

**Sublette USD #374
Official Minutes**

The Sublette Unified School District No. 374 Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 11, 2022 6:30 p.m.

Members Present:

Cody Forester
Grant Webber

Cornelius Froese
Lee Mason

Cesar Pena

Members Absent – Pete Dyck

Others Present:

Rex Bruce, Superintendent; Charity Ochs-Lathan, Clerk; Rachel Lee, Elementary School Principal; Sonya Pena, Curriculum Director; Bob Murphy, High School Principal; Lyle Befort, Activities Director; Traci Parr, Fifth Grade Teacher and Keely Blackwood, 4-Year-Old at Risk Teacher.

Guests:

Nick Leon and Brandon Stokes

Item #1 Call Meeting to Order /Approve Agenda

The President called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Froese, to approve the agenda. The motion carried 4-0.

Mr. Webber entered the meeting at 6:35pm.

Item #2 Approve Minutes

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Froese to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2022 meeting. The motion carried 5-0.

Item #3 Approve Bills and Authorize Payment

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Froese, Mr. Mason, Mr. Webber and Mr. Pena reviewed Purchase Orders and supporting documents presented for payment. Mr. Froese moved, seconded by Mr. Mason, to approve the bills as listed on the List of Warrants dated 03/31/22 and authorize payment. The motion carried 5-0.

Item #4 Approve Transfers

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Froese, to approve the following transfers: \$336,039.69 from Supplemental General to At Risk; \$102,259.28 from General Fund to Title; \$5,149.58 from Supplemental General to 4-Year-Old At Risk; \$5,751.02 from General to Daycare; \$12,262.37 to Bilingual; \$5,344.54 from General to Food Service; \$40,464.82 from General to Special Education; \$3,630.07 from General to Vocational Fund and \$4,862.18 from General Fund to Small Rural Schools. The motion carried 5-0.

PUBLIC FORUM

There was no public forum.

Reports

Curriculum

Mrs. Pena reported that the State came out with Summer Academics offering expansion subject programs to include health. She stated that this presented opportunities for our Physical Education Instructor and our School Nurse to expand on training. The district is currently looking for textbooks for the expanded subject classes that will be added to the curriculum in the fall of 2022.

Principals

Mrs. Lee thanked the Board for their support for State Science Fair. 12 Projects went to State. This produced 8 First Place finishes and 9 overall placements. Tuesday Grades 4-6 will have their projects exhibited in the HS Auditorium. The upcoming Kindergarten Graduation and 6th Grade Promotion will be held at the High School as well.

Mr. Murphy reported that the Winter Sports Awards had a good turnout as did the Jr. Chamber of Commerce Banquet. He stated the FFA banquet was also very enjoyable and they are currently very busy with activities as well. Mr. Murphy stated that he felt the recent crisis drill was the best one they had done. He also said that the recent installation of cameras at both buildings was proving to be a great benefit to both staff and students. Prom and after prom went well.

Activities Director

Mr. Befort reported that the wind was causing cancellations of sporting events. Some events can be rescheduled while others are not. The Baseball team is at 3-3, Softball is at 3-1. There will be no weekend practices without being approved by Mr. Befort. 37 Students will be attending State Music Festival. Sublette will be hosting the Art Fair and League Track.

SWPRSC/HPEC

Mr. Pena stated that SWPRSC was hiring several new consultants and they would be coming into the districts to meet the administration.

Mr. Webber was not able to make it to the HPEC Board Meeting.

Superintendent:

Mr. Bruce informed the Board that Mr. Rex Richardson had spent ½ day in district last week and met with the principals and administrative staff. He reminded the Board they would be going into the year with a \$140-\$160,000 deficit due to declining enrollment numbers. Some organizations may be required to raise money to pay for some trips they go on every year. He also reported on a new federal program promoting electric and clean fuel alternatives for bussing. He stated there was a lot of money in it and felt the District would be

looking into it as more becomes known. He also stated that the original plan to replace the HVAC system with ESSERIII money may not be the best way to use those funds due to the deficit in funding. He proposed, instead of using part of that money to paying retention bonuses to teachers and staff. Another factor in considering this alternative is that the 6 units have increased \$50,000 in price since this process started and the windows have a wait of at least 7 months before they are available. With some of the remaining money he suggested we put it toward the proposed All Day 4 Year Old at Risk program if we don't get the grant funding we applied for.

Item #5 Full day 4 Year Old At Risk Program

Ms. Blackwood and Mrs. Parr proposed to the Board a full day 4 Year Old At Risk Program. They informed the Board they would be applying for two grants to help fund the program and that one of those grants would be eligible for reapplication. The decline in the children's learning since COVID is dramatic, especially their social and emotional development and even physical development. Mrs. Lee stated that some kids don't have the muscle tone to correctly hold a pencil because they just know how to "swipe" on devices. With no daycare facilities currently open in our community the children will not be getting the preparation they need to go into Kindergarten. With the expansion to two teachers and the all day offering, this would allow more kids into the program.

Item #6 Summer Basketball League

Mr. Nick Leon and Mr. Brandon Stokes reported to The Board they would be taking over the Southwest Basketball program. In the past the program has used the schools to host the event and they asked if they could continue to be allowed that privilege. They agreed to allow Sublette teams 50% discount on entry fees. Mr. Webber moved, seconded by Mr. Forester to continue to allow the program to continue to use the district's facilities. The motion carried 5-0.

Item #7 Approve the School Calendar

Mrmason moved, seconded by Mr. Webber to approve the calendar for the 2022-2023 School Year. The motion carried 5-0.

Item #8. Executive Session (Non Elected Personnel)

Mr. Mason Moved, Seconded by Mr. Webber to go into Executive for 15 minutes beginning at 6:12 pm. The Board reconvened at 6:27pm.

Item #9 Appoint New Board Member

The board tabled this until the May Meeting.

Item #10 Contract Approvals

Mr. Webber moved, seconded by Mr. Mason to approve the contracts for Ashley Clue, Kacie Moree, Trevor Leverett and Leigh Bird. The motion carried 5-0.

Item #11 Resignations

Mr. Mason moved, seconded by Mr. Forester to accept the resignations of Aubrey Roths and Kelsey Webb, with gratitude for their years of service. The motion carried 5-0

Adjournment

With no other business to come before the Board, Mr. Forester moved, seconded by Mr. Mason, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 5-0.

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

President

Clerk

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