SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
Monday, Sept. 28, 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, C. Black, S. Baker, Moyryla and Schaust. Absent were C. Black and J Gierke.

2. **Approval of the Meeting Agenda**
   Upon motion by Depa and seconded by J. Moyryla, the Board of Education approved the meeting agenda. Motion passed 5-0.

3. **Work Session**
   Extended Field Trips: The School Board discussed the extended field trip requests, including wrestling, boys hockey for December and January 2027, dance, girls softball for March and May 2027, boys tennis, and boys basketball. Robotics: Lang presented information regarding the Robotics program and its planned participation in the Great Northern, Granite City, and WORLDS competitions. Chatterton presented information regarding the proposed dissolution of the current boys' and girls' Alpine Ski Cooperative agreements, as well as the development of new agreements for both programs. Chatterton also discussed the dissolution of the current boys' and girls' Nordic Skiing agreements and the development of new agreements for both programs. Board action is anticipated this month. Chatterton presented the non-continuation participation agreement with St. Max for discussion. CE Building Project: The School Board discussed updates regarding the CE Building Project. Topics included information from Ehlers, the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) Review and Comment process, and the land option and CE building diagram. DES In-Depth Report: Rachel S. presented an in-depth report regarding DES. The improvement plan PowerPoint is included in the board minutes. The School Board discussed future in-depth reports and potential topics for upcoming meetings. This item was for discussion only. LeSage presented information regarding snow removal services for the upcoming season. Board action is anticipated this month. Bobbie D. discussed scheduling a special School Board meeting for the purpose of canvassing the November election results. Board action is required to establish the meeting date.

4. **Pledge of Allegiance**

5. **Public Comment**
   Melissa Udstrand, Heidi Voss and Terry Cook spoke on behalf of the paraprofessionals and the custodian's contract negotiations.

6. **Consent Agenda**
   Upon motion by Depa, seconded by Baker, the Board of Education approved the Consent Agenda. Motion passed 5-0.
   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 Black and seconded by Schaust, the Board of Education approved the Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts. Roll call passed 5-0.

8. Personnel Matters

Upon motion by Baker and seconded by Depa, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Matters. The board recognized J. Aksoy's upcoming retirement and L Pricket receiving her Masters Degree. Motion passed 5-0.

9. Administrative Reports

Superintendent M. Schoen updated the board on his transition list and plan and that his goal is to get the custodian and paraprofessional contracts settled before the end of the year.

A. Principals

Katie Thompson reported on behalf of the intermediate school. The School-Based Leadership Team (SBLT) reviewed FAST data and discussed planning next steps during the two-hour early release. Under Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS), staff are currently completing Capti screening, which is the second year of the required dyslexia screening. Approximately 40 students at each grade level qualify for the assessment. Cindi Patten helped organize and administer the screenings, along with Lisa McDonald, Tammy Wemager and Caitlin Pekuri. The assessment provides detailed data and valuable intervention recommendations. Additional teacher training will be needed to maximize the benefits of the assessment. Professional development during the October early release included the first live STRIVE training, a required READ Act training for secondary teachers, with approximately half of the staff participating. The training focused on disciplinary literacy and provided valuable content, although the initial session was somewhat overwhelming. Lindsey will share feedback with the facilitator to help guide future sessions. Staff are also completing the required Student Learning Goals and Analysis to Action work, which supports classroom-level intervention planning based on FAST data. Upcoming events include Halloween activities on Oct. 30, the second annual PIE Fall Fun Fest, also scheduled for Oct. 30, and the Veterans Day Assembly on Nov. 11. Staff are also preparing for the end of the trimester in late November.

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Rachel Schultz reported on behalf of the elementary school. **Orientation Days/First Weeks of School:** The school year began with nearly 100% attendance. Teachers did an excellent job welcoming students and families. The Delano Education Foundation (DEF) distributed Welcome Bags, and approximately 30 dads signed up for the WATCH D.O.G.S. program. The Outdoor Movie Night was also a success, with appreciation extended to Jackson, Kim Knisley and Lori Prickett for their efforts. The Mentorship Program is entering its fifth year, with Lona Jose continuing to provide valuable support and partnership. **SBLT/Professional Development:** The School-Based Leadership Team (SBLT) focused on building logistics, including orientation, conferences, dismissal procedures, WIN time and debriefing to identify necessary adjustments. The Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Tier 1 implementation inventory was completed during secondary QComp meetings. Early release professional development included SAEBRS screening, math curriculum planning and dedicated planning time. Specialists, special education staff and interventionists also developed alternate plans to make the most of the early release time. **Fall 2026 FAST Data:** Fall 2026 FAST assessment data was reviewed. Data was shared with the School Board for review. **Upcoming Events:** Upcoming events include Family PE Week and Family PE Night, parent-teacher conferences and Homecoming Week. **Shout-Outs:** Appreciation was extended to the TDE Committee, led by Sarah Bersie and Katie Thompson, for its work. Meredith Huikko was recognized for her partnership in the QComp and observation process. Lindsey Westphal and the Tiger Time Team, including Mary Knight, Julie Semeizer and Deb Chapa, were also recognized for their work assessing students, supporting screening communications, creating student groups and coordinating the related communication efforts.

Kate Egerman reported on behalf of the high school. **Enrollment:** Current enrollment for grades 7–12 is 1,133 full-time students and 18 part-time students. Grade-level enrollment includes 197 seventh graders, 204 eighth graders, 177 ninth graders, 196 10th graders, 194 11th graders and 165 12th graders. **School Year Update:** The school year is off to a great start, with students actively engaged and participating in their classes. WIN sessions and advisory periods are underway, and the building is off and running. Class meetings have also begun, providing an opportunity to thank students for how they carry themselves throughout the building and the positive way they show up each day. Fall sports and activities are off to a fantastic start. The fall FAST assessment window is wrapping up, and staff will review the results through EduClimber during the fall early release professional development day, along with other student data points. **U.S. News Best High School Recognition:** Delano High School was recognized as a 2026–27 U.S. News Best High School, ranking in the top 40% of nearly 18,000 public high schools nationwide. The recognition is based on several factors, including graduation rates, state assessment results and Advanced Placement (AP) performance. This accomplishment reflects the work of students, staff and the school community. The ranking also helps keep Delano competitive with surrounding schools, and there is optimism that future data will continue to improve the school's standing. **Homecoming:** Homecoming Week is scheduled for the following week, with a full lineup of activities, spirit days and friendly competitions. The week will culminate with a pep fest Friday afternoon, followed by the homecoming football game and dance.

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 Exciting first month of school - working on transitions, routines, and getting to know each other. The PreK teachers and assistants are digging into TS Gold from a foundation-up approach. Working to determine our curriculum needs as they relate to professional development, assessment data, and cohort lesson planning. ECFE classes started two weeks ago and our new class - Music and Messy art was so popular we created another section and currently have 30 families between the two. We are pleased to report we have been granted $2,000 from the Delano Loretto Area United Way to be applied towards the ECFE class Coffee Connection - FREE discussion time for parents, guardians, and caregivers. (Free childcare) - 19 current families with 11 children in sib care. First two screening days on September 1st and 2nd: 31 students screened; 11 student referrals in 17 areas. Goal of having all current DPSP students screened by winter break (currently 75%). Music Man - just over 800 tickets across 3 shows. Fabulous Armidillos - FULL house. Homecoming week - prek style. Fire Safety Week is coming up. Field Trip to the Senior Center on 10/30. Sesquicentennial this weekend: Model Train Expo. Little Spikers volleyball 50. Junior Spikers volleyball 50. Tiger Bake Club: 18 attended with 19 on the waitlist. Book Club at Vintage Storyteller 20!

10. Board Reports

A. MAWSECO
Board member S. Baker reported on behalf of MAWSECO. Village Ranch is taking kids at a younger age. SpEd cases are on the rise.

B. Wright Tech Center.
Schaust reported on behalf of WTC. House for sale and phone issues.

11. Old Business.

A. None

12. New Business

A. Approve moving the November School Board meeting from November 23 to November 16 to accommodate the search for the superintendent schedule. Upon a motion by Moyryla,

seconded by Schaust, the Board of Education approved moving the November School Board meeting from November 23 to November 16 to accommodate the search for the superintendent schedule. Motion passed 5-0.

B. Approve the first read to rescind Policy 623, Mandatory Summer School Instruction. Upon a motion by Moyrya, seconded by Baker, the Board of Education approved the first read to rescind Policy 623, Mandatory Summer School Instruction. Motion passed 5-0.

C. Approve the Teacher Development Plan. Upon a motion by Baker, seconded by Moyryla the Board of Education approved the Teacher Development Plan. Motion passed 5-0.

D. Approve the 2026 Pay 2027 Property Tax Levy. Upon a motion by Depa, seconded by Baker the Board of Education approved the 2026 Pay 2027 Property Tax Levy. Motion passed 5-0.

E. Approve Snow Plowing Vendor for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 Plowing Season. Upon a motion by Schaust, seconded by Moyrya, the Board of Education approved the snow plowing Vendor for the 2026 2027 and 2027 2028 Plowing Season Motion passed 5-0.

F. Approve dissolving hte existing boys and girls Alpine Ski Cooperative. Upon a motion by Schaust, seconded by Depa the Board of Education approved dissolving the existing boys and girls Alpine Ski Cooperative. Motion passed 5-0.

G. Approve the application for the girls and boys Alpine Skiing Cooperative to include Hutchinson School District. Upon a motion by Baker, seconded by Moyryla, the Board of Education approved the application for the girls and boys Alpine Skiing Cooperative to include Hutchinson School District.

H. Approve dissolving the existing girls and boys Nordic Skiing cooperative. Upon a motion by Baker, seconded by Moyryla, the Board of Education approved dissolving the existing girls and boys Nordic Skiing cooperative. Motion passed 5-0.

I. Approve the application for a girls and boys Nordic Skiing cooperative with Orono and Rockford School Districts. Upon a motion by Depa, seconded by Schaust the Board of Education approved the application for a girls and boys Nordic Skiing cooperative with Orono and Rockford School Districts. Motion passed 5-0.

J. Approve the Non-continuation Participation Agreement with St. Maximilian Kolbe Academy. Upon a motion by Schaust, seconded by Moyryla, the Board of Education approved the Non-continuation Participation Agreement with St. Maximilian Kolbe Academy. Motion passed 5-0.

14. Adjournment

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

_____ Bobbie Dahlke

CLERK RECORDER