

**Sublette USD #374
Official Minutes**

The Sublette Unified School District No. 374 Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 4, 2024 in the boardroom at the Administrative Office at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Cornelius Froese	Ruthie Vaughan
Lee Mason	Shyree Wiswell

Attending by phone: Grant Webber

Members Absent: Pete Dyck

Others Present: Rex Richardson, Superintendent; Charity Ochs-Lathen, Clerk; Rachel Lee, Elementary Principal; Sonya Pena, Curriculum Coordinator

Guests – Ashley Winger, Kellen Simmons, Mikelyn Holloway, Randi Webb, Juan Chacon and Joey Boone

Item #1 Call Meeting to Order /Approve Agenda

The President called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Webber abstained from voting.

Item #2 Approve Minutes

Mrs. Vaughan moved, seconded by Mr. Mason to approve the minutes from the February 12th, 15th and 29th. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Webber abstained from voting.

Item #3 Treasurer's Report/ Approve Transfers

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Froese, Mr. Mason, Mrs. Vaughan, and Mrs. Wiswell reviewed the purchase orders and supporting documents that were presented for payment. \$53,917.08 from General to At Risk, \$6,571.07 from General to Daycare, \$13,367.54 from General to Bilingual, \$3,290.14 from General to Vocational Fund, and \$54.07 from General to Special Education, \$5,634.24 from General Fund to 4 Year Old At Risk, and \$642.00 from General Fund to Professional Development. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell, to approve the bills as listed on the List of Warrants dated 02/29/24 and authorize payment and transfers. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Webber abstained from voting.

Reports:

Principals

Mr. Murphy was not present and left a written report. The report stated that 19 MS students qualified for the State Science Fair. Sublette hosted HPL Music, and all went well. The free ACT was given on February 27th

Mrs. Lee informed The Board that Read Across Kansas was last week, and they all had fun dressing up for it. 21 students qualified for the State Science Fair. The Pre-Kindergarten round-up will be March 5th. Parent-teacher conferences are March 6th and 7th.

Curriculum

Mrs. Pena reported to The Board we will partner with Satanta to offer Financial Simulation classes. Centera Bank will pay half the fee, and The Foundation Grant will pay the other half. Based on the criteria students give, concerning their planned career, they will learn how to live like a 26-year-old. They will do a household budget that will include rent, utilities, car payment insurance, groceries etc. They can decide if they want a single-person budget, a budget that includes a spouse, and whether or not to factor in children. State assessments will begin the week after Spring Break. The District will also be using a handwriting curriculum to help students with penmanship, and they are looking for a new Pre-K curriculum.

Activities Director

Mr. Befort was now present for the meeting. He was at the Parent's Meeting. Mr. Webber had a question regarding practice times. Mr. Richardson stated he would find out and let Mr. Webber know.

Counselor

Nearly all of the KELPA testing has been completed. Juniors had the opportunity to take the ACT last week. The state of Kansas presents a student with one opportunity to take it for free. 31 students took advantage of this. State assessments will begin after Spring Break. SCCC has started the Saints Ahead program which allows any HS student the opportunity to take a college course through them for \$50/ course. This will begin in the fall. There is good interest in the Vo-Tech program as well. Seniors have been offered 31 Scholarships for which to apply, and 10-15 more local scholarships that have not yet been opened for application.

SWPRSC

No report.

HPEC

Mr. Webber stated that HPEC signed a 5-year contract partnering with SWPRSC. The Board discussed teacher evaluations and current discipline practices with their students. They did hire a new employee.

Public Comments:

There was no public comment.

Item #4 Board Candidates

Kellen Simmons introduced himself to the Board. He stated that his mom was a teacher, and his dad was in administration with USD 374 for many years. While he chose a different path in finance, education was still an important part of his life. He has two children attending school in our district.

Joey Boone is the Director of Pharmacy at Satanta District Hospital. His wife is a school Psychologist, and he has two children in the district. He is from Elkhart, KS, but also attended school in Ulysses. He said he sees many people from the community daily through his job.

Mikelyn Holloway is a retired school counselor. She spent many years in the district, and her husband was a Sublette graduate and long-standing board member. She has four children who all graduated from Sublette Schools. She said she misses being involved in education and would like to give back in a different capacity.

Ashley Winger is a former educator in our district who currently teaches at the collegiate level. She has a child in our district and is the daughter of our former Superintendent and School Counselor. For those reasons, she is very vested in the school district and the community.

Juan Chaco is the father of four children. One has graduated from the District, two are currently in school, and one is still too young to attend. His wife's family is from here and deeply rooted in the community. He felt he could bring a different perspective to the Board. He felt he could be used as a resource to reach families who may otherwise not be comfortable approaching a board member or educator with a concern they may have and encourage those students to stay in school. He wants to reach those families and get them more involved in their children's education.

Item #5 Fundraiser Policy

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan, to approve the policy as it was presented to the Board for a first read on February 12th. The motion carried 5-0.

Item #6 Prom

Mr. Richardson informed the Board there were a couple of students of the same gender who would be attending Prom together. He wanted to let the Board know that if any community member or parent had concerns, this was allowed under KSB Policy. Mr. Mason asked about the transportation situation with the After Prom party. Mr. Richardson stated that the district will provide three buses to accommodate all junior and senior students and their dates, along with sponsors and chaperones. The After Prom Committee will provide and pay for the drivers.

Item #7 Executive Session- Negotiations

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell, to go into Executive Session to include Mr. Richardson. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Webber abstained. The Board reconvened at 7:11 p.m. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell, to return to Executive Session. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Webber abstained. The Board reconvened at 7:17 p.m.

Item #8 Executive Session- Non-Elected Personnel

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan, to enter into Executive Session to include Mr. Richardson. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Webber abstained. The Board resumed Open Session at 7:33 p.m. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell, to return to Executive Session. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Webber abstained. At 7:44, The Board reconvened. Mrs. Wiswell moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan, to return to Executive Session. The motion carried 4-0. Mr. Webber abstained. The Board resumed Open Session at 7:55 p.m.

Item #9 Personnel Employment

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell, to accept the resignations of Ms. Ashley Clune and Mrs. Emily Holmes. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan, to approve hiring Mr. Jaime Gonzalez as a 12-month Custodian. The motion carried 5-0. Mrs. Wiswell moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan, to approve hiring Mr. James Shellenberger as a High School English Teacher. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Webber, to approve hiring Mrs. Sonya Pena as High School Principal and Mr. Lyle Befort as Assistant High School Principal. The motion carried 5-0. Mrs. Wiswell moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan, to approve hiring Mrs. Paige Torres as Assistant MS Track Coach and Tracie Burcham as High School Yearbook. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Webber, to Rescind the Assistant MS Track Coach offer to Erica Leggett. The motion carried 5-0.

Item #10 Vacant Board Seat

The Board discussed all of the potential candidates and what they were looking for in a new member. After much discussion, the Board felt the best candidate was Mr. Juan Chacon. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell for him to fill the open seat. The motion carried 5-0.

Item #11 Superintendent Report

Mr. Richardson had nothing to report and wished the Board a Happy Spring Break.

Item #11 Adjourn

With no other business to discuss, Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Froese to adjourn. The motion carried 5-0.

President

Clerk

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