November 9, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Monday, November 9, 2015 at 6:00 PM in Room 103 of Central School on posted notice by the clerk. Present were Trustees Kelly Dey, Craig Steinbeisser, Dennis Lorenz, Luke Savage, and Melissa Sanders. Also in attendance were Superintendent- Daniel Farr, Clerk- Nicole Beyer and Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson.

Arriving at 6:55 were West Side Principal- Jon Skinner, High School Principal- Sue Andersen, High School Vice-Principal- Loretta Thiel and Central Principal- Brent Sukut. Absent were Trustee- Serina Everett; the Student Representatives and Curriculum/ Federal Programs Director- Thom Barnhart.

At 6:00 PM Chairwoman Dey called the meeting to order.

Ms. Dey welcomed the visitors in attendance: Cara Lokken-Frandsen, SEA President, Dexter and Casey Thiel; Lenny Larson- MS Custodian; Shelley Steele, Chadd Steffes, Duane Bieber, Bill Vanderweele- Sidney Herald; CTA Architects- Karen Kelly and Rhonda Carlson.

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.

Karen Kelly, CTA Architects, presented options for the Middle School first floor remodel for discussion.

Trustee consensus was to proceed with design of the fourth option presented for first floor remodel at the Middle School with Option 2 for the library as well as moving the CTE wall back cutting the area to 1200 square feet allowing more square footage in the cafeteria with garage/barn doors that would allow for the enlargement of the CTE room and a need to change the doors on data room.

Discussion continued with Mrs. Sanders requesting that problems between architects and contractors be brought to the Board instead of hearing about them downtown. Examples were provided by Trustees. Dr. Farr explained CTA is looking out for the District and contractors should provide value engineering suggestions throughout the process. Communication was felt to be an issue between CTA, contractors and Trustees with the Board expressing its desire to be involved in future project meetings. Weekly reports have been requested. Karen Kelly suggested bringing a communication plan to the Board for approval prior to the next project.

Dexter Thiel brought up the roofing issues with Bob Jones from CTA. The Board requested Mr. Jones attend the December Building and Grounds Committee meeting. Karen Kelly asked Mr. Thiel for something written down for the Board to see. He refused stating it makes no difference because contractors can’t get answers as to why they are doing things CTA’s way- they only get the standard CTA answer.

Mrs. Sanders moved to approve the minutes of the regular Board of Trustee meeting held October 12th, 2015, and the October 2015 claim warrants 222679 to 222721 in the amount of $208,370.11. Mr. Steinbeisser seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

Associated Student Body transfers were approved 5 to 0 on a motion by Mr. Lorenz and a second by Mr. Steinbeisser.

From 124 CHEER/Pep Squad to 112 BPA $ 30.00 Purchase 3 42” Posters @ $10.00 each

From 131 Band Rental to 113 Volleyball $226.00 Typing error

From 127 School Play to 104 Speech & Drama $534.39 Accounting Error

From 101 SHS Student Council to 112 Resources Unlimited $ 25.00 Purchase 5 $5.00 Gift Certificates

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr presented the following information:

**Correspondence:**

- Email from Charlo Schools thanking community and school for hospitality for football playoff

- Information from Mrs. Andersen about the announcing at the Whitefish/Sidney playoff game and communications with MHSA and Whitefish. The rest of the Whitefish community rose to the occasion and were welcoming.

**Resignations:**

- Mike Gear – Elementary Boys Basketball Coach

- Sandra Conway – Part-time Custodian

**Facility Use Fee Waiver Request**

- Sidney Elks Lodge – sponsor Elks Hoop Shoot on November 21, 2015. Unaware of new time frame for submitting waiver request; and

- Sidney Elks Hoop Shoot request for January 9, 2016 regional event- this request has time for consideration.

**Enrollment: October Count Day 1409 and 1405 today.**

**Calendar Events:**

- Thanksgiving break is scheduled for November 25- 27, 2015;

- Mediation between the Sidney Board of Trustees and the Sidney Education Association is scheduled for November 30th and December 1st beginning at 6:00 PM.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: November 3, 2015***

Mrs. Sanders reviewed agenda discussion items:

- Five newly hired Middle School and High School teachers attended the meeting to meet the Trustees and report on their experience. Housing and cost of living continue to be an issue; and

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

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE NO MEETING HELD***

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: November 2, 2015***

Mr. Lorenz provided committee discussion update:

- Discussion continued on the high school north parking lot. Dr. Farr will contact Lowell Cutshaw, Interstate Engineering to prepare paperwork necessary for Trustee consideration on proceeding with the project;

- School district water rights to the irrigation canal as well as estimated cost for installing wells for watering the football field and practice field in an effort to avoid rising city water costs will continue as procedural requirements, zones and drilling locations are pinpointed;

- Carlisle Roofing has been contacted and asked to perform an inspection on District roofs to assist the Trustees with long-term planning on replacement. They have agreed to do this during the spring of 2016;

- Roger Byer, B&B Builders and Kelly and Rhonda with CTA Architected updated Trustees on the West Side project; and

- CTA Architects were in attendance at the meeting. They spent time previous to the meeting at the Middle School visiting with staff and exploring the first floor for possible remodel. Plans were made to meet Trustees the next morning at the Middle Schools to obtain their input and insight to the remodel the first floor at Sidney Middle School.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: November 2, 2015***

Mr. Steinbeisser highlighted committee discussions:

- October claims were reviewed. September financial reports were reviewed except for the Lunch Report;

- Current enrollment sits at 1405;

- Dr. Farr also reviewed the MCEL Conference MQEC meeting and the path MQEC is moving towards- supporting and promoting Montana education along with monitoring of school finance;

- The next Negotiated Rules Making Committee meeting will be in Sidney;

- Discussion of possible classified stipends with oil and gas funds will continue. Only preliminary second quarter numbers have been received to date; and

- The 2014-15 preliminary audit report showed satisfaction on District records and the current audit finding will continue- Other Post-Employment Benefits unless the District hires an actuary to resolve this issue.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: November 3, 2015***

Mr. Savage outlined the following committee discussions:

- Updates on Guidance, Fine Arts and Library curriculums currently under review will be forthcoming;

- Dr. Farr and Mr. Barnhart provided information on math and a significant writing program;

- No Labor Management Committee meeting this month;

- Copies of the K9 Inspection operating manual and current certificates for handlers and dogs were reviewed;

- The Red Ribbon Week assembly sponsored by STAND and its shock value were discussed;

- The Close-up field trip request is on the Consent Agenda;

- Lauryn Barnhart, SHS sophomore, reported on the State Student Advisory Board meeting she attended;

- An Alternative Education program report regarding class time versus regular class time was reviewed. Trustees wish to ensure this program is not used to circumvent actual class time on the road to graduation;

- Copies of the coaching and activity director evaluation tools were provided with discussion on each; and

- A handout dealing with food allergies in the classroom and lunch room was reviewed and will be the next area of concern for school districts.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**New Hires**

- Kerri Simard – Special Education Aide – Part-time

- Dawn Wood – Special Education Aide

- Nicole Enriquez – Food Service Worker

- Bambi Stump – Title I Tutor

- John Sweet – Elementary Boys Basketball Coach

**OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP**

- Close-up is requesting permission to attend the national event covering domestic policy and civics in Washington, D.C. April 18th to the 22nd. At this time, it appears eight students plan to attend and must meet criteria established by the advisor.

Mr. Steinbeisser moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Sanders seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

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

**CONSIDERATION OF FACILITY FEE WAIVER REQUESTS**

- Mrs. Sanders moved to allow the use of the Middle School gym on November 21, 2015, at 10:00 AM by the Sidney Elks Lodge who sponsor the Elks Hoop Shoot. Mr. Steinbeisser seconded the motion. No fees are charged and it does benefit all area students. The request cited they were unaware of the new policy with time limits for submission of the request for waiver of the fee. Mr. Savage asked how long we would allow groups to cite this reason forcing board action in violation of Board policy. It was decided no longer than one year from the time the policy was adopted. The motion passed on a 5 to 0 vote.

At 7:40 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 reviewing the minutes from the executive session held on November 2, 2015.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk