

PALCO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 269
BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING

May 7, 2025 7:00 P.M.
Palco High 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 Kyle Karlin and then a short prayer by Tom Benoit.

Members present included Tom Benoit, Brandon Kuhn arriving at 8:30PM, Kyle Benoit, Marissa Jones, Ali Keller, Brian Pekarek, Paul Prew, Krystal Hemphill, and Cindy Blattner.

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 8.L. Sports cooperative current agreement discussion, remove 9.a.Gains and Losses, add 9.a. Stockton representatives.

Marissa Jones moved to approve the agenda with noted changes.

Ali Keller seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Senior class representatives presented the itinerary for an already approved senior trip to request fuel assistance. Senior representatives presented a request to have Mr. Robinson be the speaker for graduation.

Tom Benoit moved to approve the fuel for the senior trip and the selected graduation speaker as presented. Marissa Jones seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

Palco Mayor Kyle Karlin presented a grant option that may be applied to through multiple entities. Shared the availability to work together with the district on the grant for the community. Grant relates to security and safety. Grant requirements available in the Board Clerk office. Deadline June 18, 2025. Board consensus to proceed with available grant writers.

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Loyd Group, LLC representative John Regier presented the FY23 and FY24 audit findings. Audits are available in the clerk office. Marissa Jones moved to approve the FY23 and FY24 audits as presented to be submitted to the state. Kyle Benoit seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion to move the general fund to Mid America bank. Ali Keller shared the checking account with waived fees and no interest for daily check writing and a money market account for approved funds at higher interest with the following signatures and guidance. Krystal Hemphill, David Blochlinger(to be added Aug. 1st, 2025), and Paul Prewo added at present and then removed July 31, 2025, maintain Tom Benoit and Kim Eichman as previously listed on the existing general fund held at Astra Bank.

Discussion: Ali shared the difference between money market and checking concerning interest. Vote tabled until an additional BOE member is present due to conflict of interest.

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

Transportation - waiting on one mileage chart- Bus 5 performed better on last outing.

State Assessments are complete.

Summer Weights- two potential applicants with likely a morning option.

Summer school proposal- see attached handout. One day per week on

Wednesday individual services provided for those below level. Interested

teachers include Mcnamee, Roy, Berland, possibly Knaple. Request for vehicle to transport. \$30/hr for 5 hours per teacher one day per week totaling \$4320.00.

Wednesdays June-July. Tom Benoit moved to approve summer school as presented. Marissa Jones seconded. Discussion included the opportunity to see data for effectiveness and recommendations for a pre and post test. Motion carried 4-0.

Paras opening in Palco and one SPED teacher. Request for board to send interested individuals to Mr. Prewo.

Salina Build My Future event attended by 6 boys of grades 9-12 with positive feedback. This included a hands-on exploratory experience.

Kansas Supreme Court @ Logan was attended by the entire HS. Event experience was well received. Palco was one of 10 schools that attended the event.

School schedule continues in planning mode. Chemistry and Physics are offered through SKI-CAN. Set class periods for ITV Comp 1 conflicts for seniors that may need those science classes. Fort Hays Tech North Central offers an additional online option that would fit in the schedule. Due to schedules the district would need to move school start time to 8AM and end to 4PM. The buildings would be open approximately by 7:30AM. Looking to move more core classes to the morning and move lunch back. Lunch would be followed by Activity Period.

Mr. Prewo requested to be out of district May 14. The BOE concurred.

May 15 is the last day of school and WKLL League Track @ Logan. We will need to provide a team to measure JH girls javelin without pulling teachers on the final day of school. The principal requested opening the option to students that are completed. The Board was supportive of HS students being available to assist. Graduation is scheduled for May 17 @ 10:30am with student rehearsal Friday May 16th at 10:30.

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Logan sports cooperative was discussed concerning the agreement and its details. The superintendent report from Dr. Brian Pekarek included Representatives of the Stockton Board of education and AD/Clerk sharing an interest in cooperative agreements for athletics in the future if there is interest to pursue. Transportation Plans for 2025-2026- Jennifer Guffey clarified options for the approved one route and parent mileage. See Attached.

Brandon Kuhn arrived at 8:30 P.M.

The Ag Review looked at potential class schedule for FY26- see attached - Ag Curriculum and instruction - see attached (preK-12). Discussion on curriculum professionalism and standards from educators present at the meeting. Champs HSA discussion concerning use of USD269 for promotional material to other schools. Board not in favor.

Board Reports as follows:

Advocacy in

Action – Rebecca Hageman(absent) - Alt. Ali Keller - Tom Benoit presented news glimpse of potential finding of funds on a national level that had not been dispersed.

Agriculture Board of Trustees: Kyle Benoit and Brandon Kuhn - Reported from last meeting to start on rooms (plaster and repair). Additional sponsors interested and possible grants to attain (Nutren and Heartland).

Technology Representative – Tom Benoit & Marissa Jones - Denton provided emailed quotes for laptops, touch panels, and CPUs. Technology meeting scheduled for Tuesday May 13th at Palco.

PDZ Representative – Brandon Kuhn - Snacks were provided for teacher appreciation week. Swim bus available to out of district riders. A waiver for liability recommended by the BOE.

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

Negotiations – Marissa Jones and Kyle Benoit - First meeting went well.

SHESC – Tom Benoit - Alt. Kyle Benoit - challenges in staffing

Board returned to #7 of the working agenda concerning movement of the general fund. Marissa Jones moved to approve the transition of the general fund from Astra Bank following all disbursements to Mid America Bank with first state aid deposit of July 1, 2025. Place beginning Contingency fund monies of \$11,416.71 in a money market high interest bearing account with Mid America Bank. Kyle Benoit seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

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Executive Session - Non-Elected Personnel Tom Benoit moved to enter executive session at 9:43 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 10:15 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members Marissa Jones second. Motion carried 5-0.

Executive Session - Non-Elected Personnel Tom Benoit moved to enter executive session at 10:15 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 10:45 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members Marissa Jones seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Paul Prewo entered executive session at 10:36P.M.

Executive Session - Non-Elected Personnel Tom Benoit moved to enter executive session at 10:45 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 11:15 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members and principal. Marissa Jones seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Paul Prewo exited executive session at 10:53P.M.

Cindy Blattner entered executive session at 10:53 P.M.

Cindy Blattner exited executive session at 11:15P.M.

Executive Session - Non-Elected Personnel Tom Benoit moved to enter executive session at 11:20 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 11:50 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members. Marissa Jones seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Dr. Brian Pekarek entered executive session at 11:38P.M.

Executive Session - Non-Elected Personnel Tom moved to enter executive session at 11:50 for 5 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 11:55 P.M. Included in the executive session are all present Board members and Superintendent. Marissa Jones seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

The approval of contracts and resignations included the following:

Danel Wolcott resigned from 3-4 grade combo classroom and JH Scholars Bowl. Kyle Benoit moved to approve the resignation as presented. Marissa Jones seconded. No discussion. Motion carried 5-0.

Rachel Priest resigned from JH Science/stem. Brandon Kuhn moved to approve resignation as presented. Marissa Jones seconded. Discussion of the Board to request refund of expenditure by the district to pay for Praxis test and study materials related to advancement of position accepted for FY26 prior to resignation in the amount of \$329.60. Brandon Kuhn amended the motion to approve resignation and request reimbursement of funds related to testing and materials as stated in discussion. Marissa Jones seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

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Justine Benoit resigned from the cheer coach position. Tom Benoit moved to approve resignation as presented. Marissa Jones seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Board Comments included hosting a farewell party in the Palco City Park on May 21st at 7PM with Root Beer floats in honor of service to the district for Toni Bristow, Richard Robinson, Elaine Peterson, Marsha Armbrister, Paul Prew, and Cindy Blattner.

Marissa Jones moved to pay out all remaining leave to Paul Prew and Cindy Blattner at \$100 per day. Brandon Kuhn seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Request by Kyle Benoit to mow track practice field.

Conversation comparing Logan to Stockton athletics.

Meeting adjourned at 12:12 A.M.

USD 269 Board Clerk