

The regular meeting of the Board of Education of Palestine Community Unit School District #3 was held at Palestine High School, 100 S. Main St., Palestine, Illinois on Monday, July 20, 2026. The meeting was called to order by President Damien Tingley at 6:00 p.m.

Acting Secretary Tara Vennard called the roll with the following members answering present: Corie Biggs, Lori Elder, Megan Pifer, Damien Tingley, Tara Vennard, and Donald Wagoner. Absent: Tyler Inboden. Administration present was Jessica Sisil and Caleb Will. Jana Bayne was also present.

It was moved by Donald Wagoner and seconded by Lori Elder to approve the amended agenda. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

It was moved by Donald Wagoner and seconded by Megan Pifer to approve the consent agenda. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

It was moved by Lori Elder and seconded by Megan Pifer to recognize the following organizations that may raise funds in the name of the District: Palestine Academic Foundation, PGS PTO, PHS Parent Involvement Group, Pioneer Band Boosters, Pal-Hut Football Booster Club, and Palestine Booster Club. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

It was moved by Megan Pifer and seconded by Lori Elder to approve Donald Wagoner as the representative for the IASB Delegate Assembly. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

It was moved by Lori Elder and seconded by Donald Wagoner to approve the 2026-2027 Grade School and High School handbooks as presented. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

It was moved by Donald Wagoner and seconded by Lori Elder to approve the ERBA Head Start Agreement. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

It was moved by Megan Pifer and seconded by Lori Elder to approve the 26-27 school year fee schedule. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Continued,

It was moved by Donald Wagoner and seconded by Megan Pifer to approve to start Jr. High Cross Country through IESA. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

First Reading of Policies

It was moved by Megan Pifer and seconded by Lori Elder to enter into Closed Session at 6:35 p.m. for the purpose of employment, appointment, resignation, and evaluation of personnel, matters relating to an individual student, and negotiations. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Returned to open session at 6:48 p.m.

It was moved by Lori Elder and seconded by Megan Pifer to approve the release of the following Closed Session minutes: February 16, 2026, and April 20, 2026. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

It was moved by Donald Wagoner and seconded by Lori Elder to approve the destruction of Closed Session recordings prior to January 1, 2025. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

It was moved by Lori Elder and seconded by Donald Wagoner to approve the Closed Session minutes of the June 15, 2026 board meeting. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

It was moved by Donald Wagoner and seconded by Megan Pifer to approve the Grade School and High School Extra Curricular Lists for the 2026-2027 school year as presented. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

It was moved by Lori Elder and seconded by Megan Pifer to approve to employ Tracey McWhirter. As High School Family Consumer Science Teacher. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

It was moved by Donald Wagoner and seconded by Lori Elder to approve to employ Clayton Drum as Volunteer Assistant Jr. High Track Coach. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Continued,

It was moved by Lori Elder and seconded by Megan Pifer to approve to employ Bradley Fulling as Volunteer Jr. High Cross Country Coach. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

It was moved by Megan Pifer and seconded by Corie Biggs to adopt a resolution directing the Regional Superintendent of Schools for The County of Crawford, Illinois, to certify to the County Clerk of said County the question of imposing a retailers' occupation tax and a service occupation tax at a rate of 1% to provide revenue to be used exclusively for school facility purposes, school resource officers, and mental health professionals, for submission to the electors of said County at the general primary election to be held on the 3rd day of November, 2026. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

It was moved by Donald Wagoner and seconded by Lori Elder to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m. Roll call voting on the motion was as follows: Aye: Biggs, Elder, Pifer, Tingley, Vennard, and Wagoner. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Damien Tingley, President

Tara Vennard, Acting Secretary