May 11, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Monday, May 11, 2015 beginning with a student educational plan hearing at 6:00 PM in Room 103 of Central School on posted notice by the clerk. Present were Trustees Kelly Dey, Serina Everett, Melissa Sanders, Dennis Lorenz, Luke Savage and Craig Steinbeisser. Also in attendance were Superintendent- Daniel Farr; Clerk- Nicole Beyer; Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson and Middle School student discipline program coordinator- RaeAnn Klose. Mrs. Johnson made telephone contact with the student’s mother explaining the need for their attendance at this meeting. During the conversation, the mother hung up.

At 6:02 PM Chairwoman Dey called the meeting to order.

At 6:03 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 a student educational plan hearing.

Chair Dey reconvened the meeting at 6:20 PM. Mrs. Everett moved to accept the recommendation of Administration in regards to the educational plan of the student and expel the student for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year. Mr. Savage seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0 with Mr. Lorenz unable to vote on this elementary issue. At this time, Kelly Johnson and RaeAnn Klose left the meeting.

Following a brief recess, Chair Dey called the meeting to order at 6:30.

Ms. Dey welcomed the visitor in attendance: West Side Principal- Jon Skinner. Central Principal- Brent Sukut, High School Vice-Principal- Loretta Thiel and SEA Representative Cara Lokken-Frandsen arrived at 7:00 PM during committee reports. Absent were High School Principal- Sue Andersen and Curriculum/ Federal Programs Director- Thom Barnhart.

Ms. Dey stated an opportunity for community comment on non-agenda items would be provided prior to the Consent Agenda. 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 for April 13, 2015, and the April 2015 claim warrants 222358 to 222409 in the amount of $255,307.39. Mrs. Sanders seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

Clerk Beyer presented the following checks/warrants to be cancelled as well as the following abandoned lunch accounts under $5.00 to be written off:

**District:** 222340 Roger Merritt 3/23/15 $211.90 Charge was made on his personal & District Credit Card

222346 H.W. Wilson Co. 3/23/15 $278.00 Paid by CC in December to Greyhouse Publishing

**ASB: Voided Referee Checks Due to Game Cancellations or Referee No-Shows**

21043 1/14/15 Sidney MOA $36.00 21121 1/28/15 Sidney MOA $36.00

21120 1/28/15 Sidney MOA $36.00 21119 1/28/15 Sidney MOA $36.00

21118 1/28/15 Sidney MOA $36.00 21333 3/25/15 Sidney MOA $36.00

21332 3/25/15 Sidney MOA $36.00 21312 3/25/15 Sidney MOA $36.00

21313 3/25/15 Sidney MOA $36.00 21317 3/25/15 Sidney MOA $36.00

21316 3/25/15 Sidney MOA $36.00 21324 3/25/15 Sidney MOA $36.00

21325 3/25/15 Sidney MOA $36.00 21328 3/25/15 Sidney MOA $36.00

21329 3/25/15 Sidney MOA $36.00 21348 3/31/15 Sidney MOA $12.96

**Abandoned Lunch Accounts under $5.00:**

Bowen Herrington Balance $.40 Kylee Kozak Balance $4.50

Mrs. Everett moved to cancel the voided warrants/checks and transfer the abandoned lunch accounts under $5.00. Mr. Lorenz provided the second to the motion which passed 6 to 0.

The following Associated Student Body transfers were approved on a motion by Mr. Lorenz, seconded by Mr. Steinbeisser and passed 6 to 0.

**FROM TO AMOUNT EXPLANATION**

FFA (110) BPA (112) $ 285.00 Gate Split and Snacks

Junior Class (146) FCCLA (111) $ 143.17 Catering Prom Food

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr reported the following to the Trustees:

**Correspondence:**

- Thank you from Lori Keenan and Carol Hearron for the coffee/water mugs for Teacher Appreciation

- A letter from Dennis Lorenz applying for the open District 1 position for one year

**Updated Enrollment Figures Grades K-12:** 1,387 as of last week

**2015-2016 Staff Transfers:**

- Katrina Werner-Johnson from Special Education Teacher to Grade 4 Teacher

- Tammy Linder from Grade 4 Teacher to Central Librarian

- Jodi Mueller from Middle Social Studies to Middle School Language Arts

**Additional New Hire to add to Consent Agenda:**

- Tymbre Stender – Grade 4 Teacher

**Facility Updates:**

- Copies of an updated MSPACE lease to buy agreement were provided to the Trustees;

- The Quality Schools Grant utilized for long-term planning final reports have been completed and the $25,000.00 received; and

- Due to the need for detailed discussion on the West Side remodel, alterations to construction phases resulting in changes to plans and timelines as well as a need to make a decision on District health insurance coverage for 2015-2016 on quotes that were submitted by noon today with review by the Insurance Committee scheduled for tomorrow after school, a special meeting is planned for Thursday. Discussion by the Trustees set the meeting for Thursday, May 14 @ 6:00 PM in the Office of the Superintendent.

**Calendar Events:**

- The High School band concert is scheduled for May 12th at 6:00 PM;

- MQEC meeting is scheduled May 18, 2015 in Helena. Dr. Farr will attend via conference call;

- IBB is scheduled for Thursday, May 21st at Central School;

- Baccalaureate and the Awards/Scholarship Presentation is scheduled for Sunday, May 17 at 6:00 PM at the Middle School Auditorium;

- District PLC meeting will be Wednesday, May 20th at 6:00 PM in the Superintendent’s Office;

- Graduation is scheduled for May 24th at 2:00 PM. Kelly Dey and Serina Everett will hand out diplomas; and

- The last day of school for the 2014-2015 school year will be May 29, 2015. This is a half day.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: May 5, 2015***

Mr. Savage recapped the following committee topics:

- Thom Barnhart, Curriculum/Federal Programs Director, attended the meeting providing updates on state SBAC testing frustrations, the intent to begin the District writing program at Grade 4; and the hope to offer honors English for grades 9-12;

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

- Also on the Consent Agenda are the 2015-2016 Classified Contract Renewals/Non-renewals.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE May 5, 2015***

Mrs. Everett highlighted the committee agenda items:

- The new MCI bus should arrive in mid-June;

- Following discussion, it was decided to wait until 2015-16 to replace the Dodge Stratus;

- Quotes are being solicited for replacement of two District route buses; and

- Employees will be attending summer training provided by Hartley’s.

Mrs. Sanders brought up the discussion held about allowing bus rental for a Farm Bureau tour and a high school reunion. Dr. Farr stated research conducted by the Transportation Administrative Assistant indicates commercial carriers charge $2.90 per mile or $600 to $650 a day. Ms. Dey requested this item be placed on the committee agenda for June when setting fees for 2015-2016.

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: May 5, 2015***

Mr. Lorenz summarized committee agenda discussions:

- No new information on the Administrative Office space or CTE Wing Expansion;

- Dr. Farr has given permission for the High School to provide a deadline for Olson Plumbing to complete the courtyard project. If they do not meet this date, another vendor will be sought;

- Bus Barn alterations that would allow work on District cruisers have been placed on hold at this time;

- Nothing new on the sidewalk shift at the bus barn office;

- West Side bypass sewer system is nearly wrapped up. Contact with the Hansen family resulted in the need to re-seed grass and bring in some gravel;

- Two freshmen students in Mr. Merritt’s CADD industrial arts class prepared design drawings for the Trustees;

- Hussey Seating reported a total of 132 seats would be lost with the addition of a handrail/step system to the balcony bleachers at the High School. Because this would jeopardize tournament seating, the committee decided to table this item at this time;

- Discussion continues on the West Side Expansion/Remodel project. Discussion centered on the amount of work that should be accomplished and a timeline for proceeding. This will be discussed further Thursday night;

- Newly updated building summer maintenance lists were reviewed; and

- The City requested the School District consider constructing a “knock out” on the north side of the Middle School similar to the one in front of the building. As no plans or proposed methods of payment were presented, this has been tabled until more information is received.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: May 5, 2015***

Mr. Steinbeisser outlined the following committee discussions:

- April claims and March financial reports were reviewed. Lunch reports were in Board packets;

- Dr. Farr provided current enrollment numbers and a Montana Quality Education Coalition update;

- Legislative bill updates: Governor Bullock signed HB 373 raising the bonding limit, vetoed HB 423 raising the amount of oil & gas monies that a District can retain from 130% to 150% of Maximum Budget which could be overridden with a 2/3 vote of both houses which is not probable, signed SB 252 which replaces the 25% allocation of oil & gas in the general fund with a 12.5% requirement and signed SB 260 basically replacing the current concentric circle piece so that funds are remitted to the state for disbursement on an application basis;

- Reviewed rate increases at 12 to 13.5% and new plan offerings for 2015-16 with MUST insurance. Most of the cost would be absorbed by the employee. Bids are being sought from local vendors.

- Reorganization meeting will be tonight following the regular meeting. The District is still waiting for the fourth quarter concentric circle amount. Updated figures from OPI that affect 2015-2016 budgets have not yet been received nor do we know the effect of some legislation on these numbers;

- 2015-2016 District oil and gas stipends for classified and certified staff were discussed and are on the Consent Agenda tonight;

- 2015-2016 memberships in Montana School Boards Association, Montana Quality Education Coalition and Montana High School Association as well as the catastrophic insurance with MHSA are on the Consent Agenda;

- Initial conversation regarding 2015-2016 fees and charges were held. It has been proposed to raise Drivers Education fees from $260.00 to $275.00. Additional conversation was held regarding charges for use of the football field and school facilities with any fee waivers to be approved by the Trustees. This item be further discussed in June; and

- Discussions began regarding the District AFLAC representative. A survey has been sent to staff but not collated yet regarding issues experienced with the representative and the desires to have local representatives to work with.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: May 5, 2015***

Mrs. Sanders provided an overview of the following committee discussions:

- SBAC Testing was a disaster and a waste of time for students and staff;

- Eight seniors will be working hard to complete courses in order to graduate;

- Continuing Ed grants are on the Consent Agenda;

- Handbook changes will come before the Board in June. Lengthy discussions were held regarding the need to enforce handbook rules;

- The ProGro process was explained. PIR alternative plans were approved by the committee;

- Changes to the Academic Honors Program are on the Consent Agenda; and

- Proposed board policy updates and minor edits to job descriptions will be reviewed in June.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resignations**

- Robyn Heck – Middle School/High School Vocal

- Dennell Benson – Speech Aide

- Tami O’Toole – Speech Aide

- Laura Reyes – Speech Aide

**New Hires**

- Ruben Moreno – Middle School Social Studies Teacher

- Carmen Mead – Special Education Teacher

- Elsie Drynan – Elementary Teacher

- Tymbre Stender – Elementary Teacher

New hires approved pending results of background checks and clearance by Administration

**2015-2016Classified Staff Contract Renewals/Hires**

*Administrative Staff:* Michelle Lambert Leigh Merritt Nancy Vaira

*Aides:* Shelly Averett Raechal Beyer Cathy Fischer Tasha Gordon

Cheryl Hansen Pam Hansen Sally Hinckley Rhonda Hunter Susan Iversen

Karen Johnston Autumn Jorstad Aimee Judd Patricia Kneeland Falon LaRoche Marilyn Lorenz Cheryl Mastvelten Maida Morton Jane Olson Sandy Rehbein

Sarah Reidle Milly Rohrman Joan Schrader Erika Snow Sonia Spaulding

DelRae Steinbeisser Heidi Tennancour Tammie Wheatley Danielle Wilson

*Alternative/Title I Tutors:* Sarah Beyer Amanda Bishop Heather Hough Maria Jensen

Bonnie Osborne Tara Skaar Nicole Tihista

*Custodial/Maintenance:* Robert Aird Charyl Beach Chuck Buxbaum Jon Getchell

Sheila Iszler Brenda Kiamas Lenny Larson Rhoda Lyons Jennifer McGahan

Brian McNutt Karen Moerman Pam Stephenson Danielle Topping Kenny Vannatta

*Food Service:* Charles Couture Rose Couture Beth Cross Dru Jones

Lori Ladd Mary Lake Sherry Lessman Barbara Luke Bobbie Nelson

Pam Radke Jenifer Verhasselt Renita Welnel Taycia Yockim

*Secretaries/Administrative Assistants:*  Alexandra Borg Michelle Bruner Petra Candee

Jennifer Lunderby Lisa Morehouse Jane Nicolaus Maria Peters Susan Spangler

Carla Verhasselt

*Technology:* Mark Iszler Nathan Roth Ken Stennes Steve Yockim

Zach Yockim

*Transportation Staff:* Ernest Taylor Pam Stephenson Shelley Moran Brian LeFors

Louise Iversen Charles Cummings Ann Cummings Matt Buske Tami Edinger

**2015-2016 Montana School Boards Association Membership (MTSBA): Cost = $8089.00**

**2015-2016 Montana Quality Education Coalition (MQEC) Membership: Cost = $2500.00**

**2015-2016 Montana High School Association (MHSA) Membership and Liability Catastrophe Plan:**

Membership = $4,000.00 Insurance Premium: $565.00

**2015-2016 Oil Impact Stipends:**

- Monthly payment of oil impact stipends to hourly classified will cease as of July 1, 2015

- Quarterly review will take place to determine payment of stipends based on funds received and available

- Directs superintendent to set up staff meetings to communicate this change. These meeting have been set for Wednesday of this week at 1:30 and 2:30 with a letter prepared for staff delivery.

**2015-2016 Continuing Ed Grants:**

Jill Albertson Veronique Kidd Katrina Werner-Johnson Melissa Shiffer Peggy Ann Strupp

*ALTERNATES:* Lorraine Allen

*GRADUATION MATTERS GRANT* Brad Faulhaber Mary Pfau

*DID NOT MEET GRANT REQUIREMENTS:* David & Joy-Lyn McDonald Holly Redman

**Academic Honors Program**

- Total credits remain at 24

- Four of the 24 must be dual credit or advanced level honors classes taken during junior or senior year

- Newly added advanced classes and dual credit classes were added to the approved list

**Curricular and Activity Program Offerings. Approval of new high school course offerings 2015-16**

- American Culture I (.5 Credit) Grades 10-12 No prerequisite

- American Culture II (.5 Credit) Grades 10-12 No prerequisit

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The Consent Agenda was approved as presented 6 to 0 on a motion by Mrs. Everett and a second by Mr. Lorenz.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk