

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

November 21, 2025

The meeting of the Board of Trustees was called to order by Chairperson Stratton at 9:30 a.m. on November 21, 2025, in the Retirement System Board Room, Topeka, Kansas.

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

Board members absent: None

Chairperson Stratton welcomed Representative Nick Hoheisel, Steven Wu, and Mike Ditch, Kansas Legislative Research Department, and Eileen Ma, Revisor of Statutes Office (via Zoom). Chairperson Stratton also welcomed Jason Alatidd, *Topeka-Capital Journal* Statehouse Reporter, and all other participants.

Public Comments

There were no public comments.

Recognition of Yohonna Barraud, Administrative Specialist for 40 years of Service and Outstanding Service Award Presentation

Chairperson Stratton recognized Alan Conroy, Executive Director. Mr. Conroy honored Yohonna Barraud, for 40 years of State of Kansas public service. Yohonna began her career at KPERS in November 1985 as a Storekeeper I when KPERS was in Capitol Towers. She was promoted in 1991 to Office Assistant II and managed files in the Record Center. One year later she was promoted to Office Clerk III and became the first clerk to be under Optional Group Life Insurance. In 1998, she was promoted to a Data Control Technician II and was placed as a lead worker. In 2005, she was promoted to Senior Administrative Specialist and moved to Benefits & Member Services to the Scanning and Imaging area. Since 2016, she has scanned over 3 million documents! Yohonna is now an Administrative Specialist in Benefits & Member Services. We thank her for her dedicated service to KPERS and our members.

Chairperson Stratton congratulated Yohonna for her 40 years of State service and presented her with a Certificate and a KPERS paperweight in appreciation for her dedicated public service.

Chairperson Stratton recognized Alan Conroy, Executive Director. Mr. Conroy congratulated Denise Leakey on being selected as the Outstanding Service Award recipient for December 2025 through March 2026. Denise consistently demonstrates the KPERS Core Values of service, accountability, respect, innovation, teamwork, and integrity.

Denise joined KPERS in June 2021 as the Procurement Officer. Her job includes agency purchasing, finding and vetting suppliers, and most recently, a significant role in our office remodel project.

Alan Conroy, Executive Director, and Chairperson Brad Stratton awarded Denise Leakey with an Appreciation Certificate, congratulating her accomplishments and service to KPERS.

Consent Agenda

The consent agenda included approval of the September 19, 2025, and October 16-17, 2025, meeting minutes.

Trustee Yun moved the Board of Trustees adopt the consent agenda. Trustee Williams 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:

The Benefits and Member Services staff successfully processed retirement applications for 707 new retirees, bringing the total number to 119,714 retirees and survivors. The new monthly benefit payment total is \$180.9 million as of August 31, 2025. All retirement applications were processed within 30 days of receiving the application and supporting documents.

Benefits & Member Services staff responded to 3,427 member emails and 613 employer emails. The InfoLine staff hosted 505 counseling sessions. Staff also provided 11 in-person KPERS pre-retirement seminars with 671 attendees; nine virtual KPERS pre-retirement webinars with 755 members attendees; and one KP&F pre-retirement webinar with 43 attendees.

The Employer Auditing Unit completed 19 employer audits since the September Board meeting. Internal Audit and the Employer Auditing Unit completed information gathering for the 69 agencies chosen by Baker Tilly for the Fiscal Year 2025 GASB 68 audit and report.

KPERS' audited financial statements were issued October 31, with an unmodified opinion from Baker Tilly. Staff distributed the report to Legislative Post Audit and the Department of Administration as statutorily required. These statements are an integral part of the Annual Comprehensive Annual Report (ACFR), which will be completed in December, after final review by Baker Tilly, and published on kpers.gov.

The Information Technology Team continues to support technology improvements as part of the building remodel. Staff has been coordinating cabling, audio/visual installation, and assisting with equipment moves and staff relocations. The team continues to work with vendors to support the data cleansing, image migration, and faxing capabilities for

modernization. Staff has entered a scope of work for American for Disabilities Act (ADA) testing of the Employer Web Portal (EWP) and Member Web Portal (MWP), which will begin in December and run for 19 weeks. This will ensure our portals meet the required American Disability Act compliance criteria. Staff completed the governance and policy documentation related to Artificial Intelligence and is working to finalize the Artificial Intelligence Use Case templates and annual policy sign-off documents.

Investment staff completed third-quarter update meetings with each of the public market investment managers. Three meetings were hosted onsite in the System's offices. Staff held review meetings and attended quarterly meetings with several private market investment managers.

Investments staff conducted due diligence meetings and worked with consultants Mercer and The Townsend Group to prepare three investment recommendations for the November Investment Committee meeting. In conjunction with Mercer and The Townsend Group, staff completed the Calendar Year 2026 private equity and real asset pacing plans.

The KAPS Team has been working with Tegrit and Segal on requirements for employers to submit wage and contribution data to the Retirement System, as well as sessions related to the member refunds and Optional Life Insurance. They also have worked on calculators related to a member's age, vesting status and benefit tier. The Configuration Team is working on letters, forms and business process workflows to support these segments.

The KAPS Employer Reporting Rollout Team held a quarterly meeting with the Employer Reporting Panel, which is a representative group of employers providing feedback on various topics throughout the Project. That team continues to solicit employer information regarding specific payroll vendors or software applications used so staff can help the employers implement file layout changes.

The Information Security and KPERS' cybersecurity protocols continue to prove successful. No viruses were detected on KPERS' devices in September or October. Staff patched 3,647 software vulnerabilities. KPERS' systems blocked 27,573 suspicious emails and prevented access to 1,673,904 dangerous websites. In addition, security measures prevented 20,750 attacks on the MWP.

Communications staff have continued to focus on the KAPS Project, Optional Life Open Enrollment and the Fall Employer Conference. In September and October, over 2,900 members added or increased coverage during KPERS' optional life insurance open enrollment.

Staff produced the second video in our new series to recap what the KAPS Team has been working on, share what's coming up, and demo a KAPS feature. On Friday, November 7, KPERS hosted the first ever Employer Conference at Hotel Topeka. Nearly 250 employers from around the state attended.

The KPERS 457 Team added four local government plans since the September meeting, which include USD 349 Stafford, Leavenworth Rural Water District #8, the City of Edwardsville, and USD 115 Nemaha Valley. Staff also added two KPERS 401(a) plans, which

were Leavenworth Rural Water District #8 and Shawnee County Rural Water District #4. This brings the total number of new joinders to 25 for the calendar year. Empower will work with new plan members to facilitate participant enrollment and post deferrals.

In late September, KPERS' Deferred Compensation Plan Officer Arlen Zentner attended the annual National Association of Government Defined Contribution Administrators in San Diego, California. The conference provided resources, education, networking opportunities, and advocacy for plan sponsors and service providers. Key topics included the use of Artificial Intelligence, collective investment trusts, the use of private equity funds in 457 Plans, retirement income opportunities via annuities, and a Washington, D.C. update on retirement legislation. Mr. Zentner also served on a panel at the conference on *Exploring Different Paths*, which was organized to show how different plans engaged participants on a specific subject.

The KPERS 457 Team finalized documents for Empower to occupy two office spaces on the third floor of the KPERS building. This will allow participants to meet directly with Empower staff about KPERS 457 matters while they are at KPERS. State Director, Scott Taylor and Senior Field Administrator, Susan McCartney will begin to move into the space this month.

The Planning and Research Officer, Jarod Waltner helped finalize the budget narrative after the Board approved the FY 2026 and FY 2027 budget. Staff responded to annual surveys from the Public Pension Coordinating Council and National Conference on Public Employee Retirement Systems and KPERS received the PPCC standards award for funding and administration.

Mr. Waltner has also been working with CATCH Intelligence on the data cleansing project as part of preparations for the new pension administration system. CATCH continues to work ahead to prepare tables for migration to Tegrit for user acceptance testing. Staff has also started to identify data issues where the data we have is not missing or inaccurate, but it will cause problems during the data loading process because of the structure of the new application database and need to be addressed prior to migration. An internal data steering committee will be working on prioritizing these data cleansing efforts as they arise throughout the modernization.

Staff presented to the Joint Committee on Pensions, Investments and Benefits on October 14, 2025. The Committee's meeting topics included the 2024 Actuarial Valuation, the statutorily-required proxy voting report, KPERS' investment performance, an update on the alternative investments cap, a status report on the KPERS' Pension Modernization System project, an update on the Deferred Retirement Option Program for KP&F members, and discussion on proposed SB 282 – Kansas Retirement Investment and Savings Plan (KRISP) Act.

The Board agreed to hold the next Educational and Planning Session at Johnson County Community College on Monday and Tuesday, October 19-20, 2026.

Investment Operations Report

Chairperson Stratton recognized Michael Cumming, Deputy Chief Investment Officer for Public Markets. Mr. Cumming reviewed the September 30, 2025, Investment Performance Report. He reported that the Retirement System experienced a total return of 10.2% for the trailing one year, 12.0% average annualized total return for the trailing three years, 9.1% average annualized total return for the trailing five years and 8.8% average annualized total return for the trailing ten years ending September 30, 2025.

Mr. Cumming reviewed the performance of the System's international equity managers. Daniel Wadsworth, Investment Officer for Public Markets, reported on the performance of the System's non-core fixed income and real estate investment trust investment manager. Kyle Grimes, Assistant Investment Officer for Public Markets, reviewed the performance of the System's core fixed income and passive US equity investment managers. The report included a review of the investment managers' performance against both risk and return metrics, as stated in the Statement of Investment Policy, Objectives and Guidelines.

The Chairperson recognized Aysun Kilic, Meketa Investment Group. Ms. Kilic reviewed the organization's Investment Market Risk Metrics Report and responded to questions.

Investment Committee Report

Chairperson Stratton recognized Emily Hill, Vice-Chairperson of the Investment Committee. Trustee Hill reported on the Investment Committee's meeting on Thursday, November 20, 2025, and responded to questions.

Vice-Chairperson Hill moved that the Board of Trustees approve a commitment of up to \$110 million to Lux Ventures IX, L.P. and authorize staff to proceed with the investment pending a satisfactory and final legal review of corresponding partnership documents. Trustee Huntsman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Trustee Trader moved that the Board of Trustees approve a commitment of up to \$100 million to Blue Owl Real Estate Fund VII LP and authorize staff to proceed with the investment pending a satisfactory and final legal review of corresponding partnership documents. Trustee Yun seconded the motion. Vice-Chairperson Hill and Trustee Zakoura abstained. The motion carried.

Vice-Chairperson Hill moved that the Board of Trustees approve a commitment of up to \$225 million to Blackstone Infrastructure Partners L.P. and to 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.

Deferred Compensation Committee Report

Chairperson Stratton recognized Trustee Trader, Chairperson of the Deferred Compensation Committee. The Deferred Compensation Committee met on Thursday, November 20, 2025. Trustee Trader provided a report and responded to questions.

Audit Committee Report

Chairperson Stratton recognized Jo Yun, Chairperson of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee met on Friday, November 20, 2025. Trustee Yun provided a report and responded to questions.

Follow-up Information from the Board Educational and Planning Session

Chairperson Stratton recognized Jarod Waltner, Planning and Research Officer, and Alan Conroy, Executive Director. Mr. Waltner presented an overview the information on the KP&F DROP trends and background information on understanding of actuarial cost estimates. Mr. Conroy presented the information on Board agenda's, including the regular Board agenda's reoccurring items, including the actuarially experience study, and the asset liability study. Staff responded to questions.

Chairperson Stratton and Trustee Trader requested the dates for major Board agenda items such as the actuarially experience study and the asset liability study to be placed on the current meeting Board Agenda's – under upcoming meeting dates, so the Trustees know when those studies are coming up. There was also consensus to add noteworthy Board agenda items for the next two meetings.

Overview of Recent KPERS Employer Conference

Chairperson Stratton recognized Emily Wilson, Communications Officer. Ms. Wilson presented the overview of the KPERS inaugural Employer Conference, which included information on professional development, several breakout sessions, and a review of conference statistics survey. Ms. Wilson responded to questions.

Possible Legislation for Consideration by the Next Session of the Legislature

Chairperson Stratton recognized Jarod Waltner, Planning and Research Officer. Mr. Waltner provided a report on possible legislation for consideration by the 2026 Legislative Session including outdated statutes governing elected officials who return to work after retirement, and an obsolete fixed employer contribution rate for newly affiliated KP&F employers. Mr. Waltner and Mr. Conroy responded to questions.

Trustee Trader requested a legislative statute update for the election process for the Vice-Chairperson position of the Board of Trustees to create more transparency for the leadership of the Board. The proposed change would provide that the Vice-Chairperson of the Board be elected by the Trustees rather than be appointed by the newly elected Chairperson of the Board.

Trustee Yun moved that the Board authorize KPERS staff to pursue legislative updates to address obsolete or outdated statutory provisions related to working after retirement and KP&F employer contributions. Trustee Proehl seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Trustee Trader moved that the Board authorize KPERS staff to pursue a legislative statute update for the election of the Board of Trustees Vice-Chairperson position by the members of the Board. Trustee Proehl seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Authorization to Appoint a Procurement Negotiating Committee for the KPERS Disability Benefits Third Party Administrator

Chairperson Stratton recognized Mary Beth Green, Deputy Executive Director for Modernization. Ms. Green provided information on the authorization to appoint a Procurement Negotiating Committee for the KPERS Disability Benefits Third Party Administrator. Ms. Green responded to questions.

Trustee Williams moved that the Board of Trustees authorize the Executive Director to convene a procurement negotiating committee and issue a Request for Proposals for the KPERS disability plan third-party administrator and KP&F disability plan medical consulting services. Trustee Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Retirement System Operations

Chairperson Stratton recognized Dirk Camilletti, Chief Benefits Officer. Mr. Camilletti reviewed the Key Performance Measures of the Benefits and Member Services Division for September and October 2025 and responded to questions.

Chairperson Stratton recognized Mr. Conroy, Executive Director. Mr. Conroy stated that due to the situation with the postal system in the mailing of the 1099-Rs in January 2025, KPERS will implement two solutions: 1. Sending a mailing to all retirees in December to encourage them to access their web portal, so they will be able to print their 1099-R from their web portal in January 2026. 2. Hire temporary staff for the info line to only answers questions regarding the 1099-Rs.

Chairperson Stratton recognized Kris Holm, Chief Fiscal Officer. Mr. Holm reviewed the October 2025 monthly financial reports and responded to questions.

Authorization to Appoint a Procurement Negotiating Committee for Outside Legal Counsel for Disability Appeals

Chairperson Stratton recognized Kathleen Billings, Staff Attorney. Ms. Billings provided the information on the authorization to appoint a Procurement Negotiating Committee for outside legal counsel for disability appeals. Ms. Billings responded to questions.

Trustee Huntsman moved that the Board of Trustees authorize the Executive Director to convene a Procurement Negotiating Committee to develop and publish a Request for Proposals for legal counsel to represent KPERS in disability appeals as provided in K.S.A. 74-4904(2) and related sections. Trustee Trader seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Review of Board of Trustee Fiduciary Duties, Governmental Ethics, and the Kansas Open Meetings Act

Chairperson Stratton recognized Laurie McKinnon, General Counsel. Ms. McKinnon presented an overview of Board fiduciary duties, governmental ethics, and explained the Kansas Open Meetings Act. Ms. McKinnon discussed the laws governing the Trustees' responsibilities, including general fiduciary principles and duties including the duty of loyalty, the exclusive benefit rule, the duty to delegate, the duty to invest, Kansas governmental ethics and conduct guidelines, and the Kansas Open Meetings Act. Ms. McKinnon responded to questions.

Informational Items

Chairperson Stratton called the Board's attention to the informational items behind Tab M in the Board book.

Meeting adjourned

Chairperson Stratton adjourned the meeting at 1:06 p.m.