhaul of the LMS main building roof and auditorium roof per the specifications on the bid. This was understood to be pending positive references. Vote 7/0
- e. Action Item: Lilypad Childcare Center Fees. (AI)

Superintendent Helfrich discussed the goal of maintaining a revenue-neutral funding basis for the childcare center, so fees and the grant funding must pay for the operational expenses. Staffing makes up 92% of costs with utilities, maintenance, software and technology, and insurance contributing to the overall costs as well. The district does do a \$25/week reduction for staff members and that is charged as a benefit. This is potentially a \$1275/year benefit for staff. Jennifer Hopkins moved and Donna Queal seconded to approve the rates for the Lilypad Childcare center as presented. These would go into effect after September 27, 2025.

Vote 7/0

IX. Personnel Updates -

Amy Slaughter	PreK Para	Transfer to new position
Amy Slaughter	Lilypad CC assistant teacher	Replaces open position
Makaela Duerson	PreK Para	Replaces Amy Slaughter
Courtney Reh	Title Para	Replaces Autumn Jackson
Ariane Moore	Concessions manager	Replaces Nancy Fruechting
Taylor Binford	BTB Tutor	Replaces Katherine Jack
Kate Wiltshire	BTB Secretary	Replaces Hannah Gordon
Tim Rector	LMS Assistant Football	Replaces Jake Eisenhauer

X. Approval of personnel updates. (AI)

Jeremy Demuth moved and Chris Drake seconded to approve the personnel updates as listed.

Vote 7/0

XI. Other: BOE Tailgate, Sept 12<sup>th</sup>; Legislative Listening Session @ Hutchinson on Sept 10<sup>th</sup>; tour bus barn in October.

XII. Adjournment(AI)

Donna Queal-Honer moved and Michelle Ferbert seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 pm.

Vote 7/0



Board Clerk