KANNAPOLIS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES

Date: October 5, 2026

Time: 5:30 p.m.

Place: Kannapolis City Schools
District Office

Present:
Mr. Todd Adams, Chair
Mr. Kevin Clark, Vice Chair
Mrs. Anita Parker
Mrs. Brenda McCombs
Mrs. Kristina Cook
Dr. Sara Newell
Dr. Erin Anderson
Dr. Jennifer Brinson
Dr. Mandi Campbell
Mr. John Basilice
Mr. Brian Shaw, Attorney
Mrs. Sara Royer, Recorder

CALL TO ORDER
Chair Todd Adams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION
At 5:30 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Anita Parker that the Board convene in Closed Session, pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of student information that is confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and pursuant to Gen. Stat 143-318.11(a)(6) to prevent the disclosure of personnel information that is confidential under N. C. Gen. Stat. ll5C-3l9 through -321. Mrs. Kristina Cook gave the second and the motion carried.

The Board returned to Open Session at 6:31 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Chair Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA
Mrs. Parker made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Cook gave the second and the motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS FROM CLOSED SESSION
Mr. John Basilice requested approval of the student assignment list as presented with five students granted acceptance, zero students granted release from, and zero students denied entry to Kannapolis City Schools. Mrs. Brenda McCombs made a motion to approve the student assignment list as presented. Mrs. Parker gave the second and the motion carried.

Dr. Mandi Campbell requested approval of the personnel list as amended with zero persons requesting a leave of absence (for information), zero persons leaving employment (for information), six persons recommended for employment (for action), zero persons recommended for employment change (for information), and one person recommended for contingent employment. Mr. Kevin Clark made a motion to approve the personnel list as amended. Mrs. Cook gave the second and the motion carried.

Mr. Clark made a motion to approve and open the Closed Session minutes from September 14, 2026 as presented. Mrs. Cook gave the second and the motion carried.

APPROVALS

The minutes from September 14, 2026, Open Session, the September 27, 2026, credit card statement, and the September 29, 2026, Head Start Policy Council Minutes were approved following a motion from Mrs. Parker. Mrs. McCombs gave the second and the motion carried.

RECOGNITIONS

Six persons from Fred L. Wilson Elementary School were recognized: student Yaretzi Cruz Palacios, student Jaxon Shepard, teacher Cassie Ruiz, instructional assistant Joy Smith, head custodian Cristina Moreno, volunteer Victoria Welch. Claudia Velarde, Teacher at McKnight Child Development Center, was recognized as the Hilbish Teacher of the Month for October. The Kannapolis City School Board of Education was recognized by the NC School Board Association with the Gold Bell Award, and Mrs. Brenda McCombs was presented with a Certificate of Advanced Achievement from the NC School Board Association for completing 201-300 hours of training.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no request for public comment.

FINANCIAL AUDIT PRESENTATION

Mr. Owen Poole, CPA with Anderson, Smith and Wike, PLLC presented the Draft Financial Audit for Kannapolis City Schools. Mr. Poole stated that the KCS fund balance grew by $1.23 million over the last year, and KCS earned a rating of unmodified; the highest rating and level of assurance. School Nutrition is commendable for increasing their fund balance also, especially given the financial challenges for school districts across the state.

Compliance was unmodified also, and COVID-19 relief has fully wound down. The Capital Outlay Fund is out of a deficit for the first time since FY2017, which is fantastic news for the financial health of Kannapolis City Schools.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS AND SCHOOL SAFETY PLANS

Dr. Jennifer Brinson presented the School Improvement Plans as presented. Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the policy as presented. Mrs. Parker gave the second and the motion carried. The School Safety Plans had some questions to address when the board went back in to closed session following the meeting.

DISTRICT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Dr. Brinson presented the District Improvement Plan for Board review and approval at the November Board Meeting.

LINQ CONTRACTS

Dr. Sara Newell presented the LINQ contracts, which included contracts for the School Nutrition and Finance Departments. Both contracts are for five year periods, which will allow the state modernization plan to work out kinks before implementation in KCS takes place. Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the LINQ contracts, as presented. Mrs. Cook gave the second and the motion carried.

BOARD POLICIES FOR SECOND READ

Dr. Newell presented policy revisions recommended by the North Carolina School Board Association in their Fall PLS Update, and reviewed by Poyner Spruill. Mrs. McCombs made a motion to approve the policies as presented for second read. Mr. Clark gave the second and the motion carried.

- 3200 Selection of Instructional and Supplementary Materials
- 3210 Inspection of and Objection to Instructional and Supplementary Materials
- 3510 Religious-based Exemptions from School Programs
- 5150/7313 Reporting to External Agencies
- 6220 Operations of School Nutrition Services
- 6402 Participation by Historically Underutilized Businesses
- 6420 Contracts with the Board
- 6442 Vendor Lists
- 9115 Prequalification of Bidders for Construction Projects
- 9120 Bidding for Construction Work
- 9125 Participation by Minority Businesses

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Dr. Newell shared that there were no Operations Updates for the October meeting.

FINANCE UPDATE

Mrs. Ashley Forrest shared there was no superintendent travel for September. She also shared a budget report, and a budget resolution. Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the budget resolution as presented and Mrs. Cook gave the second and the motion carried.

Regarding the PRC 071 Bonus and the 2026-2027 Bonus Overview, Mrs. Forrest shared that some of the bonuses are income based, others are fixed, and some are longevity based. It has been a huge undertaking for the Finance Department, and those bonuses will be paid out in October and December, respectively. Mrs. Parker made a motion to approve the PRC 071 Bonus and 2026-2027 Bonus Overview as presented and Mrs. McCombs gave the second and the motion carried. Mrs. Forrest also shared the Quarterly Contribution-Based Benefit Cap Letters, and there are six KCS employees on that list for the year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Newell shared there are no announcements for the month of October.

The Board returned to Closed Session at 8:45 p.m. and returned to Open Session at 9:36 p.m.

Mrs. Parker made a motion to approve the School Safety Plans as amended and Mrs. Cook gave the second and the motion carried.

ADJOURN

Chair Adams adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

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Dr. Sara Newell, Superintendent

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Todd Adams, Chair