

**Sublette USD #374
Official Minutes**

The Sublette Unified School District No. 374 Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, August 7, 2023, in the boardroom at the Administrative Office at 7:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Cody Forester
Lee Mason

Cornelius Froese
Shyree Wiswell

Cesar Pena
Pete Dyck

By Phone: Grant Webber

Members Absent –None

Others Present- Rex Richardson, Superintendent; Charity Ochs-Lathen, Clerk; Bob Murphy, Middle/High School Principal; Sonya Pena, Curriculum Director.

Guests: Ginger Orwig, Brittany Marlin, Jennifer Hanson, Melissa Berg, Becky Wright, Allison Lupfer, Kasey Wellmann, Tregg Rodriguez, Gary Page.

Item #1 Call Meeting to Order /Approve Agenda

The President called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. Mr. Forester moved, seconded by Mr. Mason. The motion carried 7-0.

Item #2 Approve Minutes

Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mr. Froese, to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2023 regular meeting. The motion carried 7-0.

Item #3 Approve Bills and Authorize Payment

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Dyck, Mr. Pena, Mr. Forester, Mr. Mason, Mr. Froese, and Mrs. Wiswell reviewed Purchase Orders and supporting documents presented for payment and \$1,631.62 transferred from General to At Risk. Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mr. Froese, to approve the bills as listed on the List of Warrants, dated 07/31/23, and authorize payment and transfers. The motion carried 7-0.

Public Forum

There was no public forum

Communications

The family of Jake Ferrell sent a card of thanks.

Reports

Principals- Mr. Murphy stated district-wide enrollment was held at the Elementary School. He said everything went well, and enrollment numbers were good. Cassie Davis and our district nurse, Tina Froese, conducted about 90 Sports Physicals during enrollment. MS/HS Coaches meeting, Seventh and Ninth Grade parents' meetings, and Senior Banners have all been done. The Fall Sports and MS/HS Parents' meeting for the other grades was on the 10th. We have around 10-11 kids participating in classes offered at SCCC. Those classes will begin on August 23rd. District-wide Open House will be August 28th.

Mrs. Lee was not present. A letter was presented for her report. It stated that enrollment went well and ended with 197 students. The largest class is Pre-K with 30 students and Fifth Grade with 28 students. The clothing drive was successful and collected more children's clothing than in previous years. All school supplies for elementary students were provided by several donations within the community. Brooke Patterson and Jarrod Weeks worked with the Sublette United Methodist Church to make this possible.

Curriculum- Mrs. Pena presented photos of items cleaned out from the Home Ec. Room. She said Mrs. Berg had been very busy reorganizing and getting ready for FACS classes. She also informed the Board that KESA was developing a new plan. There were two reasons for this. One is due to not enough review teams to send into districts. The other reason is because of low state assessment scores. Therefore, this year is a transition year. All of the test scores were saved locally and not in the authenticated app. We will still attempt to get our visit review from the person in the northern part of the state. We also need to have our OBT come out and attend SWPRSC to see what that looks like.

Activities- Mr. Befort reported the following:

Middle School: Girls Cross Country- 3; Boys Cross Country- 5; Volleyball- 18; Football- 12.

High School: Girls Cross Country- 2; Boys Cross Country- 3; Football- 25; Volleyball- 26.

Buyout sponsorships have only one volleyball and 3 basketball games available.

SWPRSC- Nothing to report.

HPEC- Mr. Forester said they employed 185 Paras pre-COVID. They employed only 160-165 Paras last year. Pay changes were discussed.

Item #4 Introduction of Staff

All new staff and faculty members introduced themselves, and Mr. Richardson welcomed them to the district.

Item #5 Centera Bank- Save for America

Brittany Marlin and Ginger Orwig informed the Board that participation numbers had continued to drop since COVID. They wanted to try to increase the numbers and get them back up to where they used to be. They would be hosting a Pizza party for all K-6 students to let them know about Save for America. They stated that Centera Bank would give every new participant \$1 to get the account started and have community members volunteer to count the deposits brought to the bank.

Item #6 District Water Usage

Mr. Richardson stated that he, Mrs. Leverett, and Mrs. Ochs-Lathen researched and recorded the last three years of water usage. The biggest concern was water usage on the football field. After reviewing, there did not seem to be excess usage, and usage seemed to coincide with the weather. The pros and cons of different options were discussed, such as cutting back on water, looking into planting Bermuda grass, or water-free AstroTurf. The Board felt that the current situation did not warrant a change at this time. They just asked that we keep an eye on things and continue to try and conserve as much as possible.

Item #7 Notice of Budget Hearing

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Forester, to Adopt the Resolution to Exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate. The motion carried 7-0.

Item #8 Mileage Reimbursement Rate

The state increased the rate for mileage to 65.5 cents per mile. Mr. Pena moved, seconded by Mr. Mason, for the district to match the state rate for mileage reimbursement. The motion carried 7-0.

Item #9 KASB Policy Updates- 2020

Mr. Richardson recommended the Board adopt the changes as presented. Mr. Forester moved, seconded by Mr. Froese, to adopt. The motion carried 7-0.

Item #10 Part-Time Student Policy

Mr. Murphy and Mr. Richardson reviewed the policy. The deadline to have our plan in place is January 2024. KSHSAA and transportation are areas where the biggest issues may arise.

Executive Session- Non-Elected Personnel

Mr. Forester moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck, to go into Executive Session to include Mr. Murphy. The motion carried 7-0. They returned to open session at 8:17 p.m. Mr. Forester moved, seconded by Mr. Froese, to return to Executive Session. The motion carried 7-0. The Board reconvened at 8:23 p.m. Mrs. Wiswell moved, and Mr. Forester seconded to return to Executive Session. The motion carried 7-0. The Board returned to open session at 8:28 p.m.

Item #11 Personnel Employment

There was no action taken.

Superintendent Report

Mr. Richardson said he had met with the Superintendents from SW Heights and Stanton County on how to fill shortages. They will continue to share and network with other districts. The District Picnic will be on August 22nd, and the District Breakfast will be on August 23rd. The KASB Conference will be November 10th-12th.

Adjournment

With no other business to discuss, Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mr. Forester, to adjourn. The motion carried 7-0.

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