December 9, 2013

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Monday, December 9, 2013 at 7:00 PM in Room 104 of Central School on published notice by the clerk. Present were Trustees Kelly Dey, Luann Cooley, Dexter Thiel, Dennis Lorenz, Craig Steinbeisser and Serina Everett. Also in attendance were Superintendent Dan Farr, West Side Principal-Jon Skinner, Central Principal- Brent Sukut, High School Principal- Sue Andersen, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson and Clerk Beyer. Absent were the Student Representative- Danny Johnson, High School Assistant Principal- Loretta Thiel and Curriculum Federal Programs Director- Thom Barnhart.

Chair Dey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and extended a welcome to the visitors in attendance: Bill Vanderweele with the Sidney Herald, Cara Lokken-Frandsen with the Sidney Education Association (SEA), Virginia Dschaak, Steve O’Toole, Hunter Severson, Ty Graves, Chistan Gomez, Heidi Severson, Jne DeFonzo, Kari Jones, Paul Quilling, Roger Merritt, Robert Severson, Chad Quilling, Vince McGlothlin, Stacey Collins, Leigh Merritt, Mark O’Toole, Guy Melby, Chris Wick, Bridger Coffman, Trent Schilling, Kyle Mueller, John Haraldson, James Haraldson, Darci Haraldson, Vickie Schilling, Jodi Mueller, Mary Pfau, Joy Barsotti, Ludmilla Keller, Jesse Nesper and Jace Sullivan. Ms. Dey reminded the audience that an opportunity for community comment on non-agenda items would be provided at the end of the meeting. She also asked that all in attendance be sure to sign in and anyone wishing to address the board regarding agenda items fill out the Audience Participation form and give it to the clerk to be recognized.

Mrs. Cooley moved to approve the November 11th minutes and the November 2013 claim warrants 221423 to 221494 in the amount of $437,476.96. Mrs. Everett provided the second and the motion passed 6 to 0.

Mr. Lorenz moved to cancel ASB Warrant # 19664 dated 11/14/13 to Electricland for $24.99 previously paid by District. ASB will reimburse the District. Also cancelled in the motion was ASB Warrant #19622 dated 10/22/13 to JOBS for MT Graduates for return of conference fees due to non-attendance by Sidney. Mrs. Everett seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

There were no Associated Student Body (ASB) transfers for December. The Trustees reviewed the monthly ASB report.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr presented the following items:

RESIGNATIONS

- Add Scarlet Wandler – Special Education Resource Room Aide at the High School to the Consent Agenda.

FACILITIES

- Freezing issues were dealt with over the weekend on the housing units at West Side. Mr. Farr expressed thanks to Jon Skinner in his assistance with this problem;

- Middle School experienced freezing pipes in the kitchen. It was discovered the heater installed during the re-model was never hooked up. Middle School is working with MTI and Frontier Heating on heating issues in the shop and FCS room on first floor;

- The first floor fuse box at the Middle School has to be replaced. Agri-Industries is working on this; and

- Tetra Tech will be at Central school on December 20th to being the first floor 1949 addition asbestos abatement. Estimated cost of this project is $29,978.00.

SM ENERGY - WILLISTON

- Will provide $5,000.00 grant to assist with District needs. Proposed projects include $2,000 for Title I tutorial after school support, $1000 for books for the Central library, $1000 for Mark Halvorson’s advanced biology class at the High School and $1000 for support of the new math curriculum – Math Expressions.

SPECIAL/CALENDAR NOTES

- Copies of the 2012-2013 annual report was given to the Trustees for their perusual; and

- Professional Learning Communities (PLC) will meet Wednesday from 6 to 8 PM on District-wide commitments or shared values. This will include development of District-wide goals focused on student learning.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

In the absence of a student representative, Trent Schilling volunteered the following information: Snowball dance is coming up; the Eagle Wrestling Invitational was held over the weekend and this week boys’ basketball plays Williston at home and girls play in Williston. Next week they flip-flop.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: December 3, 2013***

Mrs. Cooley impart the following information regarding committee discussions:

- Brent Sukut, Central Principal, and Jon Skinner, West Side Principal, reviewed how the school year is progressing and updated the Trustees on new Title programs underway concentrating on improving student reading;

- Mrs. Johnson reported on concerns with student/staff absenteeism. The Labor Management Committee is examining some possible ways to keep students at school and in their chairs;

- Vacancies were reviewed. Four new positions- 2 custodian, 1 technology support and 1 Title I tutor (½ time Central/½ time West Side are now being sought. New Hires and Resignations are on the Consent Agenda;

- Recommendations for fall co-curricular contract renewals were reviewed and discussed as Mr. Hall was in attendance. These positions are on the Consent Agenda awaiting action this evening; and

- Superintendent Evaluation/Contract will be on the January agenda with materials sent out in December.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE December 3, 2013***

Mr. Thiel highlighted agenda discussions:

- Problems with the bus camera are being addressed. The company had a tech person here to work on them in mid-November; and

- The history regarding bus fees was presented for the edification of the Trustees and was discussed. Present fee structures and ridership will remain as is.

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: December 2, 2013***

Mr. Steinbeisser shared the following information on committee agenda items:

- Repairs on the High School kitchen are complete at a cost of $17,500.00;

- Computers involved with the Middle School heating system are not talking to each other. Technicians will be here in mid-December to work with all custodians on systems;

- Awaiting appropriate weather to take pictures of the West Side roof to submit to the insurance company;

- Bids on the West Side sewage bypass system were gathered by Interstate Engineering- project cost is estimated to be $128,111.00. Approval has been received by the Department of Environmental Services. Working with the City and Robert Hansen on easements. Once spring arrives work will begin;

- Revisions were made to the proposed alternative delivery process as requested by Trustees and previous correspondence from County Attorney Weber with regards to the use of change orders to continue projects. The alternative delivery process will be used on the first floor 1949 addition to Central School. A few requests from the Trustees following review of the documents will be incorporated into them prior to use; and

- Trustees continue to work on the proposed CTE building. Request has been made for District/Board representatives to tour programs as local colleges to make sure this building encompasses possible expansions to the CTE program for students on that educational track.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: December 2, 2013***

Mr. Lorenz reported on the following agenda items:

- November claims, the county investment report and October financial and lunch reports were reviewed;

- 2013-2014 enrollment is holding steady although there have been 56/61 student ins/outs to date;

- The new special education bus has arrived, passed inspection and is in use;

- Dr. Farr contacted James Smith to see if he would head up the property and liability insurance bid process;

- MUST presented updates to the Insurance Committee regarding finances and the Affordable Care Act;

- A hand-out on the cost of the breakfast programs at West Side and the Middle School was provided;

- The second payment on the JD land purchase ($252,512.00) will be made January 1st;

- An information pamphlet prepared by MQEC was provided to Trustees for input. Mr. Farr will be attending the annual meeting in January and may attend regional administrator meetings on behalf of MQEC;

- Second quarter oil and gas receipts as well as second quarter concentric circle payments were reviewed. Initial pre-legislature discussions indicate a contingent of legislatures/government officials are in favor of removing the concentric circle piece which sunsets in SB 175; and

- Consent Agenda items include salaried staff impact stipends and the establishment of a Central Library ASB account.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: December 3 , 2013***

Mrs. Cooley recapped the following information on committee discussions:

- Current graduation requirements and class offerings were provided to Trustees for their review;

- Mr. Barnhart presented possible alternative plans for different graduation tracks- depending on student areas of interest. Concerns include depending on young people knowing what track they want to follow early in their high school correct;

- Fairview has made a request for a softball co-op. The District is waiting to hear from them;

- Professional Learning Committee (PLC) continues to meet regularly. They are working on group/meeting norms and a vision statement;

- Information on the alternative education program indicates 89 students have been served since its inception;

- Requested information on the Eagle Card Program was received. Suggestions from Trustees include tweaking qualifications/rewards annually to keep students interested in the program;

- Review of Sections D, E, F, G, H, I and J of the Safety Policy continues;

- Requested CTE information was also provided to Trustees including Advisory Group agendas, minutes and schedules for 2013-2014 as well as state vo-ed standards and program standards, course description handbook and program participant numbers; and

- Board Policy review begins in January. Trustees were reminded to pay particular attention to Section 1000 as it pertains directly to the Trustees.

Prior to the presentation of the Consent Agenda, Chair Dey gave those in attendance who had requested to address the board regarding football co-curricular responsibility do so at this time.

**Trent Schilling** recapped the season and spoke in favor of retaining the current coaching staff

**Hunter Severson** spoke about team improvements and spoke in favor of retaining the current coaching staff

**Vicki Schilling** spoke to the rumors/statements regarding the possibility of not hiring back current football coaching staff including a visit with the athletic director who had attended that there were two Trustees who were possibly not going to hire the staff back. She spoke strongly in favor of retaining the current football coaches.

**Kelly Dey** spoke to the process of hiring via the Consent Agenda, clarified remarks made in the paper regarding coaching concerns and to miscommunication regarding the previous week’s committee meeting where the Trustees sought information and answers to questions regarding the program.

**Dan Farr** spoke to the parent survey process and encouraged all parents to participate even if everything was positive as it was a tool used to allow public input into the athletic programs that assists Trustees in their decision-making.

**Virginia Dschaak** spoke in favor of retaining the current coaching staff utilizing statistics from the number of state championships in the different sports each of the coaches has been involved in over their tenure with the District.

**Guy Melby** spoke to the need for continuity in a coaching staff so that programs will grow and improve and in favor of retaining the current staff.

**Steve O’Toole** spoke to the need for parents to utilize the complaint procedures in place if there is a problem.

**Ty Graves** spoke from the perspective of a parent, coach and official in favor of re-hiring the current coaching staff.

**Roger Merritt** spoke to program concerns and encouraged students and parents to bring concerns to him to iron them out before they get to the public meeting stage. He spoke to the team’s record, improvements and the enjoyment of working for and coaching the students.

**Serina Everett** thanked the students for attending and expressing themselves to the Board as well as their participation in District athletics. She also commented on the miscommunication involved in this process, thanked all District coaches for their time and dedication to the students and their programs and stated there had been no malicious intent on the part of the Trustees and she looked forward to forging a better relationship with District coaches in the future.

**Luann Cooley** asked coaches to comment on a parental concern expressed about the inability of some students to take part in open gyms and/or summer programs and their fear of reprimand to the student. Mr. Melby stated that participation was generally a time management problem as students were afforded opportunities early morning and late evening as coaches accommodate as many as possible and students were not punished for non-participation. Jodi Mueller and Vicki Schilling gave personal testimony experienced by their sons for inability to participate and all the opportunities to choose from . Jen DiFonzo stated she makes allowances around athlete schedules as much as possible- the only negative for the non-participating student athlete is a need to catch-up on skills.

**Luann Cooley** also thanked the coaches for their time commitment and asked them to attend committee meetings where renewals are on the agenda for discussion.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resignations**

- Matt Weber – Elementary Boys Basketball Coach

- Scarlet Wandler – High School Special Education Resource Room Aide

**New Hires**

- Danielle Wilson - Elementary Special Education Resource Room Aide

**Establish a new ASB account entitled: Central Library**

**Approval of the Alternative Project Delivery for the first floor 1949 Central Addition remodel**

- Approve the detailed written finding for the Central project

- Authorize the superintendent and district clerk to work with Interstate Engineering for the purpose of remodeling and renovation of the 1949 first floor addition to Central school

**Approve a $750.00 Impact Stipend for Full-time Salaried Employees; Prorated for Part-time Employees**

**2014-2015 Fall Co-curricular Agreements**

***Football***

Roger Merritt – Head Guy Melby – Assistant Ruben Moreno – Assistant Chad Quilling – Assistant

Steve O’Toole – Assistant Jace Sullivan – Assistant Ty Graves – MS Co-ordinator Jim Thogerson – MS

Matt Whelchel – MS Zac Clayton – MS

***Volleyball***

Jennifer DiFonzo – Head Mary Pfau – Assistant Miranda Fehilly – Assistant Jenna Kagen – MS

Molly McLaughlin – MS Lacey Nevins – MS

***Golf Cross Country***

Jay Frank – Head Deb Prevost – Assistant Jay Borseth - Head

Mrs. Everett moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Cooley seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

**Communication from the public on non-agenda items:** None

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk