November 14, 2011

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, November 14, 2011 at 7:00 PM in Room 104 of Central School. Present were Trustees Todd Hermanson, Kelly Dey, Dexter Thiel, Luann Cooley and Dennis Lorenz. Also in attendance were Superintendent Farr, Clerk Beyer, High School Assistant Principal- Loretta Thiel, High School Principal- Dan Peters, Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator- Gary Arnold and Student Representative Tori Hill. Absent was Trustee Virginia Oraw, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson and Sidney Elementary Principal-Sue Andersen

Trustee Cooley chaired the meeting, calling the meeting to order at 7:02 PM and welcomed the visitors in attendance- SEA Representative- Gary Schaff. Mrs. Cooley reminded those in attendance to sign in and stated 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.

Ms. Dey moved to approve the minutes of the October 3, 10 and 25, 2011 meetings and the October 2011 claim warrants 219929 to 219979 in the amount of $720,709.51. Mr. Lorenz seconded the motion which passed on a 5 to 0 vote.

The following checks/warrants were canceled on a motion by Ms. Dey and a second by Mr. Hermanson. The motion passed unanimously.

District #219952 10/10/11 $ 70.00 Richland County Extension Duplicate Billing

#219995 11/2/11 $304.00 School Administrators of MT Duplicate Payment

The October 2011 Associated Student Body report and transfers were approved on a motion by Mr. Lorenz with a second by Ms. Dey. The motion passed unanimously.

*From Chess Club to Science Club $ 114.77 Funds Transfer*

*From FFA to BPA $ 15.00 Posters*

*From Publications to Resources Unlimited $ 15.00 Gift Certificate*

*From “C” Divisional Toruney to BPA $ 15.00 Posters*

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr reported the following:

- Correspondence consisted of a formal resignation letter from Virginia Oraw vacating her seat effective immediately. September Financial Reports were given to the Trustees;

- Additions to the Consent Agenda include the new hire of Lori Alexander- Special Education Aide, the withdrawal of Amber Henwood- Special Education Aide from new hires and the addition of Karlene Dunagen- High School Custodian to the Resignations;

- Building updates: ABC Building Concepts will host a planning session at West Side on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at 2:00 PM;

- Based on review of services with building principals and annual staff, we have renewed the three year agreement for school pictures with Life Touch;

- Due to a merger between MoDa Credit Services of Sidney ad CheckRite, a new agreement will need to be signed on the collection of NSF checks in the ASB account; and

- Upcoming events: Winter sports being with wrestling on Thursday and girls and boys basketball on Monday the 21st; An early release is scheduled November 23 at noon for Thanksgiving. Lunch will not be served; and Sidney is hosting AgEd training at the high school November 28th expecting 40 to 50 participants.

Mr. Hermanson asked for a consensus from the board regarding chamber bucks in place of turkeys this year. Consensus was to do this in the amount of $50.00 and to include activity drivers and coaches. The board was pleased with the idea of the chamber bucks in support of local businesses.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

Tori Hill stated that plans are underway for the annual talent show before the Christmas break. Plans are to serve hot chocolate and candy canes. Student council has begun discussions on student dress code. The Council also sent the custodians and spouses to the South 40 for dinner. Tori and board members also discussed the school spirit at volleyball games- agreeing that students standing had not been an issue and that students have been polite. Mr. Thiel requested the student section be marked clearly with large letters. All agreed that homecoming spirit was a success.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: November 8, 2011***

Mr. Hermanson recapped agenda items discussed by the committee:

- Met with additional new certified staff regarding their tenure with Sidney Schools;

- Met with Assistant High School Principal- Loretta Thiel, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson and Special Education Director- Michelle Monsen who reviewed the special education monitoring recently completed;

- District vacancies were reviewed; Resignations and New Hires are on the Consent Agenda;

- A draft copy of the district hiring guidelines was distributed for trustee review;

- Work continues on board and classified evaluations; and

- Ms. Dey asked about the community coaching surveys previously available on the website. Mr. Farr stated the surveys could be done by requesting a paper copy and a notice will be posted on the website. This feature is not expected to be up and running until after the software update in November.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: November 8, 2011***

Mr. Thiel provided the following information regarding committee discussions:

- The deadline on the Savage transportation request has come and gone so it is a moot point; and

- The committee directed the administration to move forward with the prices and policy needed to put cameras- video and audio on district buses; and

- The addition of a new route for the remainder of the 2011-2012 school year is on the consent agenda.

***BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: November 8, 2011***

Mr. Lorenz summarized Building and Grounds discussions:

- Updates were provided to Trustees on the following projects:

*Punch list items in the High School 100, 200 and 300 wings: Architect and contractor are to work together to clear these projects up;*

*Parking lots at the high school: Work on the south parking lot has not been completed and will continue in the spring;*

*Gym floors: the issues with venting/moisture/cupping were reviewed by a specialist from Bruco who reported it is not a problem at this time;*

*Central HVAC punch list: Complete except for some training on the system;*

*Middle School Current Projects: Working on the second floor punch list from this summer.*

*West Side Projects: Updates on work remaining on the HVAC project were presented. The playground has a small amount left. Preliminary plan meeting regarding a possible addition to the building will be held;*

*Central Elementary Engineering Report: It appears there will be a need to utilize more classrooms at Central next year. Trustees need an evaluation of the 1949 addition;*

*Capacity Studies: Evaluation continues on the capacity studies by administration with the goal of configuring building grade-levels by utilizing each building as fully as possible. Note was made that the Old Administration Building behind the Middle School has one year left on the lease at which time, the Trustees will consider taking back the building;*

*District Project Direction for 2011-2012 : This topic has generated a lot of discussion and brainstorming. Uncertainties regarding possible student population and available funding were considered; and*

*MSGIA Winter Safety Grant: Trustees were apprised of this opportunity.*

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: November 7, 2011***

Mr. Thiel outlined committee discussion topics:

- The October claims were reviewed;

- The October count day report was reviewed and compared to current enrollment of 1214. Discussion centered on what action to take if the population continues to increase;

- Dr. Farr presented an update on the Montana Quality Education Coalition;

- Attendance agreements are on the consent agenda;

- Due to an unanticipated enrollment increase greater than 6% in the elementary district, the District has been working with OPI on possible budget amendment scenarios. The proclamation is on the Consent Agenda;

- Trustees requested that impact stipends be distributed prior to Christmas. Classified staff will be surveyed regarding all monies to go to the HRA or a split like the certified staff;

- Discussion continued on options available through an interdistrict agreement for 2011-2012 which would allow the elementary district to use high school monies;

- Class A Caucus concerns were discussed; and

- The second quarter oil and gas payment has been received and the report was reviewed.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: November 8, 2011***

Committee discussion topics were presented by Ms. Dey:

- The meeting was held at the high school with a work session with Career and Technical Education staff which was very productive;

- Accreditation standards deviations were noted and some will be addressed as they are inaccurate;

- The special education on-site review was covered in PR and Personnel with Mrs. Monsen;

- Keeping fingers crossed that MSU-Bozeman will have a Masters program up and running by January;

- The Safety Committee continues with its annual policy review;

- The possibility of conducting drug dog searches again on school campuses is being explored. Also the first reading of the Video Surveillance Policy #3235 is on the consent agenda; and

- The name change for the Sidney Community Education Foundation is in process.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resignations**

- Karlene Dunagen- High School Custodian

- Craig Bowen – Assistant Girls Softball

- David Huskamp – Elementary Boys Basketball

**Vacated Position:**

Desiree Miller- Truancy Officer is recommended for immediate termination for vacating her position. Ms. Miller has been unable to be contacted at any of the numbers the District has for her and has not returned any calls after leaving multiple messages.

**New Hires**

- Jan Schafer – Special Education Aide

- Brittany Russell – Special Education Aide

- Lori Alexander – Special Education Aide

- Michelle Lambert – Administrative Secretary

**2011-2012 Student Attendance Agreements**

Table 1: Attending Sidney Schools

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name: | Grade | Parent | Request | Dist |
| Welzenbach, Tia | 7 | Suzann Smith | Parent | Fairview |
| Morales, Andrew | 3 | Crystal Pineda | Parent | Fairview |
| Wieferich, Tesa | 6 | Cathy & Dave Wieferich | Parents | Rau |
| Lonski, Alexa | PK | Bobbi Jo & Nick Lonski | Parent | Stevenson School District |

Trustees approved the out-of-district agreements for students to attend Sidney Schools with no tuition charged on the parent requests;

**2011-2012 Budget Amendment – Unanticipated Enrollment – Elementary District #5**

Proclaim the need for an amendment of $601,000.00; send petition to State Superintendent of Public Instruction and set the hearing for December 12, 2011

**2011-2012 Video Surveillance Policy – 1st Reading**

- To enable the use of cameras and audio on district buses with notification to the public

**Addition of Transportation Route #1**

- Routes 4 and 5 are near capacity and possible ridership exceeds capacity;

- The route will be 17 miles and encompass the trailer parks northwest of Sidney as well as come down near the golf course;

- Directs District Clerk and Transportation Supervisor to file the application with the county transportation committee.

Mr. Lorenz moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Ms. Dey seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

**School Board Trustee Vacancy**

Upon the resignation of Virginia Oraw from the Board, Ms. Dey moved to declare the seat vacant and to proceed with necessary advertisements to secure letters of interest from interested candidates. Mr. Thiel seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

Mrs. Cooley expressed thanks to Mrs. Oraw for her time and dedication but understands the need to put family first.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk