August 16, 2010

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, August 16, 2010, at 7:00 PM on published notice by the Clerk. Trustees present were Dennis Lorenz, Todd Hermanson, Jay Pfau, Luann Cooley, Virginia Oraw and Kelly Dey. Also in attendance were Superintendent Farr, Clerk Beyer, Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator- Gary Arnold, Sidney Elementary Principal- Bill Nankivel, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson, High School Principal- Dan Peters and High School Assistant Principal- Sue Andersen. Absent was Student Representative Hailee Tighe.

At 7:00 PM, Chairman Hermanson reconvened the meeting of August 2, 2010, welcomed the visitors in attendance, reminded them to sign in and stated 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.

July 2010 claim warrants 218653 to 218796 in the amount of $1,617,469.93 and the minutes of June 24, 2010, July 12, 2010 and August 2, 2010 were approved 6 to 0 on a motion by Ms. Dey and a second by Mr. Pfau.

Clerk Beyer presented Associated Student Body warrant # 16243 to Electricland in the amount of $5.99 for cancellation as a duplicate payment. The warrant was cancelled 6-0 on a motion by Mrs. Cooley and seconded by Mr. Pfau.

Clerk Beyer reported that there were no ASB transfers for July. The Trustees reviewed the July ASB report.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr shared the following information with the Trustees:

- Add the resignation of Lori Alexander- High School special education aide to the consent agenda;

- Consent agenda additions to new hires include: Talon: Cathy Fischer and Jessica Wiese; Volleyball Assistant: Michael Hammer and Food Service: Rhonda Lawhead, Mary Lake and Molly Cook-fine;

- A judge in California has ruled that Round-up Ready Seed cannot be used without further study. The impact locally could change Migrant Program needs- this is something that will be monitored;

- All route buses have passed inspection for the coming school year;

- Changes to the service fee assessed employees who elect to participate in the flexible spending accounts will see an increase from $4.00 to $4.40 per month;

- The newest governmental standard (GASB 45) requires the district to contract with an actuary or specialist to determine district liability with regards to health insurance offered to retirees through the District group insurance. This cannot be done by the District auditor as it compromises his independence. Denny, Downing and Associates has proposed to provide this service of a cost from $500.00 to $2,000.00. Superintendent Farr will proceed to contract for these services;

- How the Governor will pass-through the Federal Jobs Bill funding is yet to be determined and

- Upcoming meetings and activities:

- Sidney Community Education Foundation – August 17, 2010 – 5:30 PM - High School Library

- Walk-through of the High School 300 wing classrooms will be Wednesday @ 9:00 AM if any trustees would like to attend. A punch list will be formulated at that time

- A new transformer will be installed in conjunction with the 300 wing project. The power will need to be out to accomplish this. Staff will be warned in advance.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**  Hailee Tighe was absent.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: August 3, 2010***

Ms. Dey outlined the following committee discussion items:

- Vacancies were reviewed; Resignations and New Hires are on the consent agenda;

- The majority of the meeting consisted of discussions with Mike Gear, Ty Graves and Jim Thogerson related to Middle School extra-curricular activities- equipment needs and the possibility of travel for games

- Review of the proposed mentor program compensation levels as set with the SEA through a memorandum of understanding was conducted;

- Mr. Gear reported that on-line evaluations are available on the school district web-site for community members, parents and students in relation to extra-curricular coaches/advisors;

- Mark Halvorson is requesting to serve as the teacher representative on the MUST board. This will involve about three meetings a year;

- Sick leave reports for the 2009-2010 school year were reviewed;

- Superintendent Farr updated the Trustees on the progress made on the teacher evaluation process

- The strategic goal exercise used last fall will be continued this fall; and

- Trustees received copies of the Superintendent’s quarterly evaluation forms.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: August 3, 2010***

Ms. Dey provided the following update on committee topics:

- The Savage School District has once again requested the ability to pick-up students in the Sidney School District. At this time, they are allowed to pick-up students previously agreed to but must not add any new students to the route;

- Bus inspections have been successfully completed;

- Sidney will host area safety training for transportation departments. This training will satisfy the 10 hour annual transportation training requirement; and

- Fuel bids will be opened this evening.

***BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: August 2, 2010***

Mr. Pfau highlighted Building and Grounds topics:

- Current project updates were provided by Dennis Deutsch of ABC Building Concepts and Roger Byer of B&B Builders on the High School 200 Wing/Administrative Remodel; the High School 300 Wing/Cafeteria/Kitchen with discussion centering on some parking lot options. They also reported on the Middle School Second Floor Remodel;

- The Bus Barn remodel, Central HVAC and West Side gym floor are nearing completion;

- The gym floor at the Middle School is being resurfaced and new volleyball standards ordered to compensate for improper positioning of volleyball hardware when the floor was replaced some time ago;

- Nothing new on the Middle School fire detection system or the Central Avenue turn out lane project;

- The K-12 Facility Study is also nearly complete. Discussion began on installing geothermal in the 100 wing of the high school;

- Plans are to have an obsolete property sale in September; and

- With regards to school readiness- all custodial staff are working hard to have things ready for the first day.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: August 2, 2010***

Mrs. Oraw reported the following information:

- A brief meeting was held with regards to 2010-2011 final budgets. Taxable valuations had not yet been received. The meeting was continued until tonight by board motion.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: August 3, 2010***

Mrs. Cooley recapped the following committee discussions:

- Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as determined by the state of Montana was met in all buildings with the exception of a small subset in the Middle School;

- The State of Montana application for the Race to the Top funds was not awarded;

- The committee received copies of the proposed campus safety and security manual for their reading pleasure;

- The hazard communication programs have been updated by all schools- necessary material safety data sheets have been located and catalogued;

- Changes to the high school alternative program are being considered. These changes will require changes to the process of granting credit for classes so that they are not taken as an “easy” way out;

- Dr. Farr reported that the working draft of the career and technical education curriculum is complete;

- Trustees received a handout regarding “My College Options”;

- Dual enrollment for Sidney students allowing receipt of college credits while enrolled in high school students has reached a stalemate. This opportunity is still a possibility but not for the first semester;

- The annual agreement with Miles Community College for use of ITV was renewed; and

- Jobs for Montana Graduates – a new secondary program on a trial basis at the high school under the direction of Mrs. Stedman requires the establishment of a new ASB account and is on the consent agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resignations**

Lori Alexander – High School Special Education Aide

Laurie Christianson – High School Special Education Aide

Kathy Benefiel – Food Service Worker

Diana Kling – Food Service Worker

**New Hires**

Deb Prevost – Assistant Golf

Brenda Kiamas – District Truancy Officer

Katie Haase – Cross Country Coach

Michael Hammer – Assistant Volleyball Coach

Cathy Fischer – Talon Advisor

Jessica Wiese – Talon Advisor

Rhonda Lawhead – Food Service Worker

Mary Lake – Food Service Worker

Molly Cook-Fine – Food Service Worker

**Salary Adjustment**

Alicia Clayton to $15.00/Hr in line with 2009-10 Class A average and position responsibilities

**Establish a new ASB account – Jobs for Montana Graduates (JMG)**

**2010-2011 Student Attendance Agreement**

*Parent Requests: (No tuition charged to parents)*

Taylor McPherson Kindergarten Fairview Eric/Keri McPherson

Jacob Thompson Kindergarten Fairview Mark/Beth Thompson

Parker Syth Kindergarten Savage Frances Syth

Payten Syth Grade 1 Savage Frances Syth

Cooper Hofer Grade 1 Brorson Kelli Bousquet

Jared Hofer Grade 4 Brorson Kelli Bousquet

Parker Mindt Grade 2 Fairview Staci Mindt

Maysen Mindt Grade 3 Fairview Staci Mindt

Baylee Schlothauer Grade 2 Fairview Laurie Schlothauer

Jade Schlothauer Grade 3 Fairview Laurie Schlothauer

**2010-2011 Mentor Compensation**

Memorandum of Understanding between SEA and Trustees regarding mentor teacher compensation options for 2010-2011:

*Optiion A:* $500 stipend (+$200 per additional protégé)

*Option B:*  Free lunch for the school year (+$200 per additional protégé)

Audience discussion followed regarding the topic of salary adjustment for Alicia Clayton. Nancy Vaira served as spokesperson for the District secretarial group in attendance and voiced their unhappiness with the increase given due to lack of experience compared to the years of service of current District secretarial staff. She stated that Ms. Clayton had no experience, that no four year degree was required according to the position job description, Ms. Clayton had accepted the job at the $12.00/12.50 per hour and that the stated salary range was $12.00 to $13.00 per hour prior to hire. The group stated that current secretaries would have applied for the job had the $15.00/hour been set prior to hire. Ms. Vaira presented the request to lower the increase for Ms. Clayton to $13.00/hour or provide a similar 25% increase to each secretarial staff member. Trustees spoke to Ms. Clayton’s attributes and the desire to keep her employed with the school district as well as reiterated their intention regarding HRA contributions made to all eligible staff members to recognize years of service as part of the compensation package.

Mrs. Oraw moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Mrs. Cooley seconded the motion. The motion passed 6 to 0.

**2010-2011 Fuel Bids**

One bid was received from Cenex for fuel bids as follows:

*Montana/Outside Montana Product*

Diesel #2 $2.929/Gallon

Unleaded $2.759/Gallon 89 Octane

Discussion followed regarding the bids compared to prices at the pump and whether taxes were included. The board tabled the decision regarding acceptance of the bid until clarification of bid specifics were received.

**2010-2011 Final Budget Hearing**

Clerk Beyer and Superintendent Farr presented the following information to all in attendance at the meeting.

***Elementary Proposed Budgets Estimated Mills***

General Fund $4,603,030.98 105.63

Transportation $ 328,108.60 13.46

Bus Depreciation $ 336,772.43 8.92

Tuition $ 11,602.44 0.00

Retirement $ 600,000.00 N/A

Adult Education $ 20,165.00 .86

Technology $ 56,830.89 2.41

Flexibility $ 16,000.00 0.00

Debt Service $ 10,000.00 0.00

Building Reserve $ 466,757.73 0.00

***High School Proposed Budgets Estimated Mills***

General Fund $3,243,277.81 33.40

Transportation $ 210,468.20 0.00

Bus Depreciation $ 489,528.89 2.85

Tuition $ 3,120.00 .01

Retirement $ 470.000.00 N/A

Adult Education $ 31,420.64 .06

Technology $ 378,996.67 1.77

Flexibility $1,537,204.99 0.00

Debt Service $ 74,310.00 0.00

Building Reserve $ 484,723.80 0.00

Discussion followed regarding proposed budgets. Clerk Beyer was asked to find out what would happen if the District experienced more retirees than expected, could the retirement fund run in the red? If not, raise the high school budget to allow for additional retirements. Trustees also requested another look at the high school transportation and allow for parking lot work once the current construction project is completed.

Mrs. Cooley moved to accept the budgets as presented with the recommended changes if necessary. Mr. Lorenz seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

Chairman Hermanson provided an opportunity for community comment on non-agenda items: No comments were forthcoming.

At 8:55 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.

Chairman Hermanson reconvened the meeting at 8:35 PM.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk