August 25, 2011

The August 8th meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was continued until Thursday, August 25, 2011 at 7:30 PM in Room 104 of Central School. Present were Trustees Todd Hermanson, Luann Cooley, Kelly Dey, Virginia Oraw, Dennis Lorenz and Dexter Thiel. Also in attendance were Superintendent Farr, Clerk Beyer, High School Principal- Dan Peters, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson, Sidney Elementary Principal-Sue Andersen and High School Assistant Principal- Loretta Thiel. Absent: Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator- Gary Arnold.

Chairman Hermanson reconvened the August 8th meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:30 PM and welcomed the visitors in attendance- Mark Halvorson, SEA president and Gary Schaff. The chairman reminded those in attendance 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.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr provided the following information:

- Correspondence consisted of a letter from Khrystye Earle regarding Middle School robotics;

- 2011-2012 transfers include Tara Skaar from High School Language Model to West Side Language Model; Patti Wheeling from Grade 5 to Grade 3 and Carrie Peters from Grade 2 to Grade 5;

- Addition to New Hires of Christina Adams – Food Service;

- General overview of building updates on projects and the start of school;

- The West Side drainage project is complete. Review by Interstate Engineering is still needed. Compliments were paid to project contractor- B&B Builders on getting it done prior to the start of school;

- The high school south parking lot has been completed but has areas requiring re-sealing. Interstate Engineering will oversee the completion of this work;

- The Back to School Legal Primer sponsored by Montana School Boards Association is scheduled for Tuesday, September 13 from 9:30 to 4:30 at the high school multi-purpose room. Mrs. Cooley and Ms. Dey indicated the desire to attend; and

- The ribbon cutting for the West Side playground will take place tomorrow at 9:00 AM.

**Resignations:** Acceptance of the following resignations passed 6 to 0 on a motion by Ms. Dey and a second by Mr. Lorenz:

- Amanda Reynolds – OT/PT Aide

- Chad Quilling – Middle School Girls Basketball

- Bobbie Jo Hackmann – Elementary Special Education Aide

- Katelyn Eskridge – Elementary Special Education Aide

**New Hires:** Approval of the following new hires passed 6 to 0 on a motion by Mr. Lorenz and a second by Mrs. Cooley:

- Amy Verhasselt – OT/PT Aide

- Katie O’Clair – High School Special Education Aide

- Jessica Salveson – High School Special Education Aide

- Melissa Goulette – Elementary Special Education Aide

- Charlie Clock – Elementary Special Education Aide

- Theresa Pedersen – Middle School Special Education Aide

- Nikole LeFors – Food Service Worker

- Dru Jones – Food Service Worker

- Brad Faulhaber – High School Assistant Football Coach

- Miranda Fehilly – High School Assistant Volleyball Coach

- Justin Jones – Middle School Football Coach

- Zachary Clayton – Middle School Football Coach

- Craig Bowen – Assistant Softball Coach

- Christina Adams – Food Service

**Opening and Consideration of 2011-2012 Fuel Bids**

Clerk Beyer opened the only bid received from Cenex Harvest States (Laid in Cost w/no taxes or fees)

*Montana Product: Diesel #2 $3.31/Gal Unleaded $3.64/Gal*

*Outside Montana Product: Diesel #2 $3.35/Gal Unleaded $3.38/Gal*

Following discussion on how fuel bids work and a look at historical costs per gallon from the same vendor, Mr. Lorenz moved to accept the bid of Cenex Harvest States for the 2011-2012 school year. Mrs. Dey seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

**Sidney Education Association Master Agreement for 2011 through 2013**

Ratification by the SEA was complete on August 22, 2011. Editorial changes have been made by Mr. Farr and SEA President, Mark Halvorson. The following changes were addressed by the collective bargaining agreement:

* *Mentor Program/Compensation, Article VIII,J.*
* *Dual Credit Compensation, Article VIII, K.*
* *Traveling Teachers-Duty Assignments, Article XVI*
* *Noon Duty, Article XVI*
* *Extracurricular Pay Schedule “C”*
* *Modifications to base and cap health insurance amounts;*
* *Modifications to salary matrices*

The agreement was ratified by the Trustees on a motion by Ms. Dey and a second by Mrs. Oraw. The motion passed 6 to 0. Mr. Halvorson signed the document on behalf of the SEA and stated the main concern expressed by teachers covered by the agreement was the increasing cost of health insurance and requested continued exploration into ways of mitigating these increasing costs.

**2011-2012 Change Accounts**

**-** Middle Schools – Associated Student Body (ASB) $200.00

**-** Central, West Side, Middle School and High School – Lunch Change $30.00 each for a total of $120.00

**Sidney Public Schools Job Descriptions – Second Reading and Adoption of revised descriptions**

Vo-ag teacher, Gary Schaff, addressed the Trustees regarding this agenda item. His concerns involved the extra-curricular job descriptions and he requested that approval be delayed until additional work can be done with these descriptions. Mr. Schaff felt that school district requirements for these advisor positions should be spelled out in the document to avoid advisors doing only the bare minimum and/or those who go beyond the call of duty and do too much.

Discussion continued regarding defining an extra-curricular season and Trustee expectations for non-season activities (for example: Are coaches scrutinized harder if they do not attend summer camps/open gyms?) Chairman Hermanson spoke to the fact that adopting this document went from almost nothing to a whole new deal that needs to be worked with. Mr. Thiel stated that Superintendent Farr did what the Trustees asked of him and asked Mr. Farr about a process to upgrade the job descriptions. Mr. Farr stated that he anticipated doing an annual review of sections similar to Board Policy. His suggestion was to begin with the area of concern expressed by Mr. Schaff. Mrs. Cooley felt that many of these items had been discussed during the Extra-Curricular Committee meetings. Some was taken into account when adjusting the compensation for activities. Mr. Schaff asked the Trustees again to postpone taking action on this item.

Following the discussion, Mrs. Cooley moved and Mr. Lorenz seconded the motion to adopt the job descriptions as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

**2011-2012 Budget Public Hearings**

Chairman Hermanson reopened the public hearing on the 2011-2012 budgets for Sidney Elementary District 5 and Sidney High School District 1. Clerk Beyer and Superintendent Farr presented the following budgets:

 ***Elementary District 5 High School District 1***

*General Fund $4,518,792.69 101.63 Mills $3,248,482.42 17.01 Mills*

*Transportation $ 307,784.38 6.13 Mills $ 179,475.43 0.00 Mills*

*Bus Depreciation $ 578,052.85 5.95 Mills $ 775,401.65 1.36 Mills*

*Tuition $ 11,702.71 0.00 Mills $ 2,680.00 .12 Mills*

*Retirement\* $ 584,350.00 N/A $ 470,000.00 N/A*

*Adult Education $ 21,594.00 0.00 Mills $ 32,759.25 0.00 Mills*

*Technology $ 160,682.36 2.42 Mills $ 491,671.66 1.84 Mills*

*Flexibility Fund $ 495,470.32 0.00Mills $1,335,576.04 0.00 Mills*

*Debt Service $ 10,000.00 0.00 Mills $ 72,510.00 0.00 Mills*

*Building Reserve $ 799,904.21 0.00 Mills $3,065,934.75 0.00 Mills*

***Total Estimated Mills: 116.13 20.33***

***Decrease from 2010-2011 15.66 Mills 17.76 Mills***

Clerk Beyer explained that mills were estimates. The Trustee Report for 2009-2010 still needs to be completed and may affect reserves which in turn may affect mills. She also explained that she had not been able to run final figures on the two retirement budgets so had listed the prior year’s budgets. She requested that Trustees approve the budgets are presented with the exception of the retirement budgets which may be increased no more than 5% of last year’s figures. Explanations as to the distribution of oil and gas monies were provided by Mrs. Beyer and Superintendent Farr. Increases in the Flexibility Funds are a result of the need to fund some staffing through this fund as well as pick up $1,000,000.00 of expenses resulting from the anticipated adoption of an interlocal agreement to assist the elementary district with building projects.

With no comments forthcoming from those in attendance, Mrs. Cooley moved to accept the budgets as presented with the exception of the retirement budgets in both districts- allowing the clerk to increase them no more than 5% of last year’s budgets. Mrs. Oraw seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

At 8:35 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 a student education plans.

At 9:08 PM Chairman Hermanson opened the meeting. Mr. Lorenz moved to accept the recommendation of administration on student #1. Mrs. Cooley seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mr. Lorenz then moved to accept the recommendation of administration on student #2 which also passed unanimously on a second by Mrs. Cooley.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 PM.

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 Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk