

**Sublette USD #374
Official Minutes**

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

Members Present:

Juan Chacon	Cornelius Froese	Shyree Wiswell
Grant Webber	Ruthie Vaughan	Pete Dyck

Members Absent – Lee Mason

Others Present:

Rex Richardson, Superintendent; Charity Ochs-Lathen, Clerk; Rachel Lee, Elementary Principal; Sonya Pena, High School Principal; Brooke Bultena and Renee Phoenix, Curriculum Directors and Paula Leverett, District Secretary.

Guests:

None

Item #1 Call Meeting to Order /Approve Agenda

The President called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mr. Chacon, to approve the agenda. The motion carried 6-0.

Item #2 Reorganization of The Board

Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck, to appoint Mr. Webber as President of the Board. The motion carried 6-0. Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell, to appoint Mr. Froese as Vice President. The motion carried 6-0.

Item #3 Approve Minutes

Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan, to approve the minutes from the December 9, 2024 Board Meeting.. The motion carried 6-0.

Item #4 Treasurer's Report

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Froese, Mr. Dyck, Mr. Chacon, Mr. Webber, Mrs. Wiswell and Mrs. Vaughan reviewed Purchase Orders and supporting documents presented for payment as listed on the List of Warrants dated 12/31/2024. Mr. Dyck moved and Mrs. Vaughan moved to pay the bills as presented. The motion carried 6-0.

Item #5 Communications

There were no communications.

Item #6 Reports

Principals:

Mrs. Pena reported this was the first time in many years finals were done based on combination of Grade and Attendance in order to encourage better attendance. There was a ½ day Fun Day on December 20th. Saturday, January 11, 2025 was Snowball. Miss Kansas will give presentation on Think Before you Post on January 15. Middle school will be doing a full tour of Satanta District Hospital the mornings of January 15 and 17. Mrs. Pena is currently working on postings for the open teaching positions. There are currently 4 Open Postiions. There have many applications from the Philippines. Power lifting participated in an even on Saturday, January 11th. They did well.

Mrs. Lee reported the building is going over KESA student data and getting a lot of input from teachers. They worked a lot on this at the In-Service. Miss Kansas will visit the Elementary School on Wednesday, January 15 and the Spelling Bee will be on Thursday, January 16. SRO Matt Meng and Rachel have met to work on program subjects for him to get to know the students and develop trust.

Curriculum: Ms. Patterson reported they working on KESA to meet accreditation. Mrs. Bird and Mrs. Leonard presented at In-Service. They are continuing conversation on AI and acceptable usage. She has explored Brisk, a Google based program that uses AI to create quizzes based on Kansas State Standards. SAC Meetings are again underway.

Ms. Phoenix attended training at the Service Center on December 16, 2024. She is working on Beginning and mid-year data from teachers. Teachers have reported and filled out forms to determine where the students currently sit. Dibbles- 100% of the students increased their scores, but some are still below grade level. Star Reading Test- 73% increased their score but we still have some below grade level. iReady saw a 76% increase in reading and 84% increase in Math.

Activities: Mr. Befort was out but reported via text that on Wednesday, January 15 the League Meeting will determine seeding for the High School High Plains League Tournament. The following week will be Middle School seeding. The Bucklin tournament did not get on the calendar.

SWPRSC- No Attendance

HPEC- No attendance for the report. However, Mr. Richardson stated Ms. Harris is resigning. Elkhart is still at odds with HPEC.

PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum

Item #7 Transportation Request

The After Prom Committee is asking for use of a van to take kids to Parrot Cove Water Park after Prom. The committee will pay for fuel and drivers. Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mr. Chacon to allow for use of bus and driver. The motion carried 6-0.

Item #8 Organizational Chart- The Board was given a District Organization Chart to review. It is to determine the order of addressing matters that arise in the district. Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan to approve the chart as presented. The motion carried 6-0.

Item #9 SWPRSC Board of Directors-

Kim Mauck has asked if anyone would be interested in joining the SWPRSC Board. It is held the last Wednesday of every month at 8am and can be attended in person or via Zoom. Mrs. Vaughan volunteered. Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mr. Froese to approve Mrs. Vaughan. The motion carried 6-0.

Item #10 Capital Projects

Mr. Richardson presented to the Board a list of Capital Improvement projects that need to be made. There has been a lot of deferred maintenance and salaries shuffled over the years to make ends meet. He estimates the cost of the projects needing done to be around \$2 Million. We've been doing ok but we can only get one big project done a year and we can never get all done that need done or get ahead of the curve.

Mr. Webber asked the Board to look over the packet presented to them and get more educated about the projects that need to be completed. Mr. Richardson asked the Board their thoughts on trying to obtain a small bond around \$3-\$5 Million to be able to complete all the projects. The Board asked Mr. Richardson to collect more information.

Item #11 Executive Session- Student

Mr. Dyck moved, Seconded by Mrs. Wiswell to enter into Executive Session for 15 minutes to include Mrs. Lee and Mr. Richardson. The motion carried 6-0.

The Board reconvened at 7:59 p.m.

Item #12 Executive Session- Non-Elected Personnel

Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mr. Chacon to enter into Executive Session for 15 minutes to include Mr. Richardson. The motion carried 6-0. Mr. Richardson stepped out of Executive Session at 8:07. The Board returned to Open Session at 8:16 p.m. Mrs. Vaughan moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to again enter into Executive Session for 15 minutes. The motion carried 6-0. The Board Reconvened at 8:31. Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan to enter into Executive Session for another 15 minutes. The motion carried 6-0. The Board returned to Open Session at 8:47 p.m.

Item #13 Personnel Employment

Mrs. Wiswell moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to accept the resignations of Mrs. Paula Leverett as Choir Director and Mrs. Tina Froese as School Nurse. The motion carried 6-0. Mrs. Vaughan moved, seconded by Mr. Chacon to hire Mrs. Paige Torres as Head Ms. Track Coach. The motion carried 6-0. Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to extend Mr. Richardson contract through June of 2027. The motion carried 6-0.

Superintendent Report

The Calendar Committee meeting will be on Wednesday, January 27th at the district office. Power School was hacked and our student demographic page was compromised. The hackers attempted to extract user name and password but failed. The Chamber Banquet is Monday, January 27th.

Adjournment

With no other business to come before the Board, Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mr. Froese to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 6-0.

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