

Special Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Kearney Public Schools Board of Education
Kearney Public Schools Board of Education
Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 5:00 PM
1st floor Administration Building Conference Room
320 W 24th Street
Kearney, NE 68845

1. Call to Order

Vice President Blessing called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

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 5:02 PM.

Amy Barth: Present

Drew Blessing: Present

Paul Hazard: Present

John Icenogle: Present

Also in attendance were newly elected Board members Amanda Smallcomb and Niki Deeds and outgoing Board member, Kathy Gifford. Mrs. Gifford served as interim secretary.

5. Approval of Agenda

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

Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6. Public Participation/Comment

7. Agenda

7.A. Preview of the January 13, 2025 Regular Meeting Agenda

7.A.I. Reorganization of the Board of Education for 2025

7.A.I.a. Election of the President of the Board of Education for 2025

7.A.I.b. Election of the Vice President of the Board of Education for 2025

7.A.I.c. Election of the Secretary of the Board of Education for 2025

7.A.II. Recognition of Mrs. Jeana Peterson - Orchestra Teacher at Horizon and Sunrise Middle Schools, as the 2024 Outstanding String Teacher of the Year

7.A.III. Announcement and Recognition of "Nebraska School Board Member Week," January 26 - February 2, 2025

7.A.IV. Presentation By Meredith Johnson, Principal of Emerson Elementary on Core Connections

7.A.V. Report on Activities of NASB Legislative Committee

7.A.VI. Approval of the Check Signing Authority for 2025 for the Kearney Public Schools at Nebraskaland Bank as President and Secretary of the Board of Education, and Dr. Chris Loofe and Jenae Dahlstedt

7.A.VII. Approval of the Second and Final Reading of Revised Board Policy 3290 Internal Controls

7.A.VIII. Acceptance of Resignations and Retirements - Barbara Wegner, Nate Garringer, Crystal Warner and Melinda Reid

7.A.IX. Approval of the Employment of Certificated Staff - Eve Edwards

7.A.X. Approval of the Employment of Administrative Staff - Jenn True

7.A.XI. Approval of Board Committee Assignments for 2025 - Committee on American Civics and Negotiations Committee

7.A.XII. Closed Session for the Purpose of Conducting a Strategy Session in Regard to Negotiations for the 2025-2026 School Year

7.B. Discuss the January Special Retreat Topics and Set Agenda for the Meeting
Items were suggested from Board members and administration.

7.C. Discuss the Potential Expansion of the Hanny Arram Center for Success

7.D. Discuss a Recent Survey of KHS Students and Staff and Next Steps for Naming the New Multipurpose Facility at KHS

7.E. Discuss and Report on the Appeal Decision of the Book "Empire of Storms"

7.F. Closed Session for the Purpose of Conducting a Strategy Session with Respect to a Real Estate Purchase

Move to go to closed session at 6:49pm. This motion, made by John Icenogle and seconded by Paul Hazard, Passed.

Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0

7.G. Return to Open Session

Move to return to open session at 7:24pm. This motion, made by Paul Hazard and seconded by John Icenogle, Passed.

Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0

8. Adjournment

Move to adjourn the meeting at 7:25pm. This motion, made by John Icenogle and seconded by Paul Hazard, Passed.

Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0

Notice of Meeting

This meeting was publicized in the Kearney Hub on January 4, 2025; radio stations KGFW and KKPR; and KSNB and KHGI T.V.

Kathy Gifford, Secretary