October 11, 2010

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, October 11, 2010, at 7:00 PM on published notice by the Clerk. Trustees present were Dennis Lorenz, Todd Hermanson, Luann Cooley, and Virginia Oraw. Also in attendance were Superintendent Farr, Clerk Beyer, High School Assistant Principal- Sue Andersen and Student Representative Hailee Tighe. Absent were Trustees Kelly Dey and Jay Pfau as well as Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator- Gary Arnold, Sidney Elementary Principal- Bill Nankivel, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson and High School Principal- Dan Peters.

Chairman Hermanson called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM. He began by welcoming the visitors in attendance, 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.

September 2010 claim warrants 218842 to 218981 in the amount of $1,812,554.82 and the minutes of September 13, 2010 were approved 4 to 0 on a motion by Mrs. Cooley and a second by Mrs. Oraw.

Clerk Beyer presented payroll warrant #11518 to Mary Jo Brunsvold in the amount of $67.16 to be cancelled. This is the original of a warrant which was lost and a replacement issued. The warrant was canceled 4 to 0 on a motion by Mr. Lorenz and a second by Mrs. Cooley.

September ASB transfers were approved 4 to 0 on a motion by Mr. Lorenz and a second by Mrs. Oraw.

From SMS Student Council to Class of 2014 $500.00 – Student Store Profit Sharing

From SMS Student Council to Class of 2015 $500.00 – Student Store Profit Sharing

From SMS Student Council to Class of 2016 $500.00 – Student Store Profit Sharing

From SMS Band to Class of 2016 $239.94 – MS Band Fuel paid in error from Class of 2016

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr updated the Trustees on the following items:

- A card of thanks was received from the family of Bob Hammer, former Sidney teacher. Two thinking of you cards were available for Trustee signature;

- After discussion Tuesday, November 15 was selected for the second community cross-over event;

- Superintendent Farr checked out the drainage concerns at the high school following the ½” of rain. He recommended the Trustees allow him to pursue a change order to avoid a potential problem through winter and spring. The estimated cost for a fix is $600.00 and the consensus of the Board was to proceed;

- The obsolete property sale to be manned by FCCLA members will be moved to October 29, 2010;

- Upcoming meetings and activities include:

*Sidney Community Education Foundation- Tuesday, October 12, 2010 @ 5:30 PM*

*Labor Management Committee- Thursday, October 14, 2010 @ 5:30 PM*

*Early Release for curriculum work – Wednesday, October 13, 2010 @ 1:00 PM*

*No School – October 21-22, 2010 due to state MEA days* and

- Synneva Meldahl, elementary music teacher, presented the Trustees with a “Note of Thanks” from the students at West Side for the new music curriculum. She showed examples of the curriculum and commented on the excitement shown by the students. Mrs. Meldahl also reported on the Fifth Grade Choir which has 17 students participating and upcoming performances to include the Spud Fest November 2nd at West Side and Crestwood and the Lodge near holiday time.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

Hailee Tighe summarized high school activities:

- Homecoming plans include- 2nd annual sub eating contest sponsored by Footers, Coronation and a competition between the grades for school spirit;

- Student Council has received a request from two new clubs – Art Club and a card game called Magic;

- State Student Council will be held in Great Falls October 19-21. Ten students are slated to attend; and

- Red Ribbon Week will be October 23-31.

Mr. Hermanson and Mr. Lorenz commented about school spirit at the volleyball game. Both noted that school spirit had improved and commended the administration and building principals for their continued efforts in this area. Mrs. Cooley visited with the students and asked how to get the community more involved. Mr. Hermanson asked the Student Council to have a conversation about promoting school spirit and how the Trustees can help in that area.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: October 5, 2010***

Mrs. Cooley highlighted committee discussions:

- Pam Radke, School Food Service Supervisor, reported on the move into the new kitchen;

- Mike Gear, Activities Director, provided updates on the school activities programs and the new evaluation tool utilized by the District. Work continues on this item in an attempt to make it more efficient;

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

- Mr. Farr is continuing the salary review for speech assistants and office management personnel;

- Correspondence from Cori Crowe, High School Alternative Education regarding position salary/classification was received;

- Updates on the teacher substitute software were provided;

- Discussed the strategic goal exercise to be conducted this year. The emphasis of this exercise will be extra-curricular activities; and

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

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: October 5, 2010***

Mrs. Cooley announced that Trustees had instructed administration to proceed with the purchase of a micro-bus (20 passenger) for route use and transportation of small groups to extra-curricular events.

***BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: October 4, 2010***

Mr. Lorenz detailed the following Building and Grounds topics:

- Roger Byer of B&B Builders, Dennis Deutsch of ABC Building Concepts and representatives of Prairie Engineering were in attendance to provide:

*- An update on the 200 Wing/Administrative punch lists;*

*- Progress on the 300 Wing/Cafeteria/Kitchen project- with discussion centering on flooring issues in the kitchen;*

*- Possible corrections to the ventilation system in the high school shop area;*

*- Report that boilers at the Middle School should be ready when needed;*

*- Information on the West Side heating system which is one of the projects under consideration for 2010-2011. Prairie Engineering recommended a more efficient conventional system that could be converted to geothermal in the future. The 1963 section requires attention and the 1980 section can be an alternate. Cooling in the building will be a consideration as this project proceeds. Mr. Deutsch was given the green light to proceed with this project as well as the 100 wing remodel and geothermal at the high school. Bidding needs to occur soon;*

- Superintendent Farr reported that Franz is currently working on the south side parking lot – the asphalt has been completed but it has yet to be sealed;

- Superintendent Farr is still awaiting a decision from Big Sky Custodial regarding the gym floor refinishing at the Middle School;

- Playground funds raised to date are over $60,000.00; and

- The obsolete property sale date has been set.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: October 4, 2010***

Mrs. Oraw imparted the following information:

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

- Dr. Farr provided updates on the Montana Quality Education Coalition and the legislative fiscal division;

- Discussion on oil and gas revenue and possible budget amendments continued;

- Audit findings were presented by Superintendent Farr and Clerk Beyer and a possible reply crafted to be included in the audit;

- Correspondence from Boys & Girls Club regarding their lease/rent with the school district was discussed;

- A request to add the FOR (Friends of Rachel) account to the ASB accounts is on the consent agenda; and

- Alicia Clayton’s name has never been added to the petty cash account and Sandi Edwards’ name has not been removed from the ASB accounts. This item is on the consent agenda.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: October 5, 2010***

Mrs. Oraw imparted the following information:

- Correspondence was received from a parent regarding graduation;

- Curriculum work continues to be the focus of the early release days, PIR alternatives for upcoming MEA days were reviewed and school effectiveness reports are due November 1;

- A request by a foreign guest to attend Sidney High School classes was left to the discretion of Mr. Peters and Mr. Farr. The guest is currently observing classes at the high school and tutoring a Middle School student;

- Second reading and adoption of revised policy 7425- changing the split on Middle School activity card sales to include a stipend for the 6th grade is on the consent agenda;

- The committee conversed about the need for legislative attendance at this year’s session;

- Superintendent Farr provided updates on the dual enrollment process. A personnel survey has been sent out to gauge the need of employees in regard to higher education; and

- Field trip requests were presented and are on the consent agenda this evening.

Mrs. Lokken-Frandsen asked about the Title I summer math program. Mr. Farr said that NWEA test scores from last spring until this fall will be one method used to ascertain student improvement. If funding is available, it is the intent to have the program again this next summer.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resignations**

Debra Baisch – Special Education Aide

Ashley Harris – Special Education Aide

Steven Lowrey – Custodian

Sandy Sullivan – High School Assistant Girls Basketball

Ashley Sullivan – Middle School Girls Basketball

Peggy Haenfler – Food Service Worker

Brittney Kallevig – Elementary Girls Basketball – (vacated- moved to Denver)

**New Hires**

Amanda Reynolds – Special Education Aide

Susan Iversen – Special Education Aide

Kelsey Jensen- Nursing Services

Jessica Mathern-Netzer – 1st Grade Teacher

Vanessa Stevens – Food Service Worker

**Associated Student Body (ASB) Account Authorization**

Establish the FOR (Friends of Rachel) ASB account for the purpose of supporting anti-bullying and violence in schools

**Boys and Girls Club Lease Addendum**

Directs the superintendent to work with Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors to amend the current lease agreement beginning October 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 to allow lease payments received through September 30, 2010, to be the only lease payments required of the club for the 2010-2011 school year

**Revision of Board Policy #7425 – Second Reading and Adoption**

Adjusts the breakdown for Middle School activity taxes to add a distribution to the 6th grade of $.50 and reducing the High School Student Council by $.50 to $3.00 per card

**Account Signators for the Associated Student Body (ASB) and Petty Cash Accounts**

Remove Sandra Edwards from the ASB accounts (First Bank, Edward Jones and Stockman Bank) leaving Nicole Beyer, Nancy Vaira, Todd Hermanson, Kelly Dey and Daniel Peters as authorized signatures on these accounts. Alicia Clayton will not be added to this account to comply with auditing segregation of duties.

The District petty cash account maintained by Stockman Bank also requires the removal of Sandra Edwards from the account and the addition of Alicia Clayton along with current signators- Nicole Beyer, Nancy Vaira and Leigh Merritt.

**Route Bus Replacement**

Authorize Rick Verhasselt to proceed with the purchase of a 2010 GM 20 passenger diesel route bus at $64,000.00 less the trade-in of a 2003 spare special education bus at $14,000.00 netting a $50,000.00 cost to the District

**Audit Report-Response**

The Finance Committee reviewed the two audit findings for 2009-2010 and responded as follows:

1. *Reporting of post employment benefits liability as required by GASB 45*

After consulting with the District auditor and weighing the advantages of paying for this service, it was decided to respectfully refuse to incur the expense of hiring an actuary to establish this book figure

1. *Improper Coding of Fixed Assets*

Continuing construction projects in the District have made this a challenge. The District Clerk and Superintendent will put procedures in place to provide a double check between the fixed asset codes and the fixed asset register

**Out-of-State Field Trip Request**

1. *Middle School Grade 6 to Regina – October 14, 2010*
2. *High School Robotics to Denver – January 7-9, 2011*
3. *High School Robotics to Denver – April 6-9, 2011*
4. *Business Professionals of America (BPA) – New York City & Washington D.C. – May 3-9, 2011*

Mr. Lorenz moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Mrs. Cooley seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 to 0.

At 7:53 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 superintendent’s quarterly evaluation.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk