March 8, 2010

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Monday, March 8, 2010, at 7:00 PM in room 105 of Central School on published notice by the Clerk. Trustees present were Dennis Lorenz, Todd Hermanson, Jay Pfau, Jolene Baxter, Luann Cooley and Kelly Dey. Also in attendance were Superintendent Farr, Clerk Beyer, High School Principal- Dan Peters, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson, High School Assistant Principal – Sue Andersen, Sidney Elementary Principal – Bill Nankivel, Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator – Gary Arnold and Student Representative- Dillon Leland.

At 7:00 PM, Chairman Lorenz called the meeting to order, welcomed the visitors in attendance and reminded them to sign in and 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 were asked to fill out the Audience Participation form and give it to the clerk to be recognized.

February 2010 claims, warrants 217566 to 217720 in the amount of $850,283.90 and the minutes of February 8 and March 1, 2010, were approved 6 to 0 on a motion by Mr. Hermanson and a second by Ms. Dey.

Following the review of the February 2010 ASB report the following transfers were approved 6 to 0 on a motion by Mrs. Cooley and a second by Mr. Pfau.

From MS Student Store to Elementary Student Store Posting Correction $195.40

From BPA to FLA Gift Certificates $144.00

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr provided the following updates:

- An early graduate was reported to the Office of Public Instruction on the Spring Enrollment Report and has been added to the consent agenda for Board approval;

- An updated cost estimate for the proposed project at the Middle School which includes architect costs;

- The high school is working with the Richland County Health Department with a community crisis intervention plan that would allow the high school to be utilized as a dispensing site in the case of a crisis;

- Upcoming meetings and activities:

- Interest Based Bargaining training and session between the Trustees and the SEA- March 11, 2010- 5:00 PM;

- MQQEC community meeting with director, Mike Lambrecht- March 11, 2010- 6:30 at the Middle School. All students, staff and public are invited to find out about the new direction this committee is heading;

- Labor Management Committee – April 8, 2010 - 5:30 PM High School Library;

- Sidney Community Education Foundation – March 23, 2010 – 5:30 PM Sidney Middle School;

- Early release for curriculum work is scheduled for March 10, 2010

- Girls basketball will leave for the state tournament at Hamilton on Tuesday night with a community send-off;

- A donation of $500.00 from Interstate Engineering for the District Reader Board has been received; and

- Guests, Katrina Werner, Deb Prevost and Janet MacDonald reported on the new Montana Behavior Initiative program that has been successfully utilized this school year with Middle School students.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

Dillon Leland highlighted high school happenings:

- The girls basketball team plays their first game at 2:00 on Thursday and the student body intends to see them in the championship game on Saturday night;

- BPA will be at their state competition March 14 through March 16;

- Also upcoming are Eastern A Music Festival, FFA, Prom and Skills USA in Havre; and

- Suggestions have been made by the student council regarding the alcohol/activity policy and Mrs. Andersen has conveyed these suggestions to Superintendent Farr.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: March 2, 2010***

Mrs. Cooley recapped the following committee agenda items:

- Mike Gear, Athletic Director, reported on the coaching evaluation process put into place this school year. The process was discussed and possible improvements suggested;

- Principal contracts for the 2010-2011 school year are on the consent agenda;

- Sue Andersen and Nicole Simonsen continue to work on a teacher mentor program with the approval of the Trustees;

- Negotiations begin on March 11 at 5:00 PM with Vicki Knudsen providing training prior to the start; and

- Representatives from the Chamber of Commerce approached the District with a request to consider the logistics of hosting a combined Class C boys and girls basketball tournament. Mr. Gear has been asked to research the feasibility of this request and the calendar committee has been asked for some flexibility if this comes to pass.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: March 2, 2010***

Mr. Pfau reported that work continues on activity driver salaries, the transportation assistant opening has been advertised and the District is still seeking interested parties to purchase the cruiser that was replaced.

***BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: March 1, 2010***

Mr. Hermanson outlined Building and Grounds topics:

- No new information was available on the District K-12 Facility Plan but architect and engineer were urged to get moving on this project;

- Punch list items on current projects were reviewed with most projects nearing completion or awaiting spring weather;

- Dennis Deutsch, ABC Building Concepts provided the following updates:

- The Middle School projects – will be dealt with on a piece by piece basis depending on available funding. Work is to begin on the mechanical systems for second and first floors;

- Plans on the 300 wing/cafeteria/kitchen at the high school were again reviewed. A date was agreed upon for vacating that area of the school. The District will be out of there by May 1, 2010. Mr. Hermanson commented that this project would benefit the entire district by updating the kitchen that prepares all the student meals; and

- Mr. Farr provided information regarding the new lead paint regulations effective April 1, 2010. This will affect the upcoming construction/remodeling projects as well as those who work on them.

Mrs. Cooley asked what had been decided regarding replacing the roofs at the Middle School. Mr. Hermanson stated that this was not something that had to be done immediately if other projects needed funding to be completed.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: March 1, 2010***

Mrs. Baxter reviewed the following information:

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

- Still no bids on the activity bus received. Committee suggested appealing to a wider audience;

- Preliminary budgets for 2010-2011 were reviewed. Information on maximum budgets and possible levy requests was discussed;

- Approval of the District mail ballot plan has been received from the Secretary of State. Levy requests must be finalized no later than April 9, 2010 – a special meeting will be held in conjunction with a negotiations night or with an April committee meeting;

- Mr. Farr reported on the direction the Montana Quality Education Coalition is heading and invited all to attend a public meeting on Wednesday night by the director of the group who is soliciting information regarding school finance issues;

- No reply has been received from Rau School regarding the sports proposal clarification sought; and

- The District took part in a Workers Compensation audit.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: March 2, 2010***

Ms. Dey reiterated the following committee discussions:

- MontCas testing is scheduled for this month;

- A copy of the letter written to special education parents explaining the Achievement in Montana (AIM) requirements with regards to special education reporting that became effective March 1, 2010. The District is providing an opportunity for parents to opt out of this requirement

- Eastern Montana University Campus discussions with Dawson and Bozeman are continuing with both institutions on board with this concept; and

- Annual board policy review of sections 6000-9000 continued with much discussion regarding the activity /graduation policy and the direction the Trustees are interested in heading. Changes are on the consent agenda for first reading tonight.

Ms. Dey commented on Mr. Faulhaber’s classes moot court and debates. She enjoyed the experience of seeing this process in action.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**2010-2011 Administrator Contractor Renewal**

The following contracts were renewed with salaries to be determined at a later date:

Sue Andersen – High School Vice-Principal Gary Arnold- Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator

Kelly Johnson- Middle School Principal William Nankivel- Elementary Principal

Daniel Peters- High School Principal

**Board Policy Revisions – 1st Reading**

Adoption would be effective July 1, 2010

***BP1401***- Adds language about electronic records of the Board of Trustees availability to the public

***BP2113***- Removes references to pre-first program and speaks to the current pre-kindergarten program

***BP2140***- Adds item regarding nicotine addiction services/tobacco cessation programs for policy violations

***BP3110***- Clarified language regarding education of students 19 years of age

***BP3225F2***- Updates the new Title IX coordinator for the District

***BP5336***- New policy on Compensatory Time and Overtime for Classified Employees

***BP5254***- New policy on Payment of Employee Contributions and Interest on Previous Service

***BP5254F***- Form that coincides with above policy

***BP5338***- New policy on Payment on Interest on Employer Contributions for Workers Compensation Time

***BP5338F***- Form on above policy

***BP5630***- New policy on Personnel- Employee Use of Cellular Phones and Other Electronic Devices

***BP6110P***- Update to superintendent evaluation format and remove names from last page

***BP7121***- Clarifies language regarding line item budget transfers as current language is not accurate

***BP7320***- Combines policies 7320 and 7530 into one policy on bids and contracts

***BP8123***- Language added regarding the use of cell phones while driving and the “P” passenger endorsement

***BP8430***- Adds language regarding electronic stored information (ESI)

***BP9330***- Removes references to a facilities manager regarding facility operations the position no longer exists

**2009-2010 Out-of-District Attendance Agreements**

1) Parent Request: Wade McMillen Grade 10 by parents Leslie & Jerry McMillen from the Wibaux District

2) Mandatory State Placement for a Sidney student to be placed in the Glendive School System with tuition to be paid by the State of Montana

3) Parental Request: Stephanie Wood (Sidney) Grade 11 to attend Glendive Public Schools with no tuition to be paid by the Sidney District.

Requests 1 and 2 were approved and request 3 acknowledged- neither approved or disapproved.

**Early Graduation**

Angelo Olson – following 7 semesters of attendance at Sidney High School

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

**Research Study Request**

A request has been received from doctoral candidate, Nancy Terwilliger-Grube, and approved by the University of Montana Institutional Review Board to access non-identifying special education student information to assist with this study. If the information is readily available and not time consuming we would participate and would be eligible to receive a copy of the outcome of the study.

A motion was made by Mr. Pfau and seconded by Mrs. Cooley to allow the District to take part in the study as noted by the superintendent. The motion passed 6 to 0.

Chairman Lorenz provided an opportunity for community comment on non-agenda items: No response

At 7:57 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 student discipline hearings.

Chairman Lorenz reconvened the meeting at 8:00 PM. Mr. Hermanson made the motion to terminate the employment of Jerry Buske with Sidney Public Schools based on Mr. Buske’s actions and the reported findings concerning Mr. Buske. Mrs. Cooley seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk