

**Sublette USD #374
Official Minutes**

The Sublette Unified School District No. 374 Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, February 13, 2025 in the boardroom at the Administrative Office at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Cornelius Froese Shyree Wiswell
Grant Webber Ruthie Vaughan Pete Dyck Lee Mason

Members Absent: Juan Chacon

Others Present:

Rex Richardson, Superintendent; Charity Ochs-Lathen, Clerk; Rachel Lee, Elementary Principal; Sonya Pena, MS/HS Principal; Lyle Befort, Assistant MS/HS Principal and Activities Director; Renee Phoenix, Curriculum.

Guests:

No Guests

Item #1 Call Meeting to Order

The President called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Item #2 Approve the Agenda

Mr. Mason moved, Seconded by Mr. Froese to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried 6-0.

Item #3 Approve Minutes

Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mr. Mason to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2025 meeting. The motion carried 6-0.

Item #4 Treasure's Report- Approve Transfers

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Froese, Mr. Dyck, Mrs. Vaughan, Mr. Mason, Mr. Webber and Mrs. Wiswell reviewed Purchase Orders and supporting documents presented for payment as listed on the List of Warrants dated 1/31/2025. Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mr. Mason to approve the purchases. The motion carried 6-0.

Item #5 Communications

There were no communication items.

Item #6 Reports

Principals

Mrs. Pena reported to the Board that 18 MS/HS students qualified for State Science Fair. Mrs. Lee stated that there were also 18 Elementary students who qualified. Mrs. Ferrell would like to to a fundraiser to help pay for the cost of attending the Science Fair. Mrs. Pena stated the Junior took the TEAS test. One student got a Platinum award and three received gold for their scores on the test. The ACT test is in April this year instead of February due to a scheduling conflict. Kulpa testing will be the third week in February and State testing in March. Ms. Jalee Birney was supposed to come to Sublette, along with four of her colleagues, to present to the MS/ HS students. But, due to the amount of sickness, she asked to reschedule.

Mrs. Lee stated that she felt the break early in February resulted in the opportunity for students and staff to rest and recover from all the illness that was spreading. She said they went from 68 students out on the 5th to just 17 upon returning on the 10th and all the teachers were back. Donuts with grandparents was on February 14th. Wednesday, February 13 was the county Spelling Bee. The elementary school celebrated Kansas Day with trivia and cupcakes.

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Curriculum: Mrs. Phoenix stated grades third-sixth would be taking the Interim to Assessments. They did not take them in the fall. It seems students are more prepared and scores are improving. Ms. Phoenix stated she attended Curriculum leaders meeting on January 21st and gathered a lot of good information. She also announced the next CCC meeting would be Wednesday, February 26th.

Mrs. Pena presented for Ms. Patterson that they would be continuing with Savaas. All the teachers and Mrs. Pena met to discuss Kansas Communities That Care. It's a Social and Emotional based program. The district has purchased Brisk. The teachers will get training on this during an in-service and will implement it in the next school year. Mrs. Pena also stated that accreditation will now be evaluated every year instead of every five years.

Activities: Mr. Befort reported there are just three games left in High School Basketball. Sublette will be hosting sub-state finals with girls playing one night and the boys playing the other night. Quiz Bowl is currently 3 and 5. High School League Music will be at Southwestern Heights. Orlando Padilla will be taking a couple of MS girls to a camp to help prepare them for next year basketball as they enter into High School. Sublette is looking for someone to possibly host MS League Music as Mrs. Paula Leverett is tending to personal matters and will not be able to host. The other option is to still host the event here, but have another district work to prepare and help get ready and oversee to make sure things run smoothly. Judges have been secured for the event.

SWPRSC- Mrs. Vaughan stated she spent some time with Kim Mauk to learn about High Plains and what they do for school districts. As a result, she decided she would like to sit on their Board. Kim stated she would take that to the Board for approval.

HPEC- Mr Webber stated High Plains has hired Gary Sechrist to help aid them in their search for a new director. He also reported they had one resignation and another new hire.

Item #7 Public Form

There was no public forum.

Item #8 2025-2026 Calendar

The calendar committee presented faculty and staff of USD 374 with two calendars to consider for the 2025-2026 school year. 83.1% chose calendar #1. Mrs. Vaughan moved, seconded by Mr. Mason. The motion carried 6-0.

Item #9 MS HPL Music

Mr. Richardson proposed if USD 374 hosts this event, he would like to dismiss Grades 7-12 and the teachers will have an In-service day. Pre K-6 will have a regular school day. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell to allow for this. The motion carried 6-0.

Item #10 Elementary Natural Gas Line

Because of continual problems with the natural gas line at the elementary school, heating issues have persisted throughout the winter, particularly on the really cold days. Tatro plumbing came out and bid to fix the issue. We would like to have them do the work over Spring Break so it doesn't disturb the kitchen. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to approve the project be completed. The motion carried 6-0.

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Item #11 Recreation Board Members

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to elect Chelsea Voth to a two-year term and Mr. Israel Hernandez to a four-year term, beginning February 1, 2025. The motion carried 6-0.

Item #12 Capital Projects

Mr. Richardson discussed deferred maintenance projects with the board and an approximate to complete. The Board would like to continue to look into options to pay for these projects and have a plan within the next few months.

Item #13 Executive Session Non Elected Personnel

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to enter into Executive Session, to include Mr. Richardson and to call in Mrs. Lee. The motion carried 6-0. Mrs. Lee entered at 7:48 and left at 7:58. The Board reconvened to Open Session at 7:59. Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan to return to Executive Session to include Mr. Richardson and Mrs. Pena. Mrs. Pena left executive session at 8:15 p.m. At 8:20p.m., the Board reconvened to return a final time to Executive Session. Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mr. Mason. The motion carried 6-0.

Item #14 Personnel Employment

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell to accept the resignations of Tregg Rodrigues, Allison Rodrigues, Tracie Burcham and Johnathon Ornelas. The motion carried 6-0. Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mr. Froese to hire Matt Meng as Assistant MS Track Coach and Vance Marlin as Assistant Boys Golf Coach. The motion carried 6-0. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan to extend Mrs. Pena's contract for one more year. The motion carried 6-0. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to approve the hiring of Mr. Timothy Smith as MS/HS Vocal Music Director. The motion carried 6-0.

Item #15 Superintendent Report

Mr. Richardson did not have anything to report to the Board.

With no other business to come before the Board, Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

NOTE: These minutes are not considered official until approved by the Board at its next regular meeting.

President

Clerk

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