

Dear KCPSRS Members:

In contrast to years past, both this year's electronic and paper ballots are void of candidate's choices. The reason for not having any names to select is due in part to stringent vendor printing deadlines. Therefore, you will need to write-in a candidate's name to cast your vote. Below are candidate biographies of two active member interested in serving as a Trustee for the Kansas City Public School Retirement System (KCPSRS).

Write-in candidates are not limited to the two candidates that appear in this blog, but can be any active member of your choice, as long as she/he is employed in a KCPSRS-covered position at the time of the election and must reside in the boundaries of the Kansas City, Missouri School District. Self-nominations are acceptable.

Please note: To ensure your vote counts, write the candidate's first and last name on the write-in line.



Jamekia Kendrix is a passionate education advocate who believes that in order for a school community to thrive, teachers, the people building and sustaining that community must not only have a voice, but the assurance of a secure financial future.

Jamekia and her husband are the proud parents of a Central High School alum and a Senior at Allen Village, a KCPS-sponsored charter school. Her commitment to this system and those serving within it is unwavering. With her youngest child graduating in May, Mrs. Kendrix is prepared to serve.

Additionally, Mrs. Kendrix earned a BA in Psychology from the University of Missouri – Columbia in 2001, an MA in Social Work from the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2010, and K-12 Leadership Ed.S from Northwest Missouri State in 2021. She has more than 15 years experience working with students and their families as a teacher, social worker, non-profit program developer and evaluator,

volunteer parent and community organizer, and education activist bringing parents and students together with school staff, community members and organizations to identify and address their needs. On the KCPSRS board, she will continue to be a fierce advocate for those with whom she serves in education.



Lauren Amicone has served as an educator in Kansas City for the past seven years as a teacher, instructional coach and vice principal. This is her fourth year with KCPS, where she is currently the Vice Principal at George Melcher Elementary School. As someone who lives in the zip code 64110 she looks forward to being an intentional part of any solution to provide an equitable education for all students regardless of their zip code or background.

Lauren is honored to potentially serve as a board member of KCPSRS where she can ensure strategic leadership in safeguarding the retirement fund assets.

Lauren is a proud graduate of The Ohio State University. She has her Master's in Education from UMSL and her Ed.S. in School Leadership from UMKC. Currently, she is working on her Doctorate in Education from UMKC, measuring the impact of the misalignment of

mathematics preparation on college access. Outside of education, before the pandemic, Lauren enjoyed exploring new parts of the city with her husband. Their daughter, Navona, was born in June 2020 and Lauren was blessed with some extra time at home with her; but looks forward to exploring Kansas City with her, getting further involved with our community, and taking her to some of our favorite places when it is safe.