April 10, 2012

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 7:00 PM in Room 104 of Central School on published notice by the clerk. Present were Trustees Todd Hermanson, Dexter Thiel, Luann Cooley, Dennis Lorenz and Serina Everett. Also in attendance were Superintendent Farr, Clerk Beyer, High School Assistant Principal- Loretta Thiel, High School Principal- Dan Peters, Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator- Gary Arnold, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson and Student Representative Tori Hill. Absent were Trustee Kelly Dey and Sidney Elementary Principal-Sue Andersen.

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Chairman Hermanson called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and welcomed the visitors in attendance- Bill VanderWeele with the Sidney Herald and members of the Chamber Leadership Class. Mr. Hermanson reminded those in attendance to sign in and stated that an opportunity for community comment on non-agenda items would be provided at the end of the meeting. Those wishing to address the board were asked to fill out the Audience Participation form and give it to the clerk to be recognized.

Mr. Lorenz moved to approve the minutes of the March 12 and March 26, 2012 meetings and the March2012 claim warrants 220242 to 220294 in the amount of $280,775.49. Mrs. Cooley seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

The March 2012 Associated Student Body report and transfers were approved on a motion by Mrs. Everett with a second by Mr. Lorenz. The motion passed unanimously.

 *From 2C BBB/GBB to Talon $ 12.50 Workers for concessions*

*From AP Tests to BPA $ 180.00 Fairview Meals for Math Meet*

 *From AP Tests to BPA $ 180.00 Sidney Meals for Math Meet*

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr recapped the following information for the Trustees:

- Correspondence: 1) Notice of tax abatement hearing for Microtel Inn and Suites April 16th @ 11:00 AM; 2) Information from Interstate Engineering on Pheasant Run Minor Subdivision; 3) Letter from OPI Special Education stating that compliance monitoring is complete;

- 2012-2013 Transfers: Beth Thompson from Grade 4 to Grade 2 and Terry Bolen from Middle School Guidance to .5 Guidance/.5 Physical Education at Central School;

- Addition to the Consent Agenda

**Resignations**: *Geri Willer – Speech Therapist Malcolm Cain – Band*

**New Hires**: *Jesse Nesper – High School Math Jace Sullivan – Middle School Math*

*Molly Mclaughlin – K-8 Art*

**Student Attendance Agreement:** *Jordan Owen- Parental Request from the Fairview District*

- Annual fire inspections have been conducted by Chief Gilbert and two minor corrections were noted: replace one ceiling panel at Central and remove a shelf blocking a sprinkler head at the High School;

- The District has set up a staff support group that will be meeting every Wednesday until the end of the school year to help employees deal with all the items that have occurred over the past year;

- Upcoming meetings and events:

*SEA Annual Banquet will be May 12, 2012 at 6:00 PM at the Sidney Country Club. Please let Alicia know if you will be attending;*

 *Montana Quality Education Coalition meeting in Helena April 16th*

 *District Music Festival – April 19th through the 21st*

 *Curriculum Release Day is scheduled for April 27, 2012 and*

*A special meeting will be set after receipt of more information on the Middle School kitchen project*

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

Tori Hill, Student Council Representative provided the following updates to the Trustees:

- Student Council is reviewing the handbook. They feel the student handbook is hard to read;

- They are also working on activities for the last day of school since it is a full day;

- Student Council granted preliminary approval for a paint ball club because their presentation was well done and it is a way to get more students involved. The Club still needs to come to the Trustees for final approval; and

- Tori shared results on a variety of topics garnered from a survey of Sidney students. She reported that 90% of students feel like they fit in but 46% of students feel bullying is a problem in school. Ms. Thiel reported they are looking at working on bullying from another angle – helping students figure out what to do if they are being bullied.

Mr. Hermanson expressed appreciation for the variety of student council members who have attended meetings this year. Attendance has been regular and the insight from different students has been appreciated.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: April 3, 2012***

Mr. Thiel recapped committee discussions:

- Met with Pam Radke, Food Service Supervisor, regarding Middle School kitchen issues and the possibility the department will experience three openings for the coming year. Dan Peters and Sue Andersen met with the board regarding curriculum and building issues;

- Vacancies and transfers were reviewed; resignations and new hires are on the Consent Agenda;

- Along with the new positions for 2012-2013 reported in March, another new position will be needed at Central for next year – ½ time Guidance and ½ Physical Education;

- Administrative 2012-2013 contract renewals are also on the Consent Agenda; and

- Winter co-curricular renewals will be considered as part of the Consent Agenda this evening.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: April 3, 2012***

Mr. Thiel outlined committee agenda items:

- Superintendent Farr updated the committee on the bus barn fire adjustments/replacements. Still a work in progress with insurance adjusters;

- It has been decided to delay bus camera installation at this time so the cameras will be in full use (this fall) in case the District experiences warranty issues; and

- Drivers education van replacement and route bus replacement are on the Consent Agenda.

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: April 2, 2012***

Mr. Lorenz highlighted Building and Grounds topics:

- Mr. Farr reviewed building project/maintenance itemized lists*;*

 *High School:* Will order hot water tanks for locker rooms; Interstate Engineering provided a report regarding the correction of flaking of the cement in the Multi-purpose room;

*Middle School:* Clarification sought on contractor proposals for the kitchen remodel proposals; building bathrooms need remodeling;

*West Side Elementary:* Interstate Engineering is researching the water easement with the city at this location as well as the zoning near West Side as that is a possible site for staff housing;

*Central Elementary:* Awaiting a report from Interstate Engineering regarding the second floor remodeling;

*Bus Barn:* Discussions continue with the insurance adjuster on fire repairs. Decisions will be made when final bill submitted from Restorx; and

- Capacity studies in relation to ongoing development updates will continue to be a discussion item as will staff housing.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: April 2, 2012***

Mr. Lorenz briefed those in attendance regarding committee discussions:

- The March claims, February financial and lunch reports were reviewed;

- Superintendent Farr reported current enrollment sits as 1215 Kindergarten through Grade 12;

- Montana Quality Education Coalition worked with the court to get the inflationary increase promised by law and was successful for 2012-2013;

- Additional attendance agreements for 2011-2012 are on the consent agenda;

- Discussion was held regarding the 2012-2013 budgets and whether or not to cancel the levy request. After much discussion, the issue is on the agenda for consideration tonight;

- Classified salaries continue to be a concern. Trustees have asked administration to look at affordable ways to increase these salaries;

- Career and Technical Education departments have asked for assistance with event travel and registration fees. A hand-out was provided with participation numbers and costs for each program;

- 2012-2013 school lunch prices and traffic education fees are on the Consent Agenda;

- The Insurance Committee recommended the District remain with MUST for 2012-2013. Approval of this recommendation is on the Consent Agenda; and

- Mr. Thiel recapped the latest regional oil and gas meetings and stated that another legislative visit is scheduled for April 9th.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: April 3, 2012***

Mrs. Cooley summarized committee topics:

- The last curriculum work day will be April 27th;

- Review of graduation requirements was moved to May because of meeting length;

- The District continues to work with representatives of the Montana and North Dakota university systems to increase post-secondary educational opportunities in the region;

- Recommended changes to the safety policy are on the Consent Agenda for second reading and adoption;

- The Communication Arts department continues work on a writing assessment to be added to the curriculum;

- Career and Technical Education advisory councils will be meeting during the month of April. Trustees have requested a copy of meeting minutes for these groups; and

- Second reading of Board Policy additions/changes is on the consent agenda for consideration tonight.

Prior to the presentation of the Consent Agenda, Mrs. Cooley asked the chair to remove the 2012-2013 Winter Co-curricular Agreements from the Consent Agenda to be acted on separately. With no objections forthcoming from other Trustees, this item was treated separately.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resignations**

- Caryn Fehilly – High School Business Teacher

- Kelsey Jensen – Elementary Special Education Aide

- Malcolm Cain – Music Instrumental Teacher

- Geri Allmaras-Willer – Speech Therapist

**New Hires**

- Jennifer Arias – Special Education OT/PT Aide

- Jesse Nesper – High School Math (2012-2013)

- Jace Sullivan – Middle School Math (2012-2013)

- Molly McLaughlin – K-8 Art (2012-2013)

**2012-2013 Administrative Contracts**

Gary Arnold 207 Day Contract Sue Andersen 210 Day Contract

Kelly Johnson 210 Day Contract Dan Peters 215 Day Contract (Tenure Renewal)

Loretta Thiel 207 Day Contract

**2012-2013 School Lunch Prices and Traffic Education Fees**

Traffic Ed fees will increase to $260.00 from the current $230.00

Lunch fees will increase as follows:

Adult from $3.80 to $4.00 Grades K-5 from $2.50 to $2.60 Grades 6-12 from $2.80 to $3.00

**2011-2012 Student Attendance Agreement**

Alexis Griggs Grade 5 Parent Trina Wood Parental Request Fairview School District

Jordan Owens Grade 9 Parent Daniela Owens Parental Request Fairview School District

**Approve 2012-2013 Montana Unified School Trust (MUST) Insurance Renewal**

Continued participation for 2012-2013 on recommendation of the Insurance Committee with the 9.3% premium decrease applied to participating employees’ monthly premiums

**Authorize School Route Bus and Drivers Education Van Purchases**

Bluebird Route Bus (no trade) at a cost of $105,100 to be funded by the bus depreciation funds

2012 Dodge Grand Caravan (with trade) at $17,125.00 to be paid out of the high school Flex Fund

**Second Reading and Adoption of 2012 Safety Loss and Control Program Policy Revisions**

Revisions will be made to Section K- Athletic/Physical Education Facilities; Section M- Auditorium Safety Rules/Inspection; Section N- Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act; Section O- Playground Safety Inspection Report and Section P Employee Accident Investigation Guidelines. Work will continue on Section L- Lab Safety/Inspection so no revisions are presented on this section at this time. Please find the documents outlining changes attached to the minutes.

**Second Reading and Adoption of 2012 Board Policy Revisions**

Proposed policy changes/additions are attached to these minutes. Policy numbers to be revised include: BP 1400 (Board Meeting); BP 2510 (School Wellness); BP 3120 (Compulsory Attendance); BP 3300P (Corrective Actions and Punishment); BP 3416 (Administering Medicine to Students); BP 3612P (Acceptable Use of Electronic Networks); District Form (Educational Authorization Affidavit); BP 5010 (Equal Employment Opportunity and Non-Descriminatioin); BP 5140 (Classified Employment and Assignment); BP 5210 (Assignments, Reassignments, Transfers); BP 5328 & 5328R (Family Medical Leave; BP 5450 (Employee Electronic Mail, Internet and On-Line Services Usage); and BP 5500 (Payment of Wages Upon Termination).

New policies are: BP 5015 (Bullying/Harassment/Intimidation) and BP 5460 (Electronic Resources and Social Networking)

Mr. Lorenz moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented excluding the 2012-2013 Co-curricular Agreements as per the request of Mrs. Cooley. Mrs. Everett seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

**2012-2013 Co-Curricular Agreements**

*Wrestling*

Guy Melby – Head Coach Ty Graves – Assistant Coach Nick Lonski – Assistant Coach

Shane Gorder – MS Coach Josh Prevost – MS Coach

*Boys Basketball*

Dan Strasheim – Head Coach Benji Berg – Assistant Coach Ruben Moreno – Assistant Coach

Chad Quilling – MS Coach Brad Faulhaber – MS Coach James Meissel – MS Coach (if needed)

Mike Gear – Elem Coach Matt Weber – Elem Coach

*Speech and Drama*

Gail Staffanson – Head Coach Christy Pierce – Assistant Coach

*Cheer/Dance Team*

Virginia Dschaak – Head Coach Teresa Stedman – Assistant Coach

*Girls Basketball coaching positions at all levels will be held pending the hiring of a head varsity coach.*

Mrs. Cooley moved to vote on the cheer/dance team positions separately. Mr. Thiel provided the second Mrs. Cooley explained her need for more program information before moving forward with the coaches for the team. Her interest was to find out if the coaches planned to implement a junior varsity team in the coming year. Discussion also included a reminder of the two year commitment the Trustees made in combining the program last year. The Trustees asked Mr. Peters and Mr. Farr to check into program plans for team make-up for the coming year. Mrs. Cooley stated there was no dissatisfaction with the program or its coaches this past year – just some clarification requested. Following the discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Cooley then moved to approve the 2012-2013 winter co-curricular agreements as presented for wrestling, boys’ basketball and speech and drama. Mr. Lorenz seconded the motion with passed 5 to 0.

**Budget Authority Election and Trustee Election/Acclamation**

The number of candidates running for the Board of Trustees equals the number of positions open in both the elementary and high school district. This portion of the election will be cancelled if no write-ins are forthcoming and the candidates elected by acclamation.

Following a discussion with state legislators who were in the area, it was recommended by the administration to cancel the elementary levy request. The legislators will not return home before the end of the week when ballots must be certified but informed administration of the possibility of using oil and gas revenue over the 35% required to fund the over-BASE levy in the General Fund that was to be voted on. It was explained to the Trustees that if this is not an available option, the $173,000.00 can be made up in the Flex Fund by earmarking that money from oil and gas receipts to pay for teaching services totaling that amount. Following a question and answer period, Mrs. Cooley moved to cancel the budget authority election. Mrs. Everett seconded the motion. Mr. Lorenz expressed his dissent but was unable to vote on this elementary issue so the motion passed 4 to 0.

At 8:06 PM Chairman Hermanson announced that the next matter to come before the Board was a personal matter and that he had determined as follows: 1) that the matter of the individual’s privacy is involved; 2) that such privacy demands protection of the individual for the sake of reputation, and otherwise, little, if anything, could be gained by publicly disclosing the information to be discussed; and 3) that the demand for privacy in this matter clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure. Therefore, he called for an executive session for the purpose of the superintendent’s quarterly evaluation.

The meeting was reconvened at 9:35 PM. With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 PM.

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 Board Chair

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Attest:

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District Clerk