



PALMYRA R-1

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jason Harper, Superintendent | harperj@palmyra.k12.mo.us

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Palmyra R-1 School District
Regular Board Meeting Press Release
April 8, 2025

The Palmyra R-1 Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the Palmyra R-1 Boardroom. Board President Joe Knochel called his last meeting to order after serving on the Board for the past 9 years. Mr. Harper presented him with a plaque for his outstanding service to the students, staff, and community of Palmyra. The Board approved the agenda and Roth McElvain and Chris Turner were sworn in to serve three-year terms on the Board. The Board of Education was reorganized with the following positions: Roth McElvain, as Board President; Andrew Lehenbauer, as Vice President; Doug Meyers, as Secretary; and Jeff Weaver, as Treasurer. Andrew Lehenbauer will continue to serve as the MSBA Delegate.

Poms Coach Liz Frankenbach and Senior poms member Devyn Spratt spoke to the Board about Panther Pride Poms team and their activities throughout the year. Coach Frankenbach took the Board through all the activities the poms team had participated in throughout the year and Devyn talked about her trip to Italy that she had earned through poms competition. The poms team participates in parades, football halftimes, basketball halftimes, multiple competitions and state events. They work throughout the year, and Coach Frankenbach's focus is on improving numbers and creating a positive culture. Poms had 15 students who attended the technique clinic in preparation for tryouts this spring for next year's team.

Nurse Gigi Lehenbauer spoke to the board about health services provided to the school district. Nurse Lehenbauer and Nurse Jennifer Jones provide a variety of health services for the school district in addition to providing health services and screenings to over 1100 students. Nurse Lehenbauer played a critical role in development of the emergency backpacks and bleed control kits in every classroom in the district. Nurse Jones and Nurse Lehenbauer both are clinical preceptors for senior nursing students from Truman State. They also review all health-related policies associated with the school district.

Mr. Harper gave a budget and legislative update, and the principals also gave their building reports. The board discussed the progress of the bond issue projects at the high school. All non-loadbearing walls have been removed, and bleacher removal is also underway. Bleigh Construction is currently setting up shoring so they can remove the load bearing walls in that area and place steel beams for support to reconfigure the area. The tile in the gym commons is being removed and all ceiling grids in the area have been removed as well. The board approved several change requests that included Family and Consumer Science countertop upgrades, concession stand improvements, middle school water heater replacement, additional fire alarm devices, yokes for the main basketball goals at Palmyra High School and a change to the transformer breaker size at the high school. The board also approved a task order for bidding and construction of tennis courts at the high school campus.

The board approved the partnership agreement between the Palmyra Police Department and the school district that was discussed last month. This agreement allows officers to be in the school district daily, continue to

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Bridgette Augspurg
Elementary School Principal

Steven Kerr
Middle School Principal

Jared Pontius
High School Principal

Brian Wosman
Athletic/Activities Director,
Transportation Director

Kathy Nicholson
Parents as Teachers Coordinator

Kinsey Cissna
Special Education Coordinator



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provide support in classrooms, teach the S.T.A.R.T. curriculum, and provide support at varsity athletic events, prom and graduation.

The board approved the 2025-2026 Career Ladder Plan that was put together by the Career Ladder Committee. The Career Ladder Program allows teachers to work with students, take advantage of professional development outside the school day. The program has three stages based on teachers experience and is 60% funded by the state. Palmyra R-1 currently estimates 70 teachers will participate next year.

The board reviewed the Clarence Cannon Conference sportsmanship results from the winter season. The administrative team and board members expressed their intentions to make it a priority to have Palmyra score at the top of the conference in the sportsmanship rankings in both the fall and winter sports.

The administrative team took the board through a review of the Collaborative Climate and Culture portion of the district's comprehensive school improvement plan. Items discussed trauma-informed training, CPI training, communication regarding disciplinary action, social-emotional curriculum and intervention, and sportsmanship. The board approved CSIP goal CC4C, CC4.3 which will establish the goal to receive all sportsmanship points in the CCC sportsmanship results for both the fall and winter seasons.

The Board approved the following:

Accept the following resignation:

Frank Caldwell, Pre-K and Vo-Tech Bus Routes

Approved the following hires:

Tanner Adams, Co-sponsor High School Student Council

Chris Fountain, Middle School Special Education teacher

Steven Jones, Elementary Physical Education, Middle School Boys Basketball, Middle School Football

Triston Jones, High School Guidance Counselor, National Honor Society Sponsor

Mark Loman, Foreign Language/Dual Credit Facilitator, Varsity Football Assistant Coach

Kindsey Redd, JV Girls Basketball Coach

Kalli Scholl, Co-Varsity Basketball Cheer Coach

The board approved the non-tenured teacher list for hire for the 2025-2026 school year.

The board approved the coaching and extra-duty list for the 2025-2026 school year.

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