NOVEMBER 14, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Monday, November 14, 2016 at 7:00 PM in Room 103 of Central School on posted notice by the clerk. Present were Trustees Luke Savage, Dennis Lorenz, Craig Steinbeisser, Kelly Dey and Melissa Sanders. Also in attendance were Superintendent- Daniel Farr, Clerk- Nicole Beyer, West Side Principal- Jon Skinner, High School Principal- Sue Andersen, High School Assistant Principal- Loretta Thiel, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson and Student Representatives Ethan Petrik and Jenna Baxter. Absent were Trustee- Ben Thogersen, Central Principal- Brent Sukut and Curriculum Director- Thom Barnhart.

At 7:00 PM Chairman Savage called the meeting to order.

Mr. Savage welcomed the visitors in attendance: Cara Lokken-Frandsen, SEA President, and daughter Lina as well as Bill VanderWeele with the Sidney Herald.

Mr. Savage 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 on agenda items were asked to fill out the Audience Participation form and give it to the clerk to be recognized.

Mr. Lorenz moved to approve the minutes of October 10th, 2016 as well as the October 2016 claim warrants 230433 to 230487 in the amount of $760,819.49. Ms. Dey seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

Mr. Lorenz moved and Ms. Dey seconded the motion to void the following ASB checks:

#22773 10/5/16 Johnson Hardware $40.54 Duplicate Payment

#22824 10/13/16 Ribbon & Rail $11.85 Duplicate Payment

The motion passed 5 to 0.

Ms. Dey moved to approve the ASB transfer of $10.00 from Account 108 HS Publications to Account 401 for the sale of a West Side yearbook posted incorrectly. The motion passed 5 to 0 following a second by Mr. Lorenz.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

Ethan Petrik and Jenna Baxter, representing the High School Student Council provided the following information:

- The loss in the football playoff game versus Columbia Falls eliminated the team from post-season action;

- Volleyball competed at state in Bozeman;

- National Honor Society has begun their tutoring services last week. These sessions are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays for 30 minutes after school;

- The Speech and Drama team had a good showing in Baker this past week and travel to Hardin this weekend;

- Leo Club will be sponsoring its annual turkey bowling for food bank donations;

- Winter Sports practices are set to begin on November 17th;

- The annual Powder Puff Football game sponsored by Close-Up will be tomorrow night;

- FFA is in Bozeman this week;

- ASVAB testing for all juniors will take place on 11/17;

- Student Council is visiting spirit ideas for the upcoming basketball season. The intent is to pick a theme for each game and involve the students and community in dressing to follow the theme;

- Intramural tennis has five or six signed up to play this coming spring;

- Christmas activities are in the planning stage for December; and

- A new attendance program has been launched to encourage all students district-wide to attend one more day than the year before. Currently, 76 students at the High School have perfect attendance.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr updated the Trustees on the following:

**Correspondence:**

A thank you note from Cheer/Dance Coaches Katie Dasinger and Brook Jensen for allowing a forum for both the coaches and the cheer/dance girls to speak;

**2016-2017 Transfers:**

- Chris Merica from Middle School Boys Basketball Coach to High School Assistant Boys Basketball Coach

- Sonia Spaulding from Central Special Education Aide to West Side Pre-School Special Education Aide

- Danielle Harms from West Side Speech Aide to Central Special Education Aide

- Katrina Brown from .5 Central/.5 High School Special Education Aide to full-time High School Aide

**Additions to 2016-2017 New Hires:**

- Aaron White – Middle School Custodian

- Ryan Troxel – Elementary Girls Basketball Coach

**Volunteer:** Levi Weltikol for Girls Basketball and MS/HS Pole Vault Coach (due to a job change)

**Resignations to report:**

- Jeanne Lang – High School Family and Consumer Science Teacher at the end of the 2016-2017 school year

- Ryan Troxel – High School Head Golf Coach

- Craig Beiswanger – High School Assistant Boys Basketball Coach

- Rachael Campbell-Dutton – Central Special Education Aide

- Michael Waddell – Middle School Custodian

**Enrollment: 1335 Grades K1-12 compared to 1384 on May 9, 2016**

**Calendar Events:**

- November 17th – Start of Winter Sports Practices

- November 23rd – Noon release for Thanksgiving

- November 24-25 – No school- Thanksgiving Break.

**Miscellaneous:**

- Congratulations to the Special Ed department under the leadership of Michelle Monsen who just successfully completed a periodic OPI monitoring audit resulting in no corrective actions. This is a huge accomplishment and kudos are extended to all the staff in that department;

- Due to a change in banks made by Richland County, the current ASB account at Wells Fargo is experiencing some unexpected charges- approximately $335.00 a month. Maria Neff is currently checking with other local institutions in an attempt to find an account that will charge little or no fees on these student funds.

**Emergency Bus Use Request:**

Shane Gorder, Richland County Commissioner, contacted Dr. Farr this morning about utilizing a District bus on Wednesday to take the Department of Natural Resources representatives wherever they need to go. The intent was to utilize the AAU bus but it broke down over the weekend and is in Bismarck for repairs. Mr. Lorenz moved and Ms. Dey seconded to allow this emergency use of a District bus. The motion passed 5 to 0.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: November 8, 2016***

Ms. Dey outlined the following agenda items:

- Pam Radke- Food Service Supervisor; Thom Barnhart- Curriculum Director; and Michelle Monsen- Special Education Director attended the meeting to provide department updates to the Trustees;

- Discussion regarding the addition of a Middle School cheer coach due to 20 participants was held;

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

- Fall coaching/activity renewals will be reviewed in December.

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: November 7, 2016***

Mr. Lorenz highlighted the following committee discussions:

- The District and Interstate Engineering continue to work with Franz Construction regarding areas of the High School Parking Lot that do not meet their expectations;

- Exterior painting of the West Side gym will be scheduled for next summer;

- Softball Complex updates are going well and are on track for hosting the state softball tournament in the spring;

- Facility fee waiver requests were reviewed and are on the agenda tonight;

- Trustees requested Dr. Farr contact Frontier Precision who have offered $900.00 a year to use the high school for a GNSS/VRS hosting site to ask for a larger annual remittance;

- Ronda Carlsen with CTA provided updates on the Middle School Project Phase II and its heating system issues;

- Interstate Engineering presented updated plans for the proposed Middle School Parking Lot reconstruction. The plan is to request bids soon; and

- Summer projects were discussed including those items listed above, roof work, sealing of high school parking lots and replacement of sewage/water lines at Central.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: November 7, 2016***

Mr. Steinbeisser summarized the following agenda discussions:

- October claims were reviewed. September expenditures, cash balance and ASB report were perused;

- Enrollment continues to see slight variations as students enter and exit but remains fairly constant;

- Nine schools have committed to sharing the cost of the lobbyist for the upcoming legislative session;

- The special ed department purchased a Traverse for transporting department students to school to work and secondary transitional events. Grant monies were utilized for this purpose;

- SM Energy made a donation of $7,500.00 to the District to be used for STEM activities;

- Discussed District co-curricular secondary insurance. With the change in Activities Director, the policy was not renewed on time. It is again active as of October;

- Trustees are preparing for a potential board vacancy as Mr. Savage is a candidate for the open Justice of the Peace position;

- The second oil and gas payment has been received and report updated for review; and

- The Memorandum of Understanding between the Trustees and the SEA regarding the Certified Sick Leave Bank which is on the Consent Agenda for consideration tonight.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: November 8, 2016***

Mrs. Sanders recounted the following agenda discussions:

- During the curriculum report, the Pioneer Express Program (3 and 1 program) with Miles Community College material was presented for review. Trustees were also presented a K1 brochure from REL Northwest regarding the benefits of the program;

- The SM donation was mentioned again;

- An executive session was held at the request of a high school parent to discuss a student educational plan;

- Discussion continued on the request received from parents to allow child’s participation in Middle School sporting events. This is on the Agenda for consideration this evening;

- A committee of high school teachers attended this meeting to discuss Academic Honors classes and increasing the weight of dual credit classes;

- Bernie Braden, Adult Basic Education Coordinator, approached the District about incorporating education classes to assist drop outs with obtaining their high school diploma equivalent. Funding for this endeavor is not available but it is an area of need;

- Out of District field trip requests are on the Consent Agenda; and

- The Trustees continue to work towards posting videotaped parent/student activity/athletic participation meetings on the District website to provide greater access to parents and students.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**New Hires**

- Aaron White – Middle School Custodian

- Nicole Enriquez – .5 High School Custodian (Currently .5 School Food). This makes Nicole full-time.

- Ryan Troxel – Elementary Girls Basketball

**Out of State Field Trip**

- High School Band was nominated to march in the annual 4th of July Independence Day Parade by Senator Daines. The trip would take place July 2nd through July 5th, 2017 providing fund raising is successful.

**Facility Fee Waiver Requests**

- Men’s League Basketball – MS Gym from the end of November through April Sunday afternoons and Wednesday evenings. A team fee is charged to pay for officials and score keepers amounting to about $500.00. Clean up of facility is expected.

- Sidney Wrestling Club has requested the use of the high school multi-purpose room from January 2nd through April 28th, 2017 from 5:30 to 8:30 PM Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The Club has liability insurance and requires all participants to successfully complete concussion training.

**Memorandum of Understanding-Sick Leave Bank**

Between the SEA and the Board of Trustees addressing a grievance filed October 10, 2016, to allow teachers hired in the last five year who initially turned down the opportunity to join the sick leave bank a one final opportunity to elect participation. Master Agreement language will be revisited for clarification during the next round of negotiations and the Administration Office form that was not changed when language was changed some time ago will be corrected.

Ms. Dey moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Lorenz seconded the motion which passed on 5 to 0.

**Superintendent Search Services Contract with Kaleva Law Offices in the amount of $5000.0.**

Mr. Steinbeisser moved to retain Kaleva Law Offices for the purpose of conducting the superintendent search at a cost of no more than $5,000.00 plus expenses. Mr. Lorenz seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

**Request for Non-Public School Participation in Middle School Athletic Programs:**

Dr. Farr reported he had contacted the parent of the student requesting participation. The parent does not want to make things complicated but would be grateful if this option was available for her student and more. Dr. Farr also reported that MHSA does not allow this at the high school level. Ms. Dey moved to follow MHSA guidelines equally K-12 regarding extracurricular activities/athletics. Mr. Steinbeisser seconded the motion which died on a 2 to 2 vote (Dey/Savage FOR; Steinbeisser/Sanders AGAINST) with Mr. Lorenz abstaining on this elementary issue.

Discussion continued on the subject. Concerns expressed: The difficulty of verifying grades/eligibility for non-public students, safety due to age differences as home schooled/private schooled students can be considerably younger than her/his counterparts at the Middle School and consideration of fee payment- activity ticket and participation fees. Ms. Sanders was also concerned about setting policy for future boards but was assured board action could override this decision in the future. Following the discussion, the Trustees decided to re-vote on the above motion. The motion passed 4 to 0 with Mr. Lorenz again abstaining.

Chairman Savage provided an opportunity for Community Comment on non-agenda items: NONE

With no further business to become 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