July 13, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Monday, July 13, 2015 at 7:00 PM in Room 103 of Central School on posted notice by the clerk. Present were Trustees Kelly Dey, Melissa Sanders, Dennis Lorenz, Luke Savage and Serina Everett. Also in attendance were Superintendent- Daniel Farr, Clerk- Nicole Beyer and Curriculum/ Federal Programs Director- Thom Barnhart. Absent were: Trustee- Craig Steinbeisser; West Side Principal- Jon Skinner; Central Principal- Brent Sukut; High School Vice-Principal- Loretta Thiel; Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson and High School Principal- Sue Andersen.

At 7:00 PM Chairwoman Dey called the meeting to order.

Ms. Dey welcomed the visitors in attendance: Jessica Price, Rick Engstrom and Nancy Vaira.

Ms. Dey stated an opportunity for community comment on non-agenda items would be provided later in 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.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr updated the Trustees on the following:

**Correspondence:**

- From the Montana Professional Teaching Foundation recognizing David McDonald for his teaching accomplishments and providing a grant for his classroom use. Mrs. Sanders requested that Mr. McDonald be recognized in the school setting during the back to school pupil instruction related days.

**2015-2016 Staff Hire to add to the agenda:**

- Jennifer King – High School Business Education Teacher. The District and Mrs. King will pursue an alternative form of licensure- a Class 4B Career and Technical License. Mrs. King has a four year degree in business but no teaching degree. However, she is willing to take the classes necessary to become a teacher.

**Resignation accepted by Administration to be reported to the Trustees:**

- Leigh Merritt – Payroll and Personnel Clerk

**Updated current enrollment for PK-12 for 2015-2016:**

- Currently at 1365 pre-kindergarten through Grade 12.

- 2014-2015 PK-12 enrollment ended at 1367.

- Currently 11 new enrollees.

**Dr. Farr provided a handout containing proposed updates to classified staff pay not on a salary schedule and consideration of an increase for a position requiring greater separation.**

An average increase was computed for each department and that average applied to the 2014-15 hourly rate of pay for those employees not on a salary schedule as follows:

Shelly Averett $16.84 Sandy Rehbein $16.84 Charles Buxbaum $20.53

Jon Getchell $17.56 Brenda Kiamas $18.87 Kenny Vannatta $19.92

Carla Verhasselt $19.35 Barbara Nelson $17.16 Louise Iversen $24.75

Shelley Moran $21.40

The position increase solicited is for the Assistant Clerk. This position is required to be familiar with both the Payroll/Personnel Clerk’s duties as well as all areas of the Clerk so an additional $2.00 per hour would be added to for that position in recognition of the knowledge expected.

The consensus of the Trustees was to proceed with these dollar amounts with official action taken on this item at the August board meeting.

**Calendar Events:**

- The next MQEC meeting will be July 17th. Dr. Farr will attend via conference call;

- The Richland County Transportation Committee will have its annual meeting on July 27that 11:00 AM.

- The next IBB session is scheduled for 6:00 PM, Thursday, August 13th at Central School; and

- Dr. Farr reported he would be out of town July 23rd & 24th for his daughter’s wedding and will take additional vacation July 27th through the 31st but will have access to e-mail.

**No committee meetings were held during the month of July.**

**Vacated Position:**

- Robert Aird – Middle School Custodian

Robert has not been at work for three weeks. There has been no response to correspondence sent to him.

Mr. Savage moved to terminate Mr. Aird as Middle School Custodian effective July 13, 2015. Mrs. Everett seconded the motion which passed 4 to 0 with Mr. Lorenz abstaining from this elementary issue.

**New Hires**

- Jennifer King – High School Business Education Teacher

Mrs. Everett moved to approve the hire of Jennifer King for High School Business Education teacher. Mr. Lorenz provided a second to the motion which passed 5 to 0.

During the Opportunity for Community Comment, Rick Engstrom, single parent of an incoming kindergarten who has been recommended for the K-1 (half day) program, provided his reasons for requesting his son be moved to the K-2 (full day) program. Copies of the policy were provided to those in attendance and an explanation of the steps in appealing student placement by the District in the K-1 or K-2 program.

Jessica Price, also a parent of a child recommended for the K-1 program, stated that parents are waiting until the day before school starts to register their child for kindergarten to avoid Gesell testing. She reiterated the desire to have her child in the K-2 program. She reported that Mr. Sukut had told her placement was based on Gesell test recommendation.

Dr. Farr and trustees requested patience with the process as there is a learning curve involved with this new process. Nothing is set in stone and the policy does provide a mechanism for parents to appeal the placement. Dr Farr also stated that students who are on the bubble will be watched and assessed in the kindergarten setting and placements could be adjusted at that time.

Ms. Vaira stated she had nothing to add. Her concerns were related to the wages which Dr Farr addressed.

The meeting continued with the Trustees and Dr Farr conducting a goal setting and strategic planning meeting beginning at 7:30 PM.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk