



February 2026 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2026; 12:00 to 2:00 pm

Introductions and Welcome

- In the chat, type a response to the following: **One thing you are looking forward to in the spring...**

Attendance: Emily Goetz, Amber Dejmaj, Hilary Koehn, Stacie Daniels, Maria Torres, Tabitha Morris, Aaron Grunewald, Janet Cody, Angie Mendez, Dana Clary, Monique Koerner, Lisa Williams

Meeting started at 12:00pm

Approval of [January Minutes](#)

Janet moved to approve the minutes, Maria seconded, 10 yes, passed unanimously

KSDE update, Lisa Williams

- Presented to State BOE: celebrated the 42 Blue Ribbon programs, lifted up the reading/language component of PAT home-visits.
- Early Childhood Governance Summit: presented about home-visiting in general.
- March 11: All in for KS Kids System Building Webinar: several people will be presenting about home-visiting.
- April 17: Early Childhood Recommendations Communal: Lisa, Hilary, and others will have 2 hours to present about home-visiting.
- KS PAT Grant for Fiscal Yr 2027 coming out first part of March. Grant coming from KSDE. Award notifications and money coming from KOEC. Updated and detailed Affiliate Plans will be required with grant submission.

President Report, Amber Dejmaj (*Reports will be noted as received for filing in minutes unless finance reports which require a vote*)

- Board Member Responsibilities and Commitment: Board Voting (abstain from an email vote or respond) Article: [What Does It Mean to Abstain When Voting? - LegalClarity](#)
- KPATA Board Applications are now OPEN! Do you know anyone who would be a great candidate for the President-Elect position?
- All Members Meeting Scheduled for April 16th



- Committee Chairs please share your top projects with Amber (via email by March 27th for the committee updates slideshow

Noted and received

Executive Director Report, Hilary Koehn

- [February Executive Director Report](#)
 - View report for updates (additional notes below)
 - State home-visiting team doing a great job of helping people around the state understand what home-visiting is.
 - KOEK Annual Report and is important to share for clarity across the state.
- [Home Visiting Alliance](#) - Kansas Home Visiting Works
 - View document and use this shared message for Advocacy.
- [Early Childhood Governance Summit](#)

The 2026 Early Childhood Governance Summit will be held during the regularly scheduled February Early Childhood Recommendations Panel meeting. **Panel members and governance group presenters** will attend via Zoom.

Look for a Zoom registration link by email.

Public viewing will be via our YouTube channel

Kansans' Open Forum provides Kansans with the opportunity to share comments with the Panel. Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. the day prior to the meeting. Please complete the Kansans' Open Forum Comment Form to submit comments.

Other ways to participate

- **Interested early childhood stakeholders** can view past meeting recordings on YouTube and learn more about the panel here.

Noted and received

Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, shared by Janet Cody

- [Board Members' Nomination Timeline](#) will be linked to Policy 3005: Procedures for Membership & Nominating Committee.
- Committee has reviewed the Medical Leaves of Absence and the PTO Policies at the request of KPATA staff. The Personnel Committee, then this governing Board, will be apprised of, asked for input and for approval if changes are recommended by BPP.

Noted and received

Finance Report, Aaron Grunewald

- [Finance Documents - Post-Reviewed](#)

Aaron moved to accept financial reports as presented, Dana seconded, 8 yes passed unanimously

Advocacy Committee Report, shared by Hilary Koehn

- Advocacy Lunch and Learn - follow up
-was very well attended and will consider doing it again next year and at different

levels

- New Chair - Kari Troyer
- March 4th - Home Visiting Program Advocacy Day
 - Opening Remarks
 - Home Visiting Impacts Brain Development
- Early Learning Caucus March 2nd

Noted and received

Education and Training Committee Report, shared by Maria Torres

- February 19th - Hope Training (Dana Book), 77 registered-55 attended virtual
 - Next step - what do we do about the ACES?
 - More emphasis on positive outcomes & home visits
- March Safe Sleep - Meg Yenser (Mar 12 @ 1pm)

Conference: Back to the Future

- The committee has been working on finalizing presenters and conference details. Email invites have been sent to vendors. We are excited that we have received several donations including Chick-fil-a and AMC. The evening social will be held at Point Nine, a local business.

- Christi Smith will be providing an update about the FUTURE and the Office of Early Childhood.
- Kansas PE of the year kick-off

The collage features several promotional elements for the 2026 Kpata Conference:

- Top Left:** A purple poster for a "SOCIAL EVENT JOIN US!" on April 29th at 5:45 PM. The event is at Point Nine, 1535 N Andover Rd, Andover, KS 67002. The theme is "Retro - dress in your favorite Back-to-the-Future Attire".
- Top Right:** A purple poster titled "BACK TO THE FUTURE 2026 CONFERENCE" with a "SNEAK PEEK". It features a "GOALS LIST" with three items: "Grow as an educator", "Prioritize health and well-being", and "Network & learn with others in my field". Other topics include "mental health for the WHOLE family", "child development", "parenting", "guiding parents", "Screen time", "Impact Screen Time", "PLAY consistency", "12 mo. of GREAT Group Connections", and "Well Being". The location is "Where We're Going, Families Come First" at Newman University, Wichita, KS.
- Middle Left:** A purple banner for the "2026 KPATA CONFERENCE: BACK TO THE FUTURE" on April 29th & 30th at Newman University, Wichita, KS.
- Middle Right:** A purple box with a clock icon and the text "LEARN TO LEARN" and "SPECIAL CONFERENCE OPENING TIME TRAVEL NETWORKING SAMPLER".
- Bottom Left:** A purple box with the text "Where We're Going, Families Come First" and "Home visiting has long been a driving force in strengthening families, supporting early learning, and building thriving communities. This conference brings home visitors, program leaders, and partners together to explore the past, present, and future of the work — honoring our roots, reflecting on today's realities, and looking ahead to what's possible. Participants will leave energized, equipped, and inspired to advance a more seamless, family-centered home visiting future for Kansas! The Power of Home Visiting: Past, Present, Future".
- Bottom Center:** A purple box with "REGISTRATION" and "IN-PERSON ONLY" options, including a QR code and the Kpata logo.
- Bottom Right:** A purple box with "CONFERENCE COST" information: "Members \$180 in-person", "Non-Members \$190 in-person", and "Includes in-person conference, lunch (2026), and access to the resource drive following the conference".

Noted and received

Personnel Committee, shared by Amber Dejmaj

- Motion to approve SCPK grant contract - vote passed
- [Future Fellows](#) Stipend - outside of work hours

Maria moved to accept financial reports as presented, Janet seconded, 8 yes passed unanimously

- Evaluations for Leadership Team - plan to go out to programs across the state

Noted and received

Membership and Nominating Committee, shared by Dana Clary

- Current members: 326
- Sedgwick County Early Childhood Coordinating Council intends to buy membership for their council.
- All Members Meeting- Thursday April 16th @ 12pm
- 3 positions open for Board (President Elect & SE Regional Director & NE Regional Director)- 1 applicant submitted and two more in conversation with Hilary that is interested.

Noted and received

Supporting Care Providers Update, shared by Becky Stewart

- Providers-Children Served 2025
 - 80 providers and 95 children were served. Identified and supported multiple children with potential delays.
- Grant Updates
 - Hired a grant strategist. Looking at many grant opportunities.
- Strategic Action Plan
- Advisory Council May Meeting, May 7th
 - KPATA Board Invitations to come

FFPSA Committee, shared by Jacki Himpel or Jenny Smith [Motion/2nd/Vote Needed To Accept during a month when committee has met](#)

- [FF Evaluation Report_Jan2026.pdf](#)
- [FFPSA FY27 Renewal & FY28 RFP](#)
FY28 RFP due March 20

Noted and received

Next Meeting:

March 27th - 12 to 2 pm

Meeting Adjourned 1:14pm