

**Special Committee of the Whole Meeting of the Kearney Public Schools Board of
Education
Kearney Public Schools Board of Education
Wednesday, January 7, 2026 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.

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

5. Approval of Agenda

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

Amy Barth: Yea, Drew Blessing: Yea, Niki Deeds: Yea, Paul Hazard: Yea, John Icenogle: Yea,
Amanda Smallcomb: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

6. Public Participation/Comment

- Alex Straatmann provided public comment in support of the Kearney High School track being named after retired coach Roger Mathiesen.

7. Agenda

7.A. Preview of the January 12, 2026 Regular Meeting Agenda

7.A.I. Reorganization of the Kearney Public Schools Board of Education for 2026

7.A.I.a. Election of the President of the Board of Education for 2026

7.A.I.b. Election of the Vice President of the Board of Education for 2026

7.A.I.c. Election of the Secretary of the Board of Education for 2026

- 7.A.II. Recognition of Kearney High School Students who were Selected to Participate in the 2025 Nebraska All-State Band, Choir and Orchestra, sponsored by the Nebraska Music Education Association
- 7.A.III. Recognition of Alison Klein, Kearney High School Science Teacher, for Earning National Board Certification in Adolescent and Young Adult Science (Chemistry) from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
- 7.A.IV. Announcement and Recognition of "Nebraska School Board Member Week," January 25-31, 2026
- 7.A.V. Presentation by Troy Saulsbury and Caryn Saulsbury, 4th Grade Teachers at Central Elementary School on their Oregon Trail Unit
- 7.A.VI. Presentation by Erikka Rhodes, Hanny Arram Center for Success JAG Teacher, Mid-Year JAG Program Update
- 7.A.VII. Construction Update
- 7.A.VIII. Second and Final Reading Approval of Revised 3000 Section of Board Policies
- 7.A.IX. Second and Final Reading Approval of Revised Board Policy 5204 Student Graduation
- 7.A.X. Acceptance of Resignations and Retirements - Reid Bednar
- 7.A.XI. Approval of the Employment of Certificated Staff - Emma Allen, Abbie Scholl, Mallory Wetherell, Mallory Daley, Jordan Fuehrer
- 7.A.XII. Approval of the Check Signing Authority for 2026 for the Kearney Public Schools at Nebraskaland Bank as President and Secretary of the Board of Education, and Meagan Kershner and Jenae Dahlstedt
- 7.A.XIII. Board Committee Assignments for 2026 - Committee on American Civics and Negotiations Committee
- 7.B. Discuss the naming of the Kearney High School Track after Retired Coach Mathieson
- 7.C. Finalize the Winter Retreat Agenda Topics for the January 26, 2026, Meeting
 - 7.C.I. Infrastructure Cost Analysis with Craig Bennett of Miller & Associates for the Extension of 27th Avenue South and 6th Street West for KHS Traffic Flow
 - 7.C.II. Review of the District Facilities Plan and Potential Summer Projects
 - 7.C.II.a. Sunrise Parking Lot & Traffic Flow - Review Plans
 - 7.C.II.b. Windy Hills Gym Wall
 - 7.C.II.c. Horizon Parking Lot Issues
 - 7.C.II.d. Upcoming Roof Replacements
 - 7.C.II.e. KHS Turf Replacement
 - 7.C.II.f. Finishing Cottonwood

7.C.III. What's Happening in KHS HAL?

7.C.IV. Administrative Leave 2026-2027

7.C.V. Health Savings Accounts for Administrators

7.C.VI. KPS Artificial Intelligence (AI) Framework

7.C.VII. Negotiations Closed Session

7.D. Review of the 4000 Section of Board Policy

7.E. Closed Session

- The Board moved to closed session for the purpose of conducting a strategy session in regard to negotiations for the 2026-2027 school year, at 6:25 PM.

Move to enter into a closed session for the purpose of conducting a strategy session in regard to negotiations for the 2026-2027 school year. This motion, made by John Icenogle and seconded by Paul Hazard, Passed.

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

Yea, Amanda Smallcomb: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.F. Return to Open Session

- The Board returned to open session at 7:01 PM.

7.G. Closed Session

- The Board moved to closed session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter at 7:02 pm.

Move to enter closed session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter. This motion, made by John Icenogle and seconded by Drew Blessing, Passed.

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

Yea, Amanda Smallcomb: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

7.H. Return to Open Session

- The Board returned to open session at 7:36 pm.

8. Adjournment

- Meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Move to adjourn the meeting. This motion, made by John Icenogle and seconded by Niki Deeds, 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 January 3, 2026; radio stations KGFW and KKPR; and KSNB and KHGI T.V.

Drew Blessing, Secretary