June 10, 2025 7:00 P.M.

Damar Elementary School Library

**MINUTES**

President Tom Benoit called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Tom Benoit and then a short prayer by Tom Benoit.

Members present included Tom Benoit, Brandon Kuhn, Kyle Benoit, Marissa Jones, Ali Keller, Brian Pekarek, Paul Prewo, and Krystal Hemphill.

Absent: Cody Pieper, Rebecca Hageman

Consent Agenda included the following

A. Approval of Minutes

B. Approval of Treasurer's Report

C. Approval of Bills

D. Items Added to Agenda

E. Approval of the Agenda

Discussion included adding add 7a. Transfer of required Contingency Funds.

Brandon Kuhn moved to approve the agenda with noted changes.

Kyle Benoit seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Principal report from Paul Prewo - Pre-K-12 included

State assessment results have not been received yet.

Summer School updates-Currently have 12 kids attending summer school, the 1 on 1 teaching is going well.

Transportation-Discussion regarding the comparison of previous year and current year.

School lunch prices/ Fees (Art) recommendation to increase school lunch fee 10 cents.

Marissa Jones moved to approve the lunch price increase. Ali Keller Seconded the motion.

Motion carried 4-1.

[Handbook items/updates](https://docs.google.com/document/d/13TthWm6B0qFxBgwo8hA30ToohrzpwuYo9hcPGU5Shn0/edit?usp=sharing) Discussion to make changes

[Review of curriculum purchases for FY26](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nUnAd5bGhp5VjfDfEZk-EFmuJ8U_DqvK/view?usp=drive_link) discussion of quotes on current curriculum. Recommendation to maintain HMH Science.

Brandon moved to approve the HMH Science curriculum renewal for three years and to maintain all other existing curriculum with the exclusion of Bright Thinker at this time.

Marissa seconded the motion.

Motion Carried 5-0

Discussion on resurfacing High School gym. Will be getting quotes. Board discussed VonLintels in Hays.

Senior laptops-Discussion on incoming transfer seniors keeping their laptops at the end of the year. Prorate depending on year of entry. Example:

Freshmen maintain same laptop 4yrs to acquire at graduation

Entrance as a Sophomore maintaining same laptop for 3 years and pay $100 at graduation keep the laptop

Entrance as a junior maintain laptop 2 years and pay $200 at graduation keep the laptop

Entrance as a senior maintain laptop 1 year and pay $300 at graduation to keep the laptop.

Superintendent Reports-Brian Pekarek:

Ag Teacher Inservice on Planning for FY 2026- Discussion by Greg Hamel. Next meeting will be Jun 18, 2025with elementary teachers. He will connect with current and incoming FFA. Colby Community College visit with president discussed.

Projected Enrollment Increase for FY 2026- See attached

1. 1st Policy Review: Teaching Contracts for Long Term Subs (vote in July)
2. 1st Policy Review: Early Graduation (vote in July)

Additional items of discussion:

Marissa moved to approve BCBS for full time for (hourly or designated positions at cost as presented. Ali seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0

Board Reports as follows: Advocacy in Action – Rebecca Hageman(absent) - Alt. Ali Keller - No report

Agriculture Board of Trustees: Kyle Benoit and Brandon Kuhn - Reported from last meeting the funded rooms plaster and repair construction has started. Discussion on Grants.

Technology Representative – Tom Benoit & Marissa Jones - Smart Screen has arrived. Laptops/computers have been ordered. NW Ag Centers Cameras to be discussed at the next meeting. Denton will be getting quotes for teacher laptops and desktops.

PDZ Representative – Brandon Kuhn - Root Beer Floats in the park was a success. Upcoming camps include: Basketball, Volleyball, Karate, and Dance Camp.

NCKSEC Representative –Rebecca Hageman(absent) - alt. Tom Benoit - Challenged to fill positions.

Negotiations – Marissa Jones and Kyle Benoit - Shared changes for Fiscal Year 2026 Master Contract.

SHESC – Tom Benoit - Alt. Kyle Benoit - challenges in staffing and Completion of Director evaluation.

Marissa Jones moved to approve Maintaining Kim Eichman, Cindy Blattner and Tom Benoit and adding Krystal Hemphill to the General Fund Checking account currently in Astra Bank.

Kyle Benoit seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

Marissa Jones moved to approve adding Krystal Hemphill to DES Activity fund at Mid America Bank and to remove Paul Prewo.

Brandon Kuhn seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

The approval of contracts:

Ali Keller moved to approve Rachel Lamatsch for Summer weights and Junior High Girls Basketball Coach. Kyle Benoit seconded the motion. Motion Carried 5-0

Tom Benoit moved to approve Karen Fountain as the 6-10 long-term substitute Science Teacher for 2025-26 School year.

Brandon Kuhn seconded the motion.

Discussion to have a contract available for review for positions if not certified.

Motion carried 5-0

Marissa Jones moved to discuss the approval of Joan Pratt as 7-12 ELA teacher for 2025-26 School Year pending the research of teacher certification for salary purposes.

Kyle Benoit seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0.

Executive Session - Non-Elected Personnel Tom Benoit moved to enter executive session at 9:20 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 9:58 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members Paul Prewo, Brian Pekarek, Toni Bristow.

Ali Keller seconded the motion carried 5-0.

Executive Session - Non-Elected Personnel Tom Benoit moved to enter executive session at 9:59 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 10:09 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members Paul Prewo, Brian Pekarek.

Ali Keller seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

Marissa Jones made a motion to extend Cindy Blattner contract from June 30, 2025 to July 31, 2025.

Brandon Kuhn moved to approve.

Tom Benoit seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 P.M.

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USD 269 Board Clerk