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**REGULAR MEETING**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**OF**  
**THE KANSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREMENT SYSTEM**  
**February 03, 2025**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Cecelia M. Carter, Chair  
Debbie Siragusa, Vice-Chair  
Dr. Lauren Amicone  
Jamekia Kendrix  
Dr. Stacy King  
Judy Morgan  
Andrew Murphy  
Michael Murphy  
Dr. Eddie Smith

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Dr. Jennifer Collier  
Linda Watkins  
Brian Welch

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Dr. Jason Steliga, Executive  
Director  
Jon Dilly, Swanson Bernard  
Rosemary Guillette, Segal  
Marco

**Meeting Convened**

The Kansas City Public School Retirement System (KCPSRS) Board of Trustees convened at 4:02 p.m. at the KCPSRS office located at 3100 Broadway, Suite 1211, Kansas City, Missouri 64111. In attendance were Board members Cecelia M. Carter, Debbie Siragusa, Dr. Lauren Amicone, Jameika Kendrix, Dr. Stacy King, Judy Morgan, Andrew Murphy, Michael Murphy, and Dr. Eddie Smith. Also present were Executive Director Dr. Jason Steliga, General Counsel Jon Dilly and Investment Consultant Rosemary Guillette.



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### **Call to Order**

Mr. A. Murphy moved the adoption of the agenda for the February 03, 2025, Board meeting be approved. Ms. Morgan seconded the motion. Voting “Aye” – Amicone, Carter, Siragusa, Kendrix, King, Morgan, A. Murphy, M. Murphy, and Smith. “Opposed” – None. “Abstentions” – None. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Consent Approval Agenda**

Ms. Siragusa moved the approval of the consent agenda for the February 03, 2025 Board Meeting. Ms. Morgan seconded the motion. During discussion, Ms. Siragusa examined the money spent on trustee travel for the year. Dr. Steliga explained that only three trustees traveled last year, and most of the trustee education was done at the System. In addition, Dr. Steliga reviewed the budget variance for both technology and operations. Voting “Aye” – Amicone, Carter, Siragusa, Kendrix, King, Morgan, A. Murphy, M. Murphy, and Smith. “Opposed” – None. “Abstentions” – None. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Policy Changes and Procedures**

Dr. Steliga and Ms. Kendrix reviewed over the policy changes that took place during the January 09<sup>th</sup> Policy and Evaluation Committee meeting. Dr. Steliga indicated the three changes that took place. The first was to align the ED competencies with the performance-based evaluation. The second was to change the word ‘quarterly’ to informal as it related to the progress assessments. The third was to indicate the ED would provide his final self-assessment and goals to the System attorney for distribution. In addition, Ms. Siragusa requested to strike “3. Individual Board members are not to become involved in operational management, except as requested by the Executive Director” as it was stated in previously under the section – Role of Individual Board members in Volume 1 – Board Governance and Policies.

Ms. Siragusa moved to approve the changes to Volume 1 – Board Governance and Policies. Ms. Kendrix seconded the motion. Voting “Aye” – Amicone, Carter, Siragusa, Kendrix, King, Morgan, A. Murphy, M. Murphy, and Smith. “Opposed” – None. “Abstentions” – None. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Board Travel and Education Hours**

Ms. Carter presented Board travel and education hours to the Board from fiscal year 2024. Ms. Morgan moved to receive and file Board travel and education hours from fiscal year 2024. Dr. Smith seconded the motion. Voting “Aye” – Amicone, Carter, Siragusa, Kendrix, King, Morgan, A. Murphy, M. Murphy, and Smith. “Opposed” – None. “Abstentions” – None. The motion carried unanimously.





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### MO 2025 Legislative Review

Ms. Morgan reviewed the work completed by the legislative and benefits committee on January 27. She indicated the committee, with assistance from Ms. Giddens and Dr. Steliga, created priorities and items to watch for Ms. Giddens as she represents the System in Jefferson City.

#### Priorities

1. Resolves that the Kansas City Public School Retirement System continue to support a guaranteed defined benefit retirement plan for its members.
2. Urges the general assembly within the confines of MO statutes to not adopt any benefit increases until the Kansas City Public School Retirement System unfunded actuarial accrued liability has been paid and the contribution rates have been stabilized for the System.
3. Urges the general assembly to not adopt or mandate any changes that would restrict or diminish the KCPSRS's full authority to direct the System's investment programming.
4. Supports legislation on proxy voting associated with the system's investments provided the vote is solely in the economic interest of the participants of the system and without any additional financial cost to the system.

#### Items to watch

1. Monitoring any legislation such as vouchers, tuition tax credits or open enrollment that would potentially divert funding from public schools to private or religious schools.
2. Monitor any tax cuts or unfunded mandates (such as personal income, corporate, capital gains, etc.) that have the potential to negatively impact state resources.
3. Monitor any proposed changes to state statutes that requires charter school employees to be members of their respective retirement systems.

Ms. Morgan moved the recommendation of the committee to the full Board to approve the legislative priorities. No second is needed. Voting "Aye" – Amicone, Carter, Siragusa, Kendrix, King, Morgan, A. Murphy, M. Murphy, and Smith. "Opposed" – None. "Abstentions" – None. The motion carried unanimously.



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Ms. Morgan moved the recommendation of the committee to the full Board to approve the legislative items to watch. No second is needed. Voting “Aye” – Amicone, Carter, Siragusa, Kendrix, King, Morgan, A. Murphy, M. Murphy, and Smith. “Opposed” – None. “Abstentions” – None. The motion carried unanimously.

### **March Meeting – Change of Date**

Due to the travel of two trustees and the executive director to attend the NIRS conference in Washington D.C., the March meeting date was moved from March 03 to March 10 after discussion. No vote was taken.

### **Report of the Chairperson**

Ms. Carter reviewed over the committee assignments for the Board of Trustees for fiscal year 2025, highlighting the members and the chairs for the committee. Ms. Carter highlighted the new chairs and expressed the opportunity for other trustees to have opportunities to lead.

Ms. Kendrix expressed her concerns regarding the chair of the policy committee. Ms. Kendrix acknowledged that she had been made aware of the Chairperson’s experience with administrative HR policy and the value that experience would bring to the Committee. But, maintained that considering the work with which the Policy Committee is engaged and the impact of recent transitions in the System’s Board and executive leadership, it is necessary for the Chair of the Committee to have experience as a KCPSRS Trustee and in governance policy. Ms. Siragusa reminded the Board that the chair simply facilitates the meeting and that members on the committee still can provide input and direction for the work being done. Ms. Kendrix also discussed the need for the executive committee. Ms. Carter stated it was an ad hoc committee that she had the ability to appoint. Ms. Kendrix noted that policy states that the Board needs to authorize the executive committee and determine what functions they will study and review and that the Board would need to approve the continued need for the executive committee. Ms. Carter mentioned that she had been thinking of having a committee consisting of all chairs instead of just the current structure of the executive committee (chair, vice chair and treasurer).

There was further discussion about the organization of the committees. Dr. Steliga indicated that one of his year two goals was to examine committee structures that best align with the needs of the System. It was requested that he do an analysis of current standing committees for the February 25<sup>th</sup> policy and evaluation committee meeting.

Ms. Kendrix moved that the committee assignments be postponed until the next Board meeting for further review. Ms. Morgan seconded the motion. During discussion, Ms. Morgan reminded the Board of parliamentary procedures as it related to discussing their individual votes so as not to sway the committee. In addition, she reminded the Chair that one may not call for a show of hands to indicate individual votes. After





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discussion, the motion did not pass as seven votes are needed for a motion to be approved.

### **Other Business**

Dr. Steliga reviewed over trustee educational opportunities for the months of April, May and June. The Board approves travel for these months at the March meeting.

### **Report of the Executive Director**

Dr. Steliga reviewed the refund payment and employer payment reports. He noted that the System is still awaiting two payments from University Academy. He has reached out to their finance department and the superintendent.

Dr. Steliga provided his executive director's report providing information on administrative and operational activities. He discussed his conversation with the new client services representative from BNY. He noted that tax forms 945/945A were sent certified mail on January 28<sup>th</sup>. The member accounts were credited at 2.500% on January 7<sup>th</sup>. He noted that NIRS and P2F2 annual fees were paid. He also noted that he is working with legal to completion the subscription for RBC. He noted that the newsletters were finalized and mailed/emailed this month. He reviewed over the Board meetings that took place throughout the month of January. He discussed the real estate options from his visits in January with the Board and will determine a time to meet and tour over the next week. 1099Rs were mailed, pre-retirement workshop sign-up forms were developed, and charter school affiliation was added to the employer report.

Dr. Steliga, with Ms. Guillette, reviewed the planning of the due diligence trip that will take place in April.

Dr. Steliga reviewed the response of Bryan Hoge, from CavMac, over the financial impacts that may occur because of the revoked charter of Genesis Schools.

### **Closed Session**

Mr. Morgan moved the meeting into closed session at 6:02 p.m. Dr. Amicone seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting "Aye" – Amicone, Carter, Siragusa, Kendrix, King, Morgan, A. Murphy, M. Murphy, and Smith. "Opposed" – None. "Abstentions" – None. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Kendrix moved the meeting back to open session at 6:23 p.m. Mr. A. Murphy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Voting "Aye" – Amicone, Carter, Siragusa, Kendrix, King, Morgan, A. Murphy, M. Murphy, and Smith. "Opposed" – None. "Abstentions" – None. The motion carried unanimously.



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**Adjournment**

The Board adjourned by common consent at 6:24 p.m.

**Prepared by**  
**Jason Steliga**

  
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Dr. Jason Steliga, Executive Director