

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

REGULAR MEETING

Feb 5, 2024

7:00 P.M.

Damar Grade School Library

MINUTES

All present please stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance
Prayer led by Superintendent

Brandon Kuhn called the meeting to order at 7:06 P.M.

Board members present included Brandon Kuhn, Rebecca Hageman (arrived 7:10P.M.), Kyle Benoit, Cody Pieper, Marissa Jones, Ali Keller, Brian Pekarek, Paul Prewo, and Cindy Blattner.

Absent was Tom Benoit

Kyle Benoit moved to approve the agenda as presented. Allison Keller seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Motion carried 5-0.

Junior Class shared Prom update to include choice of floor covering, request assistance with wall hooks, and discussion of cabinets to safely store decorations. Prom invitations distributed to the Board.

Vehicle cleaning fundraiser by Junior Class was discussed to determine the amount earned. Discussion followed.

Marissa Jones moved to approve the amount of \$2000.00 to the Junior class for the vehicle cleaning fundraiser. Cody Pieper seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Guest -Mr. Karlin- Mayor of Palco shared class fundraiser opportunities through the McKenna Center. Details to be determined.

Formation of NW Ag Education Center Board of Trustees. Marissa Jones shared clarification of language concerning Trustees, 501 C-3 and Board of Education. Marissa Jones moved to approve the Board of Trustees to include Brandon Kuhn and Kyle Benoit from the School Board, Monte Keller, Chuck Knipp, and Marissa Jones of the 501C-3 as presented. Rebecca Hageman seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Board Reports

Principal Paul Prewo - Pre-K-12 shared on the following:

Transportation - New bus required repair of muffler supports to prevent movement.

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be 2/20/25 at the elementary school and 2/21/25 at the PJSHS.

School start time feedback and discussion. No changes.

Job Shadow opportunities for Juniors and Seniors potentially in April.

Salina Build My Future event on April 16th is a hands on career fair for Juniors and Seniors. Will depart at 8 A.M. Event is 9 A.M.-3P.M. Lunch is included.

State Assessments/KESA updates included teacher inservice February 17th for training. Testing window is March 24 - April 25th. The KESA visit occurred January 29th. Teacher representation will need to be in place before the next meeting on March 3rd. Palco is to assist with Saturday League tournament in Goodland to include ticket takers and other volunteers. Please contact Mr. Prewo.

Superintendent Dr. Brian Pekarek, provided the following updates:

Update on USD 269 Enrollment Next 2 years showed a decrease in enrollment this FY but is showing potentials for increase in relation to Ag focus.

Grant Writing Update showed monies of approximately \$192,000 as of 2/5/25.

Finance Review: Gains/Losses Projections shows the assessed value of property in Rooks County decreased creating a future discussion on potential mil increase.

Agriculture Education News Review included an interview of a new ag teacher.

Review of Transportation Changes for FY 2026 discussed paying parents to transport their youth from the district boundary to school. Will be reviewed more in March.

Advocacy in Action – Rebecca Hageman - Alt. Ali Keller - shared the 2025 session began. Discussion spanned from school vouchers, book bans, religion in schools, electronic devices and more. Article available in Clerk office.

Agriculture Board of Trustees: Kyle Benoit and Brandon Kuhn- shared interview of Ag teacher for FY26, door signs on buildings, Ag internships, and curriculum discussions. Anna Muir from K-State Extension was present following a day with youth of 3rd-5th grade concerning hand hygiene in relation to animal care and food.

Technology Representative – Tom Benoit(absent) & Marissa Jones - shared teacher selection for the committee is underway. A meeting will be scheduled in the near future. Discussion on updates to the website.

PDZ Representative – Brandon Kuhn - shared the pop shot at the last JH game was a success. There will be an open gym on Sundays until the end of basketball season.

NCKSEC Representative –Rebecca Hageman - alt. Tom Benoit - shared the building is to be complete by next school year. Correction plans were approved. Hi-Plains continues to hire for rural support and talk continues on working with teachers on support of IEP students within small classes. Discussion of the district having one para and one SPED teacher to cover both buildings. Recommendation to review SPED contract.

Negotiations – Marissa Jones and Kyle Benoit - (Training Feb 12th in Hays) discussed the need to share communications with teachers in March to begin the process of negotiations.

SHESC – Tom Benoit - Alt. Kyle Benoit - shared next meeting is Thursday Feb. 13th.

Executive Session - Non-Elected Personnel Brandon Kuhn moved to enter executive session at 8:47 P.M. for 30 minutes for 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 9:17 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members, Superintendent, and Principal. Rebecca Hageman seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Executive Session - Non-Elected Personnel Brandon Kuhn moved to enter executive session at 9:19 P.M. for 10 minutes for 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 9:29 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members, Superintendent, and Principal. Rebecca Hageman seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Approval of contracts and resignations:

Kyle Benoit moved to approve the Vo-Ag teacher for FY 26 Megan Bergstrom. Rebecca Hageman seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

HS Athletic Director for 2025-2026 tabled.

Rebecca Hageman moved to approve Transportation Director for 2025-2026 Jennifer Guffey. Brandon Kuhn seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Marissa Jones moved to approve the renewal of Superintendent contract for School years 2025/2026 -2026/2027 of Dr. Brian Pekarek. Kyle Benoit seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

Marissa Jones moved to approve PE Teacher Rachel Lamastch for PE and JH track assistant coach. Rebecca Hageman seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Board Comments included discussion of combined classrooms, FY23 binders by auditor distributed to the Board, and the basketball camp on February 1st went well.

Meeting adjourned by Brandon Kuhn at 9:43 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Cynthia Blattner
USD 269 Board Clerk