

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

REGULAR MEETING
March 5, 2025
7:00 P.M.
Palco High School Library
Minutes

Pledge of Allegiance recited. Prayer led by Tom Benoit.

President Tom Benoit called meeting to order at 7:00PM
Present members included Tom Benoit, Brandon Kuhn, Kyle Benoit, Marissa Jones, Ali Keller, Dr. Pekarek, Paul Prewo, and Cindy Blattner. Rebecca Hageman arrived at 7:23PM.

Absent members included Cody Pieper.

Attendance roster signed by guests.

Ali Keller moved to approve the consent agenda. Brandon Kuhn seconded. Discussion to add item 3.F. For Community Representation. Items 4.C and 4.D. under Superintendent report moved to executive session related to personnel. Motion carried 5-0.

3.F. Community representation - 3 minute presentations-

Opening of communications by Tom Benoit.

Gabi Mask pre K teacher presented a letter. Letter and student work sample remained with the BOE.

Mike Knipp - shared view concerning Miss. Mask r/t his personal student experiences

Cindy Landis - shared view concerning Miss Mask r/t personal student experiences.

Kaylin Knapple - 5th grade educator - Letter presented. Letter retained by BOE.

Nicole Gosselin - parent - presented concerns of combined classroom.

Larissa Roy - Kindergarten - presented concerns related to combined classrooms.
Concerns r/t transparency.

Question by Marissa Jones if combined classes are unacceptable or if the grades being selected for combination are the concern?

Response by Nicole Gosselin.

Question by Marissa Jones concerning alternatives to combining?

Response by Nicole Gosselin.

Comment by Rebecca Hageman related to negotiations.

Response by Kaylin Knapple concerning education related to how financials work and the possibility of an inservice for understanding. Met with agreement.

Comment by Gabi Mask related to the financials.

Comment by Nicole Gosselin for collaboration between Board and Teachers

Comment by Cindy Landis r/t combined classrooms and social impact.

Comment by Kyle Benoit r/t discipline

Comment by Nicole Gosselin r/t fastbridge data and combined classrooms.

Comment by Kyle Benoit concerning data and discipline

Comment by Kaylin Knapple r/t discipline, parent support, and combined classroom or regular

Comment by Tom Benoit concerning discipline

Comment by Kyle Benoit concerning support at grade school

Comment by Kyle Eicklberry related to combined classrooms and effects on Miss Mask and additional local teachers.

Comment by Tom Benoit concerning employment of locals.

Comment by Mike Knipp related to Miss Mask and Miss Knapple

Comment by Miss Mask related to status of position

Closing of comments by Tom Benoit. Thank you to those that participated and shared views.

Board Reports - Paul Prewo - Pre-K-12

Transportation - regular vehicle maintenance. Tom Benoit discussed that Healy possibly will have some vehicles for sale.

Ft Hays Tech NW visit today - postponed due to weather. Will go next Wednesday the 12th. Estimated 5 students to attend.

State Assessments - start the week following spring break and go to April 25th. Schedule is ready. 2 paras need to be trained at the High School to assist.

ACT (2/25) - 4 juniors 1 senior. Paper test attempted instead of electronic. Results projected to be received by the end of March.

Snow Make-up Day - April 28 (Monday). Will look at hours to determine the need for AM preschool to make up hours from additional late starts due to weather. Jennifer Guffey clarified scheduled make-up days existing on the school calendar.

State Basketball - HS Boys basketball are in the semifinals on the 8th in Tescott. Pending success the next game is on the 13th with the State Championship the 14th in Colby.

Summer school - Interest from teachers to host. Open discussion of salary with teachers as this is not ESSER funded.

Subs - Mr. Prewo averaging one day a week in the classroom currently as a sub. Concern with state assessments approaching.

KESA meeting was in Phillipsburg March 3rd. Attended by Superintendent, Principal and Teacher representatives.

March 26 or 27 tour of district requested for new family.

Brian Pekarek - Superintendent reports

Champs HSA - video presentation - wants to send district data for review. Board consensus to release data for evaluation.

Transportation - Pay parents 2.5 miles from the attendance center for transportation. Fewer CDL drivers. 4 day week. Appeals on a case by case basis. Parents paid out in June. Kyle Benoit moved to proceed with the transportation program to include a 30 min open meeting at the next regular meeting on April 2nd. Marissa Jones second. Motion carried 5-0.

Gain/Loss - moved to executive related to personnel

Combined Classes - moved to executive related to personnel

Ag Curriculum - Submitted curriculum presented to the BOE. Ag center matching funds discussed.

Advocacy in Action – Rebecca Hageman - Alt. Ali Keller - ksde.gov (more info) Linda Shepherd appointed for Ag Secretary. Funding. Education bills remaining active on the state level. SB45 (graduation rates for accreditation r/t homeschool transitions). Board meeting changes. Virtual student in sport participation. Active shooter drill requirements. A copy of reported information available in the clerk office.

Agriculture Board of Trustees: Kyle Benoit and Brandon Kuhn- Create export file for foundation bills/reimbursements with Marissa Jones following discussion with accountant.

Technology Representative – Tom Benoit & Marissa Jones - Schedule an afternoon meeting on upcoming Friday when Denton is in the district.

PDZ Representative – Brandon Kuhn - Winterwonderland Feb. 23rd - good attendance.

NCKSEC Representative –Rebecca Hageman - alt. Tom Benoit - Shared retirement of Tami Dubois. Look to advertise for PJSHS SPED teacher.

Negotiations – Marissa Jones and Kyle Benoit - Letters dispersed from educators to BOE. Meeting to TBD.

SHESC – Tom Benoit - Alt. Kyle Benoit - Meeting Feb. 20th. Discussed staffing and budget. Golf fundraiser upcoming in Salina.

Executive Session - Non-Elected Personnel Marissa Jones moved to enter executive session at 10:00 P.M. for 45 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 10:45 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members, Nicole Gosselin, Paul Prewo, Cindy Blattner, and Brian Pekarek. Rebecca Hageman second. Motion carried 5-0.

Nicole Gosselin exited executive session at 10:08 PM

Executive Session - Non-Elected Personnel Marissa Jones moved to enter executive session at 10:45 P.M. for 20 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 11:05 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members, Paul Prewo, Cindy Blattner, and Brian Pekarek. Rebecca Hageman second. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of contracts and resignations

HS Athletic Director for 2025-2026 - Brandon Kuhn moved to approve Toni Bristow (80%) Sarah Couse (20%) as presented. Kyle Benoit second. Motion carried 5-0.

Board Clerk for 2025-2026 - Tom Benoit moved to approve Krystal Hemphill as presented. Marissa Jones second. Motion carried 5-0.

Board Comments

Paul Prewo presented possible calendar for 25/26 to BOE

Board appreciative of educators attending out of district school events

Executive Session - Non-Elected Personnel Tom Benoit moved to enter executive session at 11:10 P.M. for 1 minute 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 11:11 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members, and Brian Pekarek. Kyle Benoit second. Motion carried 5-0.

Adjourn at 11:15 P.M.