

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

**REGULAR MEETING**

June 10, 2024

7:00 P.M.

Damar Elementary School Library

**MINUTES**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Tom Benoit called the meeting to order at 7:04PM

Present members included Tom Benoit, Cody Pieper, Brandon Kuhn, Rebecca Hageman, Marissa Jones, Paul Prewo, and Cindy Blattner.

Absent members included Kyle Benoit, Shawn Clark, and Casey Robinson

Marissa Jones moved to approve the consent agenda while Rebecca Hageman seconded. Discussion included where the clerk was with resolution on FY23 corrections. Revenue is potentially complete. Expenditures are still being corrected. Following discussion the consent agenda was approved 5 to 0.

Paul Prewo - K-12 Principal, reported on status of state assessments. Scores were issued to teachers and will be available to parents at enrollment if interested.

Summer School updates included confirmation of two teachers providing the service and a letter going out this week once student enrollment is confirmed by providing teachers. Transportation - Buses on Purple Wave moved more quickly than expected. Mr. Prewo is working to secure the title for the activity bus. The title and keys have been located for bus 19. Will work toward the end goal of having vehicles on government auction that is currently in process.

Request for review of school lunch fees once the state contact is back in office. Will table at the July BOE meeting.

Shared patron concern with Monday school being out and childcare. JH/HS youth available for childcare on Mondays will be shared. PDZ Recreation is looking at working with the McKenna Center for availability on Mondays.

There are items needing to be updated in the handbook for the 24/25 school year. These will be brought to the July meeting.

Custodial help in the high school was discussed. Summer help has been secured but will still need to evaluate for a permanent position coverage when school begins in August.

The following curriculum purchases were reviewed for approval or renewal. HS Government textbook to include 10 texts, workbooks and digital access for \$1770. Tom Benoit moved to approve the purchase of the HS government texts and materials.

Marissa Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0. DES language arts texts and materials presented from McGraw Hill quote for grades 2-5. Rebecca Hageman moved to approve the language arts curriculum purchase as presented. Brandon Kuhn seconded. Discussion proceeded over cost difference for 6 year subscription as opposed to the presented 2 year quote. Mr. Prewo will get an updated quote and return to the Board in July. Vote tabled.

Renaissance reading subscription renewal was shared. Tom Benoit moved to approve the renewal as presented with Cody Pieper second. Discussion included contacting Renaissance to reduce quantities of freckle math and star math from 200 to 100. The Board decided to continue with purchase and present the final amount at the July meeting if reduction was successful. Motion carried 5-0

BrightThinker annual 1 year license renewal presented. Rebecca Hageman moved to approve the renewal as presented. Marissa Jones seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Southeast Kansas Education - Greenbush PDP toolbox service invoice was presented for Board awareness. No vote required to renew.

Interviews continue for (Math/ELA/PE/Science/Ag) until positions are filled. All positions are listed on Educate Kansas and social media. Currently have offers out for Math, ELA, and PE.

District para position explored to place in the combination classroom at grade school was presented to offer support for instruction. Brandon Kuhn moved to approve posting of the position. Marissa Jones seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Additional items of discussion in lue of Superintendent presence included offering benefits to full time hourly employees of 32 hours or more at the same fringe coverage as certified staff per the BCBS plan for USD269. Tom Benoit moved to approve offering health insurance to full time hourly employees of no less than 32 hours. Rebecca Hageman seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

K-Lawn quote - football field and front school lawns for the purpose of weed control, mowing reduction, and overall appeal. Discussion to include spraying the High School parking lot cracks. Brnadon Kuhn moved to approve the spraying of all three properties as presented in the quote. Rebecca Hageman seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

CPA bids for audit of school finances were revisited. The Board discussed the differences in presentation of offers from two to three fical years and fully encompassed pricing to meet the time needs of the district. Marissa Jones moved to approve Loyd Group, LLC as presented by their quote for auditing of school finances. Tom Benoit seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Advocacy in Action – Rebecca Hageman - discussion of points in Senate Bill 387.

Technology Representative – Tom Benoit and Marissa Jones - POs submitted to SHI and KVAC for smart boards and student laptop purchases.

PDZ Representative – Brandon Kuhn - Town hall in August (Mckenna Center or school). Confirmation of driver for swim lessons. Summer help hired.

NCKSEC Representative –Shawn Clark, Tom Benoit, alt. - Continuing to fill positions as multiple entities are doing the same.

Negotiations – Shawn Clark and Rebecca Hageman - Looking to complete by June 30th. We will need new representation for GS and HS. Discussion concerning budget progress with incumbent superintendent, Dr. Pekarek.

SHESC – Tom Benoit - Continuing to fill vacant positions.

Mid America Bank - New branch opening in Palco. Discussion concerning banking locally. Question raised as to timing and benefits to changing accounts to a local entity. Will plan visit by Mr. Prewo and Board Clerk for fit and function of banking options to revisit in July.

Tom Benoit moved to enter executive session at 8:23 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 8:53 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members. Paul Prewo, Brian Pekarek, and Cindy Blattner. Marissa Jones seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Marissa Jones moved to enter executive session at 8:56 P.M. for 15 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 9:11 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members. Paul Prewo, Brian Pekarek, and Cindy Blattner. Cody Pieper seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Brandon Kuhn moved to enter executive session at 9:11 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 9:21 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members. Rebecca Hageman seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Brian Pekarek requested to start the week of June 24th due to previous planned family outing the first week of July. No change in contract pay needed. Brandon Kuhn moved to approve Superintendent start date as presented. Marissa Jones seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Pursue Safe and Secure Schools Grant application by Brian Pekarek for technology upgrades and continuation of current installment plans of cameras and playground fence. Marissa Jones moved to approve proceeding with the application as presented. Cody Pieper seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Anonymous employee survey issued to all staff. Seven responses were received prior to the BOE meeting. Responses were made available to the Board.

Approval of signatures and removals for accounts specified below:

Checking 400101354

Checking 4001000005

Checking 400100269

Maintain signature of Kim Eichman on 4001000005, 400101354, and 400100269

Maintain signature of Paul Prewo on 4001000005, 400101354, and 400100269

Maintain signature of Cindy Blattner on 4001000005, 400101354, and 400100269

Maintain signature of Tom Benoit on 4001000005

Casey Robinson to be removed from all accounts as listed above.

Marissa Jones moved to approve the signature card names on all accounts as presented. Rebecca Hageman seconded. Discussion concerning adding incoming superintendent to the accounts but was determined to be a conflict as he would be approving purchases. Motion carried 5-0

Remote deposit capture scanner - Discussion. Provided through Astra Bank. Cost would be \$25 per month with a dedicated pc for the capture. Discussion involved contacting Doug at Astra bank to inquire on the 5% payback for those that have USD269 logo on their debit cards. Will inquire with Astra. Decision to not move forward with a scanner until a decision is made that USD269 will remain with Astra Bank or be local with Mid America Bank.

Raelyn Gilmore's resignation from all positions at PJSHS was presented to the Board. Marissa Jones moved to approve the resignation of Raelyn Gilmore as presented. Tom Benoit seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Employment of Danel Wolcott - elementary school teacher was presented. Brandon Kuhn moved to approve the hiring contract of Danel Wolcott as presented. Rebecca Hageman seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Shown Clark's immediate resignation from the USD269 Board of Education presented. Brandon moved to accept the resignation effective immediately. Cody Pieper seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Board Comments included the Blue and Gold banquet plaque presentation for Tom Benoit.

Marissa Jones moved to transition USD269 payroll to outsource to Adams/Brown payroll management starting in July. Rebecca Hageman seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 PM

Respectfully submitted,

  
Cynthia Blattner USD269 Board Clerk

  
Tom Benoit, USD269 Board President