

**Special Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Kearney Public Schools Board of Education**

**Kearney Public Schools Board of Education**

**Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 5:00 PM**

**1st floor Administration Building Conference Room**

**320 W 24th Street**

**Kearney, NE 68845**

**1. Call to Order**

President Hazard called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

**2. Open Meetings Act Announcement**

This is an open, public meeting of the Kearney Public Schools Board of Education, and a copy of the Open Meetings Act is posted in this room.

**3. Board Meeting Decorum Expectations**

**4. Roll Call**

Attendance Taken at 5:00 PM.

John Icenogle: Absent

Amanda Smallcomb: Absent

Amy Barth: Present

Drew Blessing: Present

Niki Deeds: Present

Paul Hazard: Present

**4.A. Excuse Absent Board Member**

Move to excuse absent Board members Amanda Smallcomb and John Icenogle from meeting.

This motion, made by Amy Barth and seconded by Niki Deeds, Passed.

John Icenogle: Absent, Amanda Smallcomb: Absent, Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea,

Niki Deeds: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

**5. Approval of Agenda**

Move to approve the agenda of the meeting, as presented. This motion, made by Amy Barth and seconded by Paul Hazard, Passed.

John Icenogle: Absent, Amanda Smallcomb: Absent, Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Niki Deeds: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0, Absent: 2

**6. Public Participation/Comment**

Attendance Update Taken at 5:05 PM.

John Icenogle: Present

- Tim Higgins asking the board to consider early dismissal the day of state cross-country moving forward.

**7. Agenda**

7.A. Preview of the September 14, 2026 Regular Meeting Agenda

7.A.I. Recognition of Kearney High School Students who competed at the National FBLA Conference in San Antonio, Texas

7.A.II. Recognition of Meredith Johnson, Principal at Emerson Elementary School, for Being Named the Region IV Distinguished Principal by the Nebraska Association of Elementary School Principals

7.A.III. Recognition of Connor Williams, Principal at Meadowlark Elementary School, for Being Named the Region IV Outstanding New Principal by the Nebraska Association of Elementary School Principals

7.A.IV. Recognition of Angela Wright, Elementary Music Teacher, for Receiving the UNK Gary Thompson Distinguished Music Alumna Award

7.A.V. Presentation from Connor Williams, Meadowlark Elementary Principal on Student Leadership Teams

7.A.VI. Approval of Kearney High School JROTC Trip to the Ozark HS Raider Meet, September 25–27, 2026 in Marshfield, Missouri

7.A.VII. Approval of Kearney High School JROTC Trip to the Waynesville HS Raider Meet, October 2–4, 2026 in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri

7.A.VIII. Approval of Kearney High School FFA & Welding Students to attend the LCCC Steel Days Welding Scholarship Contest, October 21-23, 2026 in Cheyenne, Wyoming

7.A.IX. Approval of the Kearney High School FCCLA National Leadership Conference Trip, June 22–27, 2027 in San Antonio, Texas

7.A.X. Acceptance of Resignations

7.A.XI. Approval of the Employment of Certificated Staff

7.A.XII. Approval of the infrastructure and road project near Kearney High School connecting 27th Avenue South to 6th Street. 6th Street will be taken from its current stopping point near KRMC west to 27th Avenue South. The project will be coordinated by Craig Bennett of Miller & Associates at an estimated total cost of \$5.08 million with costs to the district estimated at \$3.56 million paid from the special building fund.

7.A.XIII. First Reading Approval of New and Revised Board Policies

7.A.XIV. Approval of the Special Meeting Date for the 2026–2027 Budget Hearing and Budget Approval, Scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of the KPS Administration Building

7.A.XV. Adoption of the Kearney Public Schools Option Enrollment Resolution for the 2027-2028 School Year

7.B. Approval of Kearney High School JROTC Trip to the Leavenworth HS Raider Meet, September 10-11, 2026 in Leavenworth, Kansas

Move to approve the Kearney High School JROTC Trip to the Leavenworth HS Raider Meet, September 10-11, 2026 in Leavenworth, Kansas. This motion, made by Drew Blessing and seconded by John Icenogle, Passed.

Amanda Smallcomb: Absent, Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Niki Deeds: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea  
Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

7.C. Review the new KPS Master Plan Review for 2026-2031

Attendance Update Taken at 5:54 PM.

Amanda Smallcomb: Present

7.D. Discussion of potential changes to the 2026-2027 School Calendar

7.E. Determine the Board Negotiations team for the 2027–2028 negotiations with KEA.

## 8. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 PM.

Move to adjourn the meeting. This motion, made by John Icenogle and seconded by Amanda Smallcomb, Passed.

Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Niki Deeds: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea, Amanda Smallcomb: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

## Notice of Meeting

This meeting was publicized in the Kearney Hub on September 5, 2026; radio stations KGFW and KKPR; and KSNB and KHGI T.V.

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Niki Deeds, Secretary