

Approved

December 11, 2024

South Sanpete School Board Meeting
39 S Main St
Manti, UT 84642

Open Meeting Start Time	3:30 PM
Open Meeting End Time	4:27 PM
Closed Meeting Start Time	N/A
Closed Meeting End Time	N/A
Meeting Adjourned	4:27 PM

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM by Board President David Warren.

Reverence: Kim Pickett

Patriotic Tribute: David Warren led the Board and those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance

Board Members Present: David Warren, Kim Pickett, Mark Olson, Loni Hammond, Connor Thompson

Others Present: Jake Hill, Ralph Squire, Leslie Taysom, Trevor Powell, Jana Palmer, Josh Palmer, Bethanne Chidester, April Christensen, Nadean DeMill, Viki Bailey

RECOGNITION & ACHIEVEMENT

Innovation Week—Assistant Superintendent Trevor Powell shared details about Innovation Week, a district-wide event highlighting technology integration in student-driven innovation. Board Members thanked the Technology Department and all educators and students who participated.

Prevention Block Grant Award—Assistant Superintendent Trevor Powell provided an update on the Prevention Block Grant, which funds Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) training. Mental Health Specialists will undergo intensive training and then return to the district to train staff at each school in these strategies.

Board Member Recognition—Assistant Superintendent Trevor Powell presented a resolution recognizing Board Member Kim Pickett for his 20 years of dedicated service on the Board.

Resolution of Appreciation: Honoring Kim Pickett’s 20 Years of Service on the South Sanpete School District Board

During Kim Pickett’s remarkable tenure as a Board Member, the South Sanpete School District has achieved outstanding progress in student academic achievement, reaching levels that stand out among Utah school districts. Over the past 20 years—a record length of service unmatched by any previous Board Member—the District has implemented transformative programs and initiatives that have significantly enhanced student support systems.

Under Kim’s leadership, the District introduced a new elementary reading program, bolstered by the addition of Elementary Reading Coaches, a Secondary Coach, a Technology Coach, Mental Health Specialists, four Teen Centers, and Wellness Rooms, among other resources.

In the realm of capital improvements, the District accomplished major projects, including the construction of new elementary schools in Gunnison and Ephraim, as well as numerous building additions. Significant strides were made in energy efficiency, with outdated coal boiler systems at Gunnison Valley High, Manti Elementary, and Manti High replaced with high-efficiency gas-fired rooftop units. Recently, the District completed extensive renovations to parking facilities at Manti High, Gunnison Valley High, Manti Elementary, and Ephraim Middle School, and continued progress on the 1-to-1 Device Initiative, ensuring every student has access to a personal learning device.

Kim Pickett has consistently championed the rights and best interests of students and parents. His deep-rooted connection to South Sanpete is evident—having attended the same schools his children and now grandchildren attend. His dedication and vision have left an indelible mark, ensuring the school system remains committed to excellence.

The legacy of Kim Pickett’s 20 years of service reflects his unwavering competence, care, and commitment to the children of the South Sanpete School District.

Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Kim Pickett for two decades of exceptional service on the South Sanpete School District Board!

CITIZEN DIALOGUE

None

BUSINESS ITEMS

Minutes—The Minutes of the November 13, 2024, Regular Board Meeting were presented for approval. After the discussion, Connor Thompson moved on to approve the minutes as written. Kim Pickett seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Warrants—Warrants #00032434 - #00032639 for \$1,342,140.21 were presented for approval. After discussion, Connor Thompson moved to approve the warrants as presented. Mark Olson seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Budget Report—Jake Hill, the Business Administrator, presented the Monthly Budget Report, which included a Year-To-Date Summary of Total Expenditures and Revenues, the Zions Bank Sweep Account, and the Utah Public Treasurers’ Investment Fund.

The majority of tax funding from the County is expected to be received in December. Mid-year adjusted legislative estimates have been received, and the district maintains a comfortable fund balance to manage any financial fluctuations.

After discussion, Kim Pickett moved to approve the budget report as presented. Loni Hammond seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

David Warren—Board President David Warren reminded Board Members of the USB A conference January 9-11.

Kim Pickett—Board Member Kim Pickett asked whether Narcan is available in schools. The administration confirmed that every school is equipped with Narcan, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the School Nursing team.

REPORTS

Graduation Report—Assistant Superintendent Trevor Powell shared the District's graduation report, highlighting the 10-year graduation rate. The current rate for the District stands at 96 percent, surpassing the state average of 88 percent.

Audit Committee Report—Business Administrator Jake Hill reported on the efforts of the audit committee.

FY24 Audit Report—Auditor Kurt Gilbert presented the District's annual independent audit report, which included a review of financial statements and compliance with federal and state requirements. The full report was made available to Board members for review. He explained the extensive testing conducted during the audit process. Once again, there were no compliance findings and the District received an unmodified opinion, the highest rating attainable.

INFORMATION

None

ACTION ITEMS

Policies—

Superintendent Ralph Squire presented the following new Policy for approval:

- *GCH Policy and Procedure for Equitable Teacher Distribution*

After discussion, Kim Pickett moved to approve Policy GCH with one noted change. Connor Thompson seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Esports—Superintendent Ralph Squire proposed the approval of Esports as a UHSAA-sanctioned sport starting in the 2025-26 school year, in accordance with UHSAA requirements and guidelines. Currently, both high schools run these programs as clubs.

After discussion, Connor Thompson moved to accept the UHSAA sanctioned eSports at both high schools. Kim Pickett seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Boys Volleyball—Superintendent Ralph Squire proposed the approval of boys volleyball as an official sport at Manti High School starting in the 2025-26 school year.

Following discussion, Connor Thompson made a motion to approve the proposal for boys volleyball at MHS as a sport beginning in the 2025-26 school year. Kim Pickett seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Hire Recommendations—Mark Olson moved to approve the following individuals for employment.

1. New Teacher Recommendations

- a. None

2. Para-educator Recommendations

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|------|
| a. Leticia Rodriguez | Title 1/AmeriCorps | GVES |
| b. Lindsey Wall | Title 1 | GVES |
| c. Jessett Alleman | Trustlands | EMS |

3. Transfer Recommendations

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----|
| a. Bethany Thurston | Teen Center Coordinator | MHS |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----|

4. Other Hire Recommendations

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|------|
| a. William Osborn | Student Custodian | MHS |
| b. Caleb Sowby | Student Custodian | GVES |
| c. Hannah Hemara | Tutor/Teen Center Grant | GVHS |

5. Resignations/Retirement

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|-----|
| a. Joan Johnson | Para-educator | Retirement | EES |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|-----|

Kim Pickett seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

Adjourn

Connor Thompson moved to adjourn the South Sanpete School Board Meeting. Loni Hammond seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and all voted in favor. Motion passed.

The next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 3:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 4:27 PM.

President

Business Administrator