May 10, 2010

A special meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, May 10, 2010, at 6:30 PM for the purpose of student discipline. Trustees present were Dennis Lorenz, Todd Hermanson, Jay Pfau, Luann Cooley, Jolene Baxter and Kelly Dey. Also in attendance were Superintendent Farr, Clerk Beyer, High School Principal- Dan Peters, Assistant Principal- Sue Andersen and MTSBA attorneys Tony Koenig and Aaron Bouschor.

At 6:30 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 student discipline hearing.

Chairman Lorenz reconvened the meeting at 6:59 PM. Mr. Hermanson moved to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent. Ms. Dey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees followed the special meeting at 7:10 PM in the Central School gymnasium on published notice by the Clerk. All in attendance at the special meeting were also present at this portion of the meeting along with: Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson, Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator – Gary Arnold and Student Representative- Dillon Leland. Absent was Sidney Elementary Principal – Bill Nankivel.

At 7:10 PM, Chairman Lorenz called the meeting to order, welcomed the visitors in attendance, reminded them to sign in and stated 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.

April 2010 claims, warrants 217909 to 218094 in the amount of $378,997.60 and the minutes of April 12, 2010, were approved 6 to 0 on a motion by Ms. Dey and a second by Mrs. Cooley.

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

 From Athletics to BPA Track Meet Meals $ 125.00

 From Talon to Speech & Drama Advisors Pay $ 48.00

 From Talon to Wrestling ASB Advisors Pay $ 45.00

 From Talon to Student Council Advisors Pay $ 15.00

 From Talon to FFA Advisors Pay $ 15.00

 From Talon to BPA Winter Profit Share $ 592.00

 From Talon to Close-up Winter Profit Share $ 555.00

 From Talon to Drill Team Winter Profit Share $ 222.00

 From Talon to FFA Winter Profit Share $ 962.00

 From Talon to French Club Winter Profit Share $ 296.00

 From Talon to Freshman Winter Profit Share $ 444.00

 From Talon to International Club Winter Profit Share $ 592.00

 From Talon to Juniors Winter Profit Share $ 444.00

 From Talon to Key Club Winter Profit Share $ 296.00

 From Talon to Leo Club Winter Profit Share $ 592.00

 From Talon to Nat’l Honor Society Winter Profit Share $ 481.00

 From Talon to Publications Winter Profit Share $ 111.00

 From Talon to Seniors Winter Profit Share $ 444.00

 From Talon to Skills USA Winter Profit Share $ 777.00

 From Talon to Softball Winter Profit Share $ 370.00

 From Talon to Sophomores Winter Profit Share $ 444.00

 From Talon to Speech/Drama Winter Profit Share $ 740.00

 From Talon to Student Council Winter Profit Share $ 481.00

 From Talon to Volleyball ASB Winter Profit Share $ 888.00

 From Talon to Wrestling ASB Winter Profit Share $ 740.00

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr provided the following information to the Trustees:

- Add the resignation of Sue Sipper- Talon Advisor to the consent agenda;

- Add the hire of Malcolm Cain- Instrumental Music 2010-2011 to the consent agenda;

- Investigation into the concerns expressed by Mr. Schaff regarding the expenditures of state vocational funds indicate there is no longer a requirement for contact time on extended contracts so the contract of Mr. Merritt is correct;

- A reminder of the Montana School Boards Association workshop to be held in Fairview tomorrow

- Upcoming meetings and activities:

- Interest Based Bargaining between the Trustees and the SEA- 7:00 PM- April 13th & 14th in the Superintendent’s Office

- Labor Management Committee – Final meeting for the year- May 6, 2010 - 5:30 PM - High School Library;

 - Sidney Community Education Foundation – May 18, 2010 – 5:30 PM - High School Library- Annual report forthcoming;

 - Safety Committee – Final meeting for the year- May 5, 2010 – Annual report forthcoming

- Guests for the evening were the current foreign exchange students introduced by Dillon Leland.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

Dillon Leland provided the following updates regarding high school happenings:

- The BPA trip to California for the National Competition was amazing. Sidney had four students place in their events;

- State music festival was held this past week;

- The Top 10 track meet was held today;

- Upcoming senior events: Boys Social; Senior Luncheon- Wednesday and Graduation on 5/23/2010; and

- Andrea Thiel, Sidney High School was elected District 5 vice-president at State Student Council.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: May 4, 2010***

Mr. Pfau recapped the following committee agenda items:

- Supervisors reporting to the committee included Michelle Monsen- Special Education Programs; Gary Arnold- Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator and William Nankivel- Elementary Principal;

- Vacancies were reviewed; Resignations and New Hires are on the consent agenda;

- Input was received from those in attendance regarding the certified contract non-renewal for 2010-2011 of non-tenured music teacher, Cedric Halvorson. Those in attendance spoke in favor of retaining Mr. Halvorson;

- Recommendations regarding co-curricular contract assignments for 2010-2011 for all activities except for track and softball were reviewed and discussed. This item is on the consent agenda this evening;

- Geri Willer, district speech language pathologist, presented salary information to the committee. A decision on this item was taken under advisement.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: No meeting held***

***BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: May 3, 2010***

Mr. Hermanson outlined Building and Grounds topics:

- Brian Milne, Interstate Engineering, and Dennis Deutsch, ABC Building Concepts, provided updates and preliminary recommendations on the District K-12 Facility. This item is expected to be a long-range tool for trustees to utilize with the legislature as to District needs and plans are for oil and gas monies. The product is not quite finished and the gentlemen were asked to meet together to provide one complete document with needs prioritized;

- Punch list items including high school fencing, south parking lot, wiring in the high school gymnasium, West Side gym floor and the Central heating project were reviewed and are close to completion;

- Roger Byer, B&B Builders and Dennis Deutsch provided more information on the Middle School second floor remodeling and the heating system update. This item is on the consent agenda tonight;

- Mr. Byer and Mr. Deutsch also provided updates regarding the ongoing work on the 300 wing/cafeteria/kitchen project at the high school. Staff and students have been relocated and work on the asbestos abatement part of the project has begun; and

- Superintendent Farr presented additional information on the transition of kindergarten to Central and an update on EMUC- college classes that may be offered through a satellite at Central.

 ***FINANCE COMMITTEE: May 3, 2010***

Mrs. Cooley reviewed the following information:

- The committee perused the monthly financial reports for April as well as the claims for the same period;

- A lead on the possible sale of the replaced activity bus is being pursued;

- David McDonald and students representing the Robotics Club reported on their year including the Bozeman competition and the National Competition in Denver. The team did well in Denver;

- The Trustee/Budget Authority mail ballot election for the Elementary District closes at 8:00 PM on the 4th;

- The MUST (Montana Unified State Trust) health insurance renewal for 2010-2011 is on the consent agenda;

- District fees and charges for 2010-2011 were reviewed and are also on the consent agenda;

- Dr. Farr reported on the Montana Quality Education Coalition meeting discussions and plans;

- District building liability insurance will remain with Western States as the District is in year two of a three year contract. However, Dr. Farr is working with company representatives to update building square footage due to recent construction; and

- American Express has provided an opportunity for the District to participate in their program. This would allow the payment of qualified purchases with the American Express account and entitle the District to a rebate on purchases. This rebate can be used to update District technology equipment. This option is also on the consent agenda tonight.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: May 4, 2010***

Ms. Dey summarized the following committee discussions:

- Joy-Lyn McDonald reviewed the proposed calendars for the 2010-2011 school year with the committee. This item is on the consent agenda tonight;

- The State has requested that districts sign off on a memorandum of understanding so that application can be made for the second round of Race to the Top funds. This doesn’t commit the District to anything but allows us to have a foot in the door should funding be of interest to the Trustees. The memorandum of understanding must be signed by the SEA, the Trustees and the Superintendent and is on the consent agenda for consideration this evening;

- Eastern Montana University Campus discussions with Dawson continue. At this point, they are looking at Sidney High School class curriculum to determine if any classes currently offered are eligible for dual credit through their institution;

- Materials have been ordered and preparations are underway for the summer math program to be funded with Title I ARRA funds;

- The summer migrant education program will begin in June on a small scale;

- Out of state field trip requests are on the consent agenda;

- 2010-2011 handbook changes were presented by Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Andersen. First reading is on the consent agenda this evening;

- Safety and Loss Control Program policy changes are on the agenda for second reading and adoption; and

- Additional 2010-2011 board policy changes are on the consent agenda for first reading.

***2010-2011 Non-tenured certified staff non-renewal:***

Cedric Halvorson, High School/Middle School Music, is recommended for non-renewal for the 2010-2011 school year without cause.

Juanita Johnson, Karlon Schmitt and Tom Halvorson spoke in favor of retaining Cedric Halvorson. Following this input, Mr. Hermanson moved to accept the recommendation of the superintendent to non-renew the nontenured contract of Cedric Halvorson without cause for the 2010-2011 school year. Mrs. Cooley seconded the motion which passed 5 to 1 with Mr. Pfau voting against the motion.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**New Hires**

Lori Dore- Nursing Services

Malcolm Cain – High School/Middle School Music

**Resignations**

Kevin Brost – Middle School Wrestling

Virginia Dschaak – Head Cross Country

Sue Sipper – Talon Advisor

**2010-2011 Co-curricular Responsibility Agreements**

***Girls Basketball Boys Basketball***

Jon Skinner (Head) Danny Strasheim (Head)

Brad Faulhaber (Ass’t) Benji Berg (Ass’t)

Sandy Sullivan (Ass’t) Ruben Moreno (Ass’t)

Ruben Moreno (Jr. High) Brian Tiesen (Jr. High)

Ashley Sullivan (Jr. High) Chad Quilling (Jr. High)

David Huskamp (Elem) David Huskamp (Elem)

Brittany Kallevig (Elem) James Meissel (Elem)

***Football Volleyball***

Mike Gear (Head) Caryn Fehilly (Head)

Roger Merritt (Ass’t) Katrina Werner (Ass’t)

Guy Melby (Ass’t) Jennifer DiFonzo (Ass’t)

Jon Skinner (Ass’t) Mary Leibach (Jr. High)

Steve O’Toole (Ass’t) Kathy Johnson (Jr. High)

Marv Schulz (Ass’t) Lacey Nevins (Jr. High)

Ty Graves (Jr. High-Head) ***Wrestling***

Chris Volk (Jr. High) Guy Melby (Head)

Jim Thogersen (Jr. High) Tim Stubsted (Ass’t)

Ruben Moreno (Jr. High) Ty Graves (Ass’t)

***Cheerleading*** Shane Gorder (Jr. High)

Tami Larson ***Golf***

Karla Rindahl Jay Frank (Ass’t)

***Auditorium Manager Speech & Drama***

Jacob McDonald Gail Staffanson (Head)

Ken Stennes Holly Redman (Ass’t)

***Drill Team Intramurals***

Virginia Dschaak Steve O’Toole

***Talon Piano Accompanist***

Rachel Miotke Virginia Herrick

***Elementary Music Foreign Exchange***

Synneva Meldahl Bobbie Hall

Janet Spracklin Nicole Franklin

***Play Advisor Science Club***

Arch Ellwein David McDonald

***HS Academics MS Academics***

Yvonne Gebhardt Jon Skinner

***FFA FLA***

Gary Schaff Jeanne Lang

***BPA Skills USA***

Elaine Stedman Roger Merritt

**2010-2011 School Lunch Prices and Activity Fees**

 ***Current Proposed for 2010-2011***

*Lunch – Adult $ 3.35 $ 3.65*

*Lunch- K-5 $ 2.25 $ 2.35*

*Lunch- 6-12 $ 2.55 $ 2.65*

*Activity Fees –* Add kindergarten students to the activity fee schedule so the current schedule is applicable to all grades.

**MONTANA UNIFIED SCHOOL TRUST (MUST) HEALTH INSURANCE RENEWAL – 2010-2011**

Participation approved. Plan offerings will be decided by the outcome of interest based bargaining.

**AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD AUTHORIZATION**

Authorizes the District Clerk to establish an American Express Card for District Purchases

**2010-2011 STUDENT HANDBOOKS- FIRST READING**

Handbooks are amended for changes in dates, Title IX coordinator as well as to reflect changes in policies adopted by the Trustees.

**BOARD POLICY REVISIONS – FIRST READING**

***BP3122***- *Revision-* Attendance policy – minor procedural changes and alignment with handbooks

***BP3612, 3612P, 3612F***- *New-* District Technology Policy covering student access, use and conduct with respect to District provided access to electronic information, services and networks

***BP5451, 5451P, 5451F***- *New-* District Technology Policy covering staff access, use and conduct with respect to District provided access to electronic information, services and networks

***BP7425***- *Revision –* Adjustments to fee structure, inventory control, bookkeeping system and procedures and reconciliation of accounts of the Associated Student Body Accounts to line-up with District practices

***District Activity/Eligibility/Graduation Handbook Policy-*** *Revision –* Addresses student infractions related to drugs and alcohol. All chemical violations (in or out of school) will be cumulative for grades 6-8 and 9-12. New language concerning participation in commencement provides a student in violation of the policy regardless of offense level with an opportunity to participate by completing a 10 hour program of self-study, a chemical assessment and exit interview with the building principal and school counselor.

* 1. **Safety Loss and Control Program Policy Revisions – Second Reading and Adoption**

- Grammatical and spelling errors will be corrected

- Page 2, Paragraph 5: changed to reflect the team worked needed between the District and the employee in safety and health management

- Page 2, Paragraph 6: Reference to individual performance in regard to safety reworded as an expectation that will be considered as an element of overall job performance

- Page 3, Paragraph 2: the word “job” was added before “task specific basis”

- Page 4, Paragraph 5: references to “directors” changed to “supervisors” and “in the school” to “to their school’s campus”

- Page 5, Paragraph 1: accident prevention reworded as “proactive in the prevention of accidents”

- Page 6, Paragraph 2: added appointed by the Superintendent to selection of committee members

- Page 6, Paragraph 5: Meeting schedule broadened to allow committee to pick dates

- Page 6, Paragraph 6: duties regarding meeting agendas and meeting clarified

- Page 8, Paragraph 1: added “ongoing professional development and…” to first sentence

- Page 8, Section 2, Paragraph 2: added “...building principal or…” to first sentence

- Page 10, Paragraph 3: grammatical correction to sentences 3 and 4 combining them into one

- Page11: comment about access to annual fire marshal’s reports

- Page 12, Paragraph 6: replaces reference to work order to a communication in writing or e-mail to building maintenance supervisor and places the responsibility of each building maintenance supervisor to eliminate unsafe physical conditions

- Sections A & B: primarily grammatical and/or spelling – A-4(7) was reworded regarding building emergency plans and practice drills in relation the possible occurrence of an emergency

- Section C: previously unfinished section, reworked and added to

**2010-2011 School Calendar Adoption**

First Day: *Teachers:* August 23, 2010 *Students:* August 25, 2010

Last Day: *Teachers:* May 27, 2011 *Students:* May 27, 2011

**Race To The Top (RTTT) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)**

OPI requirement - allows the district the opportunity to participate in the RTTT in the future. Part of the state application process- must be signed by District Superintendent, Board Chair and SEA.

**Out of State Field Trips**

Grade 4 to Fort Buford, Fort Union and the Confluence- Study the historical significance region

Middle School – two requests – to Fort Buford, Fort Union and the Confluence – Study nature and geology

Mr. Hermanson moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Dey seconded the motion. The motion passed 6 to 0.

Cedric Halvorson asked to address the Trustees. He thanked them for the opportunity to teach in the system he graduated from.

**Middle School Mechanical/Electrical Renovation**

Superintendent Farr reported that further review of the Middle School renovation with MTSBA attorneys concluded that the Trustees directed administration to proceed with plans for the work on the second floor/mechanical/heating systems of the Middle School. Work on the plans and funds were not available to complete the project. MTSBA indicated the Trustees were okay to proceed with intended work with regards to the mechanical/heating parts of the project. However, any classroom remodeling and first floor work not connected to the mechanical/heating parts of the project should be bid out or go through the alternative project delivery process.

Discussion followed regarding finance sources for the project.

Mr. Hermanson made a motion to move forward with the mechanical portion of the project only. Mr. Pfau provided the second which was unanimously approved.

Chairman Lorenz provided an opportunity for community comment on non-agenda items: Students in attendance responded negatively to the non-renewal of Cedric Halvorson.

The Trustees recognized Student Representative, Dillon Leland and Trustee, Jolene Baxter, and thanked them for their service to the Board.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

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 Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk