SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
Monday, Oct. 26, 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, S. Baker, Moyryla and Schaust.

2. **Approval of the Meeting Agenda**
   Upon motion by Depa and seconded by J. Gierke, the Board of Education approved the meeting agenda. Motion passed 7-0.

3. **Work Session**
   The board debriefed the Sept School Board Public Comments regarding pay increase for paras and custodians. Ehlers provided additional financial information regarding the Community Education rebuild, land options and a MDE review and comment timeframe. K Thompson from DIS provided an indepth report on the school improvement plan for the intermediate school. The board discussed the information they would like to hear from principals during the indepth portion of the work session. The board appreciates the in depth reports. M Gibas and M Menz discussed the Q-Comp Program Goals. The board will act on the goals at the Nov. school board meeting. Schoen reintroduced the board to the yearly MSHL Resolution.

4. **Pledge of Allegiance**

5. **Public Comment**
   J. Geiger spoke on behalf of the paraprofessional contract. Geiger supported the staff negotiations.

6. **Consent Agenda**
   Upon motion by Gierke, seconded by Baker, the Board of Education approved the Consent Agenda. Motion passed 7-0.
   A. School Board Minutes
      1. Sept. 28, 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 Black 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 Baker 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 community education building project, land and the MDE Review and Comment period.

A. Principals

Katie Thompson reported on behalf of the intermediate school. Thompson shared that the team reviewed FAST data and planned next steps during the two-hour early release.

Under MTSS, the district is currently completing Capti screening. This is the second year of the required dyslexia screening, with approximately 40 students per grade qualifying for the assessment. Katie recognized Cindi Patten, Lisa McDonald, Tammy Wemager, and Caitlin Pekuri for helping organize and administer the screenings. The assessment provides detailed data and valuable recommendations for interventions. Additional teacher training will be needed to ensure staff can make the most of the assessment results.

For the October professional development update, staff participated in their first live STRIVE training, which is part of the required READ Act training for secondary teachers. Approximately half of the staff is participating. While the training was somewhat overwhelming, Lindsey will provide feedback to the facilitator. The overall focus is disciplinary literacy, and the content has been valuable. Staff are also completing the required Student Learning Goals and Analysis to Action work, which helps guide classroom-level interventions based on FAST data.

Upcoming events include Halloween activities on October 30 and the second annual PIE Fall Fun Fest, also scheduled for October 30. The Veterans Day Assembly will be November 11.

Rachel Schultz reported on behalf of the elementary school. Site-Based update, sharing that the team reviewed the CIP plan she presented to the School Board. Teams also shared a success and a challenge they are currently addressing. A common theme was that implementing the new math curriculum has been challenging, but it is also providing a fresh perspective on math and encouraging students to think more critically.

Study Buddies, the school-year Targeted Services program, begins today with 26 students registered, which is four fewer than the previous average. The team is looking to recruit additional students and expand participation to increase enrollment.

The Boosterthon fundraiser, which had a goal of raising $70,000 to update the art room with larger drying racks, mobile tables, and other equipment to support student creativity. As of today, the fundraiser has raised $50,000, with one week remaining. If the goal is met, Ms. Schultz and Mr. Ludwig agreed to be pied in the face! Schultz thanked PIE and the community for their continued support and generosity.

Upcoming events include Fall Parties and the Boosterthon Fun Run on October 30, which will also wrap up the fundraiser.

Rachel also recognized and thanked the Math Curriculum Facilitators for their leadership throughout the implementation process. Their work includes learning a new platform and resources, supporting QComp goals, and troubleshooting daily to provide ongoing support to their teams.

Kate Egerman reported on behalf of the high school. Egerman provided a Site-Based update, highlighting two student groups: Tiger Tracks and Best Buddies. Best Buddies will host a Halloween celebration on October 29 during WIN. Tiger Tracks hosted a breakfast in early September for mentors and mentees and has held three WIN meetings, allowing seventh-grade mentees to connect with their 11th- and 12th-grade mentors. The group has covered several school-related topics while building relationships and connections.

The SBLT Retake Subcommittee is being formed to review the DHS retake policy and refine current procedures. The team has gathered teacher feedback regarding what is working, what teachers would like to see, and current practices. This information will guide the committee's

work. Kate will also gather parent and student perspectives. The goal is to develop a new policy for the 2027-2028 school year.

The first FAST assessment window has been completed. Results indicate that 85% of students are in the low-risk college pathway for math and 86% for reading. Cohort data showed a slight dip among ninth- and 10th-grade students, while seventh grade demonstrated the most growth and eighth grade remained consistent. The winter assessment window will begin in early January. Conversations are also beginning regarding master scheduling and course offerings.

For the October professional development update, staff participated in a data dig for those not continuing their work in STRIVE and LETRS. Staff reviewed FAST scores, attendance, behavior, and mid-trimester grade data and responded to questions about trends and themes to help identify patterns. Several staff members are also taking advantage of meaningful, statewide professional development opportunities in their respective fields.

Boys' and girls' soccer had phenomenal seasons. Swim section finals are scheduled for November 12 and 14, volleyball sections will be hosted on Wednesday with additional games to follow, cross-country sections are Thursday, and football sections will be held at home on Saturday. State tennis begins tomorrow, with the team and individual competitors Maddie Ring and Mara Halonen representing the school. The fall play, *The Diary of Anne Frank*, will premiere in mid-November. Dance team begins today, with girls' hockey, girls' basketball, wrestling, boys' hockey, and boys' basketball starting soon. The Veterans Day assembly is scheduled for November 11.

B. **Finance and Operations**
Finance and Operations Director **S. LeSage** briefed the school board on the upcoming audit and business and finances.

C. **Community Ed**
Community Education Director Abbey Lang briefed the board on CE. Abbey Lang reported that she is working hard on the Winter/Spring Brochure, which is a first for the Marketing Specialist, and the team is currently gathering pictures and finalizing content. She is excited about several upcoming swimming opportunities, including mini-camps in addition to traditional lessons. The brochure will also include 2027-2028 DPSP registration information and Summer and school-year registration for TKC. Planning is underway for Santa's Workshop and the Holiday Boutique, scheduled for Saturday, December 5. Vendor availability is limited, with 38 of 45 spots currently filled. Abbey shared that Fall conferences took place a couple of weeks ago, and the department tried a new format that offered screenings at the same time. The first six weeks of preschool focus heavily on getting to know students, establishing routines, and developing baseline assessments. Fine motor skills continue to be an area of need across the board, particularly with pencil grasp, scissor use, and zipping coats. The preschool group will visit the Senior Center Friday morning for a fun Halloween event and craft. Abbey welcomed two new team members, Taylor Ryan, Rec and TAC Specialist, and Teresa Renstrom, Facilities Scheduler. She also thanked the user groups for their patience and flexibility during the transition and expressed excitement about the services and support the team will provide.

10. Board Reports

A. MAWSECO
Board member S. Baker reported on behalf of MAWSECO.

B. Wright Tech Center.
Schaust reported on behalf of WTC.

C. Safe Schools. R Depa reported on behalf of Safe Schools. Safe Schools met in Oct. It was the first meeting of the year. Introductions were made. The county updated the members on some new ways students are "copying" staff badges and using them for access into buildings at other districts.

11. Old Business.

A. Approve the second read to dissolve Police 623: Mandated Summer School. Upon a motion made by Depa seconded by Baker, the Board of Education approved the second read to dissolve Police 623: Mandated Summer School. Motion passed 7-0.

12. New Business

A. Approve extended field trips for the wrestling, dance, boys hockey, girls softball, basketball teams and the Robotics Club. Upon a motion by Gierke, seconded by Black, the Board of Education approved extended field trips for the wrestling, dance, boys hockey, girls softball, basketball teams and the Robotics Club. Motion passed 7-0.

B. Approve a Resolution from the MSHL to provide First Aid /CPR training for District Coaches. Upon a motion by Depa, seconded by Schaust, the Board Of Education passed a Resolution from the MSHL to provide First Aid /CPR training for District Coaches. Roll Call 7-0.

C. Approve a Resolution from the MSHL Foundation regarding a grant to offset student activity fees. Upon a motion by Gierke, seconded by Black, the Board of Education passed a Resolution from the MSHL a Resolution from the MSHL Foundation regarding a grant to offset student activity fees. Roll Call 7-0.

D. Set Date, Time, and Location of the Truth-in-Taxation Hearing. Date: Monday, December 14, 2026. Time: 7 p.m. Location: Delano High School Tiger Den. Upon a motion by Baker, seconded by Depa, the Board of Education set the Date, Time, and Location of the Truth-in-Taxation Hearing: Monday, December 14, 2026. Time: 7 p.m. Location: Delano High School Tiger Den. Motion passed 7-0.

E. Set a Date, Time and Location for a Special School Board Meeting to Canvass the Election Results. Monday, November 9, at 4:45 p.m. in the District Training Room. Upon a motion by Schaust, seconded by Moyryla, the Board of Education set a Date, Time and Location for a Special School Board Meeting to Canvass the Election Results. Monday, November 9, at 4:45 p.m. in the District Training Room. Motion passed 7-0.

14. Adjournment

Upon motion made by J. Moyryla seconded by C. Black the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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Bobbie Dahlke
RECORDER