Topeka Metro
Board of Director's Minutes
October 19, 2026
Quincy Street Station boardroom

MEMBER'S NAME	ORGANIZATION	PRESENT / ABSENT / EXCUSED
Candis Stiles, Chair	Topeka Metro	Via Zoom
Fátima Pérez-Luthi, Vice Chair	Topeka Metro	Via Zoom
Michaela Saunders	Topeka Metro	Via Zoom
Tamika Terry	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Staff/Visitors	**ORGANIZATION**	**PRESENT / ABSENT / EXCUSED**
Bob Nugent, General Manager	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Richard Appelhanz, Chief Financial Officer	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
Keri Renner, Director of Marketing & Comm.	Topeka Metro	Excused
Terri Miller, Director of Human Resources	Topeka Metro	Present QSS
John Cassidy, General Counsel	Topeka Metro	Via Zoom
Jessica Moberly, Director of Planning	Topeka Metro	Via Zoom
Denise Ensley, Chief Operating Officer	Topeka Metro	Via Zoom
Alan Parrish, Director of Maintenance & Facilities	Topeka Metro	Via Zoom
Jared Culbertson, Director of IT	Topeka Metro	Via Zoom
Shawn Auten, Scheduler	Topeka Metro	Via Zoom
Emily Ahlvers, Benefits Consultant	Bukaty Co.	Via Zoom
Derek Dick, Benefits Consultant	Bukaty Co.	Via Zoom

TOPIC	KEY DISCUSSION	RECOMMENDED ACTION / STATUS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE
Call to Order	Candis Stiles, Chair, called the October 19, 2026 board meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.	Four members were present.	Candis Stiles
Approval of Board Minutes	Minutes from September 21, 2026, Board meeting were reviewed.	**MOTION:** Fátima Pérez-Luthi moved, and Tamika Terry seconded to approve the September 21, 2026 board minutes. The motion passed, 4-0.	Candis Stiles
Public Comment	N/A		Candis Stiles
Department Reports	**Planning** – Jessica said she had a correction on her report. For the Washburn passes the report states 40,100 but the actual corrected number is 7,123. **Operations** – Denise shared every year Operations celebrates Customer Service Week, which was October 5-9. Operations staff gave them extra attention, giving them snacks and kudos. We are continuing to cross-train staff. We had a long-term staff member retire and we celebrated her today, but that means new people coming in & training so there's a lot of movement in operations right now. **Maintenance** – Alan said that fuel costs are still rising. **Finance** – Candis asked if there are any questions for Richard.		Candis Stiles

Action Items	Candis asked for a motion to approve the September 2026 finance report. Candis asked for approval of the advertising request for bid. Richard said that this advertising is only for our buses. We only had one bidder. We have a 5-year contract. The committee met to go over the bid. The committee scored 9.55 out of 10. The committee felt that Houck is responsive, responsible, and the revenue is fair & reasonable, so we recommend awarding the bid to Houck Transit Advertising. Benefits Consultants Emily Ahlvers and Derek Dick were on Zoom to explain the employee benefits for Topeka Metro in 2027. Emily said healthcare is at an all-time high due to prescription costs and medical costs. Gravie/Aetna, which is a national network that has the best offer at 18.5% for Topeka Metro. All other benefits include Dental Plan: Delta Dental; Vision Benefits: EyeMed; FSA Medical Spending/Dependent Care Accounts: NueSynergy; Voluntary Benefits (critical illness, accident, short-term disability): Trustmark& Guardian.	**MOTION:** Tamika Terry moved to accept finance report as submitted, and Fátima Pérez-Luthi seconded. The motion passed, 4-0. **MOTION:** Tamika Terry made a motion to award the Houck Transit Advertising for our buses based on our recommendation, and Fátima Pérez-Luthi seconded. The motion passed, 4-0. **MOTION:** Fátima Pérez-Luthi moved that we have Garvie/Aetna for our healthcare provider for 2027 as well as Dental Plan, Vision Benefits, FAS Medical Spending/Dependent Care Accounts, Voluntary Benefits (critical illness, accident, short-term disability), and Michaela seconded. Candis Stiles stated for the record in the minutes that she is not voting on this motion. The motion passed 3-0 (Candis Stiles recused).	Candis Stiles
New Business	N/A		Candis Stiles
Executive Session	N/A		
Adjourn	Candis asked for a motion to adjourn.	**MOTION:** Michaela moved to adjourn the meeting, and Tamika Terry seconded. The motion passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.	Candis Stiles

Respectfully Submitted,
Keri L. Renner, Board Secretary