Kansas Association of the Deaf
Board Meeting Minutes
Location: Manhattan Public Library
Date: April 11, 2026

I. Call to Order

President Katie Wise called the meeting to order at 1:09 pm.

II. Roll Call

President Katie Wise - Present
Vice President Mary Ellen Keck - Present
Secretary/Treasurer Raul Melgar - Absent
Youth Program Coordinator Taylor Wise - Present
Appointed Board Member Lorrie Shank - Present
Appointed Board Member Michael Sullivan - Absent
Appointed Board Member Jennifer Hart - Present

Plus, 4 observers

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Mary Ellen Keck (Taylor Wise) moves to accept the January 25, 2026 Board Meeting minutes as read with corrections. **PASSED**

IV. Ratification of Email / Video Conference Motions from Board Members *(if applicable)*

KAD-BD-26-02: Taylor Wise (Lorrie Shank) moves that KAD sponsors Sophia D'Angelo up to $500 from Budget Line #8 to cover transportation expenses for attending the 2026 Youth Leadership Camp this summer, with reimbursement upon receipt.
PASSED / FAILED / TABLED. 6 Aye, __ Nay, __ Abstain (2/11/2026)

KAD-BD-26-03: Taylor Wise (Lorrie Shank) moves that the Kansas Association of the Deaf approve payment of $900 from the Sunflower Fund to cover the Health Care Careers Exploration Program fee at RIT for Elisha Watson, with payment made directly to RIT.
PASSED / FAILED / TABLED. 6 Aye, __ Nay, __ Abstain (3/2/2026)

Mary Ellen Keck (Lorrie Shank) moves to ratify the two motions stated above. **PASSED**

V. Communications *(community correspondence)*

A. A member brought up a discussion on changing the limitation of Sunflower Fund from "one-time" award to "yearly" award. The Board explained that the fund is new and we do not have enough data on the number of applications yet. The guideline may change in the near future.
B. A debate on the name of the JJ Dold Scholarship has been brought up. The Board decided to keep the name for multiple reasons.
C. Sponsorship request from These Hands - deadline on 4/30/26
D. ASL-for-ALL 5K Sponsorship Package 2026

V. Reports of KAD Board Officers

A. President's Report
1. Received a generous donation of $11,313.66 from KAI-RID (dissolution fund).

2. Attended NAD Region II Meeting (Zoom) on 2/8/26 and 3/8/26
    1. Updates on NAD Conference (Recap of NAD Board Mtg in San Francisco)
    2. Updates on COR (number of delegates and alternates must match)
    3. Updates on CEO search (dozens of applications, 19 qualified for interviews, announced two finalist (Michelle Cline and Nicholas Kiego) then the introduction of new CEO will happen at NAD Conf. in San Francisco)
    4. Discussion on Community Driven Commitments (Strategic Goals instead of Priorities)
3. Participated all 5 NAD Community Forums (Accessibility, Education, Employment, Health Care, and Technology)
4. Emailed advocacy letter to Kansas State Board of Education requesting that they continue the search of KSD Superintendent
5. KCDHH Executive Director Robert Cooper says they need a new KAD Board member to replace Annette Caraway. Jennifer Hart is interested.

B. Vice President's Report
    1. The By-Laws committee is now full.
        a. Tara Congdon, Ann Cooper, Leonard Hall, Steve Schoenberg

C. Secretary's Report
    1. No report

D. Treasurer's Report
    1. Filed 990-N e-Postcard for 2025 to IRS and Information Report to KS Secretary of State
    2. Renewed Zoom subscription (found a 50% off coupon on Goodstack - Techsoup no longer give discount on Zoom)

KAD Budget as of March 31, 2026	
Checking Account	$22,133.65
Restricted Funds:	
- ZVRS Fund	$389.77
- Deafblind Fund	$947.93
- Accessibility Fund	$4,000.00
KAD's General Fund	$16,795.95
Merrill Lynch (LaRosh) #4038 (as of March 31, 2026)	$135,415.81
Merrill Lynch (KAD) #4047 (as of March 31, 2026)	$91,304.38
Total of M.L. Investment Accts (#4038 + #4047)	$226,720.19
Checking Account	$22,133.65
Total of Merrill Lynch Investments	$226,720.19

Grand Total	**$248,853.84**

E. Youth Program Coordinator's Report
   1. Received YLC transportation support request from Sophia D'Angelo
      a. Board approved request
      b. Flight tickets secured and reimbursement paid to parent ($439.71)
   2. Received first Sunflower Fund application from Elisha Watson (RIT "Explore Your Future" camp)
      a. Board approved application
      b. Payment completed online directly to program ($900.00)
      c. First Sunflower Fund recipient
   3. Received a Dold Scholarship application
      a. Deadline (April 1st) has passed
   4. Received second Sunflower Fund application from Ava Plummer
   5. Jr. NAD updates
      a. Officers elected
      b. Parliamentary procedure training scheduled for April 14th.
         i. Robert Cooper will give the training

- Next Steps:
  - Board to review and decide on:
    1. Dold Scholarship applicant
    2. Second Sunflower Fund applicant (Ava Plummer)
  - Continue coordination with approved recipients
  - Continue development and support of Jr. NAD chapter

F. Appointed Board Member's Report - Lorrie Shank
   1. Continue with sending reminder to KAD members when their dues are expired
   2. Sent out Spring newsletter to members (5 hard copies)
   3. As of April 7th - 106 members (many didn't renewed)

G. Appointed Board Member's Report - Michael Sullivan
   No Report

H. Appointed Board Member's Report - Jennifer Hart
- Completed the KAD Spring Newsletter on March 30.
- Added information about the Dold Scholarship and Sunflower Fund to the website.

Special Committee Reports:
- Conference Chair, Mary Ellen Keck
  - Still need a few more to join the Conference committee.
  - Hotel: Hilton Garden Center
    - Block of rooms (120) - release date June 1, 2027
    - Small board room - free printer, free wi-fi
  - Possible dates: June 24-27, 2027

VII. Unfinished Business *(already have motions, but not completed)*

A. Lorrie Shank will contact Robert Cooper to get information about Aging workshop (possible use Zoom webinar)

VIII. Important Business to Discuss *(may lead to motions)*

A. JJ Dold Scholarship applicant(s)
B. Sunflower Fund applicant(s)
C. Sponsorships

IX. New Business

A. Motion(s):

KAD-BD-2026-04: Jennifer Hart (Mary Ellen Keck) moves that Board approved to accept Caedryn Schoonover to receive JJ Dold Scholarship for $2,000 effective May 2026 (have up to four years to use the scholarship). (Also give two-year free KAD Membership).
PASSED 4 Aye, __ Nay, __ Abstain

KAD-BD-2026-05: Lorrie Shank (Taylor Wise) moves that Board sponsors "These Hands' Second Annual Summer Conference" for $100 (Tier 1) from Budget line #15 Sponsorship.
PASSED 4 Aye, __ Nay, __ Abstain

KAD-BD-2026-06: Mary Ellen Keck (Taylor Wise) moves that Board sponsors 2026 ASL-for-ALL 5K hosted by MDHAC and KSD Endowment for $750 from Budget line #15 Sponsorship.
Tabled to the next Board meeting.

KAD-BD-2026-07: Mary Ellen Keck (Jennifer Hart) moves that Board accepted Hilton Garden Center hotel in Manhattan on June 24-27, 2027 for KAD Conference and deposit $500.00 from Budget line #13 State Conference.
PASSED 4 Aye, __ Nay, __ Abstain

X. Announcement(s)

A. NONE

DATE/TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
August 23, 2025	Board Meeting/Retreat	Newton Library
September 30, 2025	Fall Newsletter Due	
October 25, 2025	Special Member meeting/ Board Meeting	Emporia Public Library
December 31, 2025	Winter Newsletter Due	
January 25, 2026	Board Meeting	Zoom
March 31, 2026	Spring Newsletter Due	
April 11, 2026	Board Meeting	Manhattan Public Library
June 30, 2026	Summer Newsletter Due	
July 18, 2026	Board Meeting	Olathe
September 30,2026	Fall Newsletter Due	

October ?, 2026	Board Meeting	A
December 31, 2026	Winter Newsletter Due	
January ?, 2027	Board Meeting	A
March 31, 2027	Spring Newsletter Due	
April ?, 2027	Board Meeting	A
June 30, 2027	Summer Newsletter Due	
June ?, 2027	State Association Meeting	TBA

XI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned sine die at 3:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorrie Shank
Temp Secretary
Kansas Association of the Deaf

Date approved: 7.18.2026