



March 5, 2025

Just two months into the second semester, your Kyrene Governing Board has welcomed three new board members, voted to save taxpayers millions of dollars, and taken critical action to keep our schools in top shape. Read ahead for recent activity and what's next for the board this spring.

Hitting the Ground Running

New board members Cedric Collins, Bunny (Ruth) Davis and Amy Satre joined Triné Nelson and Kevin Walsh at the January 14 board meeting, and the new board immediately got to work. Since then, the board has held four regular board meetings, two executive sessions and one data retreat.

Their first action of the year was to elect board leadership. Board President Walsh accepted a nomination by Member Collins to continue serving as President. Collins also nominated Member Nelson to serve as Vice President. The Board unanimously approved both nominations.

The Board also selected members for representation on official board committees: Member Davis will serve on the Kyrene Employee Benefit Trust ([KEBT](#)), which oversees benefits planning for the district; and Members Nelson and Satre will be non-voting participants of Kyrene's [Long Range Planning Committee](#).



The Kyrene Governing Board poses with Super Students at the January 14 board meeting.

This Governing Board consists of Kyrene parents, current and former educators, legal experts and individuals with a deep passion for public education. Kyrene is grateful to them all for their service.

School Improvements

So far in 2025, the Governing Board has considered and approved several significant projects to maintain or improve Kyrene school facilities. School projects approved by the board include:

- A new mechanical yard at Kyrene Monte Vista Elementary to maintain campus heating, cooling, electrical and other operations
- Playground improvements, restroom renovations and weatherization at Kyrene de la Paloma
- New playgrounds and play courts at C.I. Waggoner Elementary, following the construction of a new secure perimeter fence
- Improvements to track facilities (high jump and long jump) at both Kyrene Middle School and Kyrene Aprende Middle School

All of these projects are part of a 10-year capital master plan that takes into consideration the age and condition of facilities at every single campus across the district. Every one of these projects will be paid for with bond dollars and would not be possible without continued voter support of Kyrene bonds and capital overrides.

Fiscal Stewardship

The Governing Board takes its responsibility to those voters seriously, and that commitment was evident at the February 25 board meeting. That's when the board voted to refinance approximately \$40M of outstanding bonds, in order to save taxpayers roughly \$2M. The funds will be used to refinance old bonds at a better interest rate, which will mean lower tax rates in the future for the Kyrene community.

Also at the February 25 meeting, the Governing Board voted to approve its first bond sale from the \$161M bond approved by voters in the November 2023 election. The bond sale will provide the district with approximately \$43M to cover capital projects for the next three years, including:

- Safety and security upgrades
- Replacement of aging school buses
- Maintenance of playgrounds, fields, parking lots and other facilities
- Technological improvements, ranging from computers to fire alarm systems
- Building maintenance, such as roofing and HVAC system repairs or replacements

Kyrene allocates the vast majority of bond dollars to schools. On average, 96% of bond funds directly support students and maintain schools, while a very small percentage is used to maintain office facilities and other work environments.

Keeping Costs Low for Team Kyrene

Board members also voted in February to approve an employee benefit plan for 2025-26 that continues to offer staff the same health benefits with zero premium increases. This is the 5th consecutive year Kyrene has negotiated a plan without premium increases. In addition to medical, dental, vision and disability benefits, the plan approved by the board also includes free wellness benefits such as mental health support, free onsite health coaching, and a calm app subscription—all paid for through Kyrene's medical plan provider, at no cost to Kyrene.

Connect with Kyrene

The Kyrene Governing Board is made up of five members, each elected to serve a four-year term. Kyrene is grateful to the individuals who volunteer their time to serve in such an important capacity. Community members may contact the Board by sending an email to governingboard@kyrene.org. A governing board is a collective body, and individual board member replies may not be representative of the entire board. Regular board meetings, study sessions and board retreats are open to the public and live streamed on the Kyrene website as well as the [Kyrene YouTube channel](#). For more information about Governing Board meetings, policies and responsibilities, visit the [Kyrene Governing Board](#) online.



Kevin Walsh
President



Triné Nelson
Vice President



Amy Satre
Member



Bunny (Ruth) Davis
Member



Cedric Collins
Member

READY FOR THE FUTURE

Kyrene School District would like to continue connecting with you via email. If you prefer to be removed from our list, please contact Kyrene School District directly. To stop receiving all email messages distributed through our SchoolMessenger service, follow this link and confirm: [Unsubscribe](#)

SchoolMessenger is a notification service used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff through voice, SMS text, email, and social media.