

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

**REGULAR MEETING  
January 8, 2024  
7:00 P.M.  
Palco Jr. Sr. High School Library  
MINUTES**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Absent was Cody Pieper and Rebecca Hageman.

Audience signed in.

Brandon Kuhn moved to approve the Consent Agenda after discussion about the tax bill. Marissa Jones seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion about new Board organization and assignments for 2025.

Brandon Kuhn moved to elect Tom for Board President. Kyle Benoit seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Tom Benoit moved to elect Brandon Kuhn for Board Vice President. Marissa Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Tom Benoit moved to elect Marissa Jones for the first Negotiation Representative position. Brandon Kuhn seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Tom Benoit moved to elect Kyle Benoit for the second Negotiation Representative position. Brandon Kuhn seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Advocacy in Action Representative will remain Rebecca Hageman with Ali Keller as an alternate.

Technology Representatives will remain Tom Benoit and Marissa Jones.

NCKSEC Representative will remain Rebecca Hageman with Tom Benoit as an alternate.

PDZ Representative remains Brandon Kuhn.

SHESC Representative will remain Tom Benoit with Kyle Benoit as an alternate.

Paul Prewo K-12 Principal presented on Board Reports. The Bus 23 air conditioning unit has been fixed, but the muffler is now hanging. Bus 20 is needing a new radiator and the

muffler is hanging. Bus 5 is currently in use. Van 22 has been fixed. Discussion about fixing Van 2 after hitting a deer.

Regionals for Science Olympiad will take place on February 15th.

Discussion about the Cross Country team will be revisited at the end of the school year.

Handbook items are still needing updates.

New enrollment in the 5th and 6th grades.

The Elementary School Spelling Bee will take place on January 10th.

The High School Basketball Tournament will take place on February 8th in Goodland.

The Junior High Basketball Tournament will take place on February 13th in Colby.

Parent concerns about the 4 day school week were discussed.

Brian Pekarek - Superintendent gave a short grant writing update.

Gains and Losses Projections were discussed.

Discussion about free breakfast and lunch for students and less bus transportation occurred.

Short conversation about possible agriculture plans in the future.

Guest Speakers Monte Keller and Chuck Knipp presented about marketing, a \$125,000 matching grant, a new educator, maintenance updates, and the possibility of a 501C3 for the Northwest Kansas Agriculture Education Center Foundation.

Tom Benoit mentioned a Common Ground Academy informational meeting that is happening on January 18th in Kansas City.

Brandon Kuhn moved to include Marissa Jones on the Agriculture Board. Kyle Benoit seconded. Motion carried 4-0.

Tom Benoit discussed the barn in Damar for possible animal housing.

Advocacy in Action – update was provided by Cindy Blattner per Rebecca Hageman.

Technology Representative – Tom Benoit & Marissa Jones decided on a February meeting.

PDZ Representative – Brandon Kuhn discussed how the December 30th drive through spaghetti dinner went well for being the first event. There was a Pop A Shot free throw at the Junior high basketball game. An additional Pop A Shot will happen at the January 30th game. There is a planned Winter Wonderland event in February.

NCKSEC Representative - report was provided by Cindy Blattner per Rebecca Hageman.

Negotiations – Kyle Benoit and Marissa Jones had nothing to report.

SHESC – Tom Benoit discussed the Directors contract.

Tom Benoit moved to enter executive session at 9:00 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 9:30 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members, Brian Pekarek, Paul Prewo, Cindy Blattner, and Kami Keller. Marissa Jones seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Tom Benoit moved to enter executive session at 9:30 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 9:40 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members, Brian Pekarek, Paul Prewo, Cindy Blattner, and Kami Keller. Marissa Jones seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Tom Benoit moved to enter executive session at 9:40 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 9:50 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members. Marissa Jones seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Tom Benoit moved to enter executive session at 9:50 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 9:55 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members. Marissa Jones seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Marissa Jones moved to approve the resignation of Cindy Blattner from all currently held positions effective 06/30/2025. Ali Keller seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Kyle Benoit moved to approve the resignation of Charles Russell from the position of PE Teacher effective 12/30/24. Marissa Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Marissa Jones moved to approve a \$1 raise and a one time \$250 bonus for Sabrina Hooper. Brandon Kuhn seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn at 10:05 P.M.