

GARFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT #302
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, September 25, 2025
Held in the Garfield Library

I. OPENING OF MEETING:

The Garfield School Board meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Board Chair Justin Honcoop.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

B. ATTENDANCE:

Garfield Board: Ryan Pfaff, Justin Honcoop, and John Schaut
Excused: Matt Bofenkamp and Sean Neal.
Palouse Board: Jessica Smith, Shealyn Holbrook, Tricia Johnson, and Jamie Slocum.
Also Present: Garfield Superintendent/Principal Tom Korst
Palouse Superintendent Mike Jones
Palouse Principal Sandra Krause-Ayers
Administrative Assistant Debbie Anderson – Recorder
Garfield Business Manager Valerie Wagoner
Guests: Community Members, staff and students

C. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: Rose Donner requested to address the Garfield Board tonight to discuss the interest that the homeschooler in Garfield and Palouse have in seeing if there is an interest in getting an ALE program started in Garfield. (Please listen to the recording for more discussion.)

II. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

Tom Korst: Under the agenda, for Elem/Ms Annual Advisor, it should read Dan Kallaher instead of Joel Stevens.

Justin Honcoop: I would like to add one, under New Business, Item C, just discussion about budget evaluation.

III: Reports:

- a. Business Manager Report: Valerie gave the business manager report for September.
- b. Superintendent Report: Tom Korst talked about how he is looking into ALE to see what all that entails. We are also looking at different preschool options, half day versus full day. I will be working with Valerie to understand the budget process. It is nice to see her working on 3-year actuals, and I appreciate what she is doing. Right now we are working a lot on MTSS which is a systematic approach to behavior and academics and I think the timing is great. I am trying to learn all the kids' names by October 1st but I don't think that is going to happen, but I am trying. Our Leadership class has been great. They have been putting up really great activities and it is a good thing for our school. We also have Bike program going on right now that is a really great program and we have about 20 kids involved in that. Our Leadership class also arranged for the Middle School to go on a Kamiak trip. We have only one person trained on threat assessment at this point, but we will work on getting more trained. Met with Apollo and the plan is HVAC system throughout the school and then next year roof and windows. We will see if Scott from Apollo will come down and meet before the meeting in October. Community trust is a big deal especially in a small town and will work on getting a newsletter out. Our enrollment is also up from last year.

VI. CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Accounts Payable:
 - a. General Fund:
 - September - \$179,001.63
 - Warrants: 30212285-30212308
 - September - \$1,278.55
 - Warrants: 30212280-30212283
 - September - \$3,173.26 (BMO Harris)
 - Wire Transfer #: 0202100163
 - b. Capital Projects:
 - September – None
 - c. ASB Fund:
 - September – None
 - d. Transportation Vehicle Fund:
 - September - None
 - e. Payroll:
 - September (Checks) - \$7,521.09
 - Warrants – 30212309-30212314
 - September (Benefits) - \$73,408.14
 - Warrants – 30212315-30212325
 - Payroll Electronic Transfer (Direct Deposit):
 - September - \$122,157.48
 - September - \$2,080.50
 - Payroll Electronic Transfer Fed W/H & SS:
 - September - \$41,128.34
- B. Approval of minutes:
 - a. August 25, 2025

MOTION: A motion to accept the Consent Agenda was made by John Schaut and seconded by Ryan Pfaff. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

John Schaut – Aye Ryan Pfaff – Aye
Justin Honcoop – Aye

V. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Recommendation to provide Food Service Director classified supplemental contract to Stevie Pfaff.
- B. Recommendation to provide Farm to School and Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Grant oversight classified supplemental contract to Stevie Pfaff.

MOTION: A motion to accept the supplemental contracts to Stevie Pfaff (A & B) was made by John Schaut and seconded by Justin Honcoop. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

John Schaut – Aye Ryan Pfaff – Aye
Justin Honcoop – Aye

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Supplemental contracts:

- a. Special Education Director – Bailey Pfaff
- b. Elem/MS Annual Advisor – Dan Kallaher
- c. MS Athletic Director – Nate Holbrook
- d. Pep Band Advisor – Joel Stevens
- e. ASB Coordinator – Joey Reed
- f. Assistant FFA Advisor – Kennedy Cox
- g. Prep Time – 30 minutes per day for 91 days for Kennedy Cox
- h. Assistant MS Volleyball Coach – Stevie Pfaff
- i. Head MS Volleyball Coach – Tianna Fox

MOTION: A motion to approve the supplemental contracts as presented above was made by Ryan Pfaff and seconded by John Schaut.

The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

John Schaut – Aye Ryan Pfaff – Aye
Justin Honcoop – Aye

B. Recommendation to add student handbook language addressing:

- a. RCW 28A.600.020 – Exclusion of student from classroom / long-term suspension / expulsion, and WAC 392-400 (OSPI Discipline Rules)

Tom Korst went over these RCW/WAC rules. Discussion followed. This will be addressed next month.

C. Discussion about budget evaluation.

Justin Honcoop: I would like to have Tom Korst evaluate our budget and to ensure that every year we have a balanced budget and that we are not showing any black. Do you think we need to make a motion on this?

Tom Korst: I think that as long as that is your directive, I will explore all kinds of programs and options for you and tell you the pros and cons of this. I can get something put together and bring it to a future meeting prior to the new year.

VII. Executive Session: Personnel Issues: Purpose RCW42.30.110(1)(g) To evaluate the qualifications of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee. However, subject to RCW 42.30.140(4) discussion by a governing body of salaries, wages, and other conditions of employment to be generally applied within the agency shall occur in a meeting open to the public, and when a governing body elects to take final action hiring, setting the salary of an individual employee or class of employees, or discharging or disciplining an employee, that action shall be taken in a meeting open to the public.

Justin Honcoop: There will be no action following this executive session and will be about 1 hour.

The Garfield Board entered executive session at 8:30 p.m. They reconvened at 8:56 back in open session.

ADJOURN: With there being no further business, Ryan Pfaff moved, John Schaut seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Board Chairman _____

Superintendent: _____

PALOUSE SCHOOL DISTRICT #301

PALOUSE BOARD MEETING

Thursday, September 25, 2025

I. OPENING OF MEETING:

The Palouse School Board meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by Palouse Board President Jess Smith.

A. ATTENDANCE:

Palouse Board: Jess Smith, Jamie Slocum and Vanessa Moore
Excused: Tricia Johnson and Shealyn Holbrook
Garfield Board: Justin Honocoop, John Schaut, and Ryan Pfaff
Also Present: Palouse Superintendent Mike Jones
Palouse Principal Sandra Krause-Ayers
Garfield Superintendent/Principal Tom Korst
Garfield Administrative Assistant Debbie Anderson
Guests: Community members

B. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: None

II. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: None

III. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Accounts Payable:

September Warrant Numbers: 30113825-30113878

1. General Fund:

September - \$109,172.36

2. HS ASB:

September - \$1,302.44

3. Capital Projects:

September - \$11,126.29

4. BMO Payment:

September Wire Transfer - 202100108

September General Fund: \$5,382.55

September Capital Projects: \$1,631.23

September ASB: \$4,585.70

5. Payroll:

September (Checks) - \$14,116.45

Warrants – 30113879-30113886

September (Benefits) - \$83,826.12

Warrants – 30113887-30113902

Payroll Electronic Transfer (Direct Deposit) - \$134,749.72

September Direct Deposit Numbers – 9000001416-9000001445

Payroll Electronic Transfer Fed W / H & SS - \$48,704.86

September Wire Numbers – 202100109

B. Approval of Minutes:**1. Board Meeting:** August 28, 2025

MOTION: A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Jamie Slocum and seconded by Vanessa Moore. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Jess Smith - Aye

Vanessa Moore - Aye

Jamie Slocum - Aye

IV: Reports to the Board:

A. Business Manager: Jeremy Loe was not able to be here tonight. Mike Jones stated that Jeremy did give a business manager's report to the board and a couple of things to look at there, when we look at the cash flow piece, we had about \$40,000 that was intended to be claimed at the end of August, first of September, that did not happen. This was part of the HMI Grants and then part of the IRS credit. That has been held up in paperwork.

B. Principal's Report: Sandra Krause-Ayers: The first week of school the third grade continued their tradition of attending the Palouse Empire Fair and Gar-Pal again was well represented. Lots of money coming to our Gar-Pal kids. I wanted to thank Kennedy Cox, our new AG teacher, and Ryan Burtchett, for their leadership of the FFA program. If you want to come down on the weekends and help them with the build for Haunted Palouse they would love it! Athletics are in full swing at the high school. The football team is small in numbers but big at heart. The faced tough competition with ACH, but won hands down with Wilbur-Creston-Keller. The volleyball team is looking to be 6-0 in league play. The men's and women's cross country teams are remaining competitive. Homecoming was early this year. All events were well attended and the seniors were very happy to take the crown of the weekly events back. Tom Korst talked a little bit about our first PD this year. The district's wide effort is to create a unified multi-tiered support system and as he said, this will enable us to meet the best academic and behavioral needs of all students. Part of this work that we did yesterday was creating common definitions for specific student behaviors so that we are both using the same terminology when we are dealing with behavior. We did some ground work on developing a discipline flow chart because some pieces of discipline our teacher or staff managed, some pieces are admin managed, and so we want to make it very clear who you go to when something happens. The other thing I want to report on is our SBAC state testing results. We had some really good scores this year. 3rd grade had a passing grade of 85% in ELA, which is 36% above the state average. In math they were at 92%, which is 40% above the state average. So a lot of that ground work that our primary teachers are doing is really paying off. 4th grade had a passing rate of 69% in ELA, which is 18% above the

state average, and 77% in math, which is 28% above the state average. This 5th grade class has struggled throughout

the years, they had 53% passing grade in ELA, which unfortunately is about 1% below the state average, and 43% in math, which is actually equal to the state average. So, more work to be done. Those kids are in 6th grade now. Palouse 10th grader had a passing rate of 82% in ELA, which was 18% above the state average, and 36% in math, which is 2% better than the state average. The Garfield 10th graders had a passing rate of 90% in ELA, 26% better than the state average, and 50% in math, which is 16% better than the state average. So our next step is to really take a look at those SBAC scores by grade level, what are kids doing well in and decipher that data and what do we need to address. There are new standards coming down the pike in math and ELA, so really taking a look at what are the elements that we need to focus on by grade level, and then are there any testing taking strategies that we need to be taught to help them do better on tests, and then we also will be discussing whether we want to implement like interim assessments which are practiced that look like the SBAC as well. I am really pleased with our scores as a whole.

C. Superintendent's Report:

Mike Jones - As Tom Korst mentioned, we worked with ESD 101 all day yesterday, meeting in both districts - special ed, and then in building groups, working on Connects, identifying some of the overall language. I think we all had a good day. There was a lot of information which helped clear some things up and that we need to have some unified language where we need to get together and build some systems that would be more unifying across both districts and as a unified district. So, it was really encouraging and good to see. One of the best things that we say is that we had all staff from both Garfield and Palouse together intervention sharing and what strategies we need to be using and the conversation was really good. I think that building of community has been really positive. On top of that, on October 14, 2025 we set up a meeting with Cassidy from ESD 101, and Tom and I will sit down with him and we will be looking over the cost share, and any financial issues. Sandra and I have talked about discipline rules. There have been a lot of changes from the State over the last couple of months that were pushed out so we are swifting through several of those things. I want to thank Sandra and Tom for looking at those closely and working together. That has been really positive. David Funk is here with Zen Solar. He is going to talk a little bit about the solar project that we are working on in the upper building. We have been approved by WSU on that and he will give more specifics, but we are excited to get that going and get that installed, then we will have solar on both the main building as well as the upper building and hopefully defray the electric costs on both of those. Aside from that, I would be remiss if I didn't thank Tom Korst, in particularly being new to the district it is hard to keep things straight when everything is hitting you all at once, especially in September, and I like to see the direction we are going and some of the things that are coming out of those conversations, so I want to make sure that we acknowledge that and thank him for his work as we move forward.

V: New Business:**A. ZEN Solar - David Funk.**

David Funk, the owner of Zero Emissions Northwest (ZEN), and we are an energy firm in Spokane. We partner with Partners for Rural Washington so if anybody knows Jody Opheim from Garfield, she is essentially our partner in doing this. We have won 6.4 million dollars for Eastern Washington school districts to install solar with the energy savings dedicated towards low income programs. That is just kind of the umbrella term. The school board and the school direct the funds where their community needs. As part of winning the funds, we have 5 areas of focus: Science courses, life skills, discretionary funds, work force development and community health. We started in Harrington, where we first started, and that project turned on yesterday. Life skills are really like how to cook a healthy meal, how to prepare a budget, all of these things that might be taught in school but maybe not with a specific focus. Discretionary funds are for the administrative staff, for example, if anyone works in the front office and sees a kid that doesn't have shoes that fit, or no jacket, that there is a little bit of a fund that can go to address those without much fanfare and go to Walmart and get a pair of shoes that fit. These are small things that make big differences and can keep a kid focused on school. Workforce development and community health, for example, Lamont was really focused on community health, sometimes haircuts are a burden, sometimes traveling to Spokane to go see the dentist is a burden, so being able to bring in a mobile health clinic in for the kids, and the surrounding community, as it does not need to be contained to children. Those are some ideas. We have kept it very high level. So his company finances, constructs, and owns the project for 10 years, and then we sell power to Palouse at a 50% discount to Avista. So that is how we generate those savings. If you would have paid 10 cents to Avista, you are paying 5 cents to ZEN. (Please listen to the recording for more information on this program and questions and answers)

ADJOURN: A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. was made by Jamie Slocum and seconded by Vanessa Moore.

Board Chairman: _____

Superintendent: _____

GARFIELD SCHOOL DISTRICT #302

PALOUSE SCHOOL DISTRICT #301

JOINT BOARD MEETING - Held in the Garfield Library

Thursday, September 25, 2025

I. OPENING OF MEETING:

The Joint School Board meeting was called to order at 8:01 p.m. by Garfield Board President Justin Honcoop.

A. ATTENDANCE:

Garfield Board: Justin Honcoop, Ryan Pfaff, and John Schaut

Excused: Matt Bofenkamp and Sean Neal

Palouse Board: Jess Smith, Vanessa Moore, and Jamie Slocum

Excused: Tricia Johnson and Shealyn Holbrook

Also Present: Garfield Superintendent/Principal Tom Korst

Palouse Superintendent Mike Jones

Palouse Principal Sandra Krause-Ayers

Garfield Administrative Assistant Debbie Anderson

Guests: Community members

B. REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD: None.

II. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA: Add to New Business, Item B, changes to October Board meeting date.

III. CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approval of Minutes: August 28, 2025

MOTION: A motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Jess Smith and seconded by Ryan Pfaff. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Jamie Slocum - Aye

Justin Honcoop - Aye

Vanessa Moore - Aye

Ryan Pfaff - Aye

Jess Smith - Aye

John Schaut - Aye

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Consideration of Modifying Language for Cooperative Contract:

Discussion followed regarding the cooperative contract. The changes to the contract will be:

MOTION: A motion to approve the change of 4-F (ii) to state - "will be discussed at the joint board meeting and a vote will be taken in the joint meeting by both boards" was made by Jess Smith and seconded by Jamie Slocum. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Jamie Slocum - Aye

Justin Honcoop - Aye

Vanessa Moore - Aye

Ryan Pfaff - Aye

Jess Smith - Aye

John Schaut - Aye

MOTION: A motion to approve the change of taking 6c by striking “the hiring” and move the rest of the sentence - “the discharge, and nonrenewal of joint classified or certificated employees” under 6d was made by Jamie Slocum and seconded by Ryan Pfaff. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Jamie Slocum - Aye

Justin Honcoop - Aye

Vanessa Moore - Aye

Ryan Pfaff - Aye

Jess Smith - Aye

John Schaut - Aye

MOTION: A motion to approve the moving of 4-F (i) and (ii) in its entirety to 6c. “Hiring new employees/volunteers:

- Single District Employees (classified, certificated, supplemental contracts, coaches) or other administration, elementary teachers/employees, elementary supplemental contracts who teach students from only one district will be discussed and voted on at the separate board meeting
- Single District employees who teach students from both districts in cooperative programs (middle school staff, high school staff and cost shared staff, excluding administrators) will be discussed at the joint board meeting and a vote will be taken in the joint meeting by both boards” was made by Ryan Pfaff and seconded by John Schaut. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Jamie Slocum - Aye

Justin Honcoop - Aye

Vanessa Moore - Aye

Ryan Pfaff - Aye

Jess Smith - Aye

John Schaut - Aye

B. Consideration of Board Decorum Statement (Action)

“Welcome to the Garfield-Palouse Cooperative School Board meeting, and thank you for being here. We encourage public participation, with comments taken prior to the meeting for items not on the agenda and before the board votes on action items. To ensure a respectful and productive meeting, please listen quietly, avoid interruptions, and share comments only during the designated public comment times. Disruptive conduct, inappropriate language, personal attacks, and aggressive behavior will not be allowed and may result in removal.”

Justin Honcoop: This is a statement that we would initially read at the beginning of every meeting, whichever district is hosting. This is just a general expectation which we expect from all of our board members, and our administration, and I think it is fair to expect that from our community who wants to attend. I think it just puts some safe ground rules for all of us.

Tom Korst: By saying this you have a lot more capacity to remove somebody, but if you don't say it, if you don't give any kind of a standard, then it makes it more complex.

Discussion followed.

MOTION: A motion to approve the Board Decorum Statement to be read at the start of each board meeting was made by Vanessa Moore and seconded by Jamie Slocum. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Jamie Slocum - Aye	Justin Honcoop - Aye
Vanessa Moore - Aye	Ryan Pfaff - Aye
Jess Smith - Aye	John Schaut - Aye

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Consideration of Bus Barn Lease Agreement.

Tom Korst: The contract was approved by our attorney.

Jess Smith: Why does the term go from September to September but then termination is April-June?

Tom Korst: I will ask our attorney on that question.

MOTION: A motion to approve the Bus Barn Lease Agreement pending confirmation of the differences between the terms and termination dates was made by Jess Smith and seconded by John Schaut. The motion passed with the following roll call vote:

Jamie Slocum - Aye	Justin Honcoop - Aye
Vanessa Moore - Aye	Ryan Pfaff - Aye
Jess Smith - Aye	John Schaut - Aye

B. Change in October Board Meeting Date:

After discussion, it was decided that the October Board Meeting would be held on Monday, October 27, 2025.

V. ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made at 8:25 p.m. by Ryan Pfaff and seconded by Jamie Slocum.

Board Chairman: _____

Superintendent: _____

Board Chairman: _____

Superintendent: _____