January 10, 2011

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, January 10, 2011, at 7:00 PM on published notice by the Clerk. Trustees present were Todd Hermanson, Luann Cooley, Kelly Dey and Virginia Oraw. Trustee Dennis Lorenz arrived after the cancelling of warrants. Also in attendance were Superintendent Farr, Clerk Beyer, High School Principal- Dan Peters and Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator- Gary Arnold. Absent were Sidney Elementary Principal- Bill Nankivel, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson, High School Assistant Principal- Sue Andersen and Student Representative Hailee Tighe.

Chairman Hermanson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He began by welcoming the visitors in attendance- Bill Vanderweele with the Sidney Herald, Jacob McDonald, Janae Moore and Cara Lokken-Frandsen and Mark Halvorson with the SEA. The chairman reminded them 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.

December 2010 claim warrants 219171 t0 219312 in the amount of $1,042,547.57 and the minutes of December 13, 2010 and January 3, 2011 were approved 4 to 0 on a motion by Ms. Dey and a second by Mrs. Cooley.

Clerk Beyer presented Associated Student Body checks #15878 to Midnight Express in the amount of $450.00 (lost warrant-reissued) and #16600 to Fireside Café in the amount of $50.00 (duplicate payment) to be cancelled. The warrants were cancelled 4 to 0 on a motion by Mrs. Cooley and a second by Mrs. Oraw.

December ASB transfers were approved 5 to 0 on a motion by Mr. Lorenz and a second by Mrs. Oraw.

 From SMS Student Store to SMS Student Council $4500.00 – Student Store Profit Sharing

 From Sidney Elementary to Pre-School ASB $ 410.00 – 2010-11 Proceeds from Pre-School Fees

 From Girls Basketball to HS Library $ 76.80 – Laminating Materials

 From Talon to Speech & Drama $ 24.00 – Advisor Pay to Club

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr provided the Trustees with the following information:

- Cards of thanks from various staff members for the holiday turkeys were read;

- Addition of Katelyn Eskridge, Instructional Aide to the New Hires on the consent agenda;

- Superintendent Farr and Clerk Beyer will be in Helena tomorrow meeting with local school officials and state representatives regarding oil and gas funding proposals/concerns;

- Superintendent Farr will be in Helena on January 18th for a MQEC meeting;

- Kiwanis sponsored a pancake feed during the last home basketball games and raised $654.00 for the West Side playground;

- Copies of a proposal from Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson regarding the possible enlarging of the Middle School library which will lose shelving with the second floor remodel and bringing the room to code. The plan would expand into the auditorium and take up about 65 seats. This item is for informational purposes only and will be discussed at the next Building and Grounds Meeting; and

- Upcoming meetings and activities include:

 *Sidney Community Education Foundation- Tuesday, January 11, 2011 @ 5:30 PM*

 *Labor Management Committee- Thursday, February 3, 2011 @ 5:30 PM*

 *Negotiations are scheduled for January 27 and February 24 from 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM*

 *Calendar Committee will meet, Wednesday, January 26, 2011 @ 3:30 PM in the Superintendent’s Office and*

 *No school scheduled Wednesday, January 19th. to accommodate the BPA Regional Competition –MSU-Billings is also scheduled to visit staff members in the District this day regarding opportunities to provide higher education services.*

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

Hailee Tighe was not in attendance. Jacob McDonald provided a Robotics competition update and Dan Peters reported on girls and boys basketball.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

Mr. Lorenz summarized committee discussions:

- Pam Radke, School Food Service Supervisor, reported on the department’s need for staff members;

- Bill Nankivel, West Side Principal, reported on testing;

- Vacancies were reviewed; Resignations and New Hires are on the consent agenda;

- Food service staffing and salaries were discussed. Work will continue in this area;

- Secretarial salary survey results determined that Sidney Schools is within the range of other schools;

- Alternative Education position salary review is continuing;

- Interest Based Bargaining sessions are set for January 27th and February 24th. An Extra-curricular Review Committee will meet prior to the bargaining sessions;

- Updates on the strategic goal exercise on extra-curricular activities were provided;

- The application process for filling the trustee vacancy was reviewed with an interview scheduled tonight; and

- The annual evaluation of the superintendent will be conducted tonight.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE:***

No transportation meeting was held.

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

Mrs. Cooley outlined the following Building and Grounds topics:

- Ed Larson and co-workers introduced themselves as a new engineering firm in the area. They reviewed the services they could provide;

- Roger Byer of B&B Builders and Dennis Deutsch of ABC Building Concepts

*- Pumch lists were received on all of the high school projects as of the meeting;*

*- Provided updates on Phase I of the Middle School project and noted that B&B Builders was being recommended for Phase II and that is a consent agenda item tonight;*

*- No further information on the ventilation system in the high school shop area;*

- Big Sky Custodial completed the refinishing of the gym floor at the Middle School over Christmas break; and

- Kevin Howell with Verizon Wireless has contacted the District regarding the possibility of constructing a tower at the high school.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: January 3, 2011***

 Ms. Dey detailed the following information:

- Review of the monthly clerk’s reports including the December revenue, expenditure, fund balance and lunch reports were conducted as well as claims review;

- The interdistrict agreement and the budget amendments for both districts will conduct hearings tonight;

- Dr. Farr presented preliminary budget figures as things stand now, with the governor’s proposal HB 136 that seeks to take 90% of the Districts’ oil and gas funds and with proposals being worked on with Senator Llew Jones to try and mitigate HB 136;

- Preliminary discussions regarding the May trustee/levy election resulted in the Trustees requesting the clerk prepare for a mail ballot election;

- Request for Proposals on property and liability insurance as well as workers compensation will move forward in March;

- Tuition agreements are on the consent agenda;

- Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) contribution is on the consent agenda; and

- The District Clerk’s annual evaluation is scheduled for April. Trustee forms are due the end of January.

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

Mrs. Oraw reported the following information:

- Kelly Dey reported to the Trustees on the initial MTSBA Class A caucus stating that most of the discussions revolved around oil and gas monies;

- The curriculum report included a reminder that the testing season will begin soon. Dr. Farr also reported on the results of the need for higher education survey;

- An update and policy revision handout by the District Safety Committee was received;

- The Calendar Committee will meet next week to begin planning for the 2011-12 school year;

- Review and voting preferences regarding the MHSA 2011 annual meeting proposals was conducted; and

- Initial discussion began on new policy recommendations by MTSBA.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resignations**

Kim Staton – Special Education Aide

McKenzie Smith – Special Education Aide

Jessica Wiese- Talon Manager effective at the end of 2010-11 school term

**New Hires**

Cheryl Mastvelten – Special Education Aide

Katelyn Eskridge – Instructional Aide

Deb Kindopp- Nursing Services

Katrina Werner – Elementary Boys Basketball

James Meissel – Middle Schools Boys Basketball

**Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) Account Contribution**

$3,000.00 per eligible employee for a total of $453,000.00 no later than March 1, 2011

**Middle School Alternative Project Delivery Contract**

Second floor remodeling of Sidney Middle School general contractor position awarded to B&B Builders, Inc. of Sidney, Montana

**Alternative Delivery Project Resolution – 100 Wing Remodel at Sidney High School**

Adopt Resolution and Detailed Written Findings authorizing administration to proceed with the selection of a general contractor for the 100 wing project at the high school utilizing this process

**Alternative Delivery Project Resolution – West Side HVAC/Mechanic System and ADA compliant bathroom to include any remodeling necessary to accommodate system upgrades**

Adopt Resolution and Detailed Written Findings authorizing administration to proceed with the selection of a general contractor for the West Side HVAC project as noted above utilizing this process

**2010-2011 Student Attendance Agreements**

Parental requests with no tuition charged

Student: Kelsie Undem Parent: Dawn Undem District: McCone County Grade 12

Student: Austin Lester-Obergfell Parent: Shelly Obergfell District: Fairview Grade 12

**Addition of Associated Student Body (ASB) Account – Sidney Middle School Friends of Rachel Club**

Ms. Dey moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Mrs. Oraw seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 to 0.

**2010-2011 Elementary District #5 Budget Amendment Hearing**

Adopt a budget amendment in Sidney Elementary District #5 in the amount of $1,000,000.00 for the purposes of: *replacement/repairs to the heating system at Central School, West Side and Sidney Middle Schools and all associated costs, contributions to eligible employees health reimbursement arrangement accounts (HRA); reconstruction of the West Side entryways and all associated costs; parking lot renovation; video surveillance additions & replacement, replacement of athletic/activity equipment/supplies; remodel Middle School second and first floor and all associated costs; asbestos abatement and all associated costs; school food supplies & equipment, classroom supplies, equipment & furniture, computers, computer equipment & software, textbooks; and custodial equipment –* to be financed with greater than anticipated oil and gas revenues.

With no comments forthcoming, the amendment was adopted 4 to 0 on a motion by Mrs. Cooley and a second by Mrs. Oraw with Mr. Lorenz abstaining on this elementary issue.

**2010-2011 High School District #1 Budget Amendment Hearing**

Adopt a budget amendment in Sidney High School District #1 in the amount of $3,800,000.00 for the purposes of: *high school 100 wing remodel and all associated costs; equip the new commons area; 500 wing ventilation system; parking lot renovation & additions; video surveillance system additions & replacement; contributions to a Health Reimbursement Arrangement for eligible employees; costs associated with the Alternative Ed and after-school tutoring programs to help students meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind; textbooks; computers, computer equipment, and software; and operations and maintenance costs to include but not limited to: utilities, classroom supplies & equipment, office supplies & equipment, custodial supplies & equipment, food service supplies & equipment, instructional staffing & professional development–* to be financed with greater than anticipated oil and gas revenues.

With no comments forthcoming, the amendment was adopted 5 to 0 on a motion by Mrs. Cooley and a second by Ms. Dey.

**Interdistrict Agreement Hearing**

Establish an agreement between Elementary District #5 and High School District #1 in the amount of $1,000,000.00 to be deposited into the Elementary Interlocal Cooperative Fund for the purposes of facility renovation and improvements and operation and maintenance costs prior to February 1, 2011.

With no comments forthcoming, the transfer was approved 5 to 0 on a motion by Ms. Dey and a second by Mrs. Oraw.

**Trustee Vacancy Candidate Interview**

Only one application was received for the trustee vacancy created by the death of Mr. Pfau. Trustees conducted an interview of Mr. Dexter Thiel. Following the interview, Mrs. Oraw moved to appoint to fill the vacant position until the May 2011 election. Mrs. Cooley seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

Clerk Beyer swore Mr. Thiel in as Trustee and faxed the form to Gail Staffanson, County Superintendent of Schools and Mr. Thiel was seated at the table.

At 7:51 PM, Chairman Hermanson announced that the next matter to come before the Board was a personal matter and that he 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, he called for an executive session for the purpose of the superintendent’s annual evaluation.

At 8:56 PM Chairman Hermanson reconvened the meeting. Mr. Lorenz moved to extend the superintendent’s contract by one year. Mrs. Cooley seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM.

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 Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk