December 12, 2011

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, December 12, 2011 at 7:00 PM in Room 104 of Central School. Present were Trustees Todd Hermanson, Kelly Dey, Dexter Thiel, Luann Cooley and Dennis Lorenz. Also in attendance were Superintendent Farr, Clerk Beyer, High School Assistant Principal- Loretta Thiel, High School Principal- Dan Peters, Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator- Gary Arnold, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson, Sidney Elementary Principal-Sue Andersen and Student Representatives Krista Steinbeisser and Lakayla Nentwig.

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Chairman Hermanson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed the visitors in attendance- SEA Representative- Mark Halvorson and trustee candidates Marty Casey, Serina Everett and Jeremy Norby. Mr. Hermanson 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.

Ms. Dey moved to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2011 meeting and the November 2011 claim warrants 219980 to 220036 in the amount of $302,735.08. Mr. Lorenz seconded the motion which passed on a 5 to 0 vote.

The following checks/warrants were canceled on a motion by Mr. Lorenz and a second by Mrs. Cooley. The motion passed unanimously.

District #219898 9/21/11 $141.44 Time for Kids Company claims previously paid

#220010 11/10/11 $405.00 MT Assn of Elem/MS Principals Paid in Group Billing

ASB #17639 11/9/11 $325.00 Sidney Country Club Duplicate Payment of Course Fees

#17688 11/21/11 $300.00 Brad Faulhaber Close-up Reimbursement Reissued to Julie Thies

The November 2011 Associated Student Body report and transfers were approved on a motion by Mrs. Cooley with a second by Ms. Dey. The motion passed unanimously.

*From Leo Club to BPA $10.00 Poster*

*From BPA to Key Club $ 20.00 Children’s Christmas Bags*

*From Drill Team to BPA $ 37.50 Posters*

*From JMG to Key Club $ 37.76 Parade of Trees*

*From BPA to Key Club $ 65.62 Parade of Trees*

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr provided the Trustees with the following updates:

- Correspondence: Thank you from Sue Andersen for the impact stipend, luncheon and chamber bucks; Thank you from the Cooley/Harris families for support during Pat’s illness and death; notice that Dr. Farr received approximately 20 e-mails thanking everyone for today;

- Addition of Charlie Clock to New Hires in a job-share elementary special education aide position with Brittany Russell;

- Mr. Thiel led a discussion with Richland County schools dealing with oil impact issues last week. The next session reaching out to other districts is scheduled January 11, 2012 at 3:00 PM at the USDA building;

- Upcoming meetings and events:

*Another legislative tour will be in Sidney tomorrow;*

*Meeting with the Richland County Commissioners tomorrow at 3:30 PM;*

*Labor Management Committee – Thursday, December 15, 2011 @ 5:30 PM;*

*MQEC meets the 19th in Helena to review legal standing;*

*Concerts: High School December 15th Middle School December 19th*

*Last day of school before Christmas December 22nd –no early out – in order to meet OPI contact hour requirements at the elementary level;* and

- Copies of Sidney High School graduation requirements and college preparatory requirements were handed out per Trustee request.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

Krista Steinbeisser reported that the Student Council has been planning the December talent show. Promotion of the event to create greater participation will be a focus. The Council is planning to provide hot chocolate and candy canes to students before Christmas break. Preliminary plans for a snowball dance have been discussed- no date or cost set. School spirit is improving – cheerleaders are working to get students involved in school spirit.

LaKayla Nentwig stated that Student Council is working to motivate students who are failing classes. Noon detention, after school tutoring and allowing late assignments for these students is not helping them to get out of this situation. Early discussion is to allow early out on Fridays if you are in good standing in all of your classes. Failing students would be required to work with the teachers to get these grades up.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: December 6, 2011***

Mr. Lorenz highlighted agenda items discussed by the committee:

- Met with Rick Verhasselt, Transportation Supervisor, who updated the committee regarding bus mileage and ages. More information was requested;

- Steve Yockim, Technology Supervisor, reported that 40 new computers were ordered for West Side with the intent of installing them over Christmas break. He also reported a need to update 100 laptops district-wide as well as presented many technology opportunities for the Trustees to consider in the coming years;

- District vacancies were reviewed; Resignations and New Hires are on the Consent Agenda;

- The 2012-2013 calendar committee scheduled its initial meeting for December 14, 2011; and

- Work continues on board and classified evaluations. Fall extra-curricular contract renewals will be looked at in January following the coaching evaluations deadline which is the 21st of December. Mr. Thiel asked about the evaluation for the cheer and dance team coach. Mr. Peters said they would check on it – mid-season review could also be due the 21st.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: December 6, 2011***

Ms. Dey summarized the following information regarding committee discussions:

- Bus cameras have been ordered for all district buses;

- The Video/Audio Surveillance Policy second reading and adoption is on the Consent Agenda; and

- Due to the number of speech children and schedules, the special needs bus driver position was made into a full-time position.

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: December 5, 2011***

Mr. Thiel outlined Building and Grounds discussions:

- Updates were provided to Trustees on the following projects:

*Punch list items in the High School 100 and 300 wings: Work to clear these up continues;*

*Parking lots at the high school: This is scheduled for completion in the spring;*

*Middle School Current Projects: Waiting for test and balance reports on HVAC system. Also waiting for a report regarding a cause of the water leak experienced on the third floor last week due to frozen pipes;*

*West Side Projects: Plans are to proceed with the office remodel next summer to turn the space into an assistant principal office and guidance suite. Preliminary drawings for an addition unto West Side were presented by the architects with discussions. Because of the cost involved in completing the plans for this project, exploring funding options would be considered prior to making a commitment;*

*Central Elementary Engineering Report: Awaiting results and estimates on asbestos abatement;*

*Capacity Studies: These are a work in progress with administrators as plans evolve for student placement and changes in enrollment;*

*District Project Direction for 2011-2012 : Discussion in this area was lengthy and centered around the possible West Side addition, improvements to Central within the next two years to make it usable, and the need for staff housing; and*

- Trustees are scheduled to meet with the County Commissioners December 13, 2011 at 3:30 PM.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: December 5, 2011***

Ms. Dey reviewed committee discussion topics:

- The November claims and October financial reports were reviewed;

- Enrollment continues to change daily;

- The Montana Quality Education Coalition will meet in Helena on December 19th;

- Attendance agreements are on the consent agenda;

- Approval has been received from OPI to continue with the budget amendment process due to unanticipated enrollment increase greater than 6% in the elementary district, This item is on the Consent Agenda;

- Impact stipends were given to employees today at the appreciation dinner. Classified personnel surveyed voted for an impact stipend and HRA 2 to 1 over just the HRA;

- The Interdistrict Agreement process for 2011-2012 will begin with Trustee approval tonight; and

- The interview schedule for the Trustee candidates was set to follow the meeting this evening.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: December 6, 2011***

Mr. Thiel expounded on committee topics:

- The meeting was held at the high school continuing with a work session with Career and Technical Education staff started last month. Trustees were pleased with this process;

- Meetings continue in the area of higher education. The ITV Lab will have updated equipment which will facilitate use by the university system. Work is progressing on possibly working with oil companies to provide oil field work related training and meetings continue with the various universities in an attempt to get these educational opportunities up and running;

- The Safety Committee continues with its annual policy review;

- The first drug dog search of the year was conducted at Sidney Middle School; and

- Board policy review of Sections 3000-5000 will begin next month.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resignations**

- Jami Fink – Special Education Aide

- Christina Adams – Food Service

- Brian Tiesen – Middle School Boys Basketball

**New Hires**

- Charlie Clock – Special Education Aide- Job Share with Brittany Russell @ West Side

- James Meissel – Middle School Boys Basketball Coach

- Brad Faulhaber – Middle School Boys Basketball Coach

- Matt Weber – Elementary Boys Basketball Coach

**2011-2012 Student Attendance Agreements**

Table 1: Attending Sidney Schools

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name: | Grade | Parent | Request | Dist |
| Durand, Charity | 11 | Stephanie Taggaart | Parent | Williston |

Trustees approved the out-of-district agreements for students to attend Sidney Schools with no tuition charged on the parent requests;

**2011-2012 Video Surveillance Policy#3235 – 2nd Reading and Adoption**

- To enable the use of cameras and audio on district buses with notification to the public

**2011-2012 Interdistrict Agreement Hearing**

- Sets public hearing date for consideration of adoption of agreement as January 9, 2012 at the regular Board meeting;

Ms. Dey moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mrs. Cooley seconded the motion which passed 5 to 0.

**2011-2012 Unanticipated Enrollment Budget Amendment Public Hearing**

- Approval to proceed received from the Office of Public Instruction

- Amount approved: $601,000.00 – State assistance of $133,603.61 and general fund reserves of $467,396.39

*-* Purpose of: *salaries and benefits for additional special education, Title and regular education staff; replacement, repairs and asbestos abatement to Central School in preparation for transferring grades to the building; additional school food equipment (including lunchroom tables) and kitchen remodel/repairs and all associated costs at Central and Middle School to accommodate increasing student numbers; library materials, equipment and all associated costs for establishing another library site; classroom equipment, furniture and supplies; SmartBoards, computers and computer equipment for additional classrooms; textbooks; additional custodial help including services to re-locate grades and prepare rooms for occupation and custodial equipment.*

With no comments from those in attendance, the budget amendment enrollment was passed 5 to 0 on a motion by Mrs. Cooley and a second by Ms. Dey.

**Discussion Topic: District Staff Housing**

Mr. Hermanson introduced the topic expressing Trustee concerns with filling positions with no places for staff to live. This applies to anticipated need for a minimum of 10 additional staff members next year as well as the ability to retain classified staff due to their inability to find affordable housing. Mr. Thiel added that Sidney is the only high school district in Richland County that does not provide staff housing. Mr. Hermanson stated the District became aware of the availability of a four-plex in South Meadow on Friday. Mr. Farr toured the facility today and presented information on condition and estimated costs associated with the property. When asked by Mr. Hermanson, Mr. Farr stated he felt cost of needed improvements would add another $15,000 to $20,000 to the cost.

Discussion followed with the audience providing insight and offering suggestions. One stumbling block would be the Sidney Education Association and their take on the rent being set as “affordable” rather than at the going rate and keeping things equitable for all certified staff. Concern was expressed about becoming a landlord of an existing building with the possibility of serving notice of eviction on existing tenants. Concern was also expressed about the possibility of inheriting a maintenance nightmare that may cost the District more in the long-run. During the discussion, suggestions regarding possible alternatives to the housing issue that were brought forth will be looked into. The public is welcome to bring forth any ideas/suggestions to address this issue.

Following the discussion, Chairman Hermanson asked for a consensus of the Board on whether to pursue the purchase of the four-plex. Each Trustee expressed the desire to wait and look at other alternatives.

**School Board Trustee Vacancy – Virginia Oraw**

- Three candidates applied: Marty Casey, Serina Everett and Jeremy Norby

- Interviews were conducted. Closing statements were given by each candidate and all three candidates graciously volunteered to leave the room for deliberations. Trustee discussions ensued. Consensus was each candidate brings something unique to the table and all would do well as a Trustee. They were encouraged to run for the Trustee openings in May if they were not selected to fulfill Mrs. Oraw’s term.

Ms. Dey nominated Serina Everett to take the position vacated by Virginia Oraw and seconded by Mrs. Cooley. With no further nominations to come before the board, the vote was unanimous to seat Serina Everett.

Clerk Beyer administered the Trustee Oath of Office to Mrs. Everett and will file the certificate of appointment with Gail Staffanson, County Superintendent, in the morning.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk