

KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS
MINUTES
December 18, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Chair Carl Ice at 1:33 p.m. The meeting was held at the Board Office, Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Ste. 500, Topeka, Kansas. Proper notice was given according to the law.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Carl Ice, Chair
Jon Rolph, Vice Chair
Alysia Johnston
Blake Benson
John Dicus
Neelima Parasker
Wint Winter
Diana Mendoza

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regent Rolph moved to approve the minutes of the Board's November 20, 2024 meeting. Regent Winter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

INTRODUCTIONS

Emporia State University President Ken Hush introduced Azwad Arif, ESU's student body president.

GENERAL REPORTS

REPORT FROM CHAIR

Chair Ice recognized all the students who graduated from Kansas colleges and universities this month. Several Regents had the opportunity the past weekend to participate in fall commencement ceremonies at state universities. Chair Ice said that the Regents are very happy to do this and to celebrate the students' achievements. He congratulated all the system's graduates and wished them all the best.

Chair Ice next explained that the Regents visit each state university on a two-year cycle. He thanked Kansas State University President Richard Linton and KSU for hosting a campus visit after last month's Board meeting. Chair Ice said the Regents appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the many initiatives underway at KSU.

Chair Ice concluded by stating that the Regents are looking forward to having breakfast tomorrow with the Students' Advisory Committee. He said it is important to the Regents to hear from student leaders and learn about the issues they are facing and their ideas.

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT AND CEO

Blake Flanders, Board President and CEO, thanked Pittsburg State University for hosting a recent government relations officers' retreat. He recognized the government relations officers' work as being critical to the system.

President Flanders also reported that he met with Kansas Chamber of Commerce representatives this week. The group discussed the need to solve the workforce shortage. President Flanders said that education past high school could be part of the solution. He noted that collaboration with business is part of the Board's strategic plan.

REPORT FROM COUNCIL OF FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENTS

Pittsburg State University Professor Norman Philipp, Chair of the Council of Faculty Senate Presidents, thanked Kansas State University for hosting the Council's meeting last month. Chair Philipp reported that the Council continues its work to update the Regents faculty award criteria and to include full-time non-tenured faculty in the

award. The Council also continued its discussions on artificial intelligence in higher education. Activity is occurring on all the state university campuses, and there is a possible tie-in with Complete College America.

The Council engaged in a lunchtime discussion on the Board's First 15 initiative. Chair Philipp said the Council endeavors to inform faculty on the campuses about Board discussions. Chair Ice thanked Chair Philipp for his efforts around communicating Board initiatives.

REPORT FROM STUDENTS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Pittsburg State University Student Government Association President Hannah Eckstein, Chair of the Students' Advisory Committee, said that students are currently completing their fall semesters. She reported that the Committee is excited for breakfast with the Regents on Thursday. The Association will be prepared to discuss their goals and the topics they have been considering. Chair Eckstein said the Committee is enthusiastic about the upcoming Higher Education Day at the statehouse in February.

Chair Eckstein thanked the Regents for attending graduation ceremonies and wished them happy holidays.

STANDING COMMITTEE AND OTHER REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Regent Mendoza, Chair of the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee, reported that BAASC met virtually on December 4 and again this morning.

Among the two meetings, the Committee approved four items that are on today's Board agenda. At the December 4 meeting, BAASC approved the University of Kansas' request to amend its academic calendar. The Committee also approved six new systemwide transfer courses. At this morning's meeting, BAASC approved granting a certificate of approval with degree-granting authority to Rocky Vista University, a private for-profit institution. The Committee also approved two new programs to be offered by the University of Kansas.

In addition to those action items, at the December 4 meeting the Committee received the following reports: the Transfer and Articulation Council (TAAC) Quality Assurance Report; the Private Postsecondary Report; and the Qualified Admissions Report.

At this morning's meeting BAASC received several updates. Rusty Monhollon, Vice President of Academic Affairs, briefed the Committee on the Board's First 15 Initiative. A workgroup has been formed, and at their first meeting, they identified potential general education courses that could count towards the 15 credit hours high school students can take at no cost to them. The workgroup will meet frequently in 2025 to develop final recommendations for President Flanders.

Dr. Jenn Bonds-Raacke, Associate Director of Academic Affairs, updated BAASC on the Math Pathways and English Initiatives. The focus for the spring semester will shift to institutions designing corequisite support sections and gateway math courses as needed. KBOR-sponsored professional development sessions have equipped institutions to move forward independently, but KBOR staff will remain actively engaged in providing support.

Sam Christy-Dangermond, Director of Academic Affairs, updated the Committee on the Academic Year 2025 Performance Reports, which are due by July 1, 2025. The Committee discussed the components of this year's performance reports.

Finally, Vice President Monhollon briefed the Committee on the Complete College America Launch scheduled for February 11 at Washburn University. In addition to memorializing the Board's relationship with CCA, the day will include workshops led by CCA content experts on current KBOR initiatives.

Regent Dicus inquired if the Board may consider whether private institutions' programs are duplicative of existing public programs when considering request for certificates of authority to operate in the state. President Flanders responded that review of program content for private institutions is limited to quality issues.

FISCAL AFFAIRS AND AUDIT

Regent Benson Reported that the Board Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee met this morning. The Committee approved food and dining rate increases requested by the state universities. He thanked the universities for keeping the increases as low as possible. The Committee also approved all Fiscal Affairs items on the Board's consent agenda and the distributions of state funding to the universities on the discussion agenda.

The Committee received updates from five of the two-year colleges on the institutions' Fiscal Year 2023 audit findings and their progress on resolving the identified issues. Cate Neeley from the University of Kansas and Jaime Dalton from Pittsburg State University presented KU and PSU's audit plans. Elaine Frisbie, Vice President for Finance and Administration, provided an overview of state support for university operations, including a review of past and present funding models.

GOVERNANCE

Board Governance Committee Chair Carl Ice reported that the Committee met this morning. The Committee received an update on the state university enterprise risk management reports due to the Committee each January 1 under recently adopted Board Policy. The Committee also received an annual campus safety and security report from Emporia State University.

RETIREMENT PLAN

Board Retirement Plan Committee Chair Carl Ice reported that the Committee met on December 9 to discuss a proposal to lower fees paid by participants. Voya Financial, one of the two companies with which participants may have their accounts, proposes to lower its annual fee to 0.06 percent of plan assets. The current fee is 0.08 percent, a 25-percent reduction. The Committee recommended that the Board approve the proposal, which is on this afternoon's Board agenda.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

Regent Benson moved to approve the consent agenda. Regent Johnston seconded the motion. The motion carried and the following items were approved:

*Academic Affairs***ACT ON REQUEST TO CHANGE ACADEMIC CALENDAR – KU**

The University of Kansas received approval to change its Fall 2025 calendar as follows:

Fall Semester 2025	Existing	New
First Day of Classes	8/25/2025	8/18/2025
Last Day of Classes	12/11/2025	12/4/2025
Stop Day	12/12/2025	12/5/2025
First Day of Finals	12/15/2025	12/8/2025
Last Day of Finals	12/19/2025	12/12/2025

ACT ON REQUEST FOR A NEW CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL WITH DEGREE GRANTING AUTHORITY FOR ROCKY VISTA UNIVERSITY

Pursuant to the Private and Out-of-State Postsecondary Educational Institution Act, the Board granted a certificate of approval with degree granting authority to Rocky Vista University.

ACT ON MODIFICATION OF PROGRAM REVIEW METRICS

The Board approved the following changes to its Academic Year 2025 – Academic Year 2028 program review metrics, as approved by the Board Academic Affairs Standing Committee:

- Exempting interdisciplinary programs without a formal departmental or administrative structure from minimum requirements for the number of majors and graduates.
- Reducing from 20 to 12 students the minimum enrollment for master's programs and allowing programs that offer both master's and doctoral degrees to be reviewed as a single program.
- Establishing institution-specific thresholds based on Carnegie classifications to account for differences in size and mission.
- Excluding from the five-year post-baccalaureate wage metric students who immediately pursue graduate studies upon completion of a bachelor's degree.

*Fiscal Affairs and Audit***ACT ON REQUEST TO ALLOCATE EPSCoR APPROPRIATIONS**

As recommended by the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research (EPSCoR) Program Review Committee, the Board awarded \$247,724.29 in requested Fiscal Year 2025 state matching funds as follows:

- Dr. Doug Wright, Professor and Principal Investigator for the Kansas IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence (K-INBRE) at the University of Kansas Medical Center.

\$97,725.29 to support bridging grant proposals to increase their competitiveness for NIH funding. This award provides a leverage ratio of 44.9:1 for the state monies (federal: state).

- Dr. Heather Desaire, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Kansas. \$75,000 to support a National Institutes of Health Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) dedicated to addressing women's health and rural issues, which have not traditionally been the primary focus of data science studies. These funds will specifically be used to engage and train graduate students in data science and health-related research. This award provides a leverage ratio of 32.9:1 for the state monies (federal: state).
- Dr. Andrew K. Godwin, Professor and Division Director of Genomic Diagnostics at the University of Kansas Medical Center and Deputy Director of the University of Kansas Cancer Center. \$75,000 to support the Kansas Institute for Precision Medicine. This institute is a National Institutes of Health Center of Biomedical Research Excellence (COBRE) that aims to align appropriate treatment therapies with patients based on the molecular composition of their disease. These funds will help address a funding gap created by a reduction of their federal award and enable them to support additional junior faculty. This award provides a leverage ratio of 31.2:1 for state funds (federal: state).

ACT ON REQUEST TO AUTHORIZE AMENDMENT TO WSU GROUND LEASE TO WSIA AND WSIA GROUND SUBLEASE TO MWCB, LLC – WSU

Wichita State University received approval to amend a ground lease with the Wichita State Innovation Alliance, Inc, and a sublease to MWCB, LLC. Approval was granted to increase the lease and sublease square footage by approximately 17,829 square feet and to correct a scrivener's error in the sublease by clarifying the lease rate consistent with the parties' intent.

ACT ON REQUEST TO TERMINATE GROUND LEASE FOR K-AIRES FACILITY – KSU-SALINA

The Board authorized the Board Chair to execute necessary documents terminating a ground lease the Board entered on behalf of KSU-Salina for construction of the K-AIRES facility with the Salina Airport Authority.

AMEND FY 2025 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PLAN FOR UTILITY TUNNEL REPAIR PROJECT – PSU

Pittsburg State University received approval to amend the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Project Plan for its utility tunnel repair project to include additional project costs. The estimated costs have increased from the previously approved \$6 million to \$9,124,750. The new figure includes a 15% contingency recommended by the project's engineering firm.

Technical Education Authority

ACT ON REQUESTS FOR DEGREE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

The Board approved the following requests to offer degree and certificate programs:

- Barton Community College: Medical Laboratory Assistant – Technical Certificate A at 28 credit hours;
- Washburn University Institute of Technology: Associate Degree in Nursing – Associate of Applied Science degree at 65 credit hours;
- Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology: Electrical Technology – Technical Certificate B at 37 credit hours and an Associate of Applied Science degree at 60 credit hours; and

- Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology: Mental Health Technician - Technical Certificate B at 39 credit hours and an Associate of Applied Science degree at 60 credit hours.

ACT ON EXCEL IN CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) FEES

The Board approved the following Excel in CTE fees:

- Barton Community College: Medical Laboratory Assistant total \$684. Fees include background check and immunization tracking for \$105, and textbooks for \$579.
- Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology: Mental Health Technician total \$20. Fees include the Management of Aggressive Behavior (MOAB) textbook for \$20.

ACT ON PROMISE ACT PROGRAMS

The Board approved the following programs for Kansas Promise Scholarship Act eligibility:

- Barton County Community College: Medical Laboratory Assistant (51.0802);
- Washburn University Institute of Technology: Associate Degree Nurse (51.3801);
- Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology: Electrical Technology (46.0302); and
- Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences and Technology: Mental Health Technician (51.1502).

Retirement Plans

ACT ON REDUCTION TO VOYA ADMINISTRATIVE FEE

The Board approved Voya's offer to reduce the recordkeeping administrative fees for the Board's active Mandatory and Voluntary 403(b) plan contracts with Voya from 0.08 percent to 0.06 percent.

ACT ON REQUEST TO APPROVE CONTRACT FOR RETIREMENT PLAN LEGAL SERVICES

The Board authorized the Board President and CEO to enter into a contract with Ice Miller, LLC, to provide legal services on retirement plan matters. The contract was procured through the state's negotiated procurement process by a Retirement Plan Committee subcommittee. Consistent with the RPC's charter, the RPC empowered the subcommittee to procure the contract and to recommend the engagement to the Board.

CONSIDERATION OF DISCUSSION AGENDA**Academic Affairs****ACT ON REQUEST TO APPROVE NEW SYSTEMWIDE TRANSFER COURSES**

Dr. Karla Wiscombe, Director of Academic Affairs, explained that the Board's Transfer and Articulation Council (TAAC) comprises ten members from the state universities and ten from the two-year institutions. The Council is tasked with overseeing and implementing the Board's transfer and articulation policy. The Council has recommended six new courses for systemwide transfer:

- CHM2010 ORGANIC CHEMISTRY I AND LAB
- CHM2020 ORGANIC CHEMISTRY II AND LAB
- CSC1020 PROGRAMMING FUNDAMENTALS
- CSC1030 OBJECT-ORIENTED PROGRAMMING
- MAT2020 CALCULUS II
- MAT2030 DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS

Regent Johnston moved to approve the courses, and Regent Parasker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

[Presentation on file with official minutes]

ACT ON FY 2026 HOUSING AND FOOD SERVICE RATE ADJUSTMENT PROPOSALS SUBMITTED BY STATE UNIVERSITIES

Elaine Frisbie, Vice President for Finance and Administration, presented the second reading of state universities' Fiscal Year 2026 housing and food service rate proposals.

Regent Benson recounted that the Board heard a first reading of the proposals at its November meeting. He explained that the Board Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee discussed the proposals with each of the universities in November. The Committee understands the price pressures the universities face—for example, food costs are up 30 percent. The Committee recommended approval, finding the proposals to be adequate and responsible.

Vice President Frisbie noted that five of the six state universities require first-year students to live on campus, with some exceptions. Additionally, four of the state universities contract for food service on campus. Board policy requires that those auxiliary units be financially self-sufficient.

Regent Rolph moved to approve the proposals. Regent Dicus seconded the motion. The motion carried.

ACT ON DISTRIBUTION OF FY 2025 APPROPRIATION FOR IT INFRASTRUCTURE AND CYBERSECURITY – SYSTEM

Elaine Frisbie, Vice President for Finance and Administration, reported that the 2024 Legislature appropriated \$7.5 million to the Board of Regents for information technology and cybersecurity upgrades in FY 2025 at the public universities. \$3,66,700 of that appropriation is yet to be distributed.

Vice President Frisbie said that university information technology and business officers worked to identify projects that address the highest risks. Because the state appropriation is not enough to fully fund those projects, institutions will be spending their own resources to complete them. Vice President Frisbie noted that the proposed allocation of the remaining state funds is not consistent across institutions because of their differing situations.

Regent Benson added that the Board Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee was encouraged by the universities' collaboration and desire to leverage the purchasing power of the whole system in discussing the distributions.

Regent Parasker asked how the projects funded would safeguard the system. Vice President Frisbie said that cyber security will be an element of the upcoming enterprise risk management reports. Chancellor Girod added that the institutions are all working to meet the state-mandated security goals.

Regent Benson moved to approve the proposed distributions. Regent Rolph seconded the motion. The following distributions were approved:

FY 2025	
University of Kansas	\$679,863
KU Medical Center	\$429,682
Kansas State University	\$681,837
Wichita State University	\$501,958
Emporia State University	\$288,422
Pittsburg State University	\$305,584
Fort Hays State University	\$421,553
Washburn University	\$297,800
Board of Regents	\$60,001
Total	\$3,666,700

RECEIVE REPORT ON UNIVERSITIES' FACILITIES CONDITION AND SPACE UTILIZATION, AND PROJECTED MAINTENANCE ASSESSMENT EXPENDITURES – SYSTEM

Chad Bristow, Director of Facilities, presented the 2024 State University Facilities Report, covering: projects funded by the Educational Building Fund in FY 2024 and other state sources; maintenance assessment projections; a building demolition summary; estimated replacement and renewal costs; building inventory; and space inventory and utilization.

Fiscal Year 2024 is the second official funding year of the Board's facilities capital renewal initiative. Under the initiative, the Board aims to invest 2% of the facilities replacement value each year to prevent the maintenance backlog from growing. The Educational Building Fund, funded by a one-mill statewide property tax levy, yields approximately \$50 million annually, covering approximately one-third of what is necessary to keep up with maintenance needs. Additional funding from the state includes appropriations requiring a system match, and the recently enacted Campus Restoration Act, which also requires a match.

Director Bristow highlighted several areas of the 2024 report. For FY 2024, the system's facilities' estimated replacement cost is \$8.31 billion. The annual maintenance assessment—1/2% of this figure—is \$41.57 million. For 2024, the system received a \$20 million appropriation from the state for capital renewal with a \$1:\$1 match requirement.

Director Bristow noted that \$20.5 million in Building Demolition Fund expenditures resulted in 27 facilities razed or planned to be razed. This will result in a 626,000-square-foot footprint reduction and will eliminate \$95 million in deferred maintenance. There are 40 additional facilities that could be razed, with a potential one million-square-foot footprint reduction and \$250 million maintenance avoidance.

Director Bristow said the facilities renewal cost, the cost to bring all facilities up to a "B+" facilities condition index letter grade, is now estimated at \$1.57 billion. This figure is an increase over the previous two years' figures of \$1.3 billion and \$1.2 billion. There are 489 mission-critical facilities, which have an average grade of C.

Director Bristow also provided an overview of the universities' space inventories, their maintenance needs, and space utilization efficiency.

Regent Parasker asked if a strategy is in place to monitor energy consumption. Director Bristow said that the five-year capital plan includes several energy efficiency and digital control projects and feasibility studies.

Regent Parasker asked if there was a comparison of pre- and post-COVID classroom space utilization figures. Director Bristow said that analysis of older data would be required to produce a good comparison. However, he said the hours of classroom usage weekly has improved.

Regent Parasker asked if the universities have considered leveraging their laboratory space as a revenue source by making it available to entrepreneurs or small businesses. President Muma said some Wichita State University labs are used that way. He said the university is considering getting rid of all traditional lab space. Chancellor Girod said the University of Kansas is moving away from dedicated space.

Regent Winter asked if Director Bristow could estimate the long-term maintenance and utility savings—by 2030, for example. He stressed the importance of having a monetary justification for the facilities spending. Director Bristow said data in this area needs to be developed.

Director Bristow thanked everyone in the system who is assisting in executing the facilities renewal initiative. The Regents thanked Director Bristow for his work and praised the data he presented. President Flanders said the data is better now than ever. Facility maintenance is a problem with all state university systems and other state systems are interested in what the Kansas system is doing.

[Report and presentation filed with official minutes]

ACT ON ALLOCATION OF FY 2026 EDUCATIONAL BUILDING FUND APPROPRIATION – SYSTEM

Chad Bristow, Director of Facilities, presented the proposed allocation of the FY 2026 Educational Building Fund Appropriation for rehabilitation and repair projects to mission-critical facilities. The distribution amounts to the universities are based on a standard formula developed in 2007 that is largely based upon the age, complexity, and square footage of each university's mission-critical buildings as a proportion to the systemwide total, with a minor adjustment factor for the complexity of given facilities. Regent Benson said that the Board Fiscal Affairs and Audit Standing Committee supports the proposal.

Regent Rolph moved to approve the allocation. Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion carried and the following allocation was approved:

Allocation of Educational Building Fund for Rehabilitation and Repair Projects For EBF-Eligible Buildings Only FY 2026 - \$58,500,000

	% of Total	Allocation
University of Kansas	26.87	\$15,719,000
University of Kansas Medical Center	11.25	6,581,000
Kansas State University	29.90	17,492,000
Wichita State University	10.98	6,423,000
Emporia State University	6.04	3,533,000
Pittsburg State University	7.38	4,318,000
Fort Hays State University	7.58	4,434,000
Total	100.00	\$58,500,000

ACT ON ALLOCATION OF FY 2026 CAMPUS RESTORATION ACT FUND – SYSTEM

Chad Bristow, Director of Facilities, said that the Campus Restoration Act, enacted by the 2024 Legislature, supports the Board’s facilities renewal initiative. State university expenditures require a \$1:\$1 match, except expenditures to demolish obsolete facilities. Allocation in the same manner as Educational Building Fund monies is proposed.

Regent Rolph moved to approve the proposed allocation. Regent Dicus seconded the motion. The motion carried, and the following allocation was approved:

**Allocation of Kansas Campus Restoration Act Fund
For Mission Critical Buildings and Infrastructure Only
FY 2026 - \$30,000,000**

	% of Total	Allocation
University of Kansas	26.87	\$8,061,000
University of Kansas Medical Center	11.25	3,375,000
Kansas State University	29.90	8,970,000
Wichita State University	10.98	3,294,000
Emporia State University	6.04	1,812,000
Pittsburg State University	7.38	2,214,000
Fort Hays State University	7.58	2,274,000
Total	100.00	\$30,000,000

BREAK

Chair Ice called for a break at 2:44 p.m. The meeting resumed at 3:01 p.m.

RECEIVE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Fred Patton, the Board’s Government Affairs Consultant, provided two updates. First, the Kansas House and Senate met to elect their leadership on December 12. Committee assignments are beginning to be announced. Patton reviewed composition changes to House and Senate committees with higher education oversight roles.

Second, Patton provided an update on the budget process. The Governor and Legislature are both working on their budgets. Patton anticipates the Legislature’s initial take on a state budget will look like last year’s final version, and that any enhancements will need to be sought from committees.

Patton also said the system council of government relations officers team is coming together and hopes for a successful partnership. The group meets once a week during the legislative session. In the past, it has also met the week of each Board meeting.

ACT ON THE NON-BUDGETARY LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

Kelly Oliver, Chief of Staff, presented the non-budgetary legislative proposals for a second reading. A first reading occurred at the Board’s November meeting. The proposals cover:

1. Standardizing the interest rates on student financial aid repayment funds to a uniform five percent, as current rates vary.
2. A technical amendment to the adult learner grant program’s agreement requirement that shifts the agreement to one between the student and the office instead of between the student and the institution.
3. A KU request for bonding authority to fund student housing projects.

4. A KUMC request for additional bonding authority for the construction of the Cancer Center building.
5. A KSU request to sell property in Omaha, Nebraska, which includes a veterinary clinic.
6. A KSU request to sell the Unger Complex and associated acreage in Riley County.
7. A KSU request for bonding authority to support the Ag Innovation initiative, which has a total project cost of \$210 million. The initiative has raised most of the funds, and the request is for \$23 million to finalize the project.

Regent Rolph moved to approve the proposals. Regent Benson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

RECEIVE BLUEPRINT FOR LITERACY PLAN ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE IN READING

Dr. Cynthia Lane, Director of Literacy, presented a second reading of the Blueprint for Literacy Plan on the establishment of Centers of Excellence in Literacy. The Plan has three elements: required content; shared expertise between the universities; and responsiveness to needs unique to each center's catchment area.

Since the first reading in November, the Plan's budget model was updated. The budget model provides for a spring allocation for each center. Through Fiscal Year 2026, \$8.6 million of the \$10 million in Blueprint for Literacy funds will be allocated to stand up the centers. Director Lane opined that the annual \$10 million Blueprint for Literacy funding would fall short, forecasting that the cost for the centers alone would be \$12 million in Fiscal Year 2026 and \$12.5 million in Fiscal Year 2027.

In addition to the Plan's budget model, the qualifications to be a center employee were updated. President Flanders asked how to best ensure faculty have appropriate credentials. Director Lane replied that universities will report to the Director of Literacy. A process will need to be put in place to confirm faculty know how to apply and are skilled at educating educators in the application of Structured Literacy.

Director Lane thanked the universities for their work on the Blueprint, and, in particular, on the centers. She also thanked the faculty known as the "Literacy 7" who have been working on course development.

In response to a question from Regent Winter, Director Lane's said the biggest positive surprise since beginning work on the Blueprint has been the level of university engagement and desire to do the work.

Regent Rolph stated that the Blueprint is a Board initiative on which the Board has partnered with the Legislature. He has heard feedback that higher education is already doing what the Blueprint requires. However, Regent Rolph perceived a breakdown somewhere between teachers receiving postsecondary instruction and working in the classroom. He encouraged the state university CEOs to remain engaged and asked them what they are doing differently to carry out the initiative. Regent Mendoza, who serves on the Blueprint's Literacy Advisory Committee, echoed Regent Rolph's comments, asking each to reflect on their own roles and what they can do to contribute to the success of this initiative. Director Lane commented that the science of reading has changed, and while it is being taught to future teachers, that instruction needs to go deeper. She also said that the business community should find this issue important as well, noting that deficiencies in adult literacy is a \$2.2 trillion drain on the national economy.

Regent Johnston said it is important to have the regional centers. She also noted many businesses are concerned about employee literacy—for example, employees need to be able to effectively read manuals. She was hopeful the centers could provide support in that area. Director Lane said she is working with the Board's adult education staff on this.

ADJOURN

Chair Ice adjourned the meeting at 3:28 p.m.

Blake Flanders, President and CEO

Carl Ice, Chair