September 12, 2011

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, September 12, 2011 at 7:00 PM in Room 104 of Central School. Present were Trustees Todd Hermanson, Luann Cooley, Kelly Dey, Dennis Lorenz, Virginia Oraw and Dexter Thiel. Also in attendance were Superintendent Farr, Clerk Beyer, High School Principal- Dan Peters, High School Assistant Principal- Loretta Thiel and Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator- Gary Arnold. Absent were Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson and Sidney Elementary Principal-Sue Andersen.

Chairman Hermanson called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed the visitors in attendance- Bill Vanderweele with the Sidney Herald and Mark Halvorson, SEA President. The chairman 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 August 8th and August 25th, 2011- meetings and the August 2011 claim warrants 219786 to 219849 in the amount of $2,285,559.88. Mrs. Cooley seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

As there were no Associated Student Body transfers to approve, the Trustees reviewed the August ASB report.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr reported the following information:

- Thank you notes were received from Janet Brannan for sending her to the digital citizenship classes dealing with cyber bullying and from Robyn Heck for the continuing education grant.;

- The resignation of Katie O’Clair will be on the agenda for October;

- Additions to the Consent Agenda include the new hire of Karlene Dunagan- High School Custodian, Desiree Miller- Truancy Officer and Jeff Bowen- High School Freshman Girls Basketball Coach;

- A student attendance agreement for a Sidney High School student (Josh Larson) to attend Lambert will also be added to the consent agenda;

- Building Administrators and custodians met with Dr. Farr and have begun the process of completing spreadsheets that look at building capacities to assist Trustees with future possible grade configurations. An engineer is also scheduled to do a walkthrough of the 1949 part of Central to determine cost effectiveness of retrofitting that portion of the building or tearing it down. This is scheduled for the end of the month;

- Conversations with adults working with the 5th and 6th grade tackle football program indicate it is an AAU program and, as such, has insurance coverage through that organization. Mr. Farr will proceed with the purchase of insurance coverage for youth non-school activities held on school property;

- Copies of the revised Labor Management Committee and Technology Committee calendars and the 2011-2013 Master Agreement with the Sidney Education Association were provided to Trustees;

- Upcoming events include: the Montana School Boards Association Back to School Legal Primer Tuesday, September 13th at the High School Multi-Use Room; the Class A Caucus meeting in Helena on Friday to be attended by Mr. Thiel and Mr. Farr will be attending the state superintendent’s conference and MQEC meeting in Bozeman next week; and

- Copies of the 2011-2012 budgets for Sidney Elementary and Sidney High School as submitted to Richland County and the OPI were provided to Trustees and are attached to the minutes.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Allen Neulieb, Sidney High School Student Council Representative, reported :

- New student/freshmanorientation was a positive event allowing older students an opportunity to get to know incoming students.

- The Student Council has decided to pay for a meal out for the custodians and their spouses as a thank you for all the work they have done to prepare the building for the new school year.

- Work has begun on coronation/spirit week in preparation for homecoming.

- Talk has begun about improving student dress code. Mr. Thiel asked if this would include extra-curricular dress.

Trustees thanked students for continuing to work to increase school spirit and added that they like what they are seeing. Mr. Hermanson added that Trustees welcome input from students in all areas.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: September 6, 2011***

Ms. Dey reviewed agenda items addressed by this committee:

- Steve Yockim, Technology Supervisor, visited with the committee. He reviewed summer maintenance, district mobile labs and technology trends in education;

- District vacancies were reviewed; New Hires and Co-curricular Contract Renewal are on the consent agenda;

- The Memorandum of Understanding between the Trustees and the SEA resulting from the 2011 interest based bargaining process is on the consent agenda;

- Balances in both the certified and classified sick leave banks as of 6/30/2011 were reviewed;

- Discussed the possibility of extended contracts for counselors to assist with registration;

- Mr. Farr wrote a letter of support on behalf of the District for the PAAG/Community Recreation Facility;

- Food service staff passed the required Safe Serve training; and

- Dan Peters has agreed to fill the Second Vice-President position at the Sidney Area Chamber of Commerce.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: September 6, 2011***

Mrs. Cooley summarized the following committee discussions:

- Rick Verhasselt- Transportation Supervisor, provided updates on bus mileage, bus routes and the need for activity drivers; and

- The committee asked Mr. Farr to send a letter to Savage Schools setting a deadline for action to be completed on the subject of Crane student transportation or this will issue will be considered mute.

***BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: September 5, 2011***

Mr. Thiel highlighted Building and Grounds discussions:

- Punch list items are pending on the High School 200 Wing/Library, 300 Wing/Kitchen and 100 Wing;

Central HVAC; Middle School Phase II of the 2nd Floor and West Side HVAC project;

- High School parking lots still require more work to complete;

- Word on the overheating problem in the kitchen has to do with the need to bring in cold air which will substantially increase utility costs. Air conditioning would cost an estimated additional $50,000.00;

- Concerns have been voiced regarding gym floor venting/moisture. Research on this item will continue;

- The West Side playground project has approximately $16,894.00 left to pay;

- The West Side drainage project has been completed and is awaiting review by the engineer;

- Maintenance projects will be considered. Mr. Farr will serve as head of this group for now; and

- Residential and commercial expansion plans continue to have impacts on the district. Facilities, staffing and infrastructure will continue to be in the forefront of discussions in the coming months. Prices quoted for remodeling the 1949 part of Central are $220-$225 per square foot versus $170-$180 for new construction.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: September 5, 2011***

Ms. Dey outlined committee discussion topics:

- Preliminary figures for opening enrollment at the elementary level indicate as much as an 11% increase over last year;

- Montana Quality Education Coalition is scheduled to meet on September 20th. Plans include a public poll to gauge the public’s view regarding the priority of school funding;

- HRA contributions for returning new certified staff, Jobs for Montana Graduates grant monies, attendance agreements and the Memorandum of Understanding with the Sidney Education Association regarding salary impact adjustments are on the consent agenda;

- The committee has authorized the purchase of a simple insurance plan to provide coverage for some of the youth entities that utilize our facilities at a cost of approximately $350.00 per year;

- Members of the Board will take part in a Class A Caucus on September, 16th in Helena;

- Mr. Farr has met with area schools to begin discussions on the possibility of forming a co-op for health insurance with the intention of improving rates and insuring coverage as desired by our districts; and

- Dr. Farr, Mr. Thiel and Mrs. Cooley reported on the tax abatement hearings for local motel/hotel companies. The District’s position during the hearings was informational – neither for nor against. Trustee comments indicated they felt the community received district information well and that positive connections had been made with those in attendance that may assist the district with future levy needs.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: September 6, 2011***

Mrs. Cooley provided an overview on the following agenda discussions:

- District ACT results indicate that Sidney students continue to score better than national norms;

- A representative of the OPI will be in Sidney on the 16th for further evaluation of the district’s request for an alternative library standard in regards to the Middle School library;

- Pam Radke- School Food Supervisor, will continue to explore a program that serves Montana beef in school food programs;

- An out-of-state field trip request for FFA is on the consent agenda; and

- Sheila Stearns- Commissioner of Higher Education, was in Sidney last week. Results of the regional survey indicating higher education needs in the Sidney area were presented.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**New Hires**

- Tonya Schoepp – Middle School Cheerleading Co-advisor

- Jodi Berry – Middle School Cheerleading Co-advisor

- Sandy Sullivan – Elementary Girls Basketball

- Terry Bolen – Middle School Girls Basketball

- Desiree Miller – Truancy Officer

- Karlene Dunagan – High School Custodian

- Jeff Bowen – Assistant High School Girls Basketball Coach

New hires are contingent on successful completion of required background checks.

**Co-curricular Contract Renewal**

**-** David Huskamp – Elementary Girls Basketball Coach

**Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) Accounts**

As per Memorandum of Understanding with the SEA in 2009, new teachers to the Sidney Public School System the previous school year who sign a contract for the current year and report to work are eligible for an HRA contribution equal to contributions made to other certified teaching staff with payment to be made prior to the end of the school year. Current teachers eligible for such contributions include: Jessica Mathern-Netzer, Malcolm Cain, Robyn Heck and Erin Fontana.

**Jobs for Montana Graduates Subgrant Agreement**

Allows for continued participation by the District in this program led by Elaine Stedman, High School Business Teacher, and allows the District to utilize a $3000 subgrant to offset program implementation and training expenses.

**2011-2012 Student Attendance Agreements**

The following Attendance Agreements for out-of-district students to attend Sidney Schools were approved with tuition to be charged on the District to District requests and no tuition charged on the parent requests:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name: | Grade | Parent | Request | Dist |
| Hailey Lemerond | 2 | Gentrie & Mark Lemerond | Parent |  |
| Kaitlyn Tibbits | 8 | Julie Asbeck | Parent | E.Fairview |
| Skyler Tibbits | 8 | Julie Asbeck | Parent | E.Fairview |
| Carlie Carpenter | 11 | Pam Carpenter | District | Earl |
| Lindsey Minow | 8 | Julie Minow | District | Earl |
| Clay Carpenter | 8 | Pam Carpenter | District | Earl |
| McKayla Minow | 11 | Julie Minow | District | Earl |
| Chisum Lewis | 10 | Penni Lewis | District | Earl |
| Cedar Lewis | 12 | Penni Lewis | District | Earl |
| Abigail How Martinson | 2 | Michelle Martinson | Parent | Fairview |
| Maysen Mindt | 4 | Stacie Mindt | Parent | Fairview |
| Parker Mindt | 2 | Stacie Mindt | Parent | Fairview |
| Ashlyn Swenson | K | Jessica Judd | Parent | Fairview |
| Trent Schilling | 8 | Vickie Schilling | District | Horse Creek |
| Katlyn Winter | 8 | Deb Winter | District | Horse Creek |
| Mercedes Armstead | 8 | n/a | District | Rau |
| Kasey Crabtree | 7 | n/a | District | Rau |
| Bryce Crabtree | 8 | n/a | District | Rau |
| Brady Gorder | 8 | n/a | District | Rau |
| Dakota Gillugan | 8 | n/a | District | Rau |
| Garret Leland | 7 | n/a | District | Rau |
| Lane Obergfell | 8 | n/a | District | Rau |
| Trista Papka | 8 | n/a | District | Rau |
| Jacob Rogers | 7 | n/a | District | Rau |
| Travis Rogers | 8 | n/a | District | Rau |
| Latasha Wieferich | 8 | n/a | District | Rau |
| Meggan Wiggins | 7 | n/a | District | Rau |
| Tristan Kohntopp | 6 | Tami Berger | Parent | Rau |
| Tate Wieferich | 3 | Cathy & Dave Wieferich | Parent | Rau |
| Jacob Rogers | 7 | Lisa Rogers | District | Rau |
| Elizabeth Langwald | 1 | Jennifer Iszler | Parent | Savage |
| Arrabella Schow | 1 | Rochelle Schow | Parent | Savage (moving to Sidney in Oct) |
| Wade McMillen | 12 | Leslie & Jerry McMillen | Parent | Wibaux |

The following Attendance Agreements were presented from parents of Sidney Schools requesting permission for the students to attend school in other districts. The request from Laurie Christianson for her children to attend Lambert are mandatory approval as they reside closer to Lambert Schools than Sidney Schools and as per prior agreement with Lambert Public Schools, transportation will be provided by Lambert. The Trustees acknowledged receipt of the remaining requests neither approving or disapproving the agreements with the understanding that no tuition or transportation costs will be incurred by the Sidney School District.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name: | Grade | Parent | Request | Dist |
| Coralee Bock | 5th | Tamara Bock | Parent | Savage |
| Abigail Bock | 4th | Tamara Bock | Parent | Savage |
| Josh Larson | 9th | Chris & Shelley Larson | Parent | Lambert |
| Alyssa Damm | 8th | Laurie Christianson | Parent | Lambert |
| Isaac Christianson | 2nd | Laurie Christianson | Parent | Lambert |

Ms. Dey moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mr. Lorenz seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk