

**Sublette USD #374**  
**Official Minutes**

The Sublette Unified School District No. 374 Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 12, 2025 at 7pm in the Board Room.

**Members Present:**

Grant Webber                  Ruthie Vaughan                  Cornelius Froese                  Juan Chacon                  Pete Dyck

**Members Absent:**

Shyree Wiswell                  Lee Mason

**Others Present:** Rex Richardson, Superintendent; Charity Ochs-Lathen, Clerk; Sonya Pena, MS/HS Principal; Rachel Lee, Elementary Principal; Brooke Patterson and Renee Phoenix, Curriculum Directors

**Guests:** Darrel Kohlman

**Item #1 Call Meeting to Order**

The President called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Item #2 Approve the Agenda**

Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mr Chacon to approve the agenda, with the change of moving Mr. Kohlman with DCS, to Item #3 on the Agenda. The motion carried 4-0.

Mrs. Vaughan entered the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

**Item #3 Darrel Kohlman**

Mr. Kohlman, with DCS presented the Board with the steps involved in performing a needs assessment for the district along with the timeframe and the order in which things will need to be done. They will also provide all the necessary professions to provide accurate findings. A report will be compiled and the needs will be color coded based on the level of importance.

**Item #4 Approve the Minutes**

Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan to approve the minutes from the prior month's meeting, with a correction to Item #15.. The motion carried 5-0.

**Item #5 Treasurer's Report**

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Dyck, Mr. Webber, Mrs. Vaughan, Mr. Chacon and Mr. Froese reviewed Purchase Orders and supporting documents presented for payment. \$49,978.88 from General to At Risk; \$8,517.10 from General Fund to Daycare; \$11,149.01 from General to Bilingual; \$1,295.06 from General to Food Service; \$1,200.92 from General to Vocational Fund, \$495.00 from General Fund to Professional Development and \$39,796.21 from General Fund to Special Education. Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan, to approve the bills as listed on the List of Warrants dated 04/30/25 and authorize payment and transfers. The motion carried 5-0.

**Communications**

The Board received a letter from Bill Lower asking the Board to allow the Gideons to distribute Bibles in the school. Mr. Richardson consulted with our KSB attorney and provided a copy of the policy stating this is not allowed. It was then suggested that we allow the Gideons to be present at the "See You at the Pole" gathering in which they could provide Bibles to those who wanted to receive one. The family of Virginia Webber sent a Thank You note to the Board of Education for flowers sent to her funeral.

## **Reports**

### **Principals**

Mrs. Pena reported that during Teacher Appreciation Week, several families helped with bringing gifts for the staff. Ms. Avritt has pre-enrollment complete but she is still working on the schedule. She stated that High School Graduation had gone well and finals were underway. She also reported that the students really seemed to enjoy and get a lot out of the Safe Dates program and it will very likely continue next year. She also stated that the Kinder and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade promotions were completed.

Mrs. Lee informed the Board that many field trips had been happening, including the Kindergartner's trip to Garden City Regional Airport to have lunch at the Milk and Honey restaurant. She reported the Pre-K had taken a trip to Freddie's in Garden City as well. After seeing the students at Freddie's, a principal from Holcomb sent Mrs. Lee an e-mail commending the students and teachers on the students' good behavior. Mrs. Ferrell and Mrs. Rodriguez took their sixth grade students to the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson and the third graders went bowling. Mrs. Blackwood received the honor of Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Lee stated the annual Art Show was very well attended. The Countdown to Summer talent show was underway and the students were looking forward to the end of year Field Day.

### **Curriculum-**

Mrs. Phoenix stated that SAC and CCC meetings had wrapped up for the year and the TASN dates were set and the team selected.

Ms. Patterson reported that purchase orders from the teachers had been turned in. She stated that Ms. Avritt and she had been working together to make sure all the teachers had enough text books.

### **Activities Director**

Mrs. Pena reported for Mr. Befort. She stated that baseball would be a 2pm on Wednesday. She also reported that Satanta had informed us of their decision to no longer host the Haskell County relays. As a result, we will host both and would like to rename it the Steve Lehning Invitational.

**SWPRSC-** Mrs. Vaughan said it was a short meeting and there was nothing to report.

**HPEC-** Mr. Webber stated there was nothing to report.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

There was no public forum.

### **Item #6 Student A.I. Policy**

Mrs. Vaughan moved, seconded by Mr. Froese to approve the policy as presented at the previous Board Meeting. The motion carried 5-0.

### **Item #7 Water Usage**

Mr. Richardson attended the most recent City Council meeting and relayed the council's concern over water usage. Mr. Richardson informed the council of our efforts to conserve water and expressed to them that we share their concerns. The council just asked that we continue to make conscious efforts to conserve.

**Item #8 Wrestling**

Currently 15 students interested in Wrestling. This interest raises questions about the cost to return the program to the High School. It also raised concerns of whether it would just be Sublette or is Satanta would be interested in an effort to Co-op as they do in Softball. The concern was raised about what it would do to Basketball numbers and also the fact that we would not be able to host any events, at least in the beginning of the restart. The Board agreed it could be a good opportunity for the students but felt more research needed to be done before making a decision. Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to table the discussion until the next board meeting. The motion carried 5-0.

**Item #9 Recreation Commission**

USD #374 previously paid \$1,500 annually for employee and family Recreation Memberships. The Recreation Commission recently asked the Board to pay \$5,000 for the same membership agreement. The Board then offered the Rec Commission \$2,500 annually for the membership. The Recreation Commission did not accept that offer. After some time, talks resumed and the Recreation Commission countered with an offer of \$3,000 annually for an employee only membership. The Board asked the Rec Commission to monitor the utilization and agree to re-evaluate in one year to determine whether or not the District felt the utilization warranted the increased price of the membership. Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughn in agreement of terms. The motion carried 5-0.

**Item #10 Executive Session- Non Elected Personnel**

Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mr. Froese to enter into Executive Session for 10 minutes and to include Mr. Richardson. The Board returned to Open Session. Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mr. Froese to return to Executive Session for five minutes. The motion carried 5-0. The Board returned to Open Session. Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to return to Executive Session and to also include Mrs. Pena. The motion carried 5-0. Mrs. Pena left Executive Session at 9:43 p.m. The Board reconvened to Open Session. Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mr. Froese to make another return to Executive Session for another five minutes. The motion carried 5-0. The Board again emerged from Executive Session. Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to return, yet again, to Executive Session. The motion carried 5-0. After reconvening to Open Session, the Board returned to Executive Session for another 5 minutes. Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck. The motion carried 5-0. After emerging to Open Session, the Board made a final return to Executive Session for 10 minutes. The motion carried 5-0. The Board reconvened at 10:08 p.m.

**Item #11 Personnel Employment**

Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to accept the resignations of Lupe Bustillos, Faith Barnhart, Perla Olivas and Paula Leverett. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan to accept the reassignment of Mrs. Manzano from MS/HS FACS teacher, to fifth and sixth grade math. The motion carried 5-0. Mrs. Vaughan moved, seconded by Mr. Chacon to rescind Lilly Moke as summer maintenance and hire David Vaughn in her place at the rate of \$15 hr. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan to approve the Supplemental Contracts as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

**Item #12 Superintendent Report**

Mr. Richardson invited the Board to the End of Year Luncheon on Thursday at 12:30 p.m. in the Elementary School Gym.

**Adjournment**

With no other business to discuss, Mrs. Vaughan moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to adjourn. The motion carried 5-0. The Board adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

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

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*President*

*Clerk*

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