

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

**REGULAR MEETING**

April 2, 2025

7:00 P.M.

Damar Elementary School Library

**MINUTES**

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Superintendent led with prayer.

President Tom Benoit called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Present members included Tom Benoit, Brandon Kuhn, Rebecca Hageman, Kyle Benoit, Marissa Jones(virtually), Ali Keller, Brian Pekarek, Paul Prewo, Cindy Blattner, and Krystal Hemphill.

Absent: Cody Pieper

Ali Keller moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Kyle Benoit seconded the motion. Discussion included moving Superintendent Transportation presentation from 6.a2 to 4.a., Superintendent Ag Focus from 6.b2 to 4.b., PDZ Representative from 4 to 4.c., Contracts and Resignations move from 8. to 7. and Executive Session from 7. To 8. Motion carried 6-0

Dr. Brian Pekarek - Superintendent -Shared reason for change proposal. Described monetary influence. Shared positive and negative thoughts. Tom Benoit moved to approve the transportation change so that routes may be considered at the May BOE meeting. Marissa Jones seconded the motion. Discussion included sharing of concerns and support. Option to appeal on a stand alone basis. Changes in transportation may allow replacement/repair funds for the fleet. Motion carried 6-0.

Ag Focus: NW KS AG Education Center Open House Report - Shared preparations regarding open house. Push to invite 5 families per individual BOE member. Provided update on Ag door signs. Shared securing internship participants and funds.

PDZ Representatives - share monthly outlook with discussion concerning future Rec events and challenges. Review of camp registrations and Rec registrations. Equipment share between District and Rec. Discussion of swim bus transportation for USD students on Fridays. BOE is in support. Fundraiser options through summer.

Building maintenance - Discussion on floor/concrete.

Brandon Kuhn moved to continue with K-Born Lawn in sterilization of the parking lot

and spraying/fertilizing the football field and school lawns as completed last season. Rebecca seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Board Reports, Paul Prewo - Pre-K-12

Transportation - Bus 5 continues to be a concern.

State Assessments are all scheduled and started 4/2/25.

2025-26 Calendar -January HS league scholars bowl in Palco Jan 21st (currently an inservice) change to work day. Alter Nov 1st on B schedule with December being the altered month. Prepared snow days to begin the first Monday in April. Community question concerning review of first year as a 4 day week? Principal and BOE shared their thoughts. Kyle Benoit moved to approve schedule B with the change of November 17th out of school and December 1st to be in school. Marissa Jones seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion carried 6-0.

April 28th will be the official make-up snow day. Alternately evaluated the 14th as the make-up snow day but was not recommended. Possibly set 1st and 2nd snow day on FY26 calendar so staff are prepared if necessary.

State Science Olympiad (Fri - Sat) - Leave 3PM Friday with potentially 13 students attending plus staff.

KT Woodman Pre-State Meet - April 10th and 11th with 2 track competitors attending to represent USD269.

PDZ - bus for summer swim - addressed in 4.c.

Summer mowing alternatives discussed. Bids will be discussed and a decision prior to meeting close.

Summer weights coverage opened to staff first then to community members for coverage

Paras - opening in Palco. Discussion on advertising through different media for interest.

Subs - Discussed multiple coverage issues due to lack of available subs,

Champs HSA program was shared with potential savings impact for the district. Request for further data. BOE agrees with moving forward with the next payroll excluding personal information.

Gain/ Loss Finance Report discussed.

Advocacy in Action – Rebecca Hageman - Alt. Ali Keller - Current Bills passed in legislature shared. Discussed HB2-404. Material available in the clerk office.

Agriculture Board of Trustees: Kyle Benoit and Brandon Kuhn - Moved chicken run. Purchase coop. Shed for goats in future. Fencing. Chicken summer leave/fall return. Need light. Noise options to deter predators.

Technology Representative – Tom Benoit & Marissa Jones - Meeting held. Needs realized are one promethium board at HS, one computer. Request bid.

PDZ Representative – Brandon Kuhn - Covered 4.c.

NCKSEC Representative –Rebecca Hageman - alt. Tom Benoit - General business. Ad for district paras updated.

Negotiations – Marissa Jones and Kyle Benoit - Letters exchanged.

SHESC – Tom Benoit - Alt. Kyle Benoit - Employment changes.

Kyle Benoit moved to approve the resignation of Lacey Couse from the ESSER funded educator position and Kami Keller from the secretary/clerk position. Brandon Kuhn seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Executive Session - Non-Elected Personnel Kyle Benoit moved to enter executive session at 9:45 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 10:05 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members, Superintendent and Principal. Brandon Kuhn second. Motion carried 6-0.

Executive Session - Non-Elected Personnel Tom Benoit moved to enter executive session at 10:06 PM 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 10:26 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members, Superintendent, and Principal. Brandon Kuhn second. Motion carried 6-0.

Brandon Kuhn moved to approve Matt Benoit to oversee the grounds keeping of USD269 as presented by bid to include scheduling of multiple interested parties presented to the BOE. Rebecca Hageman seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-1.

Brandon Kuhn moved to approve the teachers returning for 25-26 school year. Kyle Benoit seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Blattner, USD269 Board Clerk