May 9, 2011

A special meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, May 9, 2011 at 6:30 PM in the office of the superintendent for the purpose of a student’s education plan. Present were the student, the High School Principal- Dan Peters, High School Assistant Principal- Sue Andersen; Superintendent Farr and Trustees Todd Hermanson, Luann Cooley, Kelly Dey, Dexter Thiel, Dennis Lorenz and Virginia Oraw.

Chairman Hermanson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and 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 a high school student’s education plan.

At 7:05 PM Chairman Hermanson reconvened the meeting. Mr. Lorenz moved to accept the recommendations of Mrs. Andersen and Mr. Farr with regards to the student education plan. Ms. Dey seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

The evening continued with the regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees All trustees were present. Also in attendance were Clerk Beyer, Superintendent Farr, Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator- Gary Arnold and Student Representative Ashley Cooley. Absent were High School Principal- Dan Peters; High School Assistant Principal- Sue Andersen; Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson and Sidney Elementary Principal- Bill Nankivel.

Chairman Hermanson welcomed the visitors in attendance- Bill Vanderweele with the Sidney Herald, Mark Halvorson SEA President, Jeremy Norby with Seitz Insurance; Dorene MacDonald and Gary Schaff . 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.

April 2011 claim warrants 219552 to 219583 in the amount of $141,538.18 and the minutes of April 11, 2011 were approved 6 to 0 on a motion by Ms. Dey and a second by Mrs. Cooley.

April ASB transfers were approved 6 to 0 on a motion by Mr. Lorenz and a second by Mrs. Oraw.

*From FFA to Resources Unlimited $ 16.00 Purchase of candy*

*From FFA to Talon $ 30.00 Popcorn & Oil*

*From MS Student Store to Talon $ 35.00 Purchase of Candy*

*From Athletics to BPA $ 123.00 Meals/Water Track Meet*

*From Talon as noted below: 2010-2011 Profit Share*

BPA $660.00 Close-up $360.00 Drill Team $ 180.00

FFA $480.00 Freshman $600.00 Girls Basketball $ 210.00

HS Friend of Rachel $480.00 International Club $ 90.00 Juniors $ 570.00

Key Club $480.00 Leo Club $630.00 MS Friends of Rachel $ 720.00

MS FOR/CIA $270.00 National Honor Soc $840.00 Seniors $1320.00

Softball $810.00 Sophomores $510.00 Skills USA $1380.00

Speech/Drama $270.00 Student Council $240.00 Trading Cards $ 210.00

Vocal ASB $180.00 Volleyball ASB $600.00

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr provided the following updates:

- Thank you notes were received from Wanda Tofte and Lynn Donvan. Mary Pfau sent communication commenting on the positive experience and behavior of Sidney students on the national BPA trip;

- The transfer of Chad Quilling from Middle School Football to High School Football for 2011-2012:

- Add the resignations of Katrina Werner- Elementary Boys Basketball and Middle School Track; and Bryan Riedmann- Transportation Assistant to the Consent Agenda;

- Add an out of state field trip request for Mr. Halvorson’s 8th grade science class to the North Dakota badlands to the Consent Agenda;

- Distributed an updated Oil and Gas Report reflecting 4th Quarter May monies received; and

- Upcoming meetings and activities include:

 *The next Montana Quality Education Coalition meeting will be Monday, May 23, 2011;*

 *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;*

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

 *The final Day of School is Friday, May 27, 2011.*

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

Ashley Cooley shared the following high school news and happenings:

- Graduation is nearing and all are excited. The Senior Luncheon is scheduled for May 11th;

- The plans for a bubble dance to replace the Snowball have been altered to a semi-formal;

- Students have returned from Jobs for Montana’s Graduates, BPA and State Music competitions. Ashley was a JMG competitor and placed third out of 20 in the interview competition;

- A/P testing and senior semester tests are wrapping up this week; and

- No responses have been received from other communities on the subject of school spirit.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: May 3, 2011***

Ms. Dey outlined the following committee topics:

- Supervisor reports:

 *Michelle Monsen – Special Education Director,* updated trustees on program numbers, staffing needs and impact of new students to the district needing personalized help*;* and

 *Gary Arnold Federal Programs and Testing Coordinator and Lynn Obermeyer, Title 1* provided a summary of the summer math program;

- Vacancies were reviewed; Resignations, New Hires and Classified and Certified Contracts are on the Consent Agenda;

- Discussion continued on the Athletic/Activities Director position. The debate is whether to make it a full-time position. The Superintendent’s recommendation is to keep the position ½ time with added assistance from high school office staff and the possibility of adding an assistant if necessary;

- Alternative Education and Food Service staff salaries will be reviewed now that the legislature has adjourned; and

- The next interest based bargaining sessions are set for May 23rd and 24th from 4:00 to 9:00 PM.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: May 3, 2011***

Mr. Lorenz reported that the new small bus has arrived and changes to the federal communication regulations with regards to radio bandwidth means a complete change in the radio systems utilized in the route buses.

***BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: May 2, 2011***

Mr. Thiel highlighted Building and Grounds discussions:

- Roger Byer of B&B Builders and Dennis Deutsch of ABC Building Concepts attended the meeting to provide information and updates on the following:

*High School 100 wing remodel;*

*Punch list items in the High School 200 and 300 wings will be addressed as soon as school is out;*

 *Parking lot repairs will be completed this summer;*

 *Bid requests from sub-contractors are due this week on the West Side HVAC system;*

 *The contract for the continued remodel of the Middle School second floor has been signed. Additional information regarding alternatives and prices for correcting problems in the food service area of the Middle School has been requested.*

- Trustees are concerned about the roof and foundation water issues at West Side. Alternatives for correcting this problem will be explored*;*

- Superintendent Farr provided more information on the sidewalk work to be done by the state on Central Avenue at the Middle School site; and

- A request has been made to establish a dog walking park at West Side school. More information regarding upkeep was requested.

Gary Schaff, Vo-Ag teacher, asked about the ventilation in the 500 wing. Trustees told him this was part of the 100 wing project and should be completed this summer. Mr. Schaff stated that he had not seen plans for this system. Mr. Farr said he had plans that could be looked at.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: May 2, 2011***

 Mrs. Cooley summarized the following committee agenda items:

- Review of the monthly clerk’s reports: April revenue, expenditure, fund balance and lunch reports were conducted as well as claims review;

- Property-Liability Insurance carrier is on the Consent Agenda;

- Bids on Workers Compensation insurance have been requested;

- 2011-2012 preliminary budgets in relation to levy election requests and oil and gas numbers with the passage of Senate Bill 329 were discussed;

- The Insurance Committee will meet with another provider this week. Committee carrier recommendations will be presented at the special meeting on the 19th;

- School district fees and charges were discussed with changes on the Consent Agenda; and

- District staffing for 2011-12 combined with anticipated enrollment fluctuations and possible needs were discussed.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: May 3, 2011***

Mr. Thiel recapped the following agenda discussions:

- Kelly Johnson, Middle School Principal, recommends a change from a 7 to 8 period class schedule for 2011-12 to accommodate class sizes;

- The state Migrant Director is anticipating the operation of a small program in Sidney;

- The Cheer/Drill Team proposal is on the Consent Agenda

- 2011-2012 school handbook changes are on the Consent Agenda for first reading; and

- Board policy review continued with second reading and possible adoption on the Consent Agenda tonight.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**New Hires**

- Teresa Stedman – High School Attendance Clerk

**Resignations**

- Kodi Fischer- Nursing Services

- Jonathon Skinner – Assistant High School Football Coach

- Jessica Wiese – Special Education Teacher

- Teresa Pedersen – Elementary Teacher

- Jarrod Miotke – High School Physical Education Teacher

- Katrina Werner – Elementary Boys Basketball and Middle School Track

- Bryan Riedmann – Transportation Assistant

**2011-2012 Co-curricular Responsibility Agreements – Drill/Cheer Team Advisors**

Non-renewal of Drill Team Advisor – Virginia Dschaak; Cheerleading Advisors – Karla Rindahl and Tammy Larson due to program restructuring for the 2011-2012 school year;

**2011-2012 Certified and Licenses Contract Renewals**

*TENURED STAFF FOR CONTRACT RENEWAL*

Dawn Anderson-Biebl Sherry Arnold Thom Barnhart Nikki Berube

Tammy Beyer Bernie Braden Janet Brannan Linda Clark

Lynn Donvan Barbara Dornfeld Virginia Dschaak Lynette Farr

Brad Faulhaber Caryn Fehilly Nicole Franklin Mike Gear

Yvonne Gebhardt Dawn Greenwood Roberta Hall Mark Halvorson

Darci Haraldson Carol Hearron Kim Hermanson Tammy Hermanson

Sandra Jepsen Becky Kallevig Lori Keenan RaeAnn Klose

Jeanne Lang Staci Lange-Rice Mary Leibach Tammy Leland

Tammy Linder Jennifer Lovegren David McDonald Joy-Lyn McDonald

Sherry McMorris Guy Melby Synneva Meldahl Roger Merritt

Jodi Mueller Lynn Obermeyer Cindy Osland Steve O’Toole

Mary Pfau Deb Prevost Kathleen Roberts Janet Safety-MacDonald

Sue Satra Gary Schaff Greg Schell Marv Schulz

Nicole Simonsen Jon Skinner Janet Spracklin Elaine Stedman

Sandy Sullivan Beth Thompson Cindy Wagner Katrina Werner

Patti Wheeling Cathy Wieferich

*NON-TENURED STAFF FOR TENURE CONTRACT RENEWAL*

Marnee Averett Bill Clark Stacey Collins Jennifer DiFonzo

Megg Hermanson Tracy Kessel Jessie Lofthus Cara Lokken-Frandsen

Ruben Moreno Holly Redman

*NON-TENURED STAFF FOR CONTRACT RENEWAL*

Jill Albertson Malcolm Cain Erin Fontana Robyn Heck

Jessica Mathern-Netzer

*LICENSED STAFF FOR CONTRACT RENEWAL*

Lisa Abell-Christensen – Speech Therapist Geri Allmaras-Willer – Speech Therapist

Michelle Monsen – Special Ed Director Duane Pust – Psychologist

**2011-2012 Extended Year Contracts**

Thom Barnhart – 10 Days – High School Guidance Elaine Stedman – 5 Days – Publications (Annual)

Roger Merritt – 6 Days – Shop Maintenance

**2011-2012 Classified Staff Contract Renewals**

Alicia Clayton Leigh Merritt Nancy Vaira Rhonda Hunter

Nanette Ruffatto Corrine Crowe Lacey Nevins Dennis Anderson

Chuck Buxbaum Jon Getchell Sheila Izler Brenda Kiamas

Lenny Larson Karen Moermann Richard Munoz Terry Panasuk

Kenny Vannatta Keith Walla Pam Radke Molly Cook-Fine

Charles Couture Rose Couture Patsy Lane Mary Lake

Lynette Mitchell Bobbie Nelson Pam Thiel Jenifer Verhasselt

Judy Wood Lori Alexander Shelly Averett Jami Fink

Cathy Fischer Cheryl Hansen Lynette Hoon Susan Iversen

Kelsey Jensen Marilyn Lorenz Cheryl Mastvelten Elizabeth Mix

Cindy Perez Emily Peterson DelRae Steinbeisser Halie Sunwall-Simmons

Amanda Reynolds Nicole Johnson Tara Skaar Wamda Tofte

Louise Wraith Tamara Haase Bobbi Jo Hackman Sandy Rehbein

Maria Jensen Ann Nagle Bonnie Osborne Myrna Paulson

Linda Stevens Maria Peters Carla Verhasselt Rick Verhasselt

Teri Anvik Carla Berg Charles Cummings Tami Edinger

Louise Iversen Shelly Moran Rhonda Peterson Bryan Riedmann

Steve Yockim Ken Stennes Sean Simmons

**2011-2012 Curriculum and Activity Program Offerings**

*Class Changes required for Graduation*

1) World History moved from freshman to sophomore year

2) Computer Applications I required for graduation

*New High School Offerings*

Advanced World History (1 credit) Grade levels 9 or 10 World Problems (1/2 credit) Grade levels 10-12

Leadership (1/2 credit) Grade levels 9-12 Street Law (1/2 credit) Grades levels 10-12

Advanced Photography (1/2 credit) Grade levels 10-12

*Middle School Class Period Bell Schedule=* From seven class periods per day to eight periods per day

*Combination Cheer and Dance Team*

Restructure current drill team program and fall/winter cheerleading program into one program in an effort to increase the number of cheerleaders, build school spirit and maintain a quality dance performance group. Restructuring would result in a Flag Corp, Cheer Squad and Dance Group

**2010-2012 School Lunch Prices and Activity Fees**

*Lunch Prices:* 2010-11 Adult: $3.65 K-5: $2.35 6-12: $2.65

 2011-12 $3.80 $2.50 $2.80

*Participation Fees:* Change grades 6-8 to be $45.00 per year (Raises Grade 6 from $30.00 to $45.00)

**2011-2014 Building Liability Insurance Premium**

Two proposals were received – Western States bid $58,790.00 and MSGIA $72,767.00. As per the recommendation of James Smith, independent consultant, the proposal received from Western States in the amount of $58,790.00 for the 2011-12 year was approved with the next scheduled review to be January 2014

**2011-2012 Student Handbooks – First Reading**

**2011-2012 Board Policy Revisions – Second Reading and Adoption**

(REV) BP 1420—School Board Meeting Procedure-clarifies rescinding of a motion by trustees.

(REV) BP 1512—Conflict of Interest—clarifies some of the questions regarding nepotism.

BP 2170 and BP 2170P—Digital Academy Classes-Policy intended for Districts that offer access to Montana Digital Academy Classes. Because of availability of (dual credit, unique course offerings, etc), blending of BP2170/2170P with current district policies with revisions to BP 2168, 2410 and 2410P

(REV) BP 3310-Student Discipline—Reference a new synthetic cannabis known as “K2” and “Spice” marketed as incense and smoked by users. New language to address chemicals having the same effect as illegal substances even if technically legal.

(New) BP 3111- Separates firearms and weapons from BP 3310 and further clarifies federal and state codes.

(New) BP 3415-3415P-Management of Sports Related Concussions- two policies that are recommended by MTSBA for management of sports related concussion injuries.

(REV) BP 5122F-Authorization to Release Information, Including Consent to Fingerprint and Background Check Compliance of policy with Department of Justice processes and for upcoming audits of applicant fingerprint card processing. Set parameters for working for the District before reimbursed for expense of fingerprint/background check.

(REV) BP 5226—Drug-Free Workplace –clarifying language concerning employees who possess a medical marijuana card. Possession of a card by an employee is not a defense. New language to line 11.

(REV) BP 5255—Disciplinary Action—simply adds a legal reference concerning the Johnson Vs. Columbia Fall Aluminum Co., LLC, case allowing employers to discipline (up to termination) for an employee who reports to work under the influence of marijuana. Also includes references to possession of a firearm by any employee.

(REV) 5328—Eligibility for Family Medical Leave-clarifies definitions and amount of time that can be taken in certain instances.

(REV) BP 8123—Driver Training and Responsibility-Change is a simple reference to the Montana Medical Marijuana Act and the district needs to review this policy as related to mandatory drug testing.

(REV) BP 8450—Automated External Defibrillators—simple language change concerning person designated to supervise the program—not always a physician.

(REV) Renumber current BP 8421 be renumbered to BP 8440

**Out of District Field Trip Request**

- Approve First Grade to Minot zoo the end of May

- Approve Mr. Halvorson’s 8th grade science to the North Dakota badlands

Ms. Dey asked if change can still be made to the handbooks prior to adoption and was told yes. She also voiced concerns regarding the combined cheer/dance team. The accompanying recommendation letter from Mr. Gear appears to limit the number of participants and is not clear on the method for choosing the team. Mrs. Cooley concurred with the concern expressed regarding limiting the number of participants.

Gary Schaff, Vo-Ag instructor, questioned Mr. Merritt’s extended day contract – how the time is reported to the Office of Public Instruction and what equipment maintenance he was to perform to fulfill this contract. Superintendent Farr stated that we had received a reply from OPI last year when the concern was raised about the extended day contract, however, as Mr. Schaff had checked with a different contact at OPI, the District would once again ask for clarification in this area. Mr. Schaff was instructed to turn in maintenance needs in his department to both Mr. Peters and Mr. Merritt. Mr. Schaff also expressed concern regarding the increase in Middle School participation fees. He questioned the division of these funds and asked for a more equitable distribution of the funds to all groups.

Jeremy Norby, representative from Seitz Insurance thanked the Trustees for the opportunity to bid on District liability insurance coverage. On an unrelated item, he also voiced his dislike for mail ballot elections. It is his opinion that this type of election does not allow for an informed electorate. He feels no research is required by the voter- the ballot comes in the mail and the voter chooses a box. A polling place election will result in those voting who are concerned and informed. Chairman Hermanson thanked him for his viewpoint and stated the levy election was already in place as a mail ballot but the process could be reconsidered in the future.

Following the discussion, Ms. Dey moved to remove the combination of the Cheer/Drill Team from the consent agenda until questions and concerns are identified and explained. Mrs. Cooley seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

The consent agenda was approved as amended 6 to 0 on a motion by Mr. Lorenz and a second by Ms. Dey.

At 8:23 PM Chairman Hermanson announced that this is the time set for an executive session to discuss litigation strategy in the lawsuit brought by Janet Faiman against the School District. The Schools District’s counsel, Jeff Weldon of Felt, Martin, Frazier & Weldon, P.C. will address the Board in executive session via telephone. As presiding officer, I have determined that the following discussion relates to a matter of litigation strategy which, if held in open session, would have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the School District. Under these circumstances, Montana Law [MCA 2-3-203(4)(b)] permits me to close this meeting, which I will do at this time. I ask that all persons present other than the Superintendent leave the room.

Chairman Hermanson reconvened the meeting at 8:36 PM. Ms. Dey moved that the confidential settlement agreement that was reached between the School District’s insurer and Janet Faiman be approved. No School District dollars will be contributed to this settlement, and all claims will be released against the District. Mr. Lorenz seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0,

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41 PM.

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 Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk