July 15, 2013

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Monday, July 15, 2013 at 7:00 PM in Room 104 of Central School on published notice by the clerk. Present were Trustees Kelly Dey, Luann Cooley, Dexter Thiel, Craig Steinbeisser and Serina Everett. Trustee Dennis Lorenz arrived just before the Consent Agenda. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dan Farr, High School Assistant Principal- Loretta Thiel, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson, Sidney Elementary Principal-Jon Skinner, High School Principal- Sue Andersen and Clerk Beyer.

Chair Dey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, extended a welcome to the administrative staff and reminded them 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.

Mrs. Cooley moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 27th as well as the June 2013 claim warrants 221117 to 221227 in the amount of $1,098,623.60. Mrs. Everett seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

With the end of the 2012-2013 school year, Clerk Beyer presented abandoned lunch accounts for cancelation. Clerk Beyer explained the accounts had a $5.00 or less balance or credit and no family members remained enrolled in school. The accounts number 34 with a net amount of $20.40.

After brief discussion, the accounts were cancelled 5 to 0 on a motion by Mrs. Cooley and a second by Mrs. Everett.

With no transfers to approve, Chair Dey noted the June 2013 Associated Student Body report was reviewed by the Trustees.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr provided the following information:

**No Additional New Hires for the Consent Agenda at this time:**

Interviews have been conducted for high school guidance counselor as well as special education teachers for the high school. Positions have been offered but affordable housing is an issue for two of the candidates and one has not committed to the position as of tonight. The District only has two 3-bedroom apartments available- too large and expensive for those who have been offered positions. The District will continue to work on the housing issues.

**Facility Updates:**

- Gym baskets have been installed;

- Windows and tile work are being completed at Central. Waiting for cabinetry;

- Work to resolve the lift station at West Side continues with Agri Systems. Initial cost estimates are in the $30,000 to $40,000 range. Exploring the possibility with the City of connecting at a different sewer line location by the use of gravity feed which would lessen the cost. Anticipating an answer from the City by the end of the week.

**IBB Negotiations:**

The IBB process between the Trustees and the Sidney Education Association has concluded. Dr. Farr handed out an updated summary document of changes to the Master Agreement containing edits made after working with SEA President, Mark Halvorson. No action will be taken by the Trustees with regards to the Master Agreement until after ratification by the SEA.

**Personnel and Salary Information:**

At the request of Leigh Merritt, Payroll and Personnel Clerk, Superintendent Farr and Clerk Beyer provided a handout to Trustees comparing and contrasting the percentage differences in classified salary amounts between those not on a salary schedule who received a 2% increase and those that received the $.50/hour increase on the classified salary schedule as well as experience credit. Following a brief period of questions and answers regarding the information, Mr. Thiel stated this had been done correctly- in the private sector percentage increases are a common way to address annual increases in wages.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**  None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: July 9, 2013***

Mr. Cooley highlighted committee discussions:

- Vacancies, transfers and possible new positions for 2013-2014 were reviewed. New Hires and Resignations are on the Consent Agenda.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE July 9, 2013***

Mrs. Cooley recapped the following committee discussions:

- Reviewed District policy on audio/visual surveillance;

- The annual county transportation regarding routes and individual transportation contracts is scheduled for July 29, 2013; and

- Staff members attended training on the McKinney-Vento Act (Homeless Education). One of the items of concern that may need to be addressed in the future is the District’s responsibility for transporting students to the proper school.

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: July 8, 2013***

Mr. Thiel updated the audience on the meeting agenda:

- Basket replacement in the High School gym is complete;

- West Side roof options will continue to be explored;

- Central second floor remodel is scheduled for completion by August 8, 2013;

- The dispute regarding the painting of the ceiling at the Bus Barn following the fire from 2012 continues;

- The committee instructed Superintendent Farr to apply for the Montana Department of Commerce Schools Planning Grant to provide funds for a capacity study with regards to the impacts to be experienced by the District with all the projected developments. This grant would help with long-range planning;

- Discussion continues on the Career and Technical Education wing expansion for agriculture education and industrial arts. Mr. Thiel and Mr. Lorenz looked at the site. Discussion centered on size, program needs and possible code requirements;

- Superintendent Farr met with Lee Armstrong, attorney regarding the JD Subdivision purchase. Mr. Armstrong has begun the necessary paperwork; and

- An electric pole fell near the bus barn. This affected power and did some damage to the bus barn office. MDU erected the pole causing some disruption to service and minor damage to the bus barn office.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: July 8, 2013***

Mrs. Everett reviewed committee discussions:

- June claims were reviewed. All other financial reports were unavailable as the District office continues to work on year end;

- At this time projected 2013-2014 enrollment is at 1291 over all with 114 kindergarten students;

- The Montana Quality Education Coalition is monitoring the state’s desire to offer pre-kindergarten services in a school system. The concern in this area is funding;

- Preliminary 2013-2014 budgets will continue as a discussion item until August. A date for the final budget amendment needs to be set tonight;

- A resolution regarding track repairs was reviewed and is on the Consent Agenda tonight; and

- 2013 Interest Based Bargaining was conducted on July 10th.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: July 9, 2013***

Mrs. Everett briefed attendees on committee discussions:

- Math Expressions training for Grades K-5 is scheduled for the second PIR day prior to school starting;

- Nothing new on dual credit with the Montana/North Dakota University System- in particular, Miles Community College and Dawson Community College. Also, no new updates on Career and Technical Education (CTE) credits/curriculum;

- The committee followed-up with Ross Hall, Activities Director, on the new concussion information;

- Mrs. Andersen, High School Principal, has the information regarding FFA Alumni organization and will oversee this project;

- Preliminary measures of adequate yearly progress (AYP)for the District were reviewed and discussed;

- 2013-2014 superintendent goals are on the agenda this evening; and

- Trustees requested the Booster Club and CTE improvement be on the agenda for August.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resignations**

- Jon Skinner – Middle School Track Coach

**New Hires**

- Lacey Nevins – Middle School Teacher

- Ashley Norgaard – Kindergarten Teacher for First Semester with possibility of extension to full year to cover Leave of Absence of Tracy Kessel

**2013-2104 Middle School/High School Change Accounts and Lunch Change**

- $30.00 for each school building ($120.00 total) for Lunch Change

- $2500.00 for High School Activity Tickets; Gate Fees and Participation Fees Change

- $200.00 for Middle School Activity Tickets; Gate Fees; and Participation Fees Change

**Emergency Resolution for Track Maintenance and Repair**

The District has solicited quotes on track repair. This requires specialized equipment and expertise. Because of the uses of the track by students, staff and the public as well as Montana weather, repair time is limited. This resolution declares an emergency allowing the District to enter into a contract with American Systems of Wisconsin to complete any and all necessary repairs to the Sidney High School track.

Mrs. Cooley moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Everett seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

**Setting a date for the August Board Meeting and 2013-2014 Budget Adoption**

Budget meeting must be held on or before August 20th with final adoption no later than August 25th. Generally, the regular monthly board meeting is held in conjunction with the budget meeting. Following discussion by the Trustees and to allow adequate time for budget preparation once taxable valuations are received, Chair Dey set the regular board meeting to include the 2013-2014 budget meeting for Monday, August 19, 2013 at 7:00 PM at Central School with Committee meetings to remain scheduled for August 5th and 6th.

**Community Comment on non-agenda items: None**

At 7:30 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 the superintendent’s quarterly evaluation and setting of annual goals.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:45 PM.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk