

**PALCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 269
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

REGULAR MEETING

December 4, 2024

7:00 P.M.

Damar Elementary School Library

AGENDA

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom Benoit called meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Present members included Tom Benoit, Kyle Benoit, Rebecca Hageman, Marissa Jones, Brandon Kuhn, Brian Pekarek, Paul Prewo, Kami Keller, and Cindy Blattner.

Absent was Cody Pieper.

Audience signed in.

Marissa Jones moved to approve the Consent Agenda after discussion on revenue. Kyle Benoit seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

The floor was then opened for individuals desiring appointment to the vacancy position on the Board. Natalie Knipp, Matt Benoit, Ali Keller, and Amy Karlin shared insights and desires to be included in the BOE open seat. Kyle Benoit moved to nominate Ali Keller as newly appointed BOE member. Brandon Kuhn seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Paul Prewo K-12 Principal presented on Board Reports. Bus issues and repairs were discussed. Discussion about searching for a new suburban/van to add to the fleet.

All eligible high school students went to Senior Life Skills in Lenora. They had a good experience.

Suggestion to discontinue Art class over ITV and move to using Bright Thinkers as an alternative.

Brian Pekarek - Superintendent gave a short grant writing update including the BCBS Grant for raised beds to grow lettuce, onions, and carrots, FEMA, Dane Hansen, and Patterson Foundation grants.

Gains/Losses Projections were discussed.

Discussion was held about possible agricultural plans for the future and ideas about starting a foundation for the NW KS Ag Ed Center.

Guest Speaker Monte Keller presented about the ag program and center.

Advocacy in Action – Rebecca Hageman reported on a study on the effects of screen time and technology related to mental health (KASB).

Technology Representatives – Tom Benoit & Marissa Jones decided on a meeting after the first of the year.

PDZ Representative – Brandon Kuhn reported on the December 30th drive through spaghetti dinner to fund student lunches.

NCKSEC Representative – Rebecca Hageman discussed completing non tenured evaluations, staffing credentials, and IEP evaluation issues.

Negotiations – Tom Benoit and Rebecca Hageman stated that negotiations have not started. Kyle Benoit will be alternate if needed.

SHESC – Tom Benoit discussed administration turnover and how the program serves 47 counties around Kansas.

Tom Benoit moved to enter executive session at 8:22 P.M. for 30 minutes for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed, and that the Board will return to the open session in this room at 8:52 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members, Paul Prewo, Brian Pekarek, Monte Keller, and Chuck Knipp. Kyle Benoit seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Monte and Chuck exited the executive session at 8:41 P.M.

Tom Benoit moved to enter executive session at 8:55 P.M. for 30 minutes for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed, and that the Board will return to the open session in this room at 9:25 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members. Marissa Jones seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Kyle Benoit moved to enter executive session at 9:26 P.M. for 30 minutes for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed, and that the Board will return to the open session in this room at 9:56 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members. Brandon Kuhn seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Brandon Kuhn moved to enter executive session at 9:56 P.M. for 5 minutes for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed, and that the Board will return to the open session in this room at 10:01 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members and Paul Prewo. Kyle Benoit seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Tom Benoit moved to enter executive session at 10:02 P.M. for 10 minutes for the purpose of discussing non-elected personnel in order to protect the privacy interests of the individual(s) to be discussed, and that the Board will return to the open session in this room at 10:12 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members and Paul Prewo. Brandon Kuhn seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Paul exited the executive session at 10:08 P.M.

Brian Pekarek entered the executive session at 10:10 P.M.

Kyle Benoit moved to approve Paul Prewo for Junior High Girls Basketball coach for the 24/25 school year. Brandon Kuhn seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Tom Benoit moved to approve the resignation of Lacey Couse from the position of bus driver effective 11/26/24. Marissa Jones seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Mr. Prewo's resignation of all appointed positions per contract June 30th of 2025 was presented to the board. The board discussed their appreciation of Paul and all that he has done for the school district. Brandon Kuhn moved to accept the resignation of Paul Prewo from all contracted positions as of June 30th 2025. Kyle Benoit seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Tom Benoit moved to accept the Rachel Priest for the additional science olympiad position. Brandon Kuhn seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Kyle Benoit moved to accept Stephanie Clark for JRSRHS school play. Rebecca Hageman seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Tom Benoit moved to increase Karen Fountain to base pay of teacher base pay from FY 2024. Marissa seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn at 10:20 P.M.