

SCHOOL BOARD MINUTES
Monday, Dec. 15, 2025, 5:30 p.m.
Tiger Den, Delano High School
Delano Public Schools
Independent School District #879, Delano, Minnesota

1. Call to order at 7:05 p.m.

A. Record of members present or absent.

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

2. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Upon motion by Schaust, seconded by Baker, the Board of Education approved the meeting agenda. Motion passed 6-0.

3. Work Session

Director of Community Education, Abbey Lang gave an in-depth report on Community Education. Lang briefed the board on the status of her action cards and what the CE team is working on. The goals for CE are Staff Recognition - fostering a culture of belonging (Change Management); Preschool Screening - improving student outcomes (Change Readiness); Formal Review Process - supporting staff in professional growth (Change Readiness); TAC Operations - systems to support consistent operations (Change Readiness). Lang also discussed the facilities at the Tiger Activities Center. Fees are static and reactive to budget pressures. Equipment replacement lacks a long-term plan, and fee increases are arbitrary. The board agreed to increase TAC fees for families and adults but not for students. The board reviewed the committee assignments for next year. Since one board member was not present, the committee assignments were not finalized. A draft of the assignments is attached to the minutes at the school district office. The intermediate school is reviewing its conference process to make it more meaningful for teachers and parents. Conferences at DES and DHS are in person; conferences at DIS are virtual. The School CE task force met with the City facility team to discuss a CE/Community purpose building. The city needs more time to review. Motion to recess the meeting was made by Black, seconded by Gierke. Motion passed 6-0 at 7:02 p.m.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Public Comment

No public comment.

6. Program Review

Business Manager Mary Reeder, reviewed the Truth and Taxation Hearing. There were no public comments. The report is included in the minutes at the district office.

7. Consent Agenda

Upon motion by Depa, seconded by Black, the Board of Education approved the Consent Agenda. Motion passed 6-0.

A. School Board Minutes

1. Nov. 24, 2025 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

8. Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts

Upon motion by R. Schaust, seconded by S. Baker, the Board of Education approved the Resolution for Acceptance of Gifts. Roll call passed 6-0.

9. Personnel Matters

Upon motion by R. Depa, seconded by R. Schaust, the Board of Education approved the Personnel Matters. Motion passed 6-0.

10. Administrative Reports

A. Superintendent

Superintendent M Schoen briefed the board on a recent city/school meeting regarding a CE/City partnership. The city needs more time to discuss the possibility. Schoen also informed the board about the hiring/interview schedule for the HS Principal and Finance Director position.

B. Principals

Principal **K. Thompson** reported on behalf of the intermediate school. SBLT: Discussing what is the primary goal for using the 16 hours allotted to staff for conferences? Is it still solely parent/teacher connections regarding student performance? Is it parent engagement in general? Depending on this, we can answer:

- What format works best to accomplish this goal?
- Do we need all 14 hours to accomplish this goal?
- Are there other events we can incorporate to accomplish this goal?
- What do other schools in the district do and what do other schools in the area do for “conference” hours and are they successful?
- Next steps involve continued team discussions and parent input

PD: Early Release this week will be LETRS, Curriculum work, Vertical teaming. MTSS: preparing to open our Trimester 2 window of FAST testing in reading and math starting after the break. Events: Some small, fun activities heading into the break: Dress up days, door decorating, hot cocoa from Student Council Friday morning.

Principal **Barry Voight** reported on behalf of the high school. Voight Kaia Georges and Luke Gilliland for being this year’s recipients of the AAA award. SBLT: Monitoring our action cards - Tiger Tracks - will begin a focus/pilot group of mentors/mentees at the end of January. Registration preparations have just about wrapped up, intend to finalize the registration guide before/during the break and we will begin planning to produce presentation and videos, as always, we want registration to be intentional, as a result, we are giving students more time between initial receipt of the information and registration, will also be producing informational videos that can be shared with parents so they can receive the same info.

Principal **Rachel Schultz** reported on behalf of the elementary school. SBLT:

- New paras starting
- SAEBRS - Fall Data
- January Sitebase - master schedule review, MDE composite screening, math curriculum implementation, summer school/ESY planning begins

Holiday Fun: DES Sing-a-long and our Winter Parties will be on Friday. PIE group has brought in cookies for the staff to make a plate and bring home to families.

C. Business

Business Manager, **M. Reeder** briefed the school board on the School Board Financial Board Report. The district continues to spend 65% of its annual expense budget in the classroom. After the budget revision was done in November 2025, the Unassigned Fund Balance is predicted to decrease by \$398,000, which would put the Unassigned Fund Balance at 15.8% at year end. Now that the audit is complete, we will begin working on the budget for the 2026-2027 school year. The preliminary FY27 budget will be shared with the full board at

the May 2026 work session. The final FY27 budget will be approved at the June 2026 board meeting

D. Community Ed

Community Education Director, **A. Lang** presented Community Ed updates. This year's Santa's Workshop and Holiday Boutique were both hugely successful. Santa's Workshop was initially an hour long and is now up to three hours. Staff counted more than 500 people in attendance throughout the morning. The Boutique was sold out with even a few vendors in the hallways. Kudos to staff for all their hard work in making this event special for families. Winter/Spring Registration will open tomorrow at 6 a.m! Santa is coming to CEC this week! He will be visiting preschool students and making sure they are all staying on his "Nice" list. 26-27 Preschool registration and summer TKC registration will open in early February. TKC will be housed at the CE center again this summer. TKC will be open Monday and Tuesday both weeks during the winter break and CE has in-house projects in the works.

11. Student School Board Reports

Student School Board Representatives met with the principals at all three schools. Working on ways to get NHS students to assist at DES and DHS. NHS is helping with decorating and school celebrations. Reps are partnering with the student council at DIS to help students transition to the high school.

12. Board Reports

A. Wright Tech Center

R. Schaust reported on behalf of the Wright Tech Board. WTC had a regular scheduled meeting in Dec.

B. MAWSECO

S. Baker reported on behalf of the MAWSECO board.

C. Safe Schools Committee. R Depa reported on behalf of the Safe School Committee. The committee met and discussed round robin issues.

13. Old Business

A. None

14. New Business

A. Approve and Certify the Final 2025 Pay 2026 Levy Limitation and Certification Report.

Upon a motion by Depa seconded by Baker, the Board of Education approved and certified the Final 2025 Pay 2026 Levy Limitation and Certification Report. Motion passed 6-0.

B. Approve Jan. 5, 2026, as the date for the School Board Organizational Meeting. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. in the district training room. Upon a motion by Schaust, seconded by Gierke, the Board of Education approved Jan. 5, 2026, as the date for the School Board Organizational Meeting. The meeting will begin at 5 p.m. in the district training room. Motion passed 6-0.

C. Approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar. Upon a motion by Schaust, seconded by Black, the Board of Education approved the Surplus Property to be Sold, Recycled or Junked. Motion passed 6-0.

D. Approve the Language Access Plan for the 2026/27 school year. Upon a motion by Depa, seconded by Baker, the Board of Education approved the Language Access Plan for the 2026/27 school year. Motion passed 6-0.

14. Adjournment

Upon motion made by Gierke, seconded by C. Black, with a 6-0 vote, the meeting adjourned at 7.40 p.m.

CLERK

Bobbie Dahlke
RECORDER