

**Special Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Kearney Public Schools Board of  
Education  
Kearney Public Schools Board of Education  
Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 5:00 PM  
1st floor Administration Building Conference Room  
320 W 24th Street  
Kearney, NE 68845**

**1. Call to Order**

President Icenogle 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 5:01 PM.

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

Excuse absent board member Paul Hazard. This motion, made by Drew Blessing and seconded by Amanda Smallcomb, Passed.

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

**5. Approval of Agenda**

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

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

**6. Public Participation/Comment**

**7. Agenda**

7.A. Preview of the April 14, 2025 Public Hearing & Regular Monthly Meeting Agenda

7.A.I. Public Hearing & Review of American Civics Education Policy & Requirements

7.A.II. Recognition of the Kearney High School Dance Catz and Head Coach Meggie Rusher for Winning their First-Ever State Dance Championship and Earning the Academic Excellence Award

- 7.A.III. Recognition of the Kearney High School Cheerleading Team and Coaches Ashley Bush and Tammy Rehtus and for their First-Ever State Runner-Up Finish
- 7.A.IV. Recognition of Kearney High School Student Carsyn McBride and Head Coach Trey Schlender for Winning the First-Ever Class A State Girls Wrestling Championship
- 7.A.V. Recognition of Kearney High School Student Kaedun Goodman and Head Coach Ryan Bauer for Winning 2nd Place at the Class A Boys State Wrestling Championships
- 7.A.VI. Recognition of the Kearney High School Football Team and Head Coach Brandon Cool for Receiving the 2024-2025 National Football Foundation National High School Academic Excellence Award
- 7.A.VII. Recognition of Kearney High School FCCLA State Champions, Ty Royal and Kassidy Clark for Placing 1st in the Chapter Service Project Display, Level 3
- 7.A.VIII. Announcement of the 2025 Kearney Public Schools/Kearney Public Schools Foundation "Celebration of Excellence" Reception
- 7.A.IX. Presentation by Mark Johnson, Principal at Sunrise Middle School, on the Intensive Care Unit at Sunrise Middle School
- 7.A.X. Legislative Update
- 7.A.XI. 2025 NASB Federal Advocacy Report
- 7.A.XII. Approval of Kearney High School Wrestling Summer Team Camp Trip, June 8-12, 2025 in Fort Dodge, Iowa
- 7.A.XIII. Approval of Kearney High School Girls Basketball Trip to the Midwest Showcase, June 12-14, 2025 in Kansas City, Missouri
- 7.A.XIV. Approval of Kearney High School Volleyball Trip for the Kansas State Team Camp, July 10-12, 2025 in Manhattan, Kansas
- 7.A.XV. Acceptance of the Resignations of Mackenzie Klimek, Dax VanLengen and Cherie Kluender
- 7.A.XVI. Approval of the Employment of Certificated Staff - Shana Orr
- 7.A.XVII. Approval of the Employment of Administrative Staff - Steven Woodside
- 7.A.XVIII. Approval of Check Signing Authority for 2025 for Meagan Kershner, Director of Finance
- 7.A.XIX. Approval of the 2025-2026 Transportation Handbook
- 7.A.XX. Approval of OpenSciED as the New 9-12 Science Curriculum for a Period of \_\_\_\_ Years Beginning in the 2025-2026 School Year
- 7.A.XXI. Approval of "The Leader in Me" as the new K-8 Social-Emotional Curriculum for a Period of \_\_\_\_ Years Beginning in the 2025-2026 School Year
- 7.B. Discuss Board Policy 5004 Dual Credit Enrollment
- 7.C. Discuss "The Leader in Me" as the New District SEL Curriculum for Grades K-8

7.D. Discuss the 9-12 OpenSciED Curriculum Adoption

7.E. Discussion of District High-Ability Learning

7.F. Discussion of Monthly Board Small Group Discussions

7.G. Recognition of Pastor Mitch Ivey and Grace Church for KPS Support in 2024-2025

7.H. Board Policy Review - Current Policies and Discrepancies with Handbooks

### **8. Adjournment**

Move to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. This motion, made by John Icenogle and seconded by Drew Blessing, Passed.

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

Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

### Notice of Meeting

This meeting was publicized in the Kearney Hub on April 5, 2025; radio stations KGFW and KKPR; and KSNB and KHGI T.V.

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Drew Blessing, Secretary