

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
Monday, Aug. 24, 2026, 5:30 p.m.
DHS Tiger Den
Delano Public Schools
Independent School District #879, Delano, Minnesota

1. Call to order at 7 p.m.

A. Record of members present or absent.

Members present: R. Depa, J. Gierke, S. Roeser, C. Black and S. Baker. Moyryla and Schaust arrived late.

2. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Upon motion by S. Baker and seconded by J. Gierke, the Board of Education approved the meeting agenda. Motion passed 7-0.

3. Work Session

Teacher Development and Evaluation Plan. Katie Thompson and Sarah B. presented the proposed changes to the Teacher Development and Evaluation Plan to the School Board. The revised plan aligns the evaluation rubrics and practices with state requirements for the Standards of Effective Practice. The final plan is expected to be presented for a vote at the September School Board meeting.

Community Education Building. M. Schoen updated the Board on the Community Education building and requested direction regarding next steps. Schoen will seek assistance from a land broker. The Board requested a financial report related to Community Education and expressed interest in surveying the community to gather input. Ehlers is scheduled to attend the September meeting to discuss the financial information.

Policy 623 – Mandatory Summer School Instruction. R. Schultz discussed rescinding Policy 623, Mandatory Summer School Instruction. Cost to the district due to inconsistent attendance. Many families are opting for 1:1 tutors and due to inconsistent attendance most students are not maintaining or making consistent growth.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Public Comment

None

6. Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Depa, seconded by Baker, the Board of Education approved the Consent Agenda. Motion passed 7-0.

A. School Board Minutes

1. August 24, 2026, School Board Meeting minutes.

B. Financial Affairs

1. Current Budget Status with Year-to-Date Adjustments
2. Investment Transactions
3. CARES Act Budgets
4. Wire Transfers
5. Minnesota Liquid Asset Fund
6. Cash Report
7. Revenue Report by Fund
8. Expense Report by Fund
9. Expense Report by Program
10. Expense Report by Object
11. List of Bills Presented for Payment

7. Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts

Upon motion by Moyryla and seconded by Schaust, the Board of Education approved the Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts. Motion passed 7-0.

8. Personnel Matters

Upon motion by Gierke and seconded by Moyryla, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Matters. Motion passed 7-0.

9. Administrative Reports

Superintendent M. Schoen updated the board on the Minnesota Permanent School Fund. The board watched a video clip explaining the fund. There will be a constitutional question on ballots across the state.

A. Principals

Katie Thompson reported on behalf of the intermediate school. The Site-Based Leadership Team (SBLT) met on August 13 for its Strategic Planning Day, where members refined action cards aligned to the school's Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP). Action cards focused on curriculum work, intervention systems, Tier 1 PBIS fidelity, and next steps related to SAEBRS data. The action cards will be shared with staff during Workshop Week to help guide implementation throughout the school year. Staff participated in math training and team meetings on Monday. Tuesday's agenda included a staff meeting to review the Continuous Improvement Plan and action cards. Additional team meetings and the school's Open House were scheduled for Wednesday, while Thursday's activities included the District Welcome Back event and a reunification drill. Enrollment updates indicated that Delano Intermediate School had 586 students enrolled as of the previous Monday, compared to 575 students at the same time last year, representing an increase of 11 students. The school welcomed 31 new students this year, compared to 28 new students last year, while eight students have withdrawn, compared to nine withdrawals during the same period last year. Current enrollment by grade level includes 193 fourth-grade students in seven sections, 208 fifth-grade students in eight sections, and 185 sixth-grade students in seven sections. Staffing updates included ongoing efforts to recruit a Math Corps Tutor and fill an open paraprofessional position. Thompson also highlighted several recent events and recognitions. The school successfully hosted its third annual STEP program, led by Jess Benker and Ovation facilitators, providing a welcoming transition experience for incoming fourth-grade students. This year's event was expanded to include a fourth-grade parent meeting. Appreciation was extended to the Delano Education Foundation for its support of the program. The representative noted that the building is prepared for the start of the school year and shared that the newly expanded special education area is already fully utilized. Special recognition was given to the custodial, information technology, and office staff for their work throughout the summer to ensure the building and systems were ready for students and staff. Looking ahead, the school is excited to implement its fourth-grade Meet the Teacher Days for the second year, following the positive response and benefits observed from the initiative last year.

Rachel Schultz reported on behalf of the elementary school. The principal reported that the July Summer School program served 64 general education students and 24 ESY students. Recognition was given to Lora Voight for her leadership as Summer School Supervisor and to Nick Moore for his work as administrative intern. Appreciation was also extended to the custodial team for preparing the building for staff and continuing preparations for the start of the school year. Staff gathered for Site-Based Planning Day on August 13 to celebrate successes, review the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP), and refine action cards that will guide priority work throughout the year. The annual Popsicles with the Principals event on August 18 was well attended, providing an opportunity to connect with students and families before the start of school. Gratitude was extended to the Delano Education Foundation for sponsoring the event and to Mel Weise for coordinating the treats. During Workshop Week, staff participated in Reveal Math professional development, EduClimber training, and updates related to the Desired Daily Experience (DDE). The school also welcomed new speech-language pathologist Emily Bartels to the team. Enrollment for the 2025-26 school year currently stands at 666 students, compared to 687 students at this time last year. Average class sizes range from 21 to 24 students, with seven sections each in kindergarten, first grade,

and second grade, and eight sections in third grade. DES will host Orientation Days for students and families next week and is preparing for its first PIE event of the year, an Outdoor Movie Night designed to bring families together and build school community.

Kate Egerman reported on behalf of the high school. update on the leadership transition, noting the warm welcome received from staff, students, and the community. Time has been spent meeting with staff, students, and families, and there has been great appreciation for the positive culture already in place at DHS and the pride people have in its students and staff. Staff were welcomed back that morning, and excitement was shared for the work ahead this school year. The fall sports PAC meeting was well attended, and the first SBLT meeting resulted in a strong roadmap for the start of the year. An Open House is scheduled for Wednesday from 4 to 7 p.m. Professional Development Update. Staff received information on how EduClimber will support the district's Data-Driven Decision Making (DDDM) action card goals. Additional professional development included mental health training and special education de-escalation training to strengthen student support systems and staff collaboration. An update was shared on Advanced Placement results, with 235 students participating in AP exams and 91% earning a score of 3 or higher. Recognition was also given to the dedicated and impressive DHS staff for their continued work in supporting student success.

B. Business Manager

Business Manager **S. LeSage** briefed the school board on business and finances.

C. Community Ed

Community Education Director Abbey Lang briefed the board on CE. Fall registration opened last Tuesday. Tiger Swim filled within eight minutes and currently has 117 students on the waitlist. Tiger Baking Club has four full sections with 15 students each and 40 students on waitlists. There's a Deck for That has 15 students so far. The 7th/8th grade volleyball coach position is filled, and CE is still looking for an assistant tennis coach. Football currently has 272 students in grades 1–8. Preschool has 121 students enrolled, with 54 in the 3/4 program and 67 in the 4/5 program, creating a balanced enrollment. Preschool teachers met to discuss the coming year and review last year's summative data. They use Teaching Strategies GOLD to assess social-emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and math development. In the fall, 41% of 4s/5s students scored below expectations in social-emotional objectives, including managing feelings, following limits and expectations, solving social problems, and making friends. By spring, that number had dropped to just under 8%. Students exceeding expectations increased from 0.22% in the fall to 13% in the spring.

10. Board Reports

A. MAWSECO

Board member S. Baker reported on behalf of MAWSECO. Slow time for MAWSECO. Approved contracts and reviewed early childhood referrals.

B. Wright Tech Center.

Schaust reported on behalf of WTC. The board discussed the budget, the construction program and the search for a new superintendent.

11. Old Business.

A. None

12. New Business

- A.** Approve the Branding Style Guide and logos for Delano Public Schools. Upon a motion by C. Black, seconded by R. Schaust the Board of Education approved Approve the Branding Style Guide and logos for Delano Public Schools. Motion passed 7-0.

13. Public Comment

No public Comments

14. Adjournment

Upon motion made by J. Moyryla seconded by C. Black the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

CLERK

Bobbie Dahlke
RECORDER