

BUDGET & AUDIT COMMITTEE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF MISSOURI

AND

THE PUBLIC EDUCATION EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF MISSOURI

April 19, 2026

MEMBERS PRESENT

Beth Knes, Chair
Dr. Eric Park, Vice Chair
Katie Webb

MEMBERS ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Dearld Snider, Exec. Director
Craig Husting, Chief Inv. Officer
Sarah Swoboda, Chief Operating Ofc.
Mike Moorefield, Chief Counsel
Brandon Robertson, Chief Financial Ofcr.
Tory Brondel, Deputy Chief Fin. Ofcr.
Michelle Varcho, Dir. of Human Res.
Jake Woratzeck, Chief Info. Sec. Office.
Lisa Scheulen, Chief Technology Officer
Jennifer Martin, Dir. Board Admin.

OTHER TRUSTEES PRESENT

Allie Gassmann
Amanda Perschall

Meeting Convened The meeting of the Budget & Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees convened on Sunday, April 19, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. at the PSRS/PEERS office at 3210 W. Truman Blvd., Jefferson City, Missouri. In attendance were Board members Beth Knes, Dr. Eric Park, Allie Gassmann, Katie Webb, and Amanda Perschall. Also present were Executive Director Dearld Snider, Chief Operating Officer Sarah Swoboda, Chief Investment Officer Craig Husting, Chief Counsel Mike Moorefield, Chief Financial Officer Brandon Robertson, Deputy Chief Financial Officer Tory Brondel, Director of Human Resources Michelle Varcho, Chief Information Security Officer Jake Woratzeck, Chief Technology Officer Lisa Scheulen, Director of Executive and Board Administration Jennifer Martin and various other PSRS/PEERS staff members.

**Approval of Minutes
No.0184**

Katie Webb moved that the minutes from December 15, 2025, meeting of the Budget and Audit Committee be approved. Dr. Park seconded the motion. Voting “Aye”— Knes, Park, and Webb; “Nay”—None. The motion carried unanimously.

Preliminary 2026-2027 Budget Discussion

Brandon Robertson, Sarah Swoboda, and Michelle Varcho, all from PSRS/PEERS, led a compensation and budget discussion in preparation for the upcoming fiscal year. Swoboda and Varcho reviewed the Board of Trustees' compensation strategy by highlighting the purpose, principles, and overall approach of the strategy. As part of the Board's compensation strategy, an independent compensation study is conducted at least every three years to ensure the Systems maintain external competitiveness. Analysis reaffirms the importance of maintaining a competitive and market-aligned compensation strategy to attract and retain the highly skilled staff necessary to support the mission of PSRS/PEERS. Annual market data reviews, combined with periodic in-depth compensation studies, continue to validate that our current approach is effective and aligned with industry

standards. This year's off-cycle IT and Information Security compensation study indicated only minimal adjustments were needed, reflecting strong alignment with market expectations.

Robertson described the annual budgeting policy and process, which begins in the second quarter of each calendar year. Key initiatives — including technology investments, security enhancements, communications improvements, and capital maintenance — are incorporated to ensure continued operational excellence. The annual operational budget — including personnel costs representing roughly two-thirds of the total but also including professional services and other operation expenses — remains stable. He then presented a high-level estimate of the total fiscal year 2027 budget and provided information on the primary drivers of the administrative and investment components of the budget. He concluded by circling back to the compensation strategy, cost of labor data, and IT compensation study previously presented by Swoboda and Varcho to present the proposed adjustments to staff personnel salaries for fiscal year 2027 for the consideration and direction of the Board.

Public Comment

None

Adjournment
No.0185

Beth Knes moved that the meeting adjourn at 6:10 p.m. Katie Webb seconded the motion. Voting "Aye"— Knes, Park, and Webb; "Nay"—None. The motion carried unanimously.

Prepared by
Jennifer Martin



Ms. Beth Knes, Chair



Dearld Snider, Executive Director