

PENSION NEWS

Active Member Newsletter

CHAMPIONS OF THE WORLD

NOTHING'S BETTER THAN COMING OUT ON TOP

In the past few year the Kansas City Chiefs have been a dominating powerhouse on the football field. Not only have they been a powerhouse on the field, they have been an inspiration to all those who are watching them from the sidelines. Each and every Chiefs' win brings the community together. Almost a million fans gathered this year to celebrate with a large parade and gathering at Union Station, turning it into a sea of red.



Kansas City always shows an outpour of love when our teams bring home the win. We at KCPSRS strive to bring the same level of excellence to our members as the Chiefs do on the field. We here at KCPSRS want our members to rely on us as they have on the Chiefs to bring an unparalleled level of excitement and joy to our community. Just like the Chiefs, we are only getting better. KCPSRS is here for our members and for our greater Kansas City Community. Like the Chiefs are your team, so are we, and we've got your back.



A win for the Chiefs' feels like a win for the entire city. Our team at KCPSRS celebrates these wins for our city along with the millions of other residents of Kansas City. In honor of our winning team, we have dedicated the theme of our newsletter. Whether you celebrated the historic Chiefs' season at home in your living room or from the stands of Arrowhead Stadium, the love from and for this city could be felt all over! Football fan or not, everyone in the community can celebrate a win for our city!



FALL 2023

Inside this issue:

Introduction 1
Page

Election 2
Information

Meet the 2
Team

KCPSRS 3
Important Member Information

Calendar 4

YOU CAN VOTE FOR A CANDIDATE FOR THE KCPSRS BOARD

Election Process:

All eligible nominees will be on the KCPSRS election ballot.

- Ballots will be mailed to your home address in November and an online ballot will also be emailed to members and retirees for whom we have an email address.
- Ballots will include voting instructions and nominee bios for review.
- If voting by mail, complete the ballot and place it in the enclosed return envelope.
- If voting online, login to the website using your unique member number and election passcode to cast your vote. **Do not mail your ballot if you plan to vote online.**
- Only one vote per candidate will be counted. The election results will be announced on the KCPSRS website and published in the Winter's Edition newsletter.

Summary of Board of Trustees Responsibilities

The Board is responsible for:

- Ensuring the Retirement System is appropriately governed and managed with the overriding goal of protecting Fund assets.
- Creating and maintaining an atmosphere that encourages frank and collegial discussions both at the Board and Committee level and between the Board and management.
- Establishing and communicating Board policies and priorities and monitoring performance considering its established policies and priorities.

Each Board Member must:

- Act as a fiduciary of the Retirement System. A *fiduciary is a person who holds the trust and confidence of another and is charged with acting in the best interest of this individual or group.*
- Attend regular meetings of the Board of Trustees normally held at 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. the first Monday of each month, except no regular Board meetings in July or August.
- Attend special meetings of the Board, which may be held occasionally as needed.
- Complete at least six hours of Board education each year. A new Board member must complete six hours of Board orientation education within ninety days of becoming a Board member. Educational opportunities are available on-line and in person.

MEET YOUR KCPSRS TEAM



KCPSRS Staff Directory:

Business Operations Generalist
Zoe Wilson

Senior Financial Accountant
Franck Akati

Benefits Administrator & Educator
Kelly Fowler

Benefits Data Analyst
Cierra Kelley

Executive Director
Jim Roehner

Part Time Staff
Virginia Jones

2023 Election Dates:

November 1, 2023
Ballots are sent via email or U.S. mail

November 21, 2023
Ballots must be received by the election service by 5 p.m.

December 4, 2023
Election results reported to the Board of Trustees

Current KCPSRS Board of Trustees

ELECTED MEMBERS

Active & Inactive Vested Members

Andrew Murphy
Lauren Amicone
Roger Offield
Jamekia Kendrix

Retired Members

Linda Watkins
Beverly Pratt

APPOINTED MEMBERS

School District
Judith Morgan
Eddie Smith
Brian Welch
Cecelia Carter

Library
Debbie Siragusa

District Superintendent
Ex-Officio—Jennifer Collier

MEMBER STATEMENTS AVAILABLE

Log into your *My Account* on the website www.kcpsrs.org. Haven't registered for *My Account* yet? It's easy! Watch the short instructional [video](#) available on our website under the *Publications* tab. Your member statement contains your contributions plus interest account balance, your service credit, (number of years with the Retirement System), your beneficiary information, and your retirement plan (plan B or C). Your statement is available for viewing and printing via *My Account* anytime day or night, when you are ready! If you are brand new to the Retirement System, it will take two to three months after your first pay period for your account information to be established and uploaded to the system. Please review your statement. If you find incorrect information or have questions, contact KCPSRS immediately at kcpsrs@kcpsrs.org or (816)-472-5800.



KCPSRS MISSION

The Kansas City Public School Retirement System works to fulfill the expectation of a secure retirement for the employees of the Kansas City School District, KC charter schools, and Public Library.

KCPSRS CORE VALUES

In pursuit of our mission, our work is guided and informed by four core values:

- **FIDUCIARY STEWARDSHIP**

We are legally and ethically responsible to our members to safeguard the assets that provide for their future financial security.

- **ACCOUNTABILITY**

Our principle obligation and concern is the security of member assets through efficient operations and prudent investment decisions.

- **TRANSPARENCY**

We ensure openness in all aspect of governance and operations for our members and community.

- **MEMBER FOCUSED**

We strive to make all decisions in the best interest of our members. All of our work beings with the question, "Is it good for our members?"

ASK US WHEN YOU NEED INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR KCPSRS RETIREMENT

Looking for KCPSRS specific retirement information or locked out of your online member self-service portal account and need assistance? Contact the Retirement Office at (816) 472-5800 or email us at kcpsrs@kcpsrs.org so we may assist you with questions regarding KCPSRS. Our business hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, excluding holidays. If you call us before or after our business hours, please feel free to leave a message with your name, phone number and/or email address. We will be sure to get back to you in a timely manner.

Note that some KCPSRS members also have investments outside KCPSRS in a separate retirement plan(s), e.g., defined contribution plan such as a 403 (b) or 457 Plan. If that sounds like your situation, then we encourage you to work with a financial planner to help you make informed decisions.

RECENT DATA BREACH

Recently, there has been news coverage of a major data breach that occurred in late May 2023. This affected the federal government, state governments, universities, health care organizations, corporations and pension systems in the United States due to a cyberattack to MOVEit, a managed file transfer software tool used by these organizations to transfer data files.

KCPSRS does utilize PBI Research Services as a vendor to research contact information for members that are unreachable. **PBI has determined that KCPSRS members were not affected by this breach.** If you received a letter from PBI regarding the data breach, it is due to your association with another organization which may include your financial advisor or health care organization. For more information on this data breach, go to www.pbinfo.com/faq-consumer/

TEACHER SALARY STATISTICS

Teacher salaries have always been a hot discussion topic among educators. Even retired teachers feel it is important to discuss current teacher salaries compared to years past. According to the National Education Association (NEA), “when adjusted for inflation, the average salary of teachers has actually declined by an estimated 6.4 percent, or \$3,644, over the past decade.” Of all fifty states, Missouri lies in dead last place when it comes to the starting salary of an average teacher, which in 2021-2022 was \$34,052. Missouri also placed 47th out of the 50 states on the national teacher salary ranking, with an average salary of \$52,481, for the same year.

What can you do to assist your colleagues in the fight for better teacher salaries?

The NEA suggests that teachers and education staff should follow these tips for a campaign to increase salaries:

- Build broad unity and develop relationships with community allies which can be accomplished by requesting input from everyone involved and connecting with education members in the same region. Form a relationship with members of the school board to garner support for improving salary schedules.
- Devise a long-term campaign plan by analyzing your colleague’s assets and leadership roles to show the importance of good neighbors and community leaders.
- Gather solid, reliable data and create strong arguments for increasing professional pay for education staff. The NEA website, www.nea.org, has statistics on salaries, cost of living, and education pay in nearby states.
- Develop a communications plan that includes social and digital media. Create local stories and visuals to demonstrate how teachers often use their own funds for classroom supplies or the use of older textbooks or damaged classroom furniture.
- Lastly, follow the money. Keep an eye out for legislation and budget at both the state and local level that can affect school funding.

Remember the “we’re worth it” mentality. Teachers and education staff deserve a living wage as they educate the next generation of leaders.

2023 KCPSRS FALL CALENDAR

OCTOBER

2	Board of Trustees meeting
16	Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for October retirement benefits
30	Retirement benefit checks mailed
31	Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited



NOVEMBER

6	Board of Trustees meeting
15	Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for November retirement benefits
23-24	KCPSRS Office closed—Thanksgiving
29	Retirement benefit checks mailed
30	Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited

DECEMBER

4	Board of Trustees meeting
15	Deadline to submit direct deposit & tax changes for December retirement benefits
24-31	KCPSRS Office closed— Winter Holidays
28	Retirement benefit checks mailed
29	Retirement benefit direct deposits deposited

KCPSRS Membership Advantages:

- Your retirement contributions are automatically deducted from your pay.
- If you were to pass away prior to retirement, your designated beneficiary would receive your account balance or in specific situations a monthly benefit.
- Upon meeting eligibility criteria, you are eligible for a monthly benefit payment for the rest of your life.
- You can withdraw your contributions plus annual interest if you leave employment.

KCPSRS is working hard to create retirement educational tools to help you prepare for your pre-retirement decision making. Visit our webpage, www.kcpsrs.org, for more information.



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 Kansas City, MO 64111
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youtube.com/channel/UCiqODsv_8w0HalpY_cAsVuA

