December 10, 2012

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

Chairwoman Dey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed the visitors in attendance- Mark Halvorson, SEA President and Melissa Nagle with the Chamber Leadership Class. Ms. Dey 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 on agenda items 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 regular meeting held November 12th and the special meetings held December 3rd and 4th as well as the November 2012 claim warrants 220717 to 220775 in the amount of $555,481.79. Mrs. Everett seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

The November 2012 Associated Student Body report and transfer were approved on a motion by Mrs. Everett with a second by Mrs. Cooley. The motion passed on a 6 to 0 vote

From Talon to Skills USA $ 100.00 *New Candy Cart*

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr presented the following information to the Trustees:

**Correspondence:**

- Thank you from Richland Economic Development for lobbyist support

- XTO Energy notifying the District of application for spacing permits to drill

- Letter from Mark Halvorson, SEA President, informing Trustees of their intent to negotiate

**Special Notes:**

- MHSA proposals have been received. Copies were provided to Trustees for review prior to the January committee meetings;

- An oil and gas meeting is scheduled for January 19 at 1:00 PM. So far six districts and Senator Rosendale plan to attend. A survey has been sent out to Districts to set a meeting date in January also. Trustees discussed what the meetings need to accomplish and requested information be prepared and available for legislators and Trustees during the legislative session;

- Superintendent Farr provided an update on Labor Management Committee topics and discussions;

- Common core training took place today with a staff appreciation dinner. When asked about the non-receipt of impact stipends in December for salaried staff due to less than anticipated oil and gas revenue, comments have been heard and concerns expressed – some had counted on receipt of the funds and had pre-spent them; others expressed appreciation for the one-time receipt in 2011 and hoped the third quarter oil and gas monies would allow for payment of the impact stipend.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

Taylor Thiessen representing the Student Council shared the following:

- Student Council has completed its respect video and plans to use it during announcements;

- The Christmas Talent Show will take place on December 20th;

- Student Council will provide hot chocolate and cookies during December and is sponsoring a hall decorating contest;

- Sidney Health Center and Richland County Health Department conducted a survey with results indicating an increase in teens using tobacco. The Student Council is working with Jackie Damm on a program to reduce student smokers and encourage a smoke-free student population. This is coming up in January; and

- The first girls and boys basketball games are tomorrow night in Williston.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: December 4, 2012***

Mr. Thiel highlighted committee discussions:

- Pam Radke- School Food Supervisor visited with the committee about staffing shortage, menu challenges due to federal mandates and the desire to work with school groups to establish a garden for fresh vegetables for the school food program;

- Michelle Monsen- Special Education Director updated Trustees on program numbers and the innovative ways staff are meeting student needs; and

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

***No Transportation Committee meeting was held this month.***

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: December 3, 2012***

Mrs. Cooley recapped the meeting agenda:

- A rough draft of a public survey regarding district facilities as discussed during the Community Cross-Over event was reviewed. The intent is for this survey to become available in January to the community;

- High School project updates:

 *- The High School Greenhouse is up;*

 *- The new scoreboard for the football field has been erected but is not yet operational; and*

 *- The keyless entry for the High School weight room has been installed. Keys have been provided to Middle School staff and more are on order.*

- Central Elementary project updates:

 *- Brian Milne and Mr. Farr continue to work towards awarding the project.*

- Bus Barn project updates:

*- Fire system has been completed with Mr. Farr working on finding a contractor for the construction piece (fire walls).*

- The proposed school site in the JD Subdivision will remain on the agenda for discussion as needed;

- M-Space, the company working on the District housing project at West Side, is hoping for delivery soon with occupancy to take place in January; and

- The Savage Law Firm has secured a legal firm to act on their behalf regarding their current lease with the school district on the old Administration Building located behind the Middle School. Savage Law is exercising their option to extend the lease until October 2015 but is unwilling to re-negotiate the rent as requested by the Sidney School District. Their interpretation of the lease is that the rent shall remain at the current $675.00 per month. The District believes re-negotiation with a fair market rent amount agreed upon for the two year extension is consistent with lease language.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: December 3, 2012***

Mrs. Everett outlined committee discussions:

- The October Fund Balance, Investment, Expenditure, Revenue and Lunch reports and November claims were reviewed;

- November enrollment update: 1283 students Grades PK through 12 with 91 new students and 84 withdrawals since August totaling 175 changes in student population;

- Superintendent Farr updated Trustees on the Montana Quality Education Coalition November meeting and provided copies of the funding bill LC 132 sponsored by Senator Jones;

- Attendance Agreements are on the Consent Agenda. Trustees had requested information on the out-of-district attendance process. A report was prepared that indicated that Sidney Public Schools has 57 out-of-district students for 2012-2013– this includes the District to District placements of Grades 7 and 8 for Rau and Brorson and nearby North Dakota students at the high school level. Sidney schools has 13 students in other school districts excluding Rau- forms are not provided by Rau to calculate that number;

- Edward Jones ASB Investments have been moved to short-term CD’s;

- Lobbyist update is on the Consent Agenda;

- District technology purchase of server infrastructure was discussed. A special meeting needs to be called to complete this process;

- The Multi-District Agreement for 2012-2013 is on the Consent Agenda;

- Due to reduced dollars from oil and gas revenues in the first two quarters, funding for the salaried impact stipends will not be available until the February 1st oil and gas payment from the state; and

- Mr. Farr met with the Montana Board of Investments while in Helena to get information on financing options available to the District for completing building projects at the elementary level.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: December 4, 2012***

Mr. Lorenz briefed those in attendance on committee discussions:

- Work on a District writing program continues;

- A schedule of District-wide testing was provided – a lot of testing occurs in the District;

- Graduation requirements continue to be reviewed;

- After consultation with the District insurance company, the Trustees will not sanction the Rodeo Club to become a school club. A meeting room on school premises can be worked out but the liability for the events and the facility are too much for the District to assume;

- Mr. Peters reported on the FFA Alumni meeting held in November. The group is working on expectations and building the organization;

- The committee finalized the board self-assessment tool they have been working on;

- Nothing new on the Montana/North Dakota University System; and

- Policy review of sections 6000-9000 begins in January.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resignations**

- Lawrence Woodard – West Side Custodian

**New Hires**

- Karlene Dunagan – West Side Custodian

- Rebecca Halliday – West Side/Central Special Education Aide

**2012-2013 Attendance Agreements**

Table 1: Attending Sidney Schools

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  **Name** | **Grade** | **Dist. Of Res.** | **Parent Name** | **Request type** |
| mindt, maysen | 5 | Fairview | Stacie Mindt | Parent |
| winter, jace | 6 | Horse Creek | Deb Winter | Parent |
| schepens, taylor | 7 | Brorson |  | District |
| KOHNTOPP, TRISTAN | 7 | Rau |  | District |
| WIEFERICH, TESS | 7 | Rau |  | District |
| LELAND, GARRET | 8 | Rau |  | District |
| WIGGINS, MEGAN | 8 | Rau |  | District |
| ROGERS, JACOB | 8 | Rau |  | District |
| CRABTREE, KASEY | 8 | Rau |  | District |

**2013 Lobbyist Service Agreement**

Work regionally with oil and gas impacted schools to hire the following lobbyists:

Ken Morrison and Willie Duffield with the cost not to exceed $3,000.00 for the portion to be paid by Sidney Public Schools

**Multi-district Agreement Resolution**

- Between High School District #1(cooperating agency) and Elementary District #5 (prime agency)

- Amount of $1,215,975.89

- To allow updating of facilities in anticipation of continued increases in enrollment

Mt. Steinbeisser moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Lorenz seconded the motion which passed on a 6 to 0 vote.

**Calling Special Board Meeting for the opening and consideration of Technology server infrastructure bids:** Mrs. Cooley moved to set the meeting for Friday, December 21st at 12:00 Noon. Mr. Steinbeisser seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

**Communication from the public on non-agenda items:** None

At 7:41 PM Chairwoman Dey announced that the next matter to come before the Board was a personal matter and that she 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, she called for an executive session for the purpose of discussing legal strategy. Superintendent Farr explained the meeting could only be closed if legal counsel were present in person or via phone. Kris Goss of the Montana School Boards Association joined the meeting via conference call from Helena.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:28 PM

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

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 Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk