October 10, 2011

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, October 10, 2011 at 7:00 PM in Room 104 of Central School. Present were Trustees Todd Hermanson, Kelly Dey and Dexter Thiel- a quorum for elementary purposes. Trustee Dennis Lorenz arrived at 7:25 PM following the Superintendent and Student Representative reports. Also in attendance were Superintendent Farr, Clerk Beyer, High School Assistant Principal- Loretta Thiel, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson, Sidney Elementary Principal-Sue Andersen and Student Representative Katie Staffanson. Absent were Trustees Luann Cooley and Virginia Oraw, High School Principal- Dan Peters, and Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator- Gary Arnold.

Vice-Chairman Dey called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:03 PM and welcomed the visitors in attendance- Bill Vanderweele with the Sidney Herald and SEA Representative- Mark Halvorson. Ms. Dey 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.

With the anticipated arrival of Trustee Lorenz, the meeting began with the Superintendent’s Report and The Student Representative Report.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr updated the Trustees as follows:

- Correspondence included a thank you from the Montana School Boards Association for the use of the Multi-purpose Room for their Back to School Primer and a letter from MUST to member districts informing them of their intent to pursue legal action against the districts who did not pay their assessment;

- Additions to the Consent Agenda include the new hire of Christy Pierce- Assistant Speech and Drama Coach; Amy Metz- Middle Schools Girls Basketball Coach and Mike Gear- Elementary Boys Basketball Coach;

- Building updates: Interstate Engineering will bring over someone to access and make recommendations regarding the old part of Central School – demolition, remodel and possible costs involved with either. The fire marshal’s research indicates that 1st and 2nd grades CANNOT be housed on the second floor at Central School. Mr. Farr updated Trustees on meetings held with local realtors regarding incoming subdivisions and housing possibilities for school staff. Trustees discussed building costs, purchasing costs and the need for affordable housing for teachers and other school district staff;

- The Montana minimum wage will increase $.30 on January 1, 2012. This represents a 4.1% increase; and

- The annual MCEL conference will be held October 20-21 in Great Falls. A noon release is scheduled for the 19th with no lunch served.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

Katie Staffanson reported on planned activities for Spirit Week/Homecoming; discussions begun regarding student dress code at Student Council and responded to comments from the Trustees regarding school spirit, the need for students to police themselves in student designated areas so that behavior remains appropriate and if dress code consideration extended to extra-curricular activities.

With the arrival of Mr. Lorenz, the Board continued with agenda items requiring a quorum.

Mr. Hermanson moved to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2011 meeting and the September 2011 claim warrants 219849 to 219928 in the amount of $1,625,870.06. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thiel and passed on a 4 to 0 vote.

The following ASB checks were canceled on a motion by Mr. Lorenz and a second by Mr. Hermanson. The motion passed unanimously.

#17405 $17.50 Sidney Cleaners Duplicate Payment

#17468 $70.00 Culbertson High School AIM Higher Workshop to another vendor

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

*From Key Club to Resources Unlimited $ 14.00 Purchase of Taco Meat*

*From FFA to BPA $ 35.00 Purchase of Posters & Brochures*

*From Talon to Resources Unlimited $ 21.00 Purchase of Sunflower Seeds*

*From BPA to Resources Unlimited $ 705.11 Deposit Error*

*From Student Council to MS Publications $1500.00 Yearbook Publication*

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: October 4, 2011***

Mr. Thiel outlined agenda items addressed by this committee:

- New certified staff members attended the committee meeting and provided insight into their first quarter at Sidney Schools;

- Activities Director, Jeff Mead, and Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator, Gary Arnold, presented updates to the committee;

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

- Trustees were apprised of district office staff need for relief;

- Extended contracts for the 2011-2012 school year for school counselors to assist with the week of registration are on the consent agenda;

- Superintendent Farr has completed a draft of District Hiring Guidelines. District Administrators and other key personnel are reviewing the document; and

- Discussion with Mr. Mead regarding extra-curricular advisor evaluations yielded the information that there are issues with Schoolwires- the district’s software that is used in this process. Mr. Farr is also working on a staff evaluation of the Board- something easy and quick but with some narrative feedback.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: October 4, 2011***

Mr. Thiel recapped committee discussions:

- No action has occurred on the request from Savage Schools. With an October 28th deadline approaching, it doesn’t appear that Savage will pursue this as no elementary student resides on the property in question; and

- A report from Rick Verhasselt, Transportation Supervisor, indicated that two routes are nearing capacity- operating at 77 to 78 percent.

***BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: October 3, 2011***

Mr. Hermanson highlighted Building and Grounds discussions:

- Updates were provided to Trustees on the following projects:

*Verizon Tower: Verizon is still interested in a tower at West Side or on the football lightpoles;*

*Project Letter: resulted in updated information on each project from Roger Byer and Dennis Deutsch from ABC Building Concepts- both of whom were in attendance at the meeting;*

*Punch list items in the High School 100, 200 and 300 wings: Progress is continuing;*

*Parking lots at the high school: South parking lot has not been completed. The north parking lot is beginning to break down and will need attention soon;*

*Gym floors: issues with venting/moisture/cupping. A specialist from Bruco will evaluate the cupping;*

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

*Middle School Current and Proposed Projects: Working on the second floor punch list from this summer. Funding for the coming year is less than before. Trustees will get done what funding will allow but the priority in this building is an update of the kitchen area;*

*West Side Projects: Work is continuing on the heating units at West Side with plans to complete Phase II this summer should funding allow it. The playground is within $11,000.00 of being fully funded. West Side staff, students and the community of Sidney should be commended for the contributions to this project;*

*Capacity Studies: Administrators are working with building capacities to ascertain how many students the district can absorb. Also under consideration are staffing and other infrastructure needs as a result of a growing student population. Initial discussion on the location of the Administration Office began. Other subdivisions under consideration include the Crane RV Park. Western Solutions will come do a walk-through of Central School and make a recommendation regarding the 1949 section.*

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: October 3, 2011***

Mr. Hermanson summarized committee discussion topics:

- August financial reports, county investment report and the September claims were reviewed;

- Today was the official count day. Enrollment continues to fluctuate but the overall increase in elementary students is nearing 100;

- Dr. Farr presented an update on the Montana Quality Education Coalition. The Coalition is pursuing legal recourse to get regulatory relief in the way of statutory increases from the state;

- Attendance agreements and the Boys and Girls 2011-2012 Contract are on the consent agenda;

- Information on the annual MCEL meeting for trustees was presented;

- Preliminary discussion began on an interdistrict agreement for 2011-2012 which would allow the elementary district to use high school monies; and

- Dexter Thiel reported on his trip to Helena to testify in front of the interim education committee. He also discussed the upcoming bus trip on November 5th and material that needed to be presented. Trustees discussed issues to present and fine-tuning issues to pursue that would benefit the district.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: October 4, 2011***

Committee agenda items were covered by Mr. Thiel:

- Administrative curriculum assignments for the coming year and areas working on implementation and finalization were provided to Trustees;

- The Office of Public Instruction paid an on-site visit to the Middle School regarding the denied alternative library standard. OPI will continue to work with the district in formulating a waiver for next year;

- A request from Grade 6 for the annual Canada trip is on the consent agenda;

- Mr. Farr updated the committee on the Montana University System. This is still a work in progress but interest has been expressed by MSU-Bozeman to provide a masters program;

- The Safety Committee has begun its annual policy review;

- The Sidney Community Education Foundation is considering a name change;

- The District website through Schoolwires is undergoing updates over the next few months; and

- The five year special education on-site compliance and monitoring is scheduled for November 1st.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resignations**

- Terry Panasuk – West Side Custodian

- Charlie Clock –Special Education Aide

- Katie O’Clair –Special Education Aide

**New Hires**

- Misty Fahrnow – Special Education Aide

- Jessie Fisher – Spring Play Advisor

- Amy Metz – Middle School Girls Basketball

- Christy Pierce – Assistant Speech and Drama

- Mike Gear – Elementary Boys Basketball

**2012-2013 Extended Contracts – School Counselors**

**-** 5- Day extension for the purpose of assisting with registration

**-** Positions include West Side Counselor, Middle School Counselor and second High School Counselor

**2011-2012 Student Attendance Agreements**

Table 1: Attending Sidney Schools

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name: | Grade | Parent | Request | Dist |
| Wick, Ashley | 8 | Brandie Wick | Parent | Fairview |
| Lonski, Owen | 1 | Bobbi Jo & Nick Lonski | Parent | Stevenson School District |

Table 2: In Sidney District but Attending Savage

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name: | Grade | Parent | Request | Dist |
| Clemmer, Cara | 8 | Carla Clemmer | Parent | Sidney |
| Shope, Robert | 7 | Rita Shope | Parent | Sidney |
| Shope, Grace | 5 | Rita Shope | Parent | Sidney |
| Rost, Tristan | 7 | Tanya Rost | Parent | Sidney |
| Rost, Shannon | 9 | Tanya Rost | Parent | Sidney |

Trustees approved the out-of-district agreements for students to attend Sidney Schools with no tuition charged on the parent requests and acknowledged the requests for Sidney students to attend Savage with the understanding that no tuition or transportation cost will be incurred by the Sidney School District;

**2011-2012 Addendum to the Boys and Girls Club Contract**

Review of the lease agreement and services provided to the school district by the Boys and Girls Club and its status as a non-profit organization, resulted in a recommended charge of $1.00 for the period beginning July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012.

**2011-2012 Out-of-Country Field Trip**

Grade 6 to Regina, Canada

Mr. Lorenz moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Thiel seconded the motion which passed 4 to 0.

At 8:17 PM Vice-Chair 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 the superintendent’s quarterly evaluation.

Ms. Dey reconvened the meeting at 9:25 PM. With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 9:26 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk