January 11, 2010

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees began with a student expulsion hearing on Monday, January 11, 2010, at 6:30 PM in room 105 of Central School on published notice by the Clerk. Trustees present were Chairman Dennis Lorenz, Todd Hermanson, Jay Pfau, Jolene Baxter and Kelly Dey. Luann Cooley arrived prior to the start of the regular meeting. Also in attendance were Superintendent Farr, Clerk Beyer, High School Assistant Principal – Sue Andersen, High School Principal- Dan Peters, Sidney Elementary Principal – Bill Nankivel, Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator – Gary Arnold and Student Representative- Dillon Leland. Absent was Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson.

Chairman Lorenz called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM for the purpose of a student expulsion hearing for which Sue Andersen, High School Assistant Principal was present. After ascertaining that proper notification had been provided to the student and the student’s parents/guardians, the Trustees continued with the hearing.

At 6:36 PM, Chairman Lorenz 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 a high school student expulsion hearing.

Chairman Lorenz reconvened the meeting at 6:47 PM. Mr. Hermanson moved to permanently expel the student from Sidney High School effective immediately with no opportunity to re-enroll in Sidney High School. Mrs. Baxter seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0. The meeting was recessed until 7:00 PM.

At 7:00 PM, Chairman Lorenz called the meeting back to order and welcomed the visitors in attendance.

The December 2009 claims, warrants 217289 to 217454 in the amount of $619,537.13, and the minutes of December 14, 2009 were approved 6 to 0 on a motion by Mrs. Cooley and a second by Mr. Pfau.

Following the review of the December ASB report the following transfers were approved 6 to 0 on a motion by Ms. Dey and a second by Mr. Hermanson.

From Drill Team to BPA Posters $100.00

From Athletics to Volleyball ASB Frosh/JV Line Judges $225.00

From HS Student Council to FLA Gift Certificates $ 20.00

From HS Student Council to Resources Unlimited Gift Certificates $ 15.00

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr reported the following:

- Board correspondence received included a thank you from the Middle School staff for turkeys and Christmas goodies, a thank you from the Lewistown Assistant Principal for Sidney Speech & Drama members who stayed after to help custodians clean up the kitchen after a 400+ meet and notice from the Sidney Education Association of their intent to negotiate with the Trustees;

- The transfer of special education aide, Tami Sleeth, from the High School one on one aide to Sidney Elementary as the high school student is transferring out of district;

- Filing deadline for the single three year Trustee position open is March 25, 2010;

- Provided copies of the newly completed Annual Report for the 2008-2009 year;

- All route buses passed second semester inspection with the Montana Highway Patrol;

- Upcoming meetings and activities:

- Labor Management Committee – February 4, 2010 - 5:30 PM High School Library;

- Sidney Community Education Foundation – tomorrow – 5:30 PM Sidney Middle School;

- Committee meetings to be scheduled during the month of January include Calendar, Insurance and Safety;

- Sidney will host the BPA regional meet all day January 20, 2010;

- Divisional Speech & Drama will take place in Hardin January 23, 2010 with State the following weekend in Corvallis;

- Basketball games with Plentywood have been rescheduled to January 28, 2010, with girls there and boys in Sidney; and

- Guest, Katrina Werner, Middle School Builders Club Advisor, introduced member students in attendance who provided general information about the group as well as activities they are involved in.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

Dillon Leland provided the following synopsis of high school happenings:

- Renaissance Night was awesome. Participants had a great time

- Student Council has been active with review of the disciplinary/alcohol policy, the Christmas talent show which was a huge success and is being considered again this spring and the annual Snow Ball Dance which will be a Sadie Hawkins dance.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: January 5, 2010***

Mr. Hermanson recapped the following committee agenda items:

- Mr. Peters met with the Trustees to provide updates on high school happenings and answer questions;

- Mr. Yockim attended the meeting to apprise Trustees of District technology happenings as well as short-term and long-term plans;

- Vacancies: Special Education Aide – on consent agenda;

- New hires are on the consent agenda;

- The transfer of Ms. Sleeth was reviewed;

- The committee continues to explore the implementation of a teacher mentoring program.; and

- Trustees were provided with information dealing with the superintendent’s annual evaluation and contract.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: January 5, 2010***

Mrs. Baxter stated that discussion will continue on addressing activity driver salaries and that the new activity bus is scheduled to arrive January 18, 2010.

***BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: January 4, 2010***

Mrs. Cooley outlined Building and Grounds topics:

- The District is awaiting information from ABC Building Concepts and Interstate Engineering in regards to the finalization of the K-12 Facility Plan; and

- Mr. Farr presented the following construction updates: the high school fencing project will be resumed upon ground thaw, work continues on the Central heating system, the south high school parking lot is on hold until spring, the breaker box in the gym was not replaced over Christmas as electrical panel did not arrive and bus barn remodel is approximately 85% complete.

- Dennis Deutsch, ABC Building Concepts was in attendance to discuss:

- The Middle School project – Mr. Deutsch asked for an estimated dollar amount so that phases for the project could be determined. It was decided to concentrate on the mechanical (heating and cooling) for both the first and second floors as this needs to be completed prior to remodeling;

- The design for the high school 300 wing/kitchen project were reviewed and discussion regarding the commons area between the 300 and 500 wings- including roof, drainage and designing for natural light were conducted;

- Mr. Farr met with fire marshal in regards to the District’s legal obligations in replacing the fire detections systems at Central and the Middle School. The fire marshal reviewed the bids and stated that the bid from Montana-Wyoming Systems for a one to one replacement is acceptable. A final decision on project contractor will be made in February and the project slated to be financed with Budget Amendment funds;

- The electrical service for the District reader board is complete. The reader board should be installed within the next few weeks; and

- A letter has been received regarding the need for asbestos training of all custodial staff.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: January 4, 2010***

Ms. Dey relayed the following information:

- The committee perused the monthly financial reports and the District lunch report for November as well as the claims for December;

- The committee granted approval to the District to submit an application to the state department of commerce for a Quality Schools Planning Grant to help fund the K-12 Facilities Plan;

- The inter-district agreement and the budget amendments for the high school and elementary were reviewed and are on the consent agenda tonight;

- No new information was available on the 2010-2011 budgets;

- Mail ballot vs. conventional elections pros and cons were discussed with a final decision to be made in February; and

- Forms for the District Clerk Evaluation tool were distributed.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: January 5, 2010***

Mr. Pfau highlighted the following committee discussions:

- Dr. Farr and Mr. Arnold are exploring the possibility of offering a summer program with Title ARRA funds;

- Achievement in Montana (AIM) concerns have resulted in a meeting in Helena on the 18th of January;

- Work with local individuals on the Eastern Montana University Campus is ongoing;

- MHSA proposals were reviewed for trustee input prior to the annual meeting on the 18th of January;

- The intent is to finalize a decision regarding the class that will move to Central with the 2010-2011 school year in February; and

- The annual review of Board Policy was begun;.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**New Hires:** Debra Baisch – Part-time Elementary Special Education Aide

**Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA)**

Approved a contribution of $3,000 for all eligible employees as of January 1, 2010, to be paid with excess oil and gas revenue less the reallocation of the balance in the District forfeiture account to be deposited no later than March 1, 2010

The consent agenda was approved 6 to 0 on a motion by Mr. Pfau and a second by Mrs. Baxter.

**2009-2010 Elementary District #5 Budget Amendment Hearing**

A resolution was introduced on December 14, 2009, providing for a hearing to be held tonight on the proposed budget amendment of $900,000.00 presented due to the “unforeseen needs of the district that cannot be postponed without affecting the safety of students or employees or the educational function of the district” to be financed with greater than anticipated oil and gas revenues for the purposes of:

*replacement/repairs to the heating systems at Central School, West Side and Sidney Middle Schools and all associated costs, contributions to eligible employees health reimbursement arrangement accounts (HRA); reconstruction of the West Side entryways and all associated costs; remodel of the Middle School second and first floors and all associated costs; asbestos abatement and all associated costs; school food equipment and kitchen remodel/repairs and all associated costs, replacement/repair of fire alarm systems at Central and Middle School; costs associated with K-12 Facility Plan; classroom equipment and furniture, computers and computer equipment, textbooks; and custodial equipment*

A motion was made by Mr. Hermanson and seconded by Mrs. Cooley to adopt the budget amendment as presented. The motion passed 5 to 0 with Trustee Lorenz abstaining on this elementary issue.

**2009-2010 High School District #1 Budget Amendment Hearing**

A resolution was introduced on December 14, 2009, providing for a hearing to be held tonight on the proposed budget amendment of $3,000,000.00 presented due to the “unforeseen needs of the district that cannot be postponed without affecting the safety of students or employees or the educational function of the district” to be financed with greater than anticipated oil and gas revenues for the purposes of:

*high school 300 wing/cafeteria/kitchen/commons area addition and remodel and all associated costs; contributions to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement for eligible employees; costs associated with the Alternative Ed program and procurement of a tutor at the high school level to assist with meeting the requirements of No Child Left Behind; textbooks; replacement of electrical panel in gymnasium and all associated costs; purchase and installation of an electronic reader board; custodial equipment; operations and maintenance costs; replacement/repairs to the heating system at Central and the high school and all associated costs; food service equipment and costs associated with the K-12 Facility Plan*

A motion was made by Ms. Dey and seconded by Mr. Hermanson to adopt the budget amendment as presented. The motion passed 6 to 0.

**Interdistrict Agreement Hearing**

A public hearing regarding the proposed interdistrict agreement as called for during the December 14, 2009, meeting was held. The proposed interdistrict agreement calls for the following:

1. Creation of an Interlocal Cooperative Fund for the purpose of transferring funds from the High School to the Elementary School to assist with Elementary School anticipated facility renovations and improvements and increased operation and maintenance costs.
2. Designation of the Elementary School as the prime agency and establishment of a non-budgeted Interlocal Cooperative Fund for the purpose of the financial administration of this agreement.
3. Designate the High School as the cooperating agency and, in accordance with section 20-9-704, MCA, shall transfer its financial support under the interlocal cooperative contract to the prime agency by district warrant.
4. Transfer Three Hundred Thousand Dollars ($300,000.00) into the interlocal cooperative fund from the High School General Fund in the form of direct state aid before February 1, 2010.
5. If the amount transferred into the Interlocal Cooperative Fund by the High School exceeds the anticipated amount needed for elementary facility renovations and improvements and increased operation and maintenance costs, remaining funds will be transferred back to the High School upon terms and conditions acceptable to both Districts and in accordance with Montana law.

The Interlocal Cooperative Fund was established and the transfer of $300,000 from the High School District #1 General Fund as stated above approved on a motion by Mr. Hermanson with a second by Ms. Dey. The motion passed on a 6-0 vote.

Opportunity for community comment on non-agenda items: No response

At 7:53 PM, Chairman Lorenz 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 annual performance appraisal/contract.

Chairman Lorenz reconvened the meeting at 9:27 PM. Mrs. Cooley moved to offer Superintendent Farr a contract through the 2011-2012 school year with salary to be considered at a later date. Mrs. Baxter seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 PM

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk