January 13, 2014

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Monday, January 13, 2014 at 7:00 PM in Room 104 of Central School on published notice by the clerk. Present were Trustees Kelly Dey, Luann Cooley, Dexter Thiel, Dennis Lorenz and Craig Steinbeisser. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dan Farr, West Side Principal-Jon Skinner, Central Principal- Brent Sukut and Clerk Beyer. Absent were Trustee Serina Everett, Student Representatives- Luke Beenken and Koby Edam, High School Assistant Principal- Loretta Thiel, High School Principal- Sue Andersen, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson and Curriculum Federal Programs Director- Thom Barnhart.

Chair Dey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and extended a welcome to the visitors in attendance: Susan Minichiello with the Sidney Herald, Cara Lokken-Frandsen with the Sidney Education Association (SEA) and David and Jodi Christensen. Ms. Dey reminded the audience that an opportunity for community comment on non-agenda items would be provided prior to the Consent Agenda. She also asked all in attendance to sign in and the Audience Participation form and give it to the clerk to be recognized.

Mrs. Cooley moved to approve the December 9th minutes and the December 2013 claim warrants 221495 to 221520 in the amount of $186,295.76. Mr. Lorenz provided the second and the motion passed 5 to 0.

The following ASB Warrants were cancelled unanimously on a motion by Mr. Lorenz and a second by Mrs. Cooley:

#19796 12/13/13 $175.00 to Custer County High School Speech & Drama meet charges paid twice

#19797 12/13/13 $400.00 to Bismarck Public Schools Previously Paid in September

#19644 10/30/13 $453.16 to Haan Crafts Duplicate Payment

The following Associated Student Body (ASB) transfers for January were approved unanimously on a motion by Mr. Lorenz and a second by Mrs. Cooley.

From Internataional Club to Student Council $100.00 Donation for Loretta Thiel

From Jobs for MT Graduates to Student Council $100.00 Donation for Loretta Thiel

From Close-up to Student Council $100.00 Donation for Loretta Thiel

From Business Professionals of Amer to Student Council $100.00 Donation for Loretta Thiel

From Friends of Rachel to Student Council $200.00 Donation for Loretta Thiel

From Key Club to Student Council $200.00 Donation for Loretta Thiel

From LEO Club to Student Council $250.00 Donation for Loretta Thiel

From Trading Cards to Student Council $320.00 Purchase of t-shirts in honor of Loretta Thiel

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr presented the following items:

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Various thank yous from staff for the impact stipend

- Letter from the SEA requesting to open negotiations concerning health insurance due to the unknowns regarding the Affordable Care Act during negotiations last year

ADDITIONAL HIRES TO ADD TO THE CONSENT AGENDA:

- Brian Bacy – Former UWT Contracted Custodian to District Employee- Custodian

- Vert Taylor – Former UWT Contracted Custodian to District Employee- Custodian

- Mark Iszler – Technology Assistant

ELECTION FORMAT:

- Asked for a consensus from the Trustees on a preference for a mail ballot or walk-in election for May 6th. Due to the transient population of Sidney and the record keeping involved with returned ballots, the Trustees gave the nod to proceed with a walk-in for the current year.

FACILITIES

- Tetra Tech called this morning and reported that all rooms in the first floor 1949 wing have passed clearance from the removal of asbestos.

- Revisions have been made to the weighted scoring process to be used for the alternative project delivery process at Central. Copies were e-mailed to Ms. Dey, Mrs. Cooley and Mr. Steinbeisser to avoid any appearance of conflict of interest.

- Requests for the Contractor Qualification Questionnaire have been received. Five firms have made form requests and two have scheduled walk-throughs for next Monday.

- Mr. Farr will meet with Interstate Engineering on Thursday at 1:00 at Central school to work out the scheduling process for the high school CTE wing expansion by use of the alternative project delivery process.

- Superintendent Farr has begun working on a Request for Proposals for the long-range facility study to be partially funded by the state grant from the Department of Commerce. One factor being considered is whether to send a mailing out to all near-by architect firms or to make use of building exchanges.

FRANZ CONSTRUCTION

- Provided a $1000.00 donation to the District which was placed in our student help fund.

SPECIAL/CALENDAR NOTES

- A handout was provided to the trustees with a current breakdown in special education student numbers.

- The District will be receiving approximately $8500.00 in payment of rewards points from American Express. These points are paid to the EAGLE foundation on behalf of the District to allow full benefit of the points.

- Two interviews have been set for Wednesday, January 15, 2014, at Central School for an Agriculture Teacher for the remainder of the year. Mr. Steinbeisser and Mr. Thiel volunteered to serve on the interview committee.

- Chair Dey has called for a Trustee work session from 6:30 to 8:30 PM Wednesday, January 15, 2014, at the high school library for the purpose of goal setting.

- Professional Learning Communities (PLC) speaker, Jack Baldermann, will present to staff from 12:30 to 3:30 on Wednesday the 22nd at the Middle School auditorium. All Trustees are welcome to come and learn more about the PLC process.

- A memo from Dr. Farr was presented regarding a request by Administration to move the Curriculum Release day scheduled for February 28th to March 28th and make February 28th the Pupil Instruction Related day. This change will not affect students or parents as both are currently days off for students. March 28th PIR was scheduled for parent/teacher conferences which are made up by staff after school hours during the week. This will maximize the number of staff available for Curriculum Release which will be utilized for district-wide work on PLC. This request will be coming in February.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:** No student representative was in attendance.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: January 7, 2014***

Mr. Steinbeisser shared the following information regarding committee discussions:

- Superintendent Farr’s annual evaluation and contract are on the agenda for tonight;

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

- Discussed contract issues between the District and United Work and Travel in regards to two custodians working through this program;

- Researching and discussing a possible Employee of the Month Program; and

- Discussed District drug testing policy and had Mrs. Frandsen explain the qualifications and purposes of the speech program.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE –*** No meeting held. Mr. Farr reported all buses have passed inspection for second semester.

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: January 8, 2014***

Mrs. Cooley highlighted the following information on committee agenda items:

- The high school is considering higher resolution cameras for the system with the intent of using the older cameras at the Middle School;

- Additional security lighting will be installed near the oval to provide light for the sidewalk where there have been previous slips and falls;

- Work continues on the issues with the Middle School boiler and electrical issues;

- Still ice on the roof at West Side. Pictures will be taken of possible weather damage as soon as safe to do so;

- A small camera system will be installed at West Side as part of an improved safety program;

- Easement signatures for the West Side Sewer By-pass System are in the works. Back-up plans are in place as the pump installed to keep the current system viable until spring and replacement by the new gravity system is not working correctly;

- The District continues to work through punch-list items on the second floor remodel at Central;

- Clearance was received today on the asbestos removal of first floor 1949 addition;

- Discussed interview question alterations that would include weighting in specific areas;

- Superintendent Farr was researching the legality and the process for selling a portion of the purchased property from JD Subdivision to Franz Construction to square up their lot. His information indicates no need exists for an election as the land was not purchased with taxes;

- Superintendent Farr provided an update to the District building capacity and facility information. The committee reviewed enrollment figures and discussed possible building configurations dependent on grade size. Discussion of this item will continue; and

- Career and Technical Education wing expansion continues to be an area of concern. District staff toured the vocational educational area program at Williston State College and discussed future plans to incorporate Sidney CTE curriculum. Those involved with the tour attended the committee meeting for a discussion on program needs, desires and future direction. The Board has directed the administration and CTE staff to look at possible adaptations to the fine arts credit required for graduation that could include courses from the CTE areas.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: January 8, 2014***

Mr. Lorenz recapped the following agenda discussions:

- December claims and November financial and lunch reports were reviewed;

- 2013-2014 enrollment is at 1319 with 11/13 student ins/outs district-wide in December;

- Clerk Beyer and Superintendent Farr will be working on the Request for Proposals for the property and liability insurance bid process;

- The MQEC annual meeting will be January 27th and will include interviews for a new executive director. Dr. Farr will be out of the office all day Monday and some of Tuesday to see this process through; and

- Sidney Schools was awarded a $25,000 school facilities grant which was written to assist the District with long-range facility planning due to the uncertainty of area population.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: January 7, 2014***

Mr. Thiel imparted the following information on committee discussions:

- Received a report on curriculum release days;

- A visit with Williston State College on CTE dual credit opportunities will take place tomorrow;

- Fairview’s request for a softball co-op is on the Consent Agenda;

- Professional Learning Committee (PLC) continues to meet regularly. Plans are in the works to roll this out for all staff on an upcoming curriculum release day;

- Policy review of sections 1000, 2000 and MTSBA policy recommendations began. A trustee work session is scheduled for January 15th 6:30 PM in the High School library specific to policy review and goal-setting;

- Review of Sections D, E, F, G, H, I and J of the Safety Policy continues;

- Discussions have begun on District Attendance Policy. Concerns have been expressed by staff through Labor Management about attendance of both students and staff. Trustees are looking at making the attendance policy more uniform throughout the District;

- MHSA annual proposals were reviewed. Trustees expressed concern about the proposal to get rid of the master schedule; and

- Discussion of mid-year co-curricular surveys yielded a decision not to conduct them for Middle School.

Prior to the presentation of the Consent Agenda, Chair Dey gave those in attendance an opportunity to comment on non-agenda items. No one responded.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resignations**

- Kelly Block – Speech Aide

- Kimberlee Johnson – Special Education Aide- Resource Room

- Angela Handford – Food Services Cook

**New Hires**

- Samantha VanHorn – Title I Tutor

- Brad Faulhaber – Middle School Boys Basketball Coach

- Jordan Mayer – Middle School Boys Basketball Coach

- Rick Adsit – Middle School Boys Basketball Coach

- Matt Whelchel – Middle School Boys Basketball Coach

- David Huskamp – Elementary Boys Basketball

- Marvin Stedman - Elementary Boys Basketball

- Mark Iszler – Technology Assistant

- Brian Bacy – Custodian

- Lavert Taylor - Custodian

**Girls Softball Cooperative Sponsorship with Fairview Public Schools**

- Approved as presented provided the Fairview Board accepts the sports agreement as presented.

Mrs. Cooley moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Lorenz seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

**Negotiated Resignation Agreement**

Gary Schaff – Ag Education Teacher effective immediately.

Mrs. Cooley moved to accept the negotiated resignation agreement effective immediately. Mr. Thiel seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

At 7:36 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 the superintendent’s annual evaluation.

Ms. Dey reconvened the meeting at 9:18 PM. Mr. Lorenz made the motion to renew the superintendent’s contract for another year with salary to be determined at a future date. Mrs. Cooley seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk