February 14, 2011

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, February 14, 2011, at 7:00 PM on published notice by the Clerk. Trustees present were Todd Hermanson, Luann Cooley, Kelly Dey, Dennis Lorenz, Dexter Thiel and Virginia Oraw. Also in attendance were Superintendent Farr, Clerk Beyer, High School Principal- Dan Peters, Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator- Gary Arnold, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson, High School Assistant Principal- Sue Andersen and Student Representative Hailee Tighe. Absent was Sidney Elementary Principal- Bill Nankivel.

Chairman Hermanson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. He began by welcoming the visitors in attendance- Bill Vanderweele with the Sidney Herald and Mark Halvorson with the SEA. The chairman reminded the audience 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.

January 2011 claim warrants 219313 t0 219411 in the amount of $1,265,786.79 and the minutes of January 10, 2011 were approved 6 to 0 on a motion by Mrs. Cooley and a second by Ms. Dey.

At the request of Clerk Beyer, Ms. Dey moved to add Petra Candee- Middle School Special Education Aide to the list of new hires in the December minutes. This was a late addition and missed making the minutes. Mr. Lorenz seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

Clerk Beyer presented warrant #219392 in the amount of $363.00 to Eastern A Music Festival to be voided. This warrant was returned with a request to make it out to Hardin High School- as they hosted the festival. The warrant was cancelled 6 to 0 on a motion by Mr. Lorenz and a second by Mrs. Cooley.

January ASB transfers were approved 6 to 0 on a motion by Mrs. Cooley and a second by Mrs. Oraw.

*From International Club to French Club $ 25.00 – Operation Smile postage/reimbursement concessions advisor*

*From MS Student Council to MS Friends of Rachel $1183.50 – Proceeds from Paper Chain Fundraiser*

*From Drill Team to BPA $ 35.00 – Signs*

*From Spokesman to Wrestling ASB $ 35.00 – Deposited into wrong account*

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr imparted the following information:

- Transfers for the 2011-2012 school year as per Board Policy 5210

 *Sue Andersen from High School Ass’t Principal to West Side Elementary Principal*

 *Linda Stevens from Middle School Administrative Secretary to Sidney High School Office Manager*

 *Maria Peters from High School Attendance Clerk to High School Administrative Secretary*

- Addition of Charles Couture – Food Service Van Driver and Patsy Lane- Food Service – Cook/Prep to the New Hires on the consent agenda;

- Superintendent Farr responded to the entire Education Committee providing requested reserve information and responding to misinformation and innuendo presented by Mr. Dan Villa of the Governor’s office following the testimony of Sidney Trustees at the committee hearing last week;

- Upcoming meetings and activities include:

 *Early release for curriculum/professional development on Wednesday, February 16, 2011;*

 *Negotiations are scheduled for February 24 from 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM in the Superintendent’s Office*

 *District 2C Boys/Girls Basketball Tournament will be held this week- Monday through Saturday at Sidney High School;*

 *Divisional Boys/Girls Class A Basketball Tournament will be held in Glendive the week of February 24- 26th;*

 *Superintendent Farr will be at the AASA conference in Denver Wednesday through Friday of this week; and*

 *The SEA Banquet will be Friday, April 29, 2011. Please let the office know if you plan to attend.*

- Katrina Wilhelm, senior at Sidney High School, represented Business Professionals of America (BPA) and Jobs for Montana Graduates (JMG) presenting information to the Trustees about a conference she attended for JMG in Washington, D.C. in November. She also explained the programs, her future plans and what membership in these organizations has meant to her.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

Hailee Tighe reported the following high school news and happenings:

- The Snowball was cancelled due to weather. The plan is to schedule a dance in the spring in the courtyard with a bubble machine;

- The High School talent show as December 22, 2010;

- Class C tournaments begin this week. Many groups are signed up for Talon; and

- The Student Council is looking into the MHSA Sportsmanship policy. They are conducting a survey of other eastern Class A schools as to whether they like the policy or would recommend changes.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: February 8, 2011***

Mrs. Cooley outlined the following committee topics:

- Supervisor reports:

*Michelle Monsen* – staff/student numbers + increase in students as new students enter the district;

*Sue Andersen* – brought Student Council members who talked about the AIM award they had received; and

*Dan Peters* – updated the Trustees on other high school happenings

- Vacancies were reviewed; Resignations and New Hires are on the consent agenda;

- A recommendation regarding food service salaries was reviewed. This item is on the consent agenda tonight. It was also reported that food service was fully staffed as of February 8, 2011;

- Alternative Education position salary review is on hold pending legislative action with budgets and oil & gas revenue;

- Interest Based Bargaining sessions are set for February 24th, March 16th and March 30th; and

- A decision on filing the annual Migrant Program application is on hold pending court decisions regarding the use of Round-up ready seed.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: February 8, 2011***

Mr. Thiel reported that we are awaiting the arrival of the new route bus.

***BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: February 7, 2011***

Mr. Lorenz summarized Building and Grounds agenda items:

- Roger Byer of B&B Builders and Dennis Deutsch of ABC Building Concepts

*- Updated Trustees on the punch list items and progress on current projects;*

*- Mr. Deutsch stated intentions of including the ventilation system update to the 500 wing at the high school as part of the 100 wing project. Superintendent Farr reminded him of the need for cost estimates on the ventilation system regardless of how the project proceeds;*

*- Discussed the upcoming Phase II of the Middle School Second Floor project. The consensus of the Trustees was to leave the auditorium as is – not to incorporate part of it in and attempt to enlarge the library area. Other options will be explored and remodel of the library may be put on hold;*

- B&B Builders has been recommended as the general contractor for both the West Side HVAC project and the high school 100 wing;

- No new information has been forthcoming from Kevin Howell with Verizon Wireless regarding the possibility of constructing a tower on school property; and

- The District has begun working on the three year asbestos report.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: February 7, 2011***

 Mrs. Oraw highlighted the following committee discussions:

- Review of the monthly clerk’s reports: the January revenue, expenditure, fund balance and lunch reports were conducted as well as claims review. It was noted that expenditures in the school food area were down slightly;

- A consultant, James Smith out of Bozeman has been retained to review and make proposals regarding the district’s request for proposals on facility, property and liability insurance. Trustees asked to have the consultant look into the need, the cost and a recommendation regarding facility liability insurance for non-school groups;

- 2011-2012 preliminary budget figures have not changed. The district is awaiting action by the legislature in regards to budgets, levy requests and oil and gas revenue. Members of the board testified on the Governor’s proposed budget- HB 136 in Helena this past week;

- The resolution authorizing the annual Trustee/Budget Authority election is on the consent agenda; and

- The Committee reviewed the MUST annual report. Discussions indicated health insurance increases nationwide are estimated at 11%.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: February 8, 2011***

Ms. Dey shared the following information:

- Sidney High School Principal, Dan Peters, presented possible changes to curriculum in the areas of science and world history;

- Kelly Johnson, Middle School Principal, sent information about returning to an eight period day at the Middle School;

- Discussions regarding remedial opportunities afforded high school students including PLATO, North Dakota Independent Study and Montana Digital Academy occurred;

- Dual enrollment and possible Masters program and continuing education classes continue to be a topic of interest following a regional survey to local schools;

- The Safety Committee plans to have the first reading of its policy revisions ready for the March meeting;

- The 2010-2011 Calendar Committee continues to hash out possible scenarios for the 2011-2012 calendar;

- Final review and input regarding MHSA 2011 proposals was conducted;

- The annual board self-evaluation was discussed; and

- Board policy review of sections 1000- 2000 continues.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resignations**

- Sue Sipper, OT/PT Aide effective 4/1/2011

- Holly Redman- HS Speech & Drama Coach at the end of 2011 school term

**New Hires**

- Emily Peterson – HS Special Ed Aide

- Lacey Norby – Job Share RN Position

- Dennis Anderson – MS Custodian

- Linda Martyn – Food Service

- Patsy Lane – Food Service – Prep

- Charles Couture- Food Service Van Driver

**2010-2011 Food Service Salaries**

- Add a tier split – 1) Cooks/Prep 2) Servers

- Add $.15/hour to the Cooks/Prep salary schedule retroactive to the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year

 *Affected Employees: Rose Couture, Patsy Lane, Misty Miller, Lynette Mitchell, Bobbie Nelson and Jenifer Verhasselt*

- Short-term solution with the intent of developing a long-term solution no later than June of 2011

**West Side HVAC Alternative Project Delivery Contract**

Award B&B Builders the general contractor position for this project. Applicants were: B&B Builders- Sidney, MT; General Contractors- Billings, MT; and Sletten Construction- Great Falls, MT. Interviews were conducted with B&B Builders and General Contractors prior to bid award.

**Sidney High School 100 Wing Alternative Delivery Project Contract**

Award B&B Builders the general contractor position for this project. Applicants were: B&B Builders- Sidney, MT; General Contractors- Billings, MT; Hardy Construction- Billings, MT and Sletten Construction- Great Falls, MT. Interviews were conducted with B&B Builders, General Contractors and Hardy Construction prior to bid award.

**2011 Trustee and Budget Authority Election Resolution**

- Mail ballot election set for May 3, 2011

- Elect 2 trustees for 3 year terms- The positions held by Mrs. Cooley and Mr. Hermanson are up

- Elect 1 trustee for 1 year term- Mr. Thiel is currently filling this position previously held by Jay Pfau.

- Possible additional levies for operation and maintenance of both Districts –Amounts to be determined dependant on the actions of the legislature

- Naming judges for the election and instructing the clerk to notify the County Clerk and Recorder as per law

Discussion followed on the hiring process for administration/leadership positions at which Mr. Hermanson and Mr. Thiel felt that the District transfer process was not complete enough- and expressed a desire for more community involvement in the process and/or more advance notice to trustees regarding transfer recommendations needed to occur. Mr. Hermanson expressed many times that he was 100% behind the transfer but felt that the Board should weigh in on such an important decision. Ms. Dey expressed confidence in the fact that the Board previously approved the hire of these individuals, if they were not doing satisfactory jobs- the community would let them know and this was a matter of assignment- a job she trusted the superintendent to do. Mrs. Oraw asked what action Mr. Hermanson would want done differently as the community has already had a say through the elected board members. She stated that she felt confident that the process was handled correctly. Mrs. Cooley added that while she understood Mr. Hermanson’s concerns, she was also comfortable process. Mr. Farr summed up the discussion by stating that the process of hiring for leadership positions could be looked at during Board policy review and any changes incorporated for future openings.

Following this discussion Ms. Dey moved to accept the consent agenda as presented. Mrs. Oraw seconded the motion. The motion passed 6 to 0.

Mrs. Cooley then moved to support and accept the transfer recommendations of the Superintendent in the transfer of Mrs. Andersen to West Side Principal; Maria Peters to High School Administrative Secretary and Linda Stevens to High School Office Manager. Ms. Dey seconded the motion which passed on a 6 to 0 vote.

At 7:55 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 the district clerk’s annual evaluation.

At 8:30 PM Chairman Hermanson reconvened the meeting.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

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 Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk