

MARCH 18, 2024

A regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held at 5:30 PM Monday, March 18, 2024, at the Administration Office on posted notice by the clerk. Present were Trustees Ben Thogersen, Josh McGahan, Randy Iversen (by phone), David Seitz, Kelly Dey, Lisa Gorder, Alex Villegas and Jon Marker. Also in attendance were Superintendent- Brent Sukut; District Clerk- Tracy Click, High School Principal- Cary Dynneson, Middle School Principal- Ashley Copple; Curriculum Director- Thom Barnhart, Special Ed Director- Michelle Monsen.

Absent were: IT Director- Nathan Roth, Athletic Director- Chris Lee, Central School Principal- Sara Romo, West Side Principal- Sharri Vandall, High School Assistant Principal- Danny Coryell;

At 5:30 PM, Chairman Thogersen called the meeting to order and welcomed all community members attending or on conference call in. Mr. Thogersen stated an opportunity for community comment on non-agenda items would be provided at the end of the meeting.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS:

- WRITTEN ADMISTRATOR REPORTS FROM: Mrs. Vandall, Mrs. Monsen, Mrs. Romo, Mrs. Copple, Mr. Dynneson and Mr. Barnhart.

- FINANCE REPORTS:

- o February District Cash Balances, Revenues and Expenditure Reports.

- ENROLLMENT:

- o West Side – 315; Central – 255; Middle School – 284; High School – 370 = TOTAL 1224

- REVIEWED CALENDAR OF HOME EVENTS FOR MARCH THROUGH APRIL.

- DISTRICT PROJECTS:

- o *CENTRAL:*
 - Cameras-Nathan is looking into this.
- o *HIGH SCHOOL:*
 - Weight room and concession roof-Thiel Bros. started March 11th.
 - AC Unit for HS Gym-Have engineer working on specs. Will start bid process as soon as we have specs.
- o *MIDDLE SCHOOL:*
 - Intercom System-Continuing to research companies.
- o *WEST SIDE:*
 - Hallway and classroom flooring-asbestos tiles.
- o *ADMIN BUILDING:*
 - Core was in on 11/29/23-made small adjustments-Working well.
- o *ALL SCHOOLS:*
 - Safety needs for each building.

- TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE MEETING:

The IT Committee met on Wednesday, March 13 to discuss ongoing and future technology projects that we have going on in the district. Nathan Roth has been looking for an Intercom/Bell System to replace the existing systems at WS and the MS. A local company originally agreed to take on this project, but they have been unsuccessful in completing everything that needed to happen. Nathan has found other companies and has received some quotes. Most of the estimates he received involved replacing all of the hardware and rewiring the entire system. The equipment and wiring that we currently have at WS is not that old, so Nathan was not really interested in going that route. This would have cost the district approximately \$130,000 for the elementary buildings and even more at the high school.

Since going to a digital platform for these systems has very little benefits, Nathan has decided to go with a company called Valco. This will allow us to utilize all existing wiring and hardware while still getting feature that we need for our bell and intercom systems. This will allow bell scheduling per building and has unique safety features that we can utilize at schools. The cost of this will be approximately \$25,000 for the elementary schools and middle school and over \$30,000 for the high school. That is a significant cost savings. We will see how well these work prior to making the switch to all buildings.

We will be going to bid for our 2024-2025 Chromebook order soon. Nathan and Tari are working on the inventory to determine how many of these we will need to order to replace our outdated devices. It will likely be somewhere between 250-300 devices in each of the next 3 school years to replace the devices that will no longer have licenses.

- APPTEGY:

We are moving forward with our new website platform. We have selected the template that we will be using for all pages. We are positive that the new website design will make everything more user friendly for individuals visiting the sight and will allow us to capture the many positive activities that we have going on in our schools. The IT Team has done a fantastic job of getting everything set up for our staff be able to take off with this new program once they have been trained.

Training for all secretaries and building level media specialists training was held on Friday, March 15th at the High School. All other staff members will receive their Apptegy training on Friday, April 19th. Once all staff have received training on the program we will be ready to launch. SPS will send out a press release prior to changing platforms. This will inform the community of the change. Eventually, we will send out information on the app that parents will be able to utilize to keep up with all things Eagles.

-LAND SWAP MEETING:

On Tuesday, March 12th, Mr. Sukut met with Garth Kallevig and Don Sterhan to discuss the possibility of the school district “trading” land with Don’s land development company, CR Builders. The land that we would be looking to obtain has already partially developed. Phase one of the project is complete. This portion of the project included curb and gutter, sewer, water and paved streets. Phase two includes electricity, direct street access and natural gas availability.

In the 1980s, 6 acres of land was donated to the school. In 2013, we purchased the additional 30 acres of land of for \$750,000. Somehow we are unable to find necessary paperwork on that. In researching what we paid for the land we have, we paid \$750,000 for approximately 30 acres in 2013. Mr. Sukut in the process of figuring out the acreage we purchased vs what was donated to us.

- LMC MEETING:

On Wednesday, February 28th, LMC met to discuss a few items. Some of the staff had questions about how students qualify for Alternative Education and Alternative Placement. LMC questioned the difference was between the two. There were concerns that more students should potentially qualify for alt ed due to the increase in behaviors that we are experiencing at all levels. This is a disruption of the learning environment for the other students present in these classes.

- JOB OPENINGS:

<i>Certified</i>	<i>Classified</i>	<i>Co-Curricular</i>
Business Teacher	Bus Route Drivers	HS Head Football Coach (2024-2025)
CDL Teacher	Custodians	
CTE Teacher	Social Media Specialist	
(3) Elementary Teachers (2024-2025 SY) (K-5)	Special Education Aides	
(3) Special Education Teachers (2024-2025 (K-12)	Title Aides (24-25 SY)	
(1) MS FCS Teacher (2024-2025 SY)		

Activity Drivers, Substitute Bus Drivers, Substitute Teachers

- TRANSFERS:

- Amy Larson – (.5) Special Education Teacher at Central School.

-RESIGNATIONS:

- Harrel, Lisa – WS Title Aide (end of current SY)
- Mocko, Ashley – CS Special Education Aide
- Shipp, Alexa – 2nd Grade Teacher (end of current SY)

-NEW HIRES:

- Backes, Lynsey – WS Special Education Aide
- Edwards, Theresa – Assistant Girls Softball Coach
- Howell, Elizabeth – WS Administrative Secretary
- Morales, Bee – MS Trach & Field Coach

COMMITTEE REPORTS: No Committee Meetings for February.

CONSENT AGENDA:

A. Approve February 12, 2024 Minutes.

B. Approval of January Claims Warrants #234298 – 234325 in the amount of \$859,022.74.

C. Cancel District Warrants:

- o 234312- \$104.23 submitted for reimbursement, needed paid to Reynolds.

D. Associated Student Body Information:

- o Approve the February 2024 Report
- o Voids: REF Checks-27794- \$110.00, 27799- \$42.00, 27800- \$84.00, 27797- \$84.00, 27798- \$42.00, 27733- \$197.00,
- o New Account Request: None

E. Renewal of Supervisor Contract 2024-2025

Tracy Click

F. Renewal of Licensed Contracts for 2024-2025

Jill Albertson

Roxanne Bailey

Michelle Monsen

G. Renewal of Non-Tenured Contract Renewals 2024-2025

Danielle Eustice

Cheryl Hansen

Martha Hurley

Raean Lien

Aleah Rosaaen

Riley Thiessen

Samantha Vaira

Kaylie Davidson

Doree Deming

Wanda Oprica

Rebecca Papineau

Tonya Schoepp

Taylor Searer

Melanie Drane

Samantha Hoesel

Tess Ler

Quintin Omdahl

John Deming

Emily Findlay

Tonya Garsjo

Sharisse Slade

Blair Thompson

Gregory Yale

Extended Day contracts: Taylor Searer and Tonya Garsjo

L. New Hires:

- Backes, Lynsey – WS Special Education Aide
- Edwards, Theresa – Assistant Girls Softball Coach
- Howell, Elizabeth – WS Administrative Secretary
- Morales, Bee – MS Trach & Field Coach

Recommend to approve new hire pending reference and background check.

Ms. Dey moved and Mr. Villegas seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

*** BUS BIDS:**

The board voted to purchase a new MCI cruiser in the Fall/Winter of the 2023-2024 school year. In order to utilize the bus depreciation fund to help pay for the new bus, we must sell one of the current activity buses in our fleet. It was decided the C5500 activity bus was being underutilized and that would be the most logical bus to sell. It was advertised in the paper of the district's intentions to sell the C5500. All bids to purchase the bus were required to be in a sealed envelope and delivered to the district office by 12:00 PM on Monday, February 12th. The district only received one bid for the bus.

Mr. Seitz moved and Mr. Thorgesen seconded to accept the bus bid from Richland County Baseball for \$2,500.00. The motion passed unanimously.

*** BUS RENTAL AGREEMENT:**

When looking at the amount that we bill for the use of our buses, we are considerably lower in cost compared to a number of bus rental companies in the surrounding area. Given that we are in a remote region, options for bus rentals are limited at best. In the event that we choose to continue to allow non-school sponsored to continue to rent our transportation vehicles, we should consider choosing from any or all of the following options:

1. All non-school sponsored groups must provide insurance that would adequately remove the school from any and all liability.
2. The use of Sidney Public School buses should be reserved for students within the school district. This could include student attending another school district, but participate in an activity with SPS through a cooperative agreement between the schools.
3. The fee structure to rent the buses needs to be increased significantly to help offset the cost of wear and tear on all components of the buses. The cost of a new MCI cruiser is over \$600,000. In order to protect our investment we need to charge an amount that offsets the cost of how much we have to pay to maintenance these buses. That would be higher than what we currently charge, but at the bottom end of where the cheapest bus company would charge.
4. Only allow the rental to non-sponsored groups with direct affiliation to the school and who still would be representing Sidney Public Schools in a similar way to how they would during the regular school year. The school would need to consider extended insurance coverage for such groups. (I.e. summer band trips, transportation to seasonal camps for football/basketball/volleyball/wrestling/golf/x-country/track/baseball/softball, etc...) If we allow it for one group, we cannot deny it for another without a reasonable explanation. This type of rental agreement would not be limited to summer either. If the baseball/softball team wants to go to a team camp in the fall, we typically would not allow them to use our buses, but if we are going to allow this type of use in the summer, we should also allow it in the fall.
5. Do not allow the rental of our buses to non-school sponsored groups.
6. Other:

Mr. Sukut recommends either option 4 or 5. If we choose 4, Mr. Sukut would also include 1, 2 and 3 (contingency) with the option to revise the rental fee scale.

Mr. Sukut will present board with new rental agreement and updated fee structure for the April board meeting.

Mr. Seitz moved and Ms. Dey seconded to table bus rental agreement to the April meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

*** 2024-2025 Budget: Preliminary Budget Data Sheets**

*** 2023-2024 Elementary District #5 and District #1 Permissive Levy Resolution:**

Ms. Dey moved and Mr. Marker seconded to approve the resolutions for District #5 and #1 stating the District's intent to impose (increase/decrease) permissive levies in the General Fund, Adult Education, Tuition, Bus Depreciation, Transportation, Debt Services and Building Reserve Funds.

Motion passed unanimously. A levy is not needed at this time.

*** Administrators/Supervisors/Licensed Salary Increase:**

As we completed negotiations last school year, I would like to propose the same increase to all administrators, licensed staff and department managers in a salaried position as listed above. Only the individuals listed above will currently be in consideration for this increase at this time.

Ms. Dey moved and Mrs. Gorder seconded to approve a 4% increase to administrators, licensed and department manager salaried staff for the 2024-2025 school year. Motion passed unanimously.

*** Classified Contract Scale Increase:**

Last year saw significant increases to all positions of the classified pay scale in order to keep SPS competitive with other area businesses. This was an effort in improve recruiting and retain quality classified staff members. The range of increase across the positions was from 13.21%-19.80%. Due to inflation, it is important to still continue increases to this scale as prices continue to rise. Recommend .25 increase to classified pay scale.

Mr. Seitz moved and Ms. Dey seconded to approve the classified hourly wage schedule as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

*** Land Discussion for Potential Ballot Item:**

In looking at the potential land trade, there is still a lot of unknown information. The land that we have would be difficult to develop as it currently sits. If we were able to find a more financially agreeable offer to the current land proposal, it may be worth the trade. Recommend adding this proposal to the ballot giving us permission to purchase the land in a trade.

Mrs. Gorder moved and Mr. McGahan seconded add the purchase of the land to the ballot. Motion passed unanimously.

*** Resignation of Certified Teacher:** Mr. Thogersen moved meeting to a closed session. Discussion on Certified Staff member resignation on February 19th.

Mr. Thogersen resumed regular board meeting at 7:00pm.

Mr. Villegas moved and Ms. Dey seconded to approve closed session meeting minutes

Ms. Dey moved and Mr. Marker seconded to accept only the resignation of certified teacher. The board does not agree to the termination of the certified teacher contract and did not waive any of its rights under contract. The board designates the superintendent to pursue contracts remedies as necessary. Motion passed unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COMMENT: None

Additional Information: None

Topics for next agenda include:

- Winter Activity Coach Renewals
- Classified Renewals
- Multidistrict Agreement

At 7:05 PM, with no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 7:06 PM.

Board Chair

Approved: _____

Attest:

District Clerk