December 14, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Monday, December 14, 2015 at 7:00 PM in Room 103 of Central School on posted notice by the clerk. Present were Trustees Serena Everett, Craig Steinbeisser, Dennis Lorenz, Luke Savage, and Melissa Sanders. Also in attendance were Superintendent- Daniel Farr, Clerk- Nicole Beyer, West Side Principal- Jon Skinner and Student Representatives LaTasha Wieferich and Skylar Petrik. Absent were Trustee Kelly Dey, High School Principal- Sue Andersen, High School Vice-Principal- Loretta Thiel, Central Principal- Brent Sukut, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson and Curriculum/ Federal Programs Director- Thom Barnhart.

At 7:00 PM Vice-Chair Savage called the meeting to order.

Mr. Savage welcomed the visitors in attendance: Tammy Linder with the SEA, Jerry Norby and Central Head Custodian- Kenny Vannatta.

Mr. Savage stated an opportunity for community comment on non-agenda items would be provided later in 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.

Mrs. Everett moved to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Trustee meeting held November 9th, 2015, as well as the minutes from the special meetings held November 2, 2015 and December 7, 2015 as well as the November 2015 claim warrants 222722 to 222769 in the amount of $493,797.31. Mr. Steinbeisser seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

The following Associated Student Body checks were cancelled 5 to 0 on a motion by Mr. Lorenz and a second by Mrs. Everett. These checks were all written for referee/official duties and not used.

The November monthly report of the Associated Student Body was reviewed.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr presented the following information:

**Correspondence:**

- Thank you from the Chatterton/Asbeck Family; and

- The OPI Division of Special Education recognized both Sidney Elementary and Sidney High School for meeting all reporting levels at the District level. Kudos to Michelle Monsen and her staff.

**Transfer**

- Zachary Yockim to District Technology Supervisor as of 12/1/2015

**Additional New Hire to add to the Consent Agenda:**

**-** Chris Merica – 7th Grade Boys Basketball Coach

**Resignations to report:**

- John Sweet – Elementary Boys Basketball Coach

**Enrollment: December Count 1403**

**Calendar Events:**

- Christmas break begins at the end of the day December 18th, 2015 and ends January 4th, 2016.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

Student Representatives LaTasha Wieferich and Skylar Petrik presented the following information to Trustees:

- Student Council scheduled Christmas activities include an ugly sweater contest and the sale of reindeer hats for $2.00 which will allow the student to go to early lunch;

- Luke Beenken is conducting a student survey for student input in Student Council activities and events; and

- A sample of the new student pack was shown to the Trustees.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: December 8, 2015***

Mr. Lorenz provided agenda discussion highlights:

- 2015-2016 teachers new to the District attended the meeting. They discussed living in Sidney and expressed concern at the cost of living here; and

- Vacancies, Resignations and Transfers were reviewed. New Hires are on the Consent Agenda.

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: December 7, 2015***

Mrs. Sanders imparted the following updates:

- Trustees instructed Dr. Farr to contract with Interstate Engineering to proceed with obtaining bids on the High School North Parking Lot project. The intention is to seek bids on both cement and asphalt with a final decision on surface type made when bids are received and reviewed;

- No new information was available regarding the installation of wells for watering the football field and practice field to reduce the cost of maintenance of these areas;

- CTA Architects attended the meeting to present a preliminary plan for the Middle School first floor and finalization of contractor selection for that project. Discussions were held regarding communication expectations on future District projects between CTA and Sidney Schools.

- Roger Byer of B&B Builders and CTA provided an update on the current West Side project;

- Pictures and discussion on repair options of exterior cracking on the north wall of the West Side gym occurred; and

- Asbestos review on the Middle School first floor and maintenance chases will take place on December 21st.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: December 7, 2015***

Mr. Steinbeisser outlined committee discussions:

- November claims were reviewed. October financial reports were not provided until this eveningt;

- Current enrollment was 1401; now 1403;

- Dr. Farr provided an update on Montana Quality Education Coalition and the negotiated rules making process;;

- The committee reviewed the Sidney Public Schools District Technology Plan;

- Trustees also reviewed the Mediation/Fact Finding process and available dates. The earliest date available for the fact finder is the end of February. He does not wish to meet in the evenings and if the District prefers to meet in the evenings- his next available date would be April. The mediation process can continue at the request of the SEA as long as all parties involved are available;

- Due to changes in the amount of rebate American Express will pay to the District through the Foundation, the Administration Office is exploring other card options and, in the meantime, will increase the use of the Mastercard P-card through MASBO which also pays a rebate based on usage; and

- Financial information on the Flex Funds for both the Elementary and High School were examined and following discussion, approval of a $1500.00 Impact Stipend (less District share of FICA and Medicare) to be paid to employees prior to Christmas is on the Consent Agenda for consideration.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: December 8, 2015***

Mrs. Everett highlighted the following agenda items:

- Kindergarten teacher, Lina Buchanan, made a presentation to committee members on her Family reading program financed with a grant from the Eagle Foundation. Trustees were excited about the buy-in by parents with participation starting at 24 parents and ending with 48;

- Review continues on Guidance, Fine Arts and Library curriculums. As well as Math and English/Language Arts where establishment of a Significant Writing Program continues to be an emphasis;

- Labor Management Committee meeting has been moved to December 10th;

- Dr. Farr has responded to the corrective actions/recommendations from the OPI in regards to a Food Service audit conducted in October. Posters illustrating reimbursable choices need to be displayed at each location;

- The wrestling coop with Bainville has yielded two wrestlers;

- The current alternative education program is under review for revamping in the coming year;

- Facility use requests were discussed and are on the Consent Agenda for consideration tonight;

- A parental request for consideration of a denied out-of-district attendance agreement was reviewed with the parents in closed session;

- Policies 4210 and 4222 regarding student fund raising were discussed. A method of coordination is sought to cut down on the constant requests for assistance made to local businesses; and

- Board policy discussions began with review of policies 1310, 1400, 1420 and 1130 in regards to language issues.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**New Hires**

- Craig Beiswanger – Assistant Boys Basketball Coach

- Katie Hardy – Sidney Middle School Fitness Teacher effective November 30, 2015 for the remainderf the year;

- Alexis Baxter – Special Education Aide

- Chris Merica – Middle School Boys Basketball Coach

**Oil Impact Stipends**

- $1500.00 less District’s tax liability as per the Memorandum of Understanding with the SEA for eligible certified and classified staff

**Interstate Engineering Contract on the High School North Parking Lot Project**

**Facility Use Fee Waiver Requests**

**-** Elks Regional Hoop Shoot – January 9, 2016; 10 AM to 2 PM – Sidney Middle School gym – not for profit – serves local youth- recommendation is to waive fee

**-** Sidney Men’s League Basketball – 12/2/2015 through 3/272016 – Wednesday from 6 PM to 10 PM and Sunday from 12 Noon to 5 PM – recommended fee is $500.00 to cover District operating costs. If doors are left propped open, the full fee will be assessed

**-** Missy Sanders third grade boys basketball travelling team – Random dates and times – not for profit activity serving local youth – recommendation is to waive fee and the submission of all team forms to Lisa Morehouse at the high school

**CTA Architects Proposal/Contract Authorization for the Middle School First Floor Remodel Project**

- Directs Superintendent to finalize services with CTA Architects and Engineers and develop a mutually agreeable contract for all aspects of service delivery for the Sidney Middle School remodel project.

Mr. Steinbeisser moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Lorenz seconded the motion.

Discussion followed with Mr. Jeremy Norby addressing the board on behalf of the Sidney Men’s Basketball League’s request for a facility fee waiver. Mr. Norby explained the difficulty in collecting the fee, the belief that participants were not leaving the facility open and the league has assisted with the purchase of a water fountain in the past in lieu of rental charges. Trustees stated they felt an allowance was being made with the decreased $500.00 rate with no additional charges if the group policed themselves with regards to facility upkeep and doors left open.

Following the discussion- the consent agenda was approved on a 4 to 0 vote with Mrs Sanders abstaining from voting due to a conflict of interest.

**Vice-Chair Savage provided an opportunity for Community Comment on non-agenda items:**

- Central Head Custodian, Kenny Vannatta, stated the building was experiencing heating issues on the east side of the building. Leaks have developed and compressor work needs to be done. Mr. Vannatta was instructed to visit with Superintendent Farr regarding this issue.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

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 Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk