

**Sublette USD #374
Official Minutes**

The Sublette Unified School District No. 374 Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 8, 2024 6:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Pete Dyck

Grant Webber

Cornelius Froese

Lee Mason

Juan Chacon

Shyree Wiswell

Ruthie Vaughan

Members Absent - None

Others Present:

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

Guests:

Tabitha Ferrell, Becki Wright, Lexi Wright, Krista Phoenix, Ty Phoenix, John Phoenix, Jaime McVey, Lena Guenter, Amy Minor, Tina Berg, Karina Berg, Cesar Pena

Item #1 Call Meeting to Order /Approve Agenda

The President called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Mr. Mason, seconded by Mr. Dyck to approve the agenda with the change of striking the action item concerning the change of date for the spring band and choir concert. The motion carried 7-0.

Item #2 Approve Minutes

Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mr. Mason to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2024 meeting. The motion carried 7-0.

Item #3 Treasurer's Report/ Approve Transfers

Prior to the meeting, Mrs. Wiswell, Mrs. Vaughan, Mr. Froese, Mr. Dyck, Mr. Chacon, Mr. Webber and Mr. Mason reviewed Purchase Orders and supporting documents presented for payment, as listed on the List of Warrants dated 3/31/24. \$54,347.78 from General Fund to At Risk, \$5,634.24 from General Fund to 4-Year Old At Risk, \$5,082.17 from General Fund to Daycare, \$13,569.37 from General Fund to Bilingual, \$13,751.65 from General Fund to Food Service, \$4,265.20 from General Fund to Vocational, and \$367.30 from General Fund to Professional Development. Mr. Dyck moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell to pay the warrants and approve the transfers as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

Item #4 Communications

There were no items presented.

Item #5 Reports

Principals

Mr. Murphy reported to the Board that High Plains League music was held in Lakin on March, 5th and our students scored well. Parent Teacher Conferences were right before Spring Break with 95% attendance at HS, 96% attendance at MS. MS/HS Cheer tryouts are complete and squads for next year are set. KAYS organized Easter activities for the Elementary students and daycare with an appearance by the Easter Bunny. HPL Art contest was held in Stanton Co. We sent 25 pieces and had 5 receive a medal. HS Regional Music was held at GCCC and many will be going on to State Music in Hillsboro. FFA Chapter Banquet will be April, 9th. The HS Large Group will be in Dodge City on April 17th. MS HPL Art Contest will be the end of April. Senior Signing Day will be May 2nd. Scholarship night will be May, 9th. The Juniors completed the ACT in February.

The average score was 17.2. The state average is 19. However, we had an increase from 16.2 the previous year. The State assessments are being completed. KELPA testing is going on as well. We have invited Satanta over for the day to participate in Reality U to be held May, 1st. This will be for 8th Grade and Sophomore students.

Mrs. Lee reported an attendance rate of 98.6% for the Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences. State testing is underway. The Spring Music Concerts for Pre-K-Third Grade April 12th and Fourth-Sixth Grades will be May 2nd. Pre-K enrollment will be April 18th and signing day will be April 22nd. The Art show and field day will be May 10th. Mr. Webber presented Mrs. Lee with the Challenge award.

Student Presentations

Amy Freeman-Minor introduced Karina Berg. Karina presented about her experience on a field trip to Escape the Clock in Garden City. She stated the group worked well together. It promoted teamwork and problem solving skills along with improving critical thinking.

Mrs. Ferrell presented the Board with a thank you for the group for allowing them to attend the State Science Fair.

Lexi Wright presented her project on Pre-Diabetes. She placed first at regionals and state.

John Phoenix presented his project on how different size plastic bags affect flight time. He placed first at regionals and state.

Karina Berg presented on whether or not the temperature affects the consistency or flavor of cookie dough. She did not place at regionals but got a second at state.

There is concern over whether or not the high school students will participate at the state level in upcoming years. The type of projects and facilities needed aren't accessible to us.

Curriculum

Mrs. Pena reported the POs are being collected for curriculum and updating where needed. She is currently working on updating job description in the MS and HS. There are two KESA meetings coming up. Andrea Simmons proposed adding gaming to fill in some holes in the HS schedule along with Shoutcasting/Broadcasting.

Activities Director

Spring Sports are underway. Softball is 3-1, Baseball is 3-2. We will be hosting a large MS track meet on April 30. It is a 1pm start time with 11 teams currently signed up.

SWPRSC

There was no report.

HPEC

Mr. Webber reported it was a standard meeting with the exception of six resignations.

Item #6 Recognition

Mr. Webber presented Mr. Pena with an award for his years of service on the USD 374 Board of Education.

PUBLIC FORUM

Lena Guenter and Jaime McVey requested being allowed into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

Item #7 Donation

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell to accept a donation from Donna White in the amount of \$4,035.89 for the purchase of new MS track uniforms. The motion carried 7-0.

Item #8 Property and Casualty Insurance

Mr. Richardson informed the Board of the changes surrounding EMC Insurance. Currently EMC is not only increasing premiums, but they are increasing the deductible from \$25,000 flat rate per occurrence to 1% of value per occurrence. He was letting the Board know we were working with a new insurance agency who is partnered with KSB to provide a better option for school districts in the state. They are collecting information to provide us a quote. The Board asked to keep them updated on that.

Item #9 SRO/ Professional Development

Mr. Groth has requested to attend the National Conference in Phoenix, AZ July 14-18, 2024. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Froese to pay for Mr. Groth to attend. The motion carried 7-0.

Item #10 2024-2025 After-School Grant

Mr. Richardson shared with the Board that ESSER money has been paying for our after school program for the last few years. With that coming to an end in September, we have to look at other ways to fund that program. We service 70-80 kids daily, four days a week. We have submitted funding to the 21st Century After School Grant. We have included Pre-K in our funding request. We are waiting to hear whether or not we received approval for the grant.

Item #11 June BOE Meeting Date

Mr. Richardson asked the Board for permission to move the June, 2024 Board meeting from June 10th to June 17th, 2024. This is due to Central Office Personnel needing to be gone at various times throughout the month. Mrs. Wiswell moved, seconded by Mr. Mason to move the meeting. The motion carried 7-0.

Item #12 Capital Projects

The Board was presented with a list of projects that need to be completed with funds from Capital Outlay. There are many projects for the Board to consider. They will continue further discussions in upcoming meetings to prioritize projects.

Item #13 Executive Session- Negotiations

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan, to enter into Executive Session to discuss Negotiations and to include Mr. Richardson. The returned into Open Session at 8:05p.m. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck, to return to Executive Session. The motion carried 7-0. The Board returned to Open Session at 8:11pm. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Chacon, to again enter into Executive Session. The motion carried 7-0. The reconvened into Open Session at 8:12 p.m.

Item #14 Executive Session- Non-Elected Personnel

Mr. Webber moved, seconded by Mr. Mason to enter into Executive Session to discuss non-elected personnel and to include Mr. Richardson, Mrs. Lena Guenter and Mrs. Jaime McVey. The motion carried 7-0. Mrs. Guenter and Mrs. McVey left executive session at 8:19p.m. Mr. Befort entered the Executive Session at 8:26 p.m. The Board reconvened at 8:33 p.m. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to continue with Executive Session. The motion carried 7-0. The Board reconvened to Open Session at 9:04 p.m.

Item #15 Personnel Employment

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Dyck to hire Tiffany Koehn as Assistant MS Track Coach. The motion carried 7-0. Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mr. Mason to move Leigh Bird from full- time to part- time MS Science; accept the resignation of Melissa Berg as HS ELA and FACS; the resignation of Alex White as Head MS Football. The motion carried 7-0. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan to move Shawna Norman from full-time Elementary Secretary to part-time Elementary Secretary; hire Corbin Dierking as summer maintenance at \$11 hour. The motion carried 7-0. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell the hiring of Celeste Kunselman for HS ELA and FACS; hiring Taylor Zimmerman for District Counselor; hiring Paige Torres Third Grade Teacher; hiring Michelle Avritt HS Services. The motion carried 7-0. Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Vaughan to approve the Supplemental list as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

Item #16 Superintendent Report

Mr. Richardson invited the Board to the End of School Celebration on Thursday, May 16th at 1pm in the Elementary School Cafeteria. He informed the Board new panels were ordered in which to display the class senior pictures. There are also efforts underway to update the record holder/ state championship wall.

Adjournment

With no other business to come before the Board, Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mrs. Wiswell to Adjourn. The motion carried 7-0.

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