May 19, 2011

A special meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held on Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 7:00 PM in the office of the superintendent as called by the Chairman and posted by the District Clerk. Present were Trustees Todd Hermanson, Luann Cooley, Kelly Dey, Dexter Thiel, Dennis Lorenz and Virginia Oraw; High School Principal- Dan Peters and High School Assistant Principal- Sue Andersen.

Chairman Hermanson called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM and welcomed the visitors in attendance- Bill Vanderweele with the Sidney Herald, Barb Dornfeld representing the SEA, Roger Byer with B&B Builders, Dennis Deutsch with ABC Building Concepts, Virginia Dschaak, drill team members and parents community members in the cheer/dance team program. The chairman 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.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr reported the following to the Trustees:

- Correspondence received include a proposal from Verizon regarding the possible erection of a tower at the football field and a letter from the Department of Commerce providing clearance on the 2010 audit;

- Transfers for the 2011-2012 school year include: Kathy Roberts from High School Special Ed to Elementary Special Ed; Jessica Mathern-Netzer from Grade 1 to Kindergarten; Cara Lokken-Frandsen from Elementary Special Ed to Middle School Special Ed and Katrina Werner from Middle School PE to Elementary Special Ed and PE;

- Reply received from the OPI addressing Gary Schaff’s concerns regarding Roger Merritt’s extended day to all Career and Technical Ed staff and Mr. Peters at the High School;

- A copy of the annual safety report was provided; and

- Upcoming meetings and activities include:

  *Graduation is scheduled for Sunday, May 22, 2011 @ 2:00 PM;*

 *Interest Based Bargaining will be Monday and Tuesday, May 23 & 24th from 4:00 to 9:00 PM; and*

 *Montana Schools Boards Association will conduct a spring workshop at the high school on May 24th;*

 *Final day of school is Friday, May 27, 2011.*

**New Hires**

Ms. Dey moved to hire Terry Bolan as Middle School Counselor. Mrs. Oraw seconded the motion which passed 5-0 with Mr. Lorenz abstaining on this elementary issue.

**West Side HVAC/Remodeling Project**

Roger Byer and Dennis Deutsch reviewed the bids received on this project. Deducts have since been received from Olson Plumbing and Frontier lowering the cost. Bids were received as follows:

*Base Bid: $1,499,311.00*

*Alt #1: Remove/Replace existing classroom casework, wall finishes & accessories $ 123,092.00*

*Alt #2: Provide & Install additional doors $ 42,674.00*

*Alt #3: Provide & Install new lockers $ 33,663.00*

*Alt #4: Remove/Replace classroom sinks and faucets $ 23,821.00*

*Alt #5: Provide 1” insulation on heat pump and return piping $ 18,427.00*

Barb Dornfeld asked about project start date as well as moving requirements and what the lockers would be like. Roger Byer stated he would be a West Side after school the next day to review what needs to be moved for this project to begin.

Ms. Dey moved to proceed with the West Side project and to have the contractor and architect work with the administration to break the project into phases that will fit the available funding. Mrs. Oraw provided the second. The motion passed 5-0 with Mr. Lorenz abstaining on this elementary issue.

**2011-2012 MUST Health Insurance Renewal**

After meeting with representatives of Blue Cross/Blue Shield and the Joint Powers Trust, the Insurance Committee recommended the District stay with MUST for the coming year. While rates with MUST experienced a 12% increase, Blue Cross/Blue Shield was not able to offer a plan similar to the one currently utilized by 78% of the staff. Mrs. Oraw moved to renew the District health insurance with MUST. Ms. Dey seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

**2011-2012 Altacare Contract Renewal**

Annual renewal of this contract was approved 6 to 0 on a motion by Ms. Dey and a second by Mr. Lorenz.

**2011-2012 Budget Authority Levy Amounts**

Superintendent Farr recommended no levy be requested in High School District #1 and that $90,000.00 be requested in Elementary District #5 to get to maximum budget and help meet the operating requirements of the District. Ms. Dey moved to accept the recommendations of the superintendent. Mrs. Oraw seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

**Combination Drill/Cheer Team Program**

Superintendent reviewed the reasons for combining the drill team and cheerleading program and explained how the restructuring would occur. Chairman Hermanson asked anyone addressing this issue to be respectful, keep comments broad-based and speak to the program- not about individuals.

Jalyssa Gorder explained the position of the drill team on the proposed program re-structure, spoke in favor of retaining Ms. Dschaak in the position of head coach of the combined program and gave her viewpoint of the try-out session the previous week.

Julie Thies spoke in favor of retaining Ms. Dschaak in the position of head coach of the combined program.

Virginia Dschaak stated that the recommendation to combine the program had come from her after she and some of the drill team girls saw her daughter Brandi’s routines while attending the state wrestling tournament. She also spoke about the try-out session the week before and her perception of what occurred.

Lisa Gorder thanked Ms. Dschaak for her time with the program and her dedication to the girls. She spoke in favor of retaining Ms Dschaak as head of the program.

Tonya Schoepp spoke to the try-outs held the previous week and her concern that the cheerleading aspect of the program may be lost in the process as well as disagreeing with limiting the numbers of participants.

Luann Senn and Leann Strasheim spoke in support of Ms. Dschaak.

Sheri Williams voiced her support of Ms. Dschaak and expressed her concern that any change would take time to be successful. The process needs to be done the right way and with the right person to work.

Jeremy and Pam Wilcoxin and Dorene McDonald spoke in support of Ms. Dschaak to head the new program.

Cara Nelson spoke to the need for good balance of both the cheering and dance. She complimented those who worked with the Middle School program as this will serve as a feeder program in the future. If the board approves the program, it must have two to three years to get established.

Janet Thies and Heather McDonald spoke in support of Ms. Dschaak.

Ms. Dey commented on the great tribute to Ms. Dschaak shown by the support tonight, however, the reason we are here was not to hire the advisors for the positions but to decide whether or not to proceed with the program re-structuring. She, too, expressed concern about limiting participants.

Cara Nelson suggested the possibility of the coaching staff determining a varsity and junior varsity team to accommodate numbers.

Concerns regarding the try-out session and the presence of board member Luann Cooley on the panel were discussed by audience and board members. Superintendent Farr explained that he had made the request of both Ms. Dschaak as former drill team advisor and Mrs. Cooley as Middle School Cheer advisor to serve on the panel as the program had not yet been approved so no coaches/advisors were available to conduct try-outs and summer camps made it necessary to get the process started.

More discussion took place regarding whether the re-structuring should proceed including input from the current drill team girls in the audience.

Following the discussion, Mr. Lorenz moved to combine the drill/cheer teams. Mrs. Oraw seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

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 Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk