March 12, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Monday, March 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM in Room 103 of Central School on posted notice by the clerk. Present were Trustees Kelly Dey, Serena Everett, Craig Steinbeisser, Dennis Lorenz, Melissa Sanders and Luke Savage. Also in attendance were Superintendent- Daniel Farr, Clerk- Nicole Beyer, Central Principal- Brent Sukut, High School Vice-Principal- Loretta Thiel, West Side Principal- Jon Skinner and Student Representative Tenna Cooley. Absent were Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson, Curriculum/ Federal Programs Director- Thom Barnhart and High School Principal- Sue Andersen.

At 7:00 PM Chair Dey called the meeting to order.

Ms. Dey welcomed the visitors in attendance: Mark Halvorson representing the SEA and Ashleigh Fox with the Sidney Herald.

Ms. Dey 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 Trustees meeting held February 8th, 2016 as well as the February 2016 claim warrants 230018 to 230064 in the amount of $207,610.11. Mr. Savage seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

Clerk Beyer than requested permission to destroy Wells Fargo claims warrants #222859 through 232999 as the Richland County Courthouse has switched financial institutions to Stockman Bank. The request was approved unanimously on a motion by Mrs. Everett with a second provided by Mr. Savage.

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

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr gave the following report to Trustees:

**2016-2017 Staff Transfer:**

- Jennifer Lovegren from Grade 5 to Middle School Science

**Facility Use Request to add to the Consent Agenda:**

- Sunday, May 1, 2016 by Richland County 4-H for utilization of the high school cafeteria and 4 to 6 classrooms for speech and demonstration day.

**Resignations to report:**

- Steve O’Toole – High School Science as of the end of the 2015-2016 school year

- Dawn Wood – Elementary Special Education Aide

**Enrollment: 1386 as of March 14th Grades K-12**

**Formal Report of Program Adjustments:**

- *High School Alternative Education Program:*

 Curriculum and Policy Committee discussed the elimination of the Alternative Education program and develop alternative interventions and pathways for students to assist them with obtaining their diplomas. The intent is for the District to retain five (5) Odysseyware learning ports as part of the program shift.

- *District Student Testing Program*

 Also reported at the Curriculum and Policy Curriculum was the transition for the 2016-2017 school term from currently used NWEA testing to FastBridge. This will save the District money as the cost per student is about half current costs with NWEA. The change should also result in students spending about half the time testing.

**Calendar Events:**

- Spring Break is scheduled for March 21-28, 2016.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

Student Representative, Tenna Cooley, shared the following information with Trustees:

**-** Today was the first day of practice for softball and track;

**-** Music has District Music Festival coming up in Glendive and state in Billings;

**-** BPA attended state in Billings;

-The Senior Class donated $1500 towards the purchase of a tunnel to be used for football season at a total cost of $3,850.00. The tunnel has been ordered;

- The High School Facebook page is up and running; providing scores of games, track updates; schedules etc.;

- Student Council is planning a staff appreciation day in May with lounge treats and a coffee give away; and

- Teachers are bringing back the high school talent show. It will be held on a Friday afternoon for students with a night time performance for the community.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: March 8, 2016***

Mr. Savage outlined the following agenda items:

- Brent Sukut, Central Principal, reported that students still have seven hours in front of them, Central has reached MBI silver status, Central and West Side are working together to combine handbooks and Central is considering ending kindergarten for 15-16 a week early to provide time for Gesell testing of incoming kindergarteners ;

- Jon Skinner reported on the West Side cafeteria, results of informal survey regarding family plans for remaining in the area and PLC and MBI happenings;

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

- Winter Coach/Advisor 2016-2017 renewals will be considered in April.

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: March 7, 2016***

Mr. Lorenz highlighted the following committee discussions:

- Lowell Cutshaw, Interstate Engineering, provided plans and estimated costs for the high school north parking lot. He also provided drawings as requested on possible future options for the Middle School parking lot and basketball court;

- CTA Architects and Bill Evenson with Kringen Construction, discussed the final design on the first floor; received updates on asbestos abatement timelines and reviewed schedules and phasing for construction;

- The cafeteria at West Side is being utilized and are receiving good reviews from students and staff. The summer schedule for bathroom remodel, roof completion and drainage system were discussed; and

- Ross Hall, Activities Director, and representatives of the City of Sidney attended the meeting to discuss expenses involved in preparing the South Meadow complex to host the state softball tournament in 2017. Much of the labor will be provided by the City but the unexpected decrease in oil funds has decreased the funding they had planned to use for fencing. Dr. Farr has contacted Richland County soliciting some assistance and will seek possible financial contributions from local foundations.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: March 7, 2016***

Mrs. Sanders imparted the following information:

- February claims and January financial reports were reviewed;

- 2015-2016 current enrollment at the time of the meeting was 1387;

- Montana Quality Education Coalition and the negotiated rules making process updates were provided by Dr. Farr. The negotiated rules making is currently in final testimony stages. Districts were divided into zones with Sidney in Zone 1. Funds are set up with 5% designated to Staff Retention and 60% to day to day operations- both of these items will be based on District Quality Educators. The remaining 35% will be in a competitive infrastructure grant process overseen by a 9 member board including 9 state legislators, 1 OPI representative and 1 Governmental Financial Committee;

- The 2015-2016 attendance agreements are on the Consent Agenda tonight;

- The SEA ratified the 2016-2018 Master Agreement last Thursday evening and the trustees will consider ratification this evening;

- Consideration of a three year renewal agreement with MSGIA for the District’s Workers Compensation is on the Consent Agenda;

- Dr. Farr reminded the committee that March 24, 2016 at 5:00 PM is deadline for filing for Trustee positions; and

- Updates to 2016-2017 preliminary general fund budget numbers were presented as well as some possible options in regards to mill levies. A special meeting to set the levies will need to be set prior to April 1st.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: March 8, 2016***

Mrs. Everett recounted the following agenda discussions:

- The recommendation of Administration to move from NWEA student testing to Fastbridge was presented and discussed;

- Elaine Stedman, Boys and Girls Club CEO, addressed the Trustees on future building construction plans and facility needs in the near future;

- As reported earlier by the Superintendent, the Alternative Education program at the High School will be discontinued in 2016-17 with alternate methods introduced to encourage student graduation;

- Facility Use Requests and Out-of-State Field Trip Requests were reviewed and are on the Consent Agenda;

- The annual Board policy review continues with sections 6000-9000 as well policies 1310, 1400, 1420, 1130 and 2510 with additional discussion of the recently adopted Transportation and Facility Use policy guidelines; and

- Sports surveys were discussed and the consensus of the committee was to ban anonymous parent surveys.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**New Hires**

- Vanessa Bawden– Special Ed Teacher effective February 11, 2016 through the remainder of the 15-16 school year;

- Susan Osborne – Elementary Special Education Aide

- Steve Yockim- SHS Assistant Track Coach

- Chris Merica – SHS Assistant Track Coach

- Justin Collins – SMS Track Coach

- Heather Hough – SMS Track Coach

**Approval of 2015-2016 Parental Attendance Agreement Requests with no tuition charged to the parents**

- Shaylene Jenson Grade 6 Fairview District Parent: Travis Jenson

**Approve a three year program agreement with MSGIA to provide worker’s compensation coverage through June of 2019.**

**Approve Facility Use Fee Waiver Requests**

- Gina Thiel & Assembly of God for Ballroom Dance Lessons – West Side gym or new cafeteria – Various March dates – No fees charged and not for profit

- Heather Johnson & Sidney Soccer Association – High School Football Field – April 23 & May 14 from 8 to 6. Approved with proof of event insurance;

- Dan & Carrie Peters for travelling basketball teams grades 5 & 6- mid-February through the end of April. Approved with compliance with travel team guidelines.

- Danielle King with Lonsdale United Methodist Church – Middle School Auditorium May 20, 2016 from 5:30 to 9:00 pm for fundraising for the African Children’s Choir; and

- Richland County 4-H speech and demonstration day on Sunday, May 1, 2016 – High School cafeteria and 5 to 6 classrooms with no fees or admission charged.

**Out-of-Country Field Trip Request**

- 6th Grade to Regina, Canada, May 17, 2016, annual request ties in with social studies lessons

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

Chair Dey provided an opportunity for Community Comment on non-agenda items: NONE

Following a summary of changes to the negotiated agreement, Mr. Steinbeisser moved to ratify the 2016-2018 Master Agreement between the Trustees and the SEA. Mrs. Everett seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

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 Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk