



KANSAS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREMENT SYSTEM

PENSION NEWS

Retiree Newsletter

KCPSRS Staff Changes: 1 Goodbye and 2 Hellos



From left: Jim Lewallen, Jill Chaloupka, and Mary Myers

We are sad to announce the retirement of **Jim Lewallen**, Administrative Manager, after nineteen plus years of dedicated service to Kansas City Public School System (KCPSRS).

He is often described as "So nice!" by our members and employers, and we couldn't agree more. We extend our gratitude and wish Jim the best in his retirement and future endeavors.

"For the past 19 years, I have enjoyed serving the members of the KCPSRS. As I retire, I will miss the day-to-day interactions with the staff, members and employers, but look forward to spending more time with wife and family, my guitar and my dog." - Jim Lewallen

We are thrilled to announce the promotion of **Jill Chaloupka** to Benefits Data Analyst. Jill joined KCPSRS as the Executive Assistant over three and half years ago and has progressively continued taking on more responsibility. Jill also a former teacher brings a math background with data management and book keeping experience. Please join us in congratulating Jill on her promotion.

"I have loved working at KCPSRS the past three and a half years serving our members, and I am super excited to continue to serve our members in this new capacity as the Benefits Data Analyst."
- Jill Chaloupka

Mary Myers joins KCPSRS as its new Senior Administrative Assistant, replacing Jill in October. She has an extensive background in office administration and has been a welcomed addition to the team.

"I'm excited to join KCPSRS. I have a great team that leads with passion! I look forward to serving the Kansas City Public School Retirement System, the Board, and its members!"
- Mary Myers

JANUARY 2022

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KCPSRS Board of Trustees Election Results



Jamekia Kendrix garnered the highest number of votes from active members to serve a four-year term (2022-2025). She is currently a teacher at Wendell Phillips Elementary School.

Jamekia Kendrix was elected by active members to serve a four-year term effective January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2025. Mrs. 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.

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. 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.



Lauren Amicone received the next highest votes from active members to serve a two-year term (2022-2023). She is currently a vice principal at George Melcher Elementary School.

Lauren Amicone will fill the active member position recently held by Ben Bullington. Mrs. 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. Mrs. Amicone 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. Mrs. Amicone is honored to serve as a board member of KCPSRS where she can ensure strategic leadership in safeguarding the retirement fund assets.



Later this year, both Retirees and Active Members will have a chance to nominate and vote for candidates from their respective cohorts to each serve a four-year term starting in January 2023. It is not too early to be thinking about the upcoming election – nominations for the next election will be in October 2022. More information regarding the next election will be provided in the September Newsletter so stay tuned!



Joanne Collins, Trustee, steps down from Board after 28 consecutive years of service!

Ms. Collins was first appointed by the Board of Education effective January 1994. At the time she steps down, Ms.

Collins was the most tenured member of KCPSRS Board of Trustees. She has also served the community with distinction on national, state, regional, and local city boards. During her tenure as Trustee, she brought her wealth of experience as a political leader and city council member as chair of the Legislative and Benefits committee as well as served on the Audit committee. Ms. Collins had a penchant for asking tough questions in holding her fiduciary duty to prudently take care of entrusted funds for beneficiaries for safekeeping and investment.

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees, the staff, and all the members of KCPSRS, we thank you, Ms. Collins, for your leadership, commitment to our students, teachers, and community, and support of our mission to fulfill the expectation of a secure retirement for employees of Kansas City's School District. Board service is the toughest volunteer role, and you took on your Board duties with dedication, grace, and seriousness."

- Jim Roehner, Executive Director

A Tribute to Carl Evans, Trustee

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Mr. Carl Evans last November. Mr. Evans, a retired educator with Kansas City Public Schools, (KCPS) was appointed to KCPSRS Board of Trustees by the Board of Education in September 2015. He was reappointed in 2016 and again in 2020 and served on the KCPSRS Board until his resignation in September 2021. He had also served a five-year term as a member of the Kansas City School Board 2014-2019. Mr. Evans was very active within his community and with the KCPS School district. He started his employment with the district during desegregation dating back to the 70's. He continued to be an advocate for change, as he held plans to moderate a community forum in his home in mid-November before his passing to cover the districts' strategic planning process, Blueprint 2030.

Introducing Two New Board of Trustees

Cecelia Carter, Trustee, was appointed to the KCPSRS Board of Trustees by the Board of Education to fill the seat left vacant by the resignation of Ms. Joanne Collins in December 2021. Ms. Carter comes to the Kansas City Public School Retirement System with 20 years of public pension governance, administration, and institutional investment experience; and has spent a career in retirement administration dating back to the 1990's. Ms. Carter first joined KCPSRS in 2002 as its Executive Director, then moved to the City of Seattle (WA) as Director of Retirement. After returning to Kansas City

in 2013, Ms. Carter has served other public pension plans as its executive leader. Ms. Carter currently sits on the Board of Trustees of the City of Kansas City, MO Employees' Retirement Board, the Missouri Association of Public Employees Retirement Systems, Children's Mercy Hospital Foundation, and The Boys and Girls Club Endowment Investment Advisory Committee.

"I look forward to continuing the work at KCPSRS on behalf of its members and trust my experiences will be of value to the governance and administration of KCPSRS." – Cecelia Carter

Eddie L. Smith, Ph.D., Trustee, was appointed to the Kansas City Public School Retirement System Board of Trustees by the Board of Education to fill the seat left vacant by the passing of Mr. Carl Evans in November 2021. Mr. Smith has worked in education for 30 years in Kansas City. Retired in 2011 from Kansas City Public Schools as middle and high school mathematics teacher and an administrator from various Kansas City Charter Schools. The past 26 years, he has been an adjunct professor at The University of Missouri-Kansas City (UMKC). Mr. Smith received a B.A.

in Mathematics Education, M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction, Ed. Spec. in Education Administration, and Ph.D. in Education with an emphasis in Mathematics Education and Educational Leadership and Policy Studies.

He and his wife of 41 years, Victoria, have six children and nine grandchildren.



Protect Your Data, Everywhere:

Encryption protects your data as it travels through email and file-sharing Platforms!

Cyber security is a top priority for any institution and KCPSRS is no exception. We do all we can to protect your Retirement System from outside attacks. Email encryption is one method that protects members' personal identifiable information, i.e., PII's, from a hacker intercepting and stealing PII's. It is an extra layer of protection that we can take together to avoid being a cybersecurity statistic, and is why, effective immediately, KCPSRS will only accept digital information via the following methods:

1. Encrypted email
2. Secure Portal Link – contact the Retirement Office to send you an email with a secure link to upload forms and other documents safely and securely
3. Fax information to 816.472.5909

Encryption protects your private information from a data breach, preventing the hackers from gaining access to the Retirement System's database. Please contact KCPSRS at (816) 472-5800 for assistance encrypting an email or reporting any issues with the secure portal link provided to you by the Retirement System.

Changes in the US Postal Service May Impact When You Receive Your 1099-R by Mail

What changed? The United States Postal Service (USPS) adjusted service standards for certain First-Class Mail items, increasing the delivery window to up to 5 days for some First-Class Mail. This change from USPS may delay mail sent from KCPSRS to you and may delay mail sent from our members to us – including mailed payments. We recommend planning for this delay when sending or receiving time-sensitive materials. Please visit USPS for more information.

What can our members do? To avoid USPS delays, we recommend:

- Creating a *My Account* member portal profile on the KCPSRS website www.kcpsrs.org
- Enrolling in direct deposit for your monthly pension benefit payments
- Fax your documents to KCPSRS to the number provided in the immediate section above.

Working After Retirement Limitations in effect as July 1, 2021



The waiver of working after retirement limitations extended by the KCPSRS Board of Trustees in the 2020–21 academic year expired June 30, 2021. That means the working after retirement limitations have been and are in effect as of July 1, 2021. Details may be found by visiting <https://www.kcpsrs.org/retirees/working-after-retirement/>. Employers and temporary agencies often are delayed reporting hours worked to KCPSRS. Keeping a personal record may not only help your peace of mind but also your pocketbook because you're less likely to have your KCPSRS retirement benefit suspended or need to reimburse if you exceed the limits.



3100 Broadway, Suite 1211
Kansas City, MO 64111
Phone: 816-472-5800
Option 1: Retiree services
Option 2: Active member services
Option 3: Inactive member & refund services
Option 0: Other business
Fax: 816-472-5909
Email: kcpsrs@kcpsrs.org
www.kcpsrs.org

Stay connected on social media



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[youtube.com/channel/
UCiqODsv_8w0HalpY_cAsVuA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiqODsv_8w0HalpY_cAsVuA)

Noteworthy News:

Coming Attraction: 1099-Rs
KCPSRS will mail your 1099-R income tax form by January 31. This form lists your 2021 retirement benefit income from KCPSRS. You will need this form to file your income tax return.

Electronic versions of your 1099-Rs will be made available by January 31 to view and print via your member account. Simply log in to

MY ACCOUNT on the KCPSRS website www.kcpsrs.org. You will find your current and past 1099-Rs under Personal Information. Details as to what information your 1099-R provides may be found by visiting <https://www.kcpsrs.org/blog/understanding-your-1099-r-form/>

2022 KCPSRS Calendar

JANUARY

- 1 KCPSRS Office closed—New Year's Day
- 10 Board of Trustees meeting
- 17 KCPSRS Office closed— Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 18 Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for January retirement benefits
- 28 Retirement benefit checks mailed
- 31 Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited

FEBRUARY

- 7 Board of Trustees meeting
- 15 Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for February retirement benefits
- 21 KCPSRS Office closed—President's Day
- 25 Retirement benefit checks mailed
- 28 Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited

MARCH

- 7 Board of Trustees meeting
- 15 Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for March retirement benefits
- 30 Retirement benefit checks mailed
- 31 Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited

APRIL

- 4 Board of Trustees meeting
- 15 KCPSRS Office Closed—Good Friday
- 18 Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for April retirement benefits
- 28 Retirement benefit checks mailed
- 29 Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited

MAY

- 2 Board of Trustees meeting
- 16 Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for May retirement benefits
- 27 Retirement benefit checks mailed
- 30 KCPSRS Office Closed—Memorial Day
- 31 Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited

JUNE

- 6 Board of Trustees meeting
- 15 Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for June retirement benefits
- 28 Retirement benefit checks mailed
- 29 Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited

JULY

- 4 KCPSRS Office closed—Independence Day
- 15 Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for July retirement benefits
- 29 Retirement benefit checks mailed
- 30 Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited

AUGUST

- 15 Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for August retirement benefits
- 30 Retirement benefit checks mailed
- 31 Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited