

**MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 11 , 2023 REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M.  
CHOCTAW/NICOMA PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Ind. Dist. 4, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

Place of Meeting

Administration Office Board Room, 12880 NE 10th Choctaw, OK 73020

Pamela Matherly, Board President, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. President Matherly called roll to establish the following members were present: Jason Ross, Vice President, Janice Modisette, Clerk, Don Alsup, Asst. Clerk and Jessica Salinas-Dengler, member.

Ms. Matherly called for consideration and approval of the agenda. Mr. Ross moved and Mrs. Modisette seconded to approve the agenda. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Alsup moved, seconded by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler to approve the August 14, 2023. The vote was unanimous.

Ambra Smith, ACT President reported that they are very thankful that their contract was ratified and for raises as well as the district accepting out of state years of service.

Under public comments, Mr. Eric Seabolt made the following comments. The community passed bond with an idea of safety and security and has seen football progress but not safe room progress. He added that the bond messaged safety and security but need update on what's being done for safe rooms especially at GME. Mr. Seabolt also expressed concern about the out buildings not being secured or plan for securing the out buildings. He stated that he is just looking for an update on projects especially the safe rooms since he has children attending there. He closed by stating that he would have to pick them up because they don't have a to go in a storm situation.

Superintendent Reid gave the following report. We started school the Tuesday after last month's board meeting. It was a great start and everything was going well until the incident at the home football game on Friday, August 25<sup>th</sup>. It would be disingenuous to say that evening did not have an affect on the entire district. However, as tragedies often do, the situation provided opportunities for our students, staff, first responders and community members to step up and provide servant leadership as everyone worked together for the safety of all. I won't rehash all the heroic stories that have been shared, but I do want to publicly commend the overall response from the collective group which helped in a terrible situation from escalating to even greater heights. With that said, it was great for our football team and spirit squads to get back to live action last Thursday. The game had to be moved (not by our choice) to Moore Stadium. The band and color guard already had a session planned with their coach from out of state that evening so they were not able to attend. Everything went great both on the field and in the stands and the cherry on top was coming away with a 29-11 victory. Since last week was planned to be homecoming week, that had also necessitated a change in plans. The homecoming game will now be on Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, and the homecoming parade will be on Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. The parade will begin at CMS and conclude at Choctaw Creek Park. As a district, we did an evaluation both internally and externally. Steve will present later and provide further details on updated protocols. The board will vote to approve the ACT contract this evening. We are excited about the new contract and look forward to our teachers receiving a much-deserved pay raise. Kevin will present the 2023-24 district budget this evening. In closing, Mr. Reid stated that as of today, we have 5,832 students enrolled in PowerSchool. That compare to 5817 at the September board meeting last year for an increase of 15 students district wide.

Mr. Reid stated that the CHS AFJROTC was present this evening for a special recognition. He reported that annually, the Air Force JROTC Headquarters recognizes the achievements of school AFJROTC programs by awarding a Distinguished Unit Award. The Distinguished Unit Award is the top award most units are qualified to receive. Fortunately, Choctaw's AFJROTC program is a recipient of this award for the 2023 school year. Our JROTC program has a strong history of earning this Distinguished Unit Award. This makes the 10<sup>th</sup> year in a row and the 14<sup>th</sup> time since the CHS program was established in 2002 that we have received this award. The award recognizes the personal growth and accomplishments of the cadets, contributions of the instructors as mentors, and the support of the school, school district and local community. There are specific criteria that each unit must meet to receive this award. Our AFJROTC unit is doing great things in our schools and community. For example, in SY 2023 they put in 1,313 hours of community service. According to AFJROTC Headquarters, our JROTC unit is one of the best of the 850 AFJROTC units worldwide. The cadets, instructors, and Choctaw High School are to be commended for earning this award. Today, I have the please to present the Air Force JROTC Distinguished Unit Award to the current cadent leadership of our award winning AFJROTC program.

The Choctaw Alumni Association couldn't be present at this meeting and will make their presentation at the October board meeting.

Matt McFarland, Director of Transportation shared that the staffing for transportation was at full capacity for the first time that anyone can remember. They have tweaked routes to try to make them as efficient as possible. He stated that we have added a few new buses including activity buses to the fleet. The new student tracking system is installed on all of the buses and the transportation department is undergoing training to learn how to use it properly. The hope is to be utilizing it as soon as possible.

Director of Bond Oversight & Security, Todd Dilbeck reported that the footing for the new Choctaw High School is being completed. Plumbing and electrical has started. The floor pour is scheduled to start at the end of September 2023 and the structural steel is schedule to begin the end of October 2023. The concrete for the South restroom area of the McCharen Center was poured on August 23, 2023. The metal stud work has started. Smith & Pickel (Quad Construction) is making progress on the baseball/softball projects. The foundation is cleared. The proof roll will need some compaction. The building permit was received on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. The Indoor Facility 100% review was completed on August 1, 2023. WE are currently trimming to meet our budget. We will review the sewer installation/concession at Jensen Field in December 2023. At Jensen Field, the elevator has been cleaned and the shaft has been sealed. New control buttons have arrived. We are currently waiting on the wiring for installation. At Westfall Elementary, the new fence and gates have been installed. We are currently waiting on the framing inspection for the storage building at Choctaw Middle School. Demolition for the baseball/softball fields have started. Musco lights have been delivered.

Kevin Berry, Chief Financial Officer reported that the main focus this month was the preparation of the FY 2023-24 appropriated budget.

Board President Pamela Matherly called for a motion to opened the Budget Hearing. Mrs. Salinas-Dengler moved, seconded by Mr. Ross. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Berry shared that the district ended the year in the best financial position it has been in the past twenty years. All three appropriated funds ended the year with some of the highest fund balances in the history of the school. This allowed us to get a running start this financial year, which will be needed to cover the increases in expenditures which are going to occur this year. This year's proposed General Fund Budget is the larger in district history. Projected new revenue is estimate to be \$46.2 million and doesn't include any mid-term funding adjustments. It also doesn't include budgeting any of the fund balance. Last year's ending General Fund balance was \$3,570,892.75, which is also the largest in district history. Child Nutrition's proposed budget is \$2,638,560.21 which is the largest in district history. State funding is the largest source of revenue the district has. Three major state school funding increases were passed by the state legislature last year which significantly led to the budget growth this year. The two that affect the General Fund were the teacher pay increase funding and the additional funding for district discretionary needs. The district has elected to put most of these funds into salary and benefit increases, which were needed. The legislature also significantly increased the Red Bud funding in the Building Fund. This will be used for additional maintenance on our school buildings. In regards to our second largest source of revenue, which is local revenue such as property taxes, we should see an increase in these funds. We have only budgeted 90% of what we anticipate collecting as a hedge against any potential budget shortfall which may occur during the year. The net assessed valuation of the district grew 6.72% this year so normally we would see property tax growth of close to this same growth. On the expenditure side, significant increases in employee salaries and benefits due to the state funding increases is the major budget increase this year. In addition, significant additional resources were targeted for property and casualty insurance, safety and security needs, transportation fleet maintenance, utilities, and local special education needs. Additional General Fund budget increases were given to many individual school line items such as principal's budgets, media center budgets and other school activity line items. The Building Fund is going to benefit from a nearly \$800,000 increase in Red Bud (medical marijuana) funding. These funds can be used for building maintenance, new construction, renovation and remodeling of school facilities. The Child Nutrition budget increased slightly over last year due to the large amount of carryover (fund balance) funds we had last year. We will be spending some of the fund balance for new kitchen equipment. The district received federal Emergency Operation grand funding which we do not anticipate receiving this year. In closing, Mr. Berry stated we are presenting a conservative balanced budget for this hearing tonight. Board President opening the hearing for opening commenting from the board regarding the budget. With no comments, President Matherly opened the comments from the floor. With no comments, President Matherly called for a motion to close the board hearing and returned to the regular board meeting.

Mrs. Modisette moved, seconded by Mr. Alsop to close the budget hearing. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Alsop moved and seconded by Mrs. Modisette to approve encumbrances. Approved were the following: Fund 11 – #'s 139- 317 - \$924,767.10; Fund 21 – #'s 47-88 - \$333,414.78; Fund 22 - #'s 13-37 - \$52,819.55; Fund 33 - #'s 28-43 - \$153,814.90; and Fund 86 - #3-9 - \$68,693.34. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Modisette moved and seconded by Mr. Alsop to approve the fifth year of a five-year lease agreement between Choctaw-Nicoma Park Schools and Life Christian Academy for lease of the old Nicoma Park Elementary. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Salinas-Dengler moved, seconded by Mr. Ross to approve an Interest Distribution Resolution for the District. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Modisette moved, seconded by Mr. Ross to approve new Activity Fund Accounts for Academic Affairs, Student Services and Personnel offices. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Ross moved, seconded by Mrs. Modisette to approve a contract with Norman Regional Hospital Authority for Trainer Services for FY 2023-24. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Alsup moved, seconded by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler to approve the Contract for Secondary Career and Technology Education Programs for the 2023-24 school year.

Kelli Hosford, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services informed the board that Mrs. Keiffer had put together a comparison of test scores from 2017 through 2023 for them to look over. Mrs. Keiffer and Mrs. Worley are diving deeper into these scores to determine how to best guide teachers and principals on using scores to drive instruction. Scores for the most part have held steady with the exception of math. As we all projected, our sites are still diligently working to close the gap from COVID. The public can view scores once the OSDE publishes scores. Mrs. Keiffer is still in the process of gathering scores from other districts to see how we compare. We have 2 Professional Development opportunities beginning the last week in September. Classroom 180: Strategies for maintained and dealing with behaviors in the classroom begins Thursday ODD training will begin on September 26. The Cook Center has already been greatly used. They provided resources to us after our event on August 25, that we could immediately share with parents. Our first parent zoom was held on September 5. We had 57 parents pre-register and many more just zoom in without pre-registering. This event covered Mental Health Awareness in Students. Our next parent zoom is September 26, with the topic being Parent Styles. Mrs. Keiffer has been working diligently to get all of our new Paras Tier 1 and Tier 2 certified. Our first Para-Pro Training Camp will be later this month. Once they leave that leave that day, all of their Tier 1 and Tier 2 requirement will be met. In closing, Mrs. Hosford shared visiting the students that are in training with Not Your Average Joe while they were in training on September 7, there were in 3 stations, counting change back, memorizing all the drinks that can be ordered, and the preparation of the drink of the day which was a Frappuccino. The soft opening was today, with just customers who walk in the bank. Drive through opens September 18 with the grand opening on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Modisette moved, seconded by Mr. Ross to approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma Behavior Health Program and the Choctaw-Nicoma Park School District for the 2023-24 school year. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Salinas-Dengler moved, seconded by Mr. Alsup to approve an Interagency Agreement for Special Services between Kickapoo Head Start and the Choctaw-Nicoma Park School District for the 2023-24 school year. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Ross moved, seconded by Mrs. Modisette to approve a site agreement with Tech-Now for the 2023-24 school year. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. JeanAnn Gaona, Deputy Superintendent of Student Affairs shared that as many may have seen on Facebook, Debbie Worley is the winner for the Leadership category for the Siegfried Excellence in STEM Award. She received a \$2,500 check for STEM and will attend a recognition on Thursday night in Tulsa at an event called Flight Night which will feature an air show and a drone light show in the evening after it is dark. Dr. Gaona stated that we are very proud of her and all of the work she has done for our district. Dr. Gaona reported that our curriculum councils for English, Social Studies, Science and Computer Science will receive stipends this year to assist early in their career teachers with curriculum. It is our hope that this will provide a much-needed layer of support to retain teachers in our district. Their meetings will begin this month. In closing, Dr. Gaona stated that two schools in our district will have statewide Title I programs. Westfall Elementary and Nicoma Park Middle School will each have an additional reading teacher and sitewide money to assist students in succeeding in Math and Reading.

Mrs. Modisette moved, seconded by Mr. Ross to approve Choctaw High School's Alternative Education's State Deregulation Plan for the 2023-24 school year. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Alsup moved, seconded by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler to approve to approve the 2023-24 school year for the Choctaw High School Alternative Education Program to be based on hours instead of days. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Modisette moved, seconded by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler to approve a Consortium Agreement between Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center No. 23, Choctaw-Nicoma Park School District No. 4, Harrah School District No. 7, Jones School District No. 9, and Luther School District No. 3. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Ross moved, seconded by Mrs. Modisette to approve the following for adjunct certification: Jacob Rapp – Physical Science; Jessica Nichols – Geography; Aaron Trey Hagan – Intermediate Math; Katherine Cowden – Elementary; Brooklyn Breshears – Elementary; EJ Tillinger – Biology; Trey Porter – Intermediate Math; April Chesser – Sign Language; Bradley Tyler-Clark – Physical Education; Matt Crowder – Speech, Drama and Debate; Jonathan Garfield – US/OK History; Lori Sosenko – English; Susan Wessell – Music; Lindsey Mudgett – PE; Colt Newton – Psychology; Steven Walker – Geography; T Carter – World History; Reham Cox – Intermediate Math and Leslie Hart – Sign Language. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Modisette moved, seconded by Mr. Alsup to approve the consent agenda. The vote was unanimous.

At 6:41 p.m. with a motion made by Mr. Alsup and seconded by Mrs. Modisette the board entered into executive session.

At 6:58 p.m. with a motion by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler and seconded by Mr. Ross, the board voted to return to open session. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Modisette moved, seconded by Mr. Alsup to approve the following certified recommendations: Emily Harris, effective 8/14/23; Jackson Parker, effective 9/15/23; and Stacie King, effective 9/6/23. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Modisette moved, seconded by Mr. Alsup to approve the following certified resignations: Ashley Bower, effective 9/1/23 and Cynthia Hamilton, effective 9/1/23. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Modisette moved, seconded by Mr. Alsup to approve the following support recommendations: Patricia Brown, effective 8/14/23; Tanja Dalton, effective 8/14/23; Matt Shawdee, effective 8/14/23; Rose Cash, effective 8/14/23; Chris Clifton, effective 8/14/23; Jennifer McCool, effective 8/16/23; Tracy Lucero, effective 8/16/23; Michael Taylor, effective 8/22/23; Julia Boutte, effective 8/22/23; Kimberly Widener, effective 8/25/23; Mylica Wall, effective 9/5/23, Sapheriah Hoffman, effective 9/5/23 and Rachel Cunningham, effective 9/8/23. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Modisette moved, seconded by Mr. Alsup to approve the following support resignations: Lauren Belvin, effective 8/31/23; Carol Hanks, effective 8/17/23, Casey Simpson, effective 8/22/23 and Sarah Ball, effective 9/1/23.. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Alsup moved, seconded by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler to approve the ACT contract for 2023/24 school year. The vote was unanimous.

There being no further new business, at 7:22 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Modisette and seconded by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler to adjourn. The vote was unanimous.

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION:

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Pamela Matherly, President

Jason Ross, Vice President

Janice Modisette, Clerk

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Don Alsup, Asst. Clerk

Jessica Salinas-Dengler, Member