

MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 P.M.
CHOCTAW/NICOMA PARK BOARD OF EDUCATION

Ind. Dist. 4, Oklahoma County, Oklahoma

Place of Meeting

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

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

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

Mr. Alsup moved, seconded by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler to approve the August 12, 2024 regular board meeting minutes. The vote was unanimous.

Toni Dennis, CNP ACT, reported that the school year has started and everything is lining out. She stated that it is great to be a district where, if you are in need, there are individuals that are willing to pitch in to help you out.

There were no comments from the floor regarding agenda items.

Superintendent Reid gave the following report:

- We have reached the fifth week of the school year. Many of our sites will pass out progress reports this week. CHS will reschedule parent/teacher conferences for this Thursday.
- We did have a challenging situation at CHS earlier when a student found a magazine to a small caliber hand gun in the lower parking lot at CHS earlier today. CHS went into a lock down while the SRO's from our CNP Police Force began an investigation. We also had officers from Choctaw PD and Oklahoma County Sherriff's Office respond to assist. No weapon was found on campus and no imminent threats were ever expressed. I want to commend the CHS administration and the CNP Police Department for their swift actions to ensure everyone was safe.

Superintendent Reid stated that we had a group of students from CHS present this evening. He asked Col Jones of CHS Air Force JROTC program and his cadets to please come forward. Superintendent Reid stated 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. Choctaw's AFJROTC program is a recipient of this award for the 2024 school year. Our JROTC program has a strong history of earning this Distinguished Unit Award. This makes the 11th year in a row and the 15th 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 district and local community. There are specific criteria that each unit must meet to receive this award. This year's award comes with the "With Merit" distinction. "With Merit" is only given in the years the program is inspected by AFJROTC Headquarters and the results are well above standards. As we were briefed after the inspection last February, our program received the highest score possible in the 23 categories of the inspection. Our AFJROTC unit is doing great things in our schools and community. Here are a few that occurred during the 2024 school year:

- Cadets perform 1,844 hours of community service
- The Color Guard performed at numerous high visibility events such as the Governor's State of the State Address, several Thunder basketball games, state agency conventions, Military Veteran recognition ceremonies, and many more
- We had 6 cadets attend Boy's State
- We had 8 other cadets attend Youth Leadership Camp
- And 43 cadets planned and attended our local leadership camp

According to AFJROTC Headquarters, our JROTC unit is one of the best of the 850 AFJROTC units worldwide. In fact, our Drill Team earned the overall State Championship for 2024! On the way to that title, they collected 48 trophies over the last year as they shined in many drill competitions. The cadets, instructors, and the Choctaw High School Administrators are to be commended for earning this award. Superintendent Reid closed stating, I have the pleasure to present the Air Force JROTC Distinguished Unit Award with Merit to the current cadet leadership of our award winning AFJROTC program.

Director of Bond Oversight, Todd Dilbeck reported the following on bond projects. **GME: Ross Group:** Concrete has been poured on the west half of the saferoom. (This is the White Lego Blocks for the Safe Room). All roofing and doorways have been delivered. The front of the building will be poured Tuesday of this week. They are working on the elevator shaft. Ross Construction Group built a berm and added sod and replaced the damaged fence on the south side and added riff raff to help with drainage. **CNP West: AC Owen:** Surveyed on Friday, August 30, 2024. Heavy equipment was moved in today. Construction to begin in the middle of September. **High School: Manhattan:** Nichiha (paneling) continues to be installed. The driveway and parking area are almost completed. The windows continue to be installed. The roof on the Band Building and rafters have been installed. Metal studs are being installed on the walls. Concrete has been poured on the ROTC/tennis expansion. We received the permit for the new high school marquee. A meeting was held with CWA and Todd Goolsby to review the plans for the Practice Gym and Museum. **Softball/Baseball Locker Rooms:** Waiting on the letters above the gate entrance, "YELLOWJACKETS". **Multipurpose Building: Quad Construction:** Dirt work continues. **Bill Jensen Field: Quad Construction:** Fencing has been put in place for the new concession area. Demo has started with concrete removal and will be working on the dirt pad this week. **Choctaw Elementary: Goldsby:** Demo of the building has been completed. Dirt work has started with removal of dirt to bring in select fill for the foundation of the saferoom.

There were no comments from board members.

Mrs. Modisette motioned, seconded by Mr. Alsup to approve the October 1, 2024 capacity numbers to be submitted to the Oklahoma State Department of Education. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Johnson moved, seconded by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler to approve the following new policies or policy revision: EMI – Voluntary Private Prayer and Moment of Silence, EMDG – Flags, GK – Use of School District Facilities, EK-R2 – Testing Program Student Surveys (Remediation Regulation), EIAE-P – Proficiency Based Promotion, - Testing Procedures and EIED – Graduation Requirements. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Modisette moved, seconded by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler to approve the following policy revision: EKBA – Strong Readers Act. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Modisette moved, seconded by Mr. Alsup, to approve an out of state trip for CHS AFJROTC Cadets, Colonel Jones, and Chief Master Sergeant Richey to attend the Memorial Maverick Drill Competition in Wichita Falls, TX on October 12, 2024. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Alsup moved, seconded by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler, to approve an out of state trip for the CHS FFA to attend and compete at the American Royal Livestock Show held in Kansas City, KS on October 17-21, 2024. The vote was unanimous.

Kevin Berry, Chief Financial Officer stated the past month has been spent working on preparing the budget. He added that it is very difficult challenge this time because we did not get our allocation notices from the state and we had to estimate on some of our programs. Our state aid number (initial allocation) has changed no less than five times from July 1st to today.

Mrs. Modisette motioned, seconded by Mr. Alsup to approve encumbrances. Approved were the following: Fund 11 – #'s – 530 – 699 – \$208,909.69; Fund 21 – #'s 95-108 - \$133,062.86; Fund 22 - #'s – 44-56 - \$433,302.85, Fund 33 - #'s 34-44 - \$96,448.13; Fund 37 # -2 - \$5,314.92 and Fund 86 - #'s 7-12 - \$112,792.05. The vote was unanimous.

Board President, Jason Ross called for a motion and second to open the FY 2024/25 Budget Hearing. Mrs. Modisette moved, seconded by Mr. Alsup to open the hearing. The vote was unanimous. Kevin Berry, Chief Financial Officer, stated that the budget documents were published last week in the Journal Record. He added that this year's initial expenditure budget is approximately \$835,000 higher than last year's ending budget. This is primarily due to projected increases in personnel costs and property and casualty insurance costs. Additionally, the district has new programs and services such as our police force, all-day Pre-K and our Bridges Program beginning this fiscal year. These increased costs should be covered by the projected increase in ad valorem and other local revenue. Mr. Berry continued stating that our district student growth is projected to be relatively flat. We do anticipate a growth in our weighted ADM due to the addition of our all-day Pre-K. In other words, the actual physical number of students will be about the same but the weights used for state aid calculation should increase due to these Pre-K students going to school all day instead of a ½ day. Mr. Berry reported that the net assessed value of the property residing in the district increased by 5.7% this year. This should result in increased ad valorem revenue to the district by approximately this much. Please note that the proposed budget and the Estimate of Needs only reflects about 90% of projected ad valorem collections. This is a built-in cushion mechanism in case of a state revenue shortfall. This occurs in both the General Fund and Building Fund. He added that the district ended the year with the highest fund balance in recent history. This fund balance will protect the district if or when a recession occurs. It may also be needed as a funding source if additional staff is needed as the new major facilities are completed and opened for use. Please note, while we do show our fund balance on the revenue side in

the proposed budgets, we do not budget any fund balance for use in the General Fund on the expenditure side. This provides another hedge against any potential revenue shortfall or unanticipated expenditures which may occur during the year. Additionally, Mr. Berry reported that the district was able to provide our employees with additional raises in conjunction with their traditional step raises this year. Over the past three years, we have added over \$1,100 to our teacher compensation schedules funded with the increase in our local revenue collection. We have also added increases to our support salary schedules as well. He added that at this time, we are not anticipating any additional state funding at mid-year. In fact, we may see a decrease in state funding as more school districts will be dependent on the state aid formula due to an increase in student population statewide and a flat state education budget. Also, a significant decrease in gross production taxes will mean school districts who were depending on gross production taxes will not be more dependent on state aid. In regard to the Building Fund, Mr. Berry reported that the district received over \$1.2 million in Red Bud Funding last fiscal year. Unfortunately, half of that funding was provided by the State mid-June of last year. This late revenue collection caused the district to carry over in the Building Fund balance over \$1.3 million into this fiscal year, which contributed to the largest Building Fund budget in district history. This is not a bad thing as we will need to use some of these funds to cover unanticipated new construction costs and furnish and equip our new and renovated buildings coming online this fiscal year. Mr. Berry reported that the Child Nutrition Fund also began the year with a healthy fund balance. This was primarily due to the federal COVID relief program revenue. These federal funds ended last year. We do plan to utilize some of this fund balance to purchase new equipment for our cafeterias. One question that is often asked is, "why can't we offer free meals to our students like some of the others district do?" THE USDA federal program that provides meal funding for districts has a formula which basically reimburses school districts 1.8 times the district's free or reduced student count up to 100% of the federal meal reimbursement rate. School districts with less than a 56% free or reduced student count will not be reimbursed the full federal meal rate. Our district has a 45% free and reduced rate which would mean we would only be reimbursed 81% of the federal meal rate. We would have to subsidize the Child Nutrition Program with General Fund money in order to make the Child Nutrition Program whole.

Following his presentation, Mr. Berry asked if anyone had any questions. Board Member Staci Johnson asked the following questions. She stated that on Page 10 looking at the projected revenue under contract, it looks like we have a significant increase this year versus last year. She wondered if there was something specific that caused this increase. Mr. Berry replied that he would go back and look at his notes regarding this increase. He added that this is the budget hearing and, if needed, we can make adjustments throughout the next month until it is approved at the October board meeting. Mr. Berry assured Mrs. Johnson that he would look into it and get back with her. Next, Mrs. Johnson stated that the next questions are mostly tied back to significant increases or decreases from last year's budget. She continued stating that on page 12, looking at the textbook funds, there was a pretty large increase in this year's budget over last years. Mr. Berry responded that this year was a math adoption which is very expensive. Dr. Gaona stated that she could speak regarding the increase this year. She stated in the past, the State Department did a good job in splitting our ELA adoption where we adopted elementary one year and secondary the next year. However, with the Math adoption, they left it as a K-12th grade adoption. Mrs. Johnson's next question was pertaining to the fund balance. She knows that having a fund balance is definitely a good thing but was curious if we have a target amount in mind going forward of what we would like for the fund balance to be? She stated that we are currently at 8.9% and asked from here where we would like to be. Mr. Berry stated that we are restricted by law on the amount we can carry over. He added that for a district our size, we would like to have at least 1 month of revenue in our fund balance. He shared that 8-9% is a good target for our district and that is approximately equivalent to one month of expenditures. He stated what it does is help us cover a revenue shortfall or recession which we have not experienced for several years.

With no further questions, President Ross called for a motion and second to close the budget hearing. Mrs. Johnson moved and Mrs. Modisette, seconded to close the hearing. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Salinas-Dengler moved, seconded by Mr. Alsup to approve the Estimate of Needs for FY 2024-25 The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Alsup moved, seconded by Mrs. Modisette to approve a revision to the Facility Use Fee Schedule. The vote was unanimous.

Kelli Hosford, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services informed board members that in their packets were the final test score results for them to look over. The news has been discussing the large jump in ELA scores that are due to the change in the cut scores. CNP saw some growth but not a massive growth. Mrs. Hosford reported that we begin our Beyond Behaviors Professional Development on September 24th. She stated that we have 35 spots and so far, more than that have signed up, so we are making room for those as well. This is a continuation of the ODD training that we offered 2 years ago. Mrs. Hosford added that tomorrow will be our first Student Services Paperwork Google Meets. This is a time that we have developed for teachers to learn about different topics pertaining to special education paperwork. Our structured topics for tomorrow are the MEEGS and the new Policies and Procedures Book. In addition, there will be a time for Q and A on paperwork questions that people have. Additionally, she stated that she and Shanna Keiffer attended the Special Education Summit last Friday and today. She stated that their brains were overflowing with all of the information. Just a few of the topics were: FAPE, Child Find, Discipline, Dispute Resolution, Staffing. Alternate

Diploma, Transition, Monitoring, Grand Management Systems and more. Also, she, Shanna and Peggy will be attending the Special Education Finance Workshop on September 17. She reported that our IDEA Part B funds did come in, and she has the budgets completed for 621, 641, 613, 615 and 618. Mrs. Hosford stated that on September 19, Student Services will hold a Google Meets to walk through various hypothetical situations in special education and how to address those situations. She added that BRIDGES is open and soon will add 3 new students bringing the total to 16 students in attendance. They are adding students gradually and we still have several students on the list for BRIDGES to assess. Mrs. Hosford shared that Not Your Average Joe has completed training for their new crew and they have started work. There is now a group of 20 students working there. Mrs. Hosford encouraged every one to stop by and grab a coffee or specialty coffee drink. She added that she can highly recommend their power balls and yogurt parfaits. Mrs. Hosford reported that our first Cook Center zoom is tomorrow night and Child Count training is tomorrow afternoon. In closing, Mrs. Hosford stated that she would like to give a shout out to Peggy Williams and all teachers, administrators and counselors who work in EdPlan. She stated it has been a process this year.

Mrs. Salinas-Dengler moved, seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve CHS selection of the ACT as the 11th grade Oklahoma State Department of Education assessment. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Modisette moved, seconded by Mr. Alsup to approve an Interagency Agreement for Special Services between Kickapoo Head Start and Choctaw-Nicomma Park School District for the 2024-25 school year. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. Jean Ann Gaona, Deputy Superintendent of Academic Affairs reported that there have been several new programs that are underway this academic year. Elementary students have access to two interactive, adaptable online programs, My Math Academy and My Reading Academy. Our district piloted this program through six classrooms last spring and now have full adoption through our PK-5th grade classrooms. She added that Mr. Walters at the Oklahoma State Department of Education released new directives for each school district to comply with the new SRA law. This includes providing an online program that can be used at home. Fortunately, My Reading Academy will fulfill this requirement. Dr. Gaona added that secondary students will use Freckle, a program through the company Renaissance. Freckle also offers online programs in all core subject areas that offer remediation or enhancement based upon student needs. Dr. Gaona stated that Janna Walters, our instructional technology specialist, has started two programs this year. "In Small Bytes" is a series of in-person parent/guardian instructional technology trainings. Last month, approximately 50 parents attended. Teachers have access to "A Byte in Time". Janna stays at one site for the day through the month of September to address teachers' technology needs. Additionally, Dr. Gaona stated that one of the Academic Affairs Department's goals this year is to increase parent outreach. She added that they hope that all three of these initiatives will both meet this goal and will provide appropriate instructional technology to our students. Dr. Gaona shared that Title I, II and IV funds have been received, taken away and received again. She stated that she is working on our consolidated application as a week has passed with no additional changes being made.

Mrs. Modisette moved, seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the removal of obsolete wi-fi hotspots. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Salinas-Dengler moved, seconded by Mr. Alsup, to approve the following adjunct certifications – Tricia Wilson – mid-level math. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Modisette moved, seconded by Mrs. Johnson to approve the Library Weeding Log from Choctaw Middle School. The vote was unanimous.

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

At 6:40 p.m. with a motion made by Mr. Alsup and seconded by Mrs. Modisette, the board entered into executive session. The vote was unanimous.

At 6:59 p.m. with a motion by Mrs. Salinas-Dengler and seconded by Mrs. Modisette, the board voted to return to open session. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Alsup moved, seconded by Mrs. Modisette to approve the following certified resignations: Chris Caines, effective 8/12/24 and Briana Washington, effective 8/18/24. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Alsup moved, seconded by Mrs. Modisette, to approve the following support recommendations: Jaynelle, Kirk-Kronholm, effective 7/1/24; Ann Leonard, effective 7/1/24; Loretta Martens, effective 7/1/24; Troy Branham, effective 7/1/24; Stephanie Nemecek, 7/1/24; Kelly McBroom, effective 8/18/24; Jessica Cross, effective 8/15/24; Thanh Wadowsky, effective 8/21/24; Jessica Beesley, effective 8/22/24; Angelia Erwin, effective 8/23/24; Vanessa Fry, effective 9/3/24; Riley Herring, effective 8/27/24; Aubrei Davis, effective 9/16/24 and Jennifer Smith, effective 9/3/24. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Alsup moved, seconded by Mrs. Modisette to approve the following support resignations: Morgan Patrick, effective 6/30/24; Samuel Holleman, effective 8/8/24; Taia Brown, effective 7/1/24; Marty Lovelace (retire), effective 1/1/25; Kaitie Tabor, effective 7/1/24; Kathy Goforth, effective 8/19/24 and Whitney Gilbert, effective 8/26/24. The vote was unanimous.

There being no further new business, at 7:01 p.m. a motion was made by Mrs. Modisette and seconded by Mrs. Johnson to adjourn. The vote was unanimous.

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Jason Ross, President

Janice Modisette, Vice President

Don Alsup , Clerk

Jessica Salinas-Dengler, Asst. Clerk

Staci Johnson, Member