

**MINUTES**  
**KANSAS PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

March 27, 2026

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order by Chairperson Brad Stratton at 9:46 a.m., on March 27, 2026, in the Retirement System Board Room, Topeka, Kansas.

Board members present:           Brad Stratton, Chairperson  
  Emily Hill, Vice-Chairperson  
  Chris Huntsman (Virtual – Zoom)  
  Steven Johnson  
  Rich Proehl  
  Ryan Trader  
  Sam Williams  
  Jo Yun  
  James Zakoura

Board members absent:           None

Chairperson Brad Stratton welcomed Jason Alatidd, *Topeka-Capital Journal* Statehouse Reporter, and all other participants.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**Outstanding Service Awards**

KPERS chose two exemplary employees as the Outstanding Service Award winners for the months of April through July 2026.

Chairperson Brad Stratton recognized Alan Conroy, Executive Director. Mr. Conroy congratulated Megan Wilk, Business Analyst for the KAPS Team, as the recipient of the KPERS Outstanding Service Award for the period of April 2026 through July 2026 because of the distinguished service she provides to KPERS. Mr. Conroy stated that Megan has become the primary subject matter expert on data cleansing for the KAPS Project. She plays an integral role in moving this work forward. Megan consistently comes prepared to all meetings with a clear understanding of the issues at hand. She takes care to provide thoughtful explanations that help the team stay aligned with project goals. Her ability to break down complex data questions and communicate effectively has been invaluable toward the team's steady progress. This keeps the steering committee informed and ensures problems are addressed within the KAPS schedule. Megan also has incredible collaboration skills and works closely with both the internal data cleansing team and our external vendors, serving as a bridge between the groups and setting clear expectations for all concerns.

Megan's professionalism, attention to detail and willingness to engage with all stakeholders make her a tremendous asset to KPERS and our agency's future.

Next, Krystal Yegon, a Senior Investment Accountant for Fiscal Services, was selected because she exhibits KPERS' core values of service, teamwork, respect, integrity, innovation and accountability. Her work has a large positive impact not only on Fiscal Services but throughout KPERS.

Krystal's role in the Investment Accounting department is a valuable part of the agency. She strives to find efficiencies for all areas of her job and serves as a back-up to many of her team members. She is an expert on numbers and technology. Krystal finds ways to streamline processes so that her team has more time to analyze their data instead of completing it manually. Her efforts to gain historical knowledge from former colleagues ensure the future of Investment Accounting is well documented and set up for success. Krystal enjoys helping not only her immediate team members but also those in Fiscal Services researching various tasks and projects. This year, she also played an instrumental role in producing and finalizing the FY 2025 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. Using new software, Krystal worked through many issues to resolve problems quickly. Not only is her work outstanding, but she also treats every person she encounters with kindness and respect.

Krystal's hard work, helpful nature and desire for efficiency make her an invaluable part of KPERS.

Alan Conroy, Executive Director, and Chairperson Brad Stratton awarded Megan and Krystal each with an Appreciation Plaque, congratulating them for their accomplishments and great service to KPERS.

### **Consent Agenda**

The consent agenda included the approval of Board meeting minutes for the January 16, 2026, the consideration of KPERS 3 and Deferred Retirement Option Program (DROP) Interest Credits, and the appointment of Hearing Officers for Laura Devinney and Da'Von Brame.

*Trustee Yun moved that the Board of Trustees adopt the consent agenda. Trustee Trader seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

### **Executive Director's Report**

Chairperson Stratton recognized Alan Conroy, Executive Director. Mr. Conroy reported on recent agency activities including:

In January and February, Benefits and Member Services enrolled 2,894 members in KPERS, KP&F or Judges plans. Staff also returned 772 inactive members to active employment and transferred 738 members from one participating employer to another. In this time, InfoLine staff answered 74% of 27,722 incoming calls from members, employers and other interested parties. Staff also responded to 3,332 member emails and 425 employer emails.

The team successfully processed retirement applications for 806 new retirees, which brings the total to 119,773 retirees and survivors. Monthly benefits total \$181.8 million as of February 28, 2026. All retirement applications were processed within 30 days of receiving the application and supporting documents.

KPERS published the 2025 GASB 68 report on [kspers.gov](http://kspers.gov) on February 6, 2026. GASB 75 reports were made available for employers on February 12, 2026.

Since the January Board meeting, the Employer Auditing Unit completed 20 employer audits, for a total of 65 audits in FY 2026 to date. In partnership with Internal Audit, the Employer Auditing Unit also began working on employer payroll information for about 70 employers chosen for the FY 2026 GASB 68 audit.

The Employer Reporting Unit responded to over 4,800 calls and emails and sent over 3,200 letters to agencies on various topics.

Information Technology staff continue to support the KAPS Project with configuration and testing of the Total Agility scanning environment. This will replace the current KOFAX tool. In February, the team rolled out a fix to the User Enumeration issue in the Member Web Portal. Staff continues work on enhance security on portals, as well as on changes required for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines. The Legacy Digitization project continues, with the team processing over 200,000 images per week to ImageHost.

The team completed the Annual Actuarial Census project. Staff are developing two separate Artificial Intelligence use cases to help KPERS improve its processes and documentation.

KPERS' information security and cybersecurity protocols continue to prove successful. No issues were detected on KPERS' devices in January or February. Staff patched 4,754 software vulnerabilities. KPERS' systems blocked 29,809 suspicious emails and prevented access to more than 1.3 million dangerous websites. In addition, security measures prevented 33,720 attacks on the Member Web Portal (mostly from the U.S., Finland, and Singapore) and 7,490 attacks on the Employer Web Portal (mostly from the U.S., Singapore, and Germany).

Investment staff held its offsite meeting with the System's three investment consulting firms. Topics included the System's real asset program, private equity co-investing, private equity benchmark options and a review of the public equity program.

Investment staff completed the fourth quarter 2025 portfolio review meetings with the System's public market managers. Staff conducted due diligence meetings and worked with Mercer and The Townsend Group to prepare three investment recommendations for the March Investment Committee meeting. Staff held review meetings and attended quarterly meetings with several of the private market investment managers.

Planning and Research staff have been working on legislative issues including six fiscal notes, seven bill summaries, seven pieces of testimony on four bills, and overview presentations to two committees.

Deferred Compensation KPERS 457 plan staff have added four local government plans since the January Board meeting. This includes USD 502 Lewis, the Kiowa County Conservation District, the Douglas County Conservation District, and Coffey County. With the addition of Coffey County, 95 of the 105 Kansas counties are participating in KPERS 457. The KPERS 401(a) plan also added one local plan – Mission Township. This brings the total number of joinders added to five for Calendar Year 2026.

The KPERS 401(a) plan has surpassed 1,000 participating members across 43 local employer plans, with assets totaling more than \$19.2 million.

KPERS 457 and Empower staff hosted an open house for plan participants and employers to visit the new KPERS 457/Empower offices on the third floor on February 20, 2026. Retirement Plan Advisors who serve state agencies in Topeka also attended, as well as Empower Senior Specialist for Relationship Development Len Lehmann and Empower Vice President of Government Markets Stephanie O'Dear. Alan Conroy, Executive Director and Arlen Zentner, Deferred Compensation Plan Officer, presented Mr. Lehmann with a certificate of achievement for his efforts toward opening the 500<sup>th</sup> local employer plan.

In the first quarter of 2026, communication efforts focused on member annual statements, the KAPS Project, the Employer Conference and numerous ongoing/operational projects. On the Employer front, staff began collecting bids for the 2026 Employer Conference and will decide on the location in the next few weeks. The team also promoted the January New Designated Agent webinars, completed a full review of the Employer Manual and conducted the biannual Employer Satisfaction Survey.

The KAPS Team continued design and collaboration with Tegrit and Segal on Member Interest, Member Refunds, Optional Life Insurance and several calculators. The KAPS User Acceptance Team completed initial testing of Employer Registrations and Pay Cycle Maintenance, as well as Member Enrollment and Beneficiary Changes.

The KAPS project team recommended the Retirement System to purchase specialized software to streamline the creation of standard operating procedures and training materials. The early reports from team members and Information Technology staff indicated the quality and efficiency of the software is superb.

The investment industry publication *Pensions and Investments* recently released its annual list of the top 1,000 public and private defined benefit plans in the United States based on assets as of September 30, 2025. The publication's calculations for KPERS includes the KPERS 457 Plan. KPERS is ranked 98<sup>th</sup> out of the 1,000 defined benefit plans in the country.

The KPERS Employee Engagement Committee coordinated an office-wide fundraising effort for Kaw Valley United Way. Activities included collecting donations of baby items (clothes, diapers, wet wipes, etc.), a "Change War" contest between the various KPERS divisions, a parking space raffle, coffee and donuts, and a staff chili cook-off. A panel of staff judges sampled and selected the top three best chili.

In February, Alan Conroy, Executive Director, made an external (non-legislative) presentation to the Kansas State Council of Fire Fighters.

Since the 2026 Legislative Session began in January, Mr. Conroy has provided testimony to several legislative committees. The external presentation, as well as the KPERS presentations to various legislative committees, may be found in the Resources Book in Diligent for your information.

## **Investment Operations**

Chairperson Stratton recognized Aysun Kilic, Meketa Investment Group. Ms. Kilic reviewed a Semi-Annual Investment Performance Report for the System's investments for time periods ending December 31, 2025. She reported that the Retirement System experienced

a total return of 13.4% for calendar year 2025, trailing the Policy Index benchmark by 2.6%. Ms. Kilic reported that the System's investment portfolio has outperformed the Policy Index benchmark over the trailing five-year and ten-year time periods by 0.1%. Ms. Kilic responded to questions from the Board.

Chairperson Stratton again recognized Aysun Kilic, Meketa Investment Group. Ms. Kilic reviewed the organization's Investment Capital Markets Outlook and Risk Metrics Report and responded to questions.

### **Investment Committee Report**

Chairperson Stratton recognized Steven Johnson, State Treasurer and Chairperson of the Investment Committee. The Investment Committee met on Thursday, March 26, 2026. Trustee Johnson provided a report and responded to questions.

*Trustee Johnson moved that the Board of Trustees authorize the Executive Director to appoint a Procurement Negotiating Committee for the purpose of conducting a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process seeking qualified investment consulting firms to provide general investment consulting services to the Retirement System. Trustee Trader seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

*Trustee Johnson moved that the Board of Trustees approve a commitment of up to \$135 million to Towerbrook Investors VII (Onshore), I.L.P. and authorize staff to proceed with the investment pending a satisfactory and final legal review of corresponding partnership documents. Trustee Proehl seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

*Trustee Johnson moved that the Board of Trustees approve a commitment of up to \$135 million to Quad-C Partners XI, L.P. and authorize staff to proceed with the investment pending a satisfactory and final legal review of corresponding partnership documents. Trustee Proehl seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

*Trustee Johnson moved that the Board of Trustees approve a commitment of up to \$150 million to Heitman America Real Estate Trust, L.P. subject to funding terms acceptable to the System, and to authorize staff to proceed with the investment pending a satisfactory and final legal review of corresponding partnership and transaction documents. Trustee Yun seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

### **Audit Committee Report**

Chairperson Stratton recognized Jo Yun, Chairperson of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee met on Friday, March 27, 2026. Trustee Yun provided a report and responded to questions.

### **Deferred Compensation Committee Report**

Chairperson Stratton recognized Ryan Trader, Chairperson of the Deferred Compensation Committee. The Deferred Compensation Committee met on Thursday, March 26, 2026. Trustee Trader provided a report and responded to questions.

## **Personnel Committee Report**

Chairperson Stratton recognized Sam Williams, Chairperson, Personnel Committee. The Personnel Committee met on Thursday, March 26, 2025. Trustee Williams provided a report and responded to questions.

*Trustee Williams moved that the Board of Trustees approve the payment of incentive compensation awards to the eligible investment staff for calendar year 2025 as calculated by CBIZ Compensation Consulting, and as recommended by the Personnel Committee and the Executive Director, to be paid as soon as possible. Trustee Trader seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

*Trustee Williams moved that the Board of Trustees adopt the Executive Director Incentive Compensation Plan as presented by Joe Rice, Managing Director of CBIZ Compensation Consulting, with revisions made by the Personnel Committee, to be effective January 1, 2026. Incentive compensation will be based on Calendar Year 2026 performance and presented to the Board of Trustees at the March 2027 meeting for consideration. Trustee Yun seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

## **FY 2026 Member and Employer Engagement: Active Member Communications Survey and Employer Satisfaction Survey**

Chairperson Stratton recognized Emily Wilson, Communications Officer, and Stephanie Dial, Communications Specialist. Ms. Wilson and Ms. Dial presented the results of the FY 2026 Member and Employer Engagement Active Member Communications Survey and Employer Satisfaction Survey. Ms. Wilson and Ms. Dial responded to questions.

## **Status Report on the 2026 Legislative Session, Including the KPERS Operating Budget**

Chairperson Stratton recognized Jarod Waltner, Planning and Research Officer. Mr. Waltner reviewed the Status Report of the 2026 Legislative Session, including the KPERS operating budget. Mr. Waltner responded to questions.

## **The Retirement System Monthly Operations Report and Retirement System Monthly Financial Report**

Chairperson Stratton recognized Dirk Camilletti, Chief Benefits Officer. Mr. Camilletti reviewed the monthly operations report of the Benefits and Member Services Division's performance and responded to questions.

The Chairperson recognized Kris Holm, Chief Fiscal Officer. Mr. Holm reviewed the monthly financial report and responded to questions.

## **Status Report on Pension Administration Modernization Project**

Chairperson Stratton recognized Mary Beth Green, Deputy Executive Director for Modernization. Ms. Green reviewed the status report on Pension Administration Modernization Project. Ms. Green responded to questions.

## **Initial Review of Proposed Board Meeting Dates for Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027)**

Chairperson Stratton recognized Alan Conroy, Executive Director. Mr. Conroy reviewed the proposed Board Meeting dates for Fiscal Year 2027 and responded to questions.

## **Status Report on Recent Litigation**

Chairperson Stratton recognized Laurie McKinnon, General Counsel. Ms. McKinnon introduced attorney Vince Cox, J.D., Cavanaugh, Biggs, & Lemon, P.A.

*Trustee Trader moved that we recess into executive session to discuss confidential litigation matters under K.S.A. 75-4319(b). The following persons are included in the executive session: members of the Board, Alan Conroy, Laurie McKinnon, Kathleen Billings, Reagan Wolford, Vince Cox, and Dirk Camilletti. The Board will reconvene the open meeting in the Retirement System Board Room at 12:57 p.m. Trustee Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

The Board meeting was open at 12:57 p.m. No binding action was taken in the Executive Session.

## **Review of Initial Order**

Chairperson Stratton recognized Kathleen Billings, Staff Attorney. Ms. Billings reviewed the Initial Order regarding the appeal of Amanda Mills and responded to questions.

*Trustee Williams moved the Board inform the Executive Director of its decision to accept the Presiding Officer's Initial Order of the Amanda Mills appeal and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to draft a Final Order containing the Board's decision, thereafter, to be approved and signed by the Chairperson and to be served on the parties by the Executive Director in accordance with the provisions of the Kansas Administrative Procedure Act. Trustee Trader seconded the motion. The motion carried.*

## **Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **Informational Items**

Chairperson Stratton called the Board's attention to the informational items behind Tab N in the Board Book.

## **KPERS Opportunities Roundtable**

The Board of Trustees Meeting moved to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Multi-Purpose Room for the Board Opportunities Roundtable with Trustees and members of the Executive Committee. The Roundtable had two or three Trustees meet and discuss in an informal setting with two or three members of the KPERS Executive Committee. The discussion was an opportunity for the Trustees to ask questions to the staff, and for the staff to either share the opportunities in their respective areas for the coming year or their major accomplishments from the prior year.

## **Board Self Evaluation**

There was no further discussion.

## **Meeting Adjourned**

*Chairperson Stratton moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:38 p.m.*