January 16, 2012

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees scheduled for Monday, January 9, 2012 was postponed by the Chairman until Monday, January 16, 2012 at 7:00 PM in Room 104 of Central School due to a community/school tragedy. Present were Trustees Todd Hermanson, Kelly Dey, Dexter Thiel, Luann Cooley and Serina Everett. Also in attendance were Superintendent Farr, Clerk Beyer, High School Assistant Principal- Loretta Thiel, High School Principal- Dan Peters, , Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson, Sidney Elementary Principal-Sue Andersen and Student Representative Alexis Dynneson. Absent were Trustee Dennis Lorenz and Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator- Gary Arnold.

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Chairman Hermanson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed the visitors in attendance- SEA Representative- Barb Dornfeld, Chris Waters and Cheryl Peterson. 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 December 15, 2011 meeting and the December 2011 claim warrants 220037 to 220095 in the amount of $1,224,036.99. Mrs. Cooley seconded the motion which passed on a 5 to 0 vote.

The following warrants were canceled on a motion by Mrs. Cooley and a second by Ms. Dey. The motion passed unanimously.

District #220075 12/25/11 $270.00 HW Wilson Company Duplicate Payment

#220031 11/22/11 $405.00 MT Assn of Elem/MS Principals Paid in Group Billing

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

*From Drill Team to HS Library $ 30.00 Posters*

*From HS Yard & Garden to BPA $ 25.00 BPA Goodie Tray*

*From Trading Cards to Friends of Rachel $150.00 Donation*

*From Skills USA to Friends of Rachel $ 11.84 Posting Correction*

*From Wrestling to Talon $409.00 Purchase of Left-over food*

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr reported the following to the Trustees:

- Correspondence: Many thank you cards have been received from staff in regards to the staff meal, chamber bucks and impact stipend;

- Transfers: Lynette Mitchell from Food Services to High School to full time custodian; Dennis Anderson from full time custodian to half time custodian and Jeff Bowen from assistant girls basketball coach to head girls basketball coach;

- Recap of critical intervention response of the District to the disappearance of Sherry Arnold. Additional counselors from the surrounding schools, Altacare and Mental Health were brought in on Friday for students and staff. These counselors were available again today but conversations with building administrators indicate the additional help will not be needed the remainder of this week. The counselors have agreed to remain on call as needed.

In an effort to minimize the effect of the updates received regarding Sherry’s disappearance on Friday, a decision was made to dismiss school at 2:00 PM. Although the district did utilize the e-alert system and local radio stations, we did not reach 100% of the parents. Chris Waters contacted the District expressing concerns as his kindergarten daughter walked home on her own without parental knowledge of early dismissal and, fortunately her mother was there. Mr. Waters addressed the board regarding these concerns in the light of what has happened in our community. Mr. Hermanson agreed regarding the importance of the safety of our students. Mr. Farr assured all that what occurred on Friday would be revisited and a plan put in place so that does not happen again;

- 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

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: January 3, 2012***

Mrs.Everett outlined committee agenda items:

- Met with Pam Radke, School Food Supervisor

Dan Peters – HS Principal

Sue Andersen – WS Principal

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

- Work continues on board and classified evaluations; and

- Fall co-curricular contract renewals are on the consent agenda.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: January 3, 2012***

Ms. Dey presented highlights of committee discussions:

- Bus cameras working installation date;

- Central radio base has been installed;

- Route buses passed the second semester Department of Transportation inspections; and

- We need more activity drivers and look at recruiting additional drivers education instructors.

Mr. Thiel inquired about the safety issues surrounding the dropping off of students from extra-curricular events. Mr. Peters has a draft ready and the principals will review and make suggestions. IT will cover everything from dropping off students to picking them up.

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: January 2, 2012***

Mr. Thiel recapped Building and Grounds issues:

- Updates were provided to Trustees on the following projects:

*Warranty Checks on High School 300 Wing/Kitchen and Administration/200 Wing/Library projects;*

*Punch List for the High School 100 Wing project;*

*High School Parking Lots: Will remain on agenda until completion in spring;*

*Middle School Current and Proposed Projects: Warranty Checks on Phase I*

*Punch List on Phase II Project*

*Kitchen remodel*

*West Side Projects: Punch List on Remodeling/HVAC projects*

*Office Remodel*

*Expansion update;*

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

*Maintenance Staff Training on the HVAC systems at the high school and middle school were done the week after Christmas and were helpful for maintenance staff;*

*Capacity Studies:*

- 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

- Staff Housing.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: January 2, 2012***

Ms. Dey highlighted committee discussion topics:

- The December claims and November 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: January 3, 2012***

Mrs. Cooley reviewed 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**

- Elizabeth Mix – Elementary Special Education Aide

- Jessica Salveson – High School Special Education Aide

- Craig Bowen – High School Head Girls Basketball

**New Hires**

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**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 Interdistrict Agreement Hearing**

- Approval of Elementary District #5 to serve as prime agency with High School District #1 as cooperating agency;

- Amount approved: $1,227,980.30 to be transferring high school direct state aid to the elementary Interlocal Fund;

*-* 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 interdistrict agreement for 2011-2012 was approved 5 to 0 on a motion by Mrs. Cooley and a second by Mrs. Everett

7:33 executive session for a student.

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