December 12, 2016

A regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Monday, December 12, 2016 at 7:00 PM in Room 103 of Central School on posted notice by the clerk. Present were Trustees Luke Savage, Ben Thogersen, Dennis Lorenz, Craig Steinbeisser, Kelly Dey and Melissa Sanders. Also in attendance were Student Representatives Lauren Beenken and Carter Hughes; Superintendent- Daniel Farr, Clerk- Nicole Beyer, West Side Principal- Jon Skinner and Central Principal- Brent Sukut. Absent were: High School Principal- Sue Andersen, High School Vice-Principal- Loretta Thiel, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson and Curriculum/Federal Programs Director- Thom Barnhart

At 7:00 PM Chairman Savage called the meeting to order.

Mr. Savage welcomed the visitors in attendance: SEA President, Cara Lokken-Frandsen, daughter Lina Frandsen and Middle School Special Ed Teacher, Carmen Mead Peterson.

Mr. Savage stated 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.

Ms. Dey moved to approve the minutes of November 14th, 2016 as well as the November 2016 claim warrants 230488 to 230525 in the amount of $309,568.98. Mr. Steinbeisser seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

Clerk Beyer presented the following two warrants to be cancelled:

 - District Warrant 230516 dated 11/18/16 to Payne West Insurance in the amount of $892.60 for coverage for outside student groups to use school facilities. This payment needed to be made on-line but instructions were not clear. Paid by credit card

 - ASB Warrant 22842 dated 10/18/2016 in the amount of $244.75 to Plentywood FFA. This invoice was not submitted for payment but as an estimated cost to the high school FFA organization. The next bill will include shipping

The warrants were cancelled 6 to 0 on a motion by Ms. Dey and a second by Mr. Lorenz.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT**

Lauren Beenken provided the following information to the Trustees:

- Student Council is working on increasing school spirit. They are choosing themes for each home game and will provide candy rewards to students who dress up in the theme for that event;

- Christmas season had Student Council sponsoring fun events; ugly sweater; locker decorating; providing hot chocolate and cookies; wearing Santa hats and reindeer head bands;

- Following the death of a Fairfield student due to a vehicle accident, students across the state have been provided blue ribbons to tie onto their steering wheels to remind them to buckle up; and

- Key Club is selling candygrams. Students can have candy canes sent to other students.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr updated Trustees on the following:

**2016-2017 Transfers:**

- Suzie Osborne from Central Special Ed Aide to District Speech Aide

**Changes to 2016-2017 New Hires:**

- Tamera Kurtz is listed as a new hire on the Consent Agenda. Removing pending additional contact with Ms. Kurtz

**Resignations to report:**

- Milly Rohrman – OT/PT Aide effective at the end of the 2016-2017 school year

- Nick Kallem – Groundskeeper duties only

- Jennifer McLaughlin – Head Varsity Girls Volleyball Coach

- Mary Pfau – Assistant Girls Volleyball Coach

- Carmen Mead Peterson – Middle School Special Ed teacher- Carmen is requesting release from her teaching contract at the end of the first semester due to family circumstances requiring her family to return to Minnesota. This will require Board action and will need to be on the January agenda.

**Enrollment: 1336 Grades K1-12 compared to 1384 on May 9, 2016**

**Calendar Events:**

- December 12th – Band/Choir Concert at 7 PM – HS Gym

- December 21st , 2016 through January 2nd, 2017 – Christmas/Holiday Break

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: December 6, 2016***

Mr. Thogersen outlined the following agenda discussions:

- Transportation Supervisor, Martin Morales, reported things were going well. He has cleaned up the bus barn and has two individuals working on endorsements;

- Jon Skinner, West Side Principal, reported on West Side activities. The building is working towards gold status with the Montana Behavior Institute (MBI).

- Middle School Principal, Kelly Johnson, reported on student behavior. Grade 6 is struggling with 21 major infractions already this year. Minor infractions are at 600 for Grade 6; 400 - Grade 7 and 200 - Grade 8;

- Dr. Farr reported there were two complete applications for the Superintendent position and three for the high school principal. The Superintendent position will close on December 21st with the principal slated for January;

- Vacancies, Transfers and Resignations were reviewed. New Hires are on the Consent Agenda;

- Fall coaches attended the meeting to provide program updates and answer Trustees questions. Golf and Volleyball head coaches have resigned so coaching renewals for those sports will be delayed until a head coach is named. Football and Cross Country coaches are on the Consent Agenda for hire in 2017-2018; and

- A special needs aide is requesting extended maternity leave to the end of the 2016-17 school year.

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: December 5, 2016***

Mr. Lorenz highlighted the following committee discussion topics:

- Interstate Engineering continues to work with Franz Construction on the High School north parking lot project;

- The softball complex work is on hold due to winter weather;

- Facility fee waiver requests were reviewed and are on the agenda tonight;

- Following the meeting, Trustees toured the Middle School first floor project;

- Possible solutions for the Dry Cooler/HVAC system issues at the Middle School continue to be explored. The belief is the system does not have enough capacity to operate throughout the entire building;

- The Middle School roof project has been completed;

- Mr. Cutshaw, Interstate Engineering, provided plan updates for the proposed Middle School parking lot; and

- 2016-2017 Major Projects are currently under review. They include: West Side Exterior Gym Wall Painting and High School Painting are slated for summer; Sealing of all high school parking lots; replacement of sewer/water lines at Central; Middle School Parking Lot- close to bidding; Middle School water lines for 2nd & 3rd floor; and possible playground improvements.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: December 5, 2016***

Ms. Dey summarized the following agenda items:

- November claims were reviewed as were November financial reports, ASB Report and Investment Report;

- Dr. Farr updated current enrollment figures;

- The Montana Quality Education Coalition will meet next week in Helena. Dr. Farr plans to attend as the group gears up for the legislative session;

- Nine area schools have agreed to share the cost of the hired lobbyist. Roger Hagan will serve in this capacity;

- Due to excessive charges on the ASB bank account, proposals were solicited and are on the Consent Agenda for consideration this evening;

- New buses are having cameras installed prior to use on the routes; and

- The 2016-2017 attendance agreements are on the Consent Agenda tonight.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: December 6, 2016***

Mrs. Sanders recapped the following agenda discussions:

- Teachers were requested to complete a self-assessment to ascertain if writing across the curriculum has been implemented as requested in classrooms;

- Labor Management is scheduled to meet on December 8th at 5:30 PM at the High School;

- Academic Honors committee met last week. Mrs. Sanders was in attendance and was excited about the varied discussions and ideas being considered;

- Adult Education discussions include a request from Sidney Sugars for a welding certification program for their employees and the GED HiSet program is losing funding. They approached the Trustees about the possibility of levying ½ a mill in each District to assist with budget shortfalls. Dr. Farr will research this request further;

- Current board policy on K9 Inspections and current case law is fine as it sits; and

- Proposed edits to the District School Wellness and Safety Policy Edits- section D-J were reviewed.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**New Hires**

- Kimberly Wenzel – Elementary Special Education Aide

- Virginia Meng – Elementary Special Education Aide

- Brittany Brown – Middle School Assistant Cheer Coach

**Contract with Interstate Engineering to provide services on the Middle School Parking Lot Project**

**Associated Student Body (ASB) Bank Account Award**

- Bank fees incurred by the ASB account currently at Wells Fargo have increased alarmingly;

- Meetings with bank representative was unsatisfying with no assistance offered;

- Request for Proposals presented to all local financial institutions. Three were submitted and reviewed;

- Recommend approval of Stockman Bank following review of proposals for the years 2017-2020

**2017-2018 Co-curricular Agreements:**

***FOOTBALL CROSS COUNTRY***

Roger Merritt – Head Coach Chad Quilling- Assistant Coach Justin Collins – Head Coach

Guy Melby – Assistant Coach Zac Zosel – Assistant Coach Stacey Collins – Assistant Coach

Chris Merica – Assistant Coach Ty Graves – Head MS Coach

Zach Clayton – MS Coach Matt Whelchel – MS Coach

Mr. Steinbeisser moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Sanders seconded the motion which passed on 6 to 0.

**Facility Fee Waiver Requests**

- Sidney Gymnastics Club- March 12, 2017 high school commons and cafeteria area with possible gym use for a cake decorating fundraising event and auction; and

- Sidney Gymnastics Club- Annual spring show May 6th and 7th. Fundraising event.

Following Trustee discussion on the cost to the District for allowing requested use of the facilities, Mr. Steinbeisser moved to accept the recommendation to allow use of the facilities with no fee waiver and proof of liability insurance in effect for the group. Mr. Thogersen seconded the motion which passed 5 to 1 with Mrs. Sanders dissenting.

**Extended Leave Request**

- Falon LaRoche – West Side Special Ed Aide is requesting extended leave under Board Policy 5321 from December 5, 2016 through the end of the current school year to care for her expected child.

Mrs. Sanders moved to approve the extended leave request of Falon LaRoche from December 5, 2016 through May 26, 2017. Mr. Steinbeisser seconded the motion which passed on a 6 to 0 vote.

**School Board Member Vacancy**

Mr. Savage has tendered his resignation from the Board of Trustees effective at the end of this meeting, Trustees declared the position vacant and directed the clerk to conduct the necessary advertisements to secure letters of interest from interested individuals as per Board policy on a motion by Mr. Steinbeisser and a second by Mr. Thogersen. The motion passed 5 to 0 with Mr. Savage recusing himself from the vote.

Chairman Savage provided an opportunity for Community Comment on non-agenda items: NONE

With no further business to become before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

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 Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk