

**Sublette USD #374  
Official Minutes**

The Sublette Unified School District No. 374 Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 12, 2024 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

No Members Absent

Others Present:

Rex Richardson, Superintendent; Charity Ochs-Lathen, Clerk; Rachel Lee, Elementary Principal; Bobby Murphy, High School Principal; Lyle Befort, Activities Director; Sonya Pena, Curriculum Director

Guests:

Sterling Hall, Randi Webb

**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 Mr. Froese, to approve the agenda. The motion carried 6-0.

**Item #2 Approve Minutes**

Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck, to approve the minutes, with change from Mr. Richardson, from the January 8, 2024 Board Meeting. The motion carried 6-0.

**Item #3 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 1/31/2024 and the following transfers: \$54,214.86 from General Fund to At Risk; \$5,634.24 from General Fund to 4-Year Old At Risk; \$7,527.66 from General Fund to Day Care; \$13,676.79 from General Fund to Bilingual, \$1,422.74 from General Fund to Vocational Fund; and \$49.55 from General Fund to Special Education. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan to approve payments and transfers. The motion carried 6-0.

**Item #4 Communications**

There were no Communications.

**Item #5 Reports**

**Principals:** Mr. Murphy stated the HS Leadership is looking into vending machine options. They would like to offer healthier options to be available before and after school, and after practices and games. They will be giving a presentation to the Board in a future meeting. Mr. Bob McMullen was this year's winter of the High Plains League Service Award for USD 374. Mr. Befort and Mr. Murphy went to Thunder Strikes Bowling Center to watch Dodge City take on Liberal. Mr. Schneider proposed trying to get a bowling team together the three weeks between basketball and track as a trial to see if this is something the district would like to offer. Homecoming Coin Wars raised money that was given to help a couple of families in the community. All Homecoming festivities and pep rally went well.

Mrs. Lee informed the Board that she has been using time during the morning meetings to bring in members from the community to talk to the kids about their jobs and let them ask questions. Sublette Elementary sent three students to the Haskell County Spelling Bee, held in Satanta.

## **Board Minutes**

**Page 3**

**February 12, 2024**

Ms. Avritt attended meetings for an after school grant. We did not qualify for it this school year but she is going to re-apply. The Elementary Science Fair will be held Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. We have Four Paras who are currently enrolled in college classes, with the intent of becoming licensed educators.

**Curriculum:** Mrs. Pena presented the Board the results of the State Accountability Report. This is a major part of our accreditation. It showed our graduation rate is just below the state average. However, one student who moved out of district was coded incorrectly and two other students graduated, but did so a year later than their cohort group. Those factors negatively impacted the percentage. The District has been working to get the incorrect coding fixed, and making sure that all other students are correctly coded. This ensures accurate percentages. New accreditation standards do not require districts to send results to the state. It goes through a local accreditation team who meets at SWPRSC. Next school year will have new requirements for graduating students. Our district anticipated these changes, and has been implementing them for the last couple of years, placing our students in a good position moving forward.

**Activities:** Mr. Befort reported the HS Girls Basketball is 0-17; HS Boys Basketball is 9-8 and are currently 7<sup>th</sup> Seed. The MS Quiz Bowl was February 12. The HS Basketball will play Moscow on Tuesday, February 13 and the last home game will be Sr. Night on Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. The High School Cheerleaders have done the Mini Cheer Clinic and have 75 participants. The last game of the regular season will be Tuesday against Stanton County, before heading into Sub-State.

**SWPRSC- No Report**

**HPEC-** Mr. Webber attended the meeting held on January 18<sup>th</sup>. He stated they discussed the results of their annual audit and issued retention checks to their employees. He stated the next meeting would be held on February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Item #6 High School Leadership Team-** Mr. Murphy said the Leadership Team would be scheduling a time during an upcoming meeting to go over their ideas for vending machines.

### **Public Forum**

There was no public forum.

### **Item #7 Public School Foundation**

Mr. Sterling Hall gave his annual report for the Foundation. They had their annual meeting in January 26<sup>th</sup>. He stated they established 14 New Memorial funds and that the Foundation is in good financial standing, with the Diversion Fund being one of their largest funds.

### **Item #8 SWPRSC Inter-local Agreement**

Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell to approve the SWPRSC Inter-local agreement as presented to the Board. The motion carried 6-0.

### **Item #9 Fundraisers:**

The Board was presented with a proposed policy regarding fundraiser. This was a first read. Action will be taken at a later meeting.

### **Item #10 Board Negotiations Team**

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan to appoint the Board's President and Vice President to the Negotiations team. The motion carried 6-0.

## **Board Minutes**

**Page 3**

**February 12, 2024**

### **Item #11 Bank Signatures**

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Froese to remove Mr. Cesar Pena and add Mr. Grant Webber to the District's Main Checking Account, 698016; and add Mr. Webber to the following accounts: 150878, Flex Account; 130982, Dale McClain Scholarship Account; 298247, Payroll Liabilities. The motion passed 6-0.

### **Item #12 District Health Insurance**

Mrs. Ochs-Lathen reported the current premiums for health insurance to the Board. Because of the high cost, the district has been looking into options for health care plans. We are looking into a few options and awaiting quotes for cost and comparable coverages.

### **Item #13 Open Board Seat**

The Board was presented with three different candidates for the vacant board seat. Because one was a late applicant, the Board felt it needed more time to give that a fair look over. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell to table the item for March's meeting. The motion carried 6-0.

### **Item #14 KASB Policy Updates**

The Board reviewed KASB Policy Updates from December, 2023 to approve as presented. The Board also voted to allow lunch accounts to go up to \$50 negative in all buildings before a student is given the alternate lunch choice. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell accept update policies and lunch balance fees. The motion carried 6-0.

### **Item #15 2024-2025 Calendar**

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan to approve the proposed calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. The motion carried 6-0. Mr. Richardson did inform the Board there is a Bill currently on the House floor that would require schools to begin after Labor Day. If that Bill passes, the Board will be required to approve an amended calendar.

### **Item #16 Executive Session- Negotiations**

Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mr. Froese to enter into Executive Session, to include Mr. Richardson. The motion carried 5-0. Mr. Mason stepped away from the Board table during the vote, causing him to abstain. The Board returned to Open Session at 7:57 p.m. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to return to Executive Session. The motion carried 6-0. At 8:08 p.m. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to return to Executive Session. The motion carried 6-0. At 8:13 the Board resumed in Open Session.

### **Item #17 Executive Session- Non-Elected Personnel**

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to enter into Executive Session. The motion carried 6-0. At 8:45 the Board reconvened. Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mr. Mason to return Executive Session. The motion carried 6-0. The Board reconvened at 9:05 p.m. There was a short break. Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mr. Mason to return to Executive Session to include Mrs. Rachel Lee. The motion carried 6-0. Mrs. Lee left Open Session at 9:15 p.m. Mr. Murphy entered into Executive Session at 9:15 p.m. and left at 9:25 p.m. Mr. Befort entered into Executive Session at 9:26 p.m. The Board reconvened into Open Session at 9:29 p.m. Mr. Dyck moved, Mr. Mason seconded to return to Executive Session. The motion carried 6-0. At 9:56 p.m., The Board Reconvened. Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mr. Mason to return to Executive Session. Mr. Befort left Executive Session at 10:08 p.m.. Mr. Richardson left Executive Session at 10:10 p.m. The Board returned to Open Session at 10:17 p.m.

## **Board Minutes**

**Page 4**

**February 12, 2024**

### **Item #18 Personnel Employment**

Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to hire Kasey Leverett at HS Assistant Track Coach and Michelle Leonard and Erica Leggett as MS Assistant Track Coaches. The motion carried 6-0. Mrs. Lee moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell to extend Mr. Richardson's and Mrs. Lee's contracts one more year. The motion carried 6-0. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell to accept the resignations of Terry Phoenix as second grade teacher, Liliana Macias as custodian, Elizabeth Meyer as MS Girls Head Basketball coach, Eva Teichroeb as Para, Mrs. Jessica Murphy as MS/HS Guidance Counselor, and Mr. Bob Murphy as MS/HS Principal. The motion carried 6-0.

### **Item #19 Superintendent Report**

There were no items to report.

With no other business to come before the Board, Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Froese, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0. The meeting adjourned at 10:45p.m.

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

---

*President*

*Clerk*

**Visit our web site**

**<http://www.usd374.org/>**