November 11, 2013

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Monday, November 11, 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, High School Assistant Principal- Loretta Thiel,West Side Principal-Jon Skinner, Student Representatives Ariana Gaskin and Jordan Baxter and Clerk Beyer. Absent were High School Principal- Sue Andersen, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson, Federal Programs and Curriculum Director- Thom Barnhart and Central Principal- Brent Sukut.

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), Jordan Mayer and the following high school students: Colin Moran, Nicole Monsen, Peachlyn Simons, Johren Carpenter, Bryana Christensen, Aubrey Kessel, Hunter Severson, Hailey Steinbeisser, Jared Steinbeisser, Autumn Larson and Logan Peterson. Ms. Dey reminded the audience 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 items were asked to fill out the Audience Participation form and give it to the clerk to be recognized.

Mrs. Cooley moved to approve the October 14th regular meeting minutes and the October 2013 claim warrants 221347 to 221422 in the amount of $1,078,988.68. Mrs. Everett seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0

Mr. Lorenz moved to cancel ASB Warrant # 19615 dated 10/22/13 to MF Athletic for $1,244.00. This bill had previously been paid by the Activities Director with a p-card. The motion passed 6 to 0.

Associated Student Body transfers were approved 6 to 0 on a motion by Mrs. Cooley and a second by Mrs. Everett:

Cheer/Drill Team to Volleyball $20.00 Purchase of Pack the Place in Pink t-shirts

Yard & Garden to FCCLA $20.00 Gift Certificates

MS Student Council to Resources Unlimited $77.00 Balloons

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr updated the Trustees on the following items:

FACILITIES

- Repairs of the truck damage to the kitchen garage at the high school are complete;

- Meeting with Safetech/Tetratech is set for Wednesday at 11 AM regarding asbestos abatement for the 1949 first floor addition of Central;

- Lowell Cutshaw with Interstate Engineering will meet with Mr. Farr at 1:00 PM on Thursday to discuss the proposed CTE project at the High School and first floor project at Central; and

- The District received a letter this week asking for an school impact statement if Sunrise Motel/RV Park were to add 12 trailers, 20 RV spots and 50 additional motel units.

STAFF RECOGNITION

- Elaine Stedman has been selected Montana Business Educator of the Year. She also submitted a grant resulting in two Samsung Galaxy Tabs and is one of five finalists for a $20,000 tech package;

- Kim Hermanson, Grade 2 teacher, was awarded a $5000.00 Continental Resources Grant for the advancement of academics at the classroom level; and

- Khrystye Earle, Title I Tutor, also received a $5000.00 Continental Resources Grant for the purchase of computers for the Title room at Central to enable classroom use of Successmaker.

SPECIAL/CALENDAR NOTES

- U.S. Department of Education granted Superintendent Juneau’s request for a waiver on state assessments. Districts will be required to administer the CRTs and alternates in science for grades 4, 8 and 10. However, AYP determinations from the current year will roll forward which will put two schools in year 3 and two schools in year 2 of not meeting AYP- this may affect federal grant funding and paperwork requirements;

- Fall activities are wrapping up. Winter activities officially begin November 21st for wrestling and November 25th for basketball. Final activity surveys will be available shortly;

- Thanksgiving break begins at noon on Wednesday, November 27th. No lunch will be served.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:**

Jordan Baxter and Ariana Gaskin, representing the high school student council were in attendance at the meeting. Student council activities include planning an early Snowball Dance since there was no homecoming dance and a pre-Christmas break talent show. When asked about the homecoming dance, Ariana replied that no DJ was available at the times the student body was interested in hosting the dance.

Both girls responded to questions about their experience in Student Council.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: November 5, 2013***

Mrs. Everett recapped committee discussions:

- Supervisor Pam Radke- School Food Services met with the committee and reported participation at the high school level has increased. The program continues to struggle with staffing issues.

- Mr. Barnhart- Federal Programs/Curriculum submitted a written report containing information on the Title I program as well as the completion of NWEA testing and dual credit progress; and

- Vacancies were reviewed. New Hires and Resignations are on the Consent Agenda.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE November 5, 2013***

Mrs. Everett provided information on the following agenda items:

- Transportation Supervisor, Rick Verhasselt, attended the meeting. He provided updates on routes, route ridership and mileage on all District vehicles;

- Awaiting a representative from the bus camera company to address non-working cameras and software issues that do not allow District administrators to view the tapes when working with discipline issues; and

- The new bus arrived at the end of last week.

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: November 4, 2013***

Mr. Thiel imparted the following information on committee agenda items:

- Kitchen garage repairs are complete. Mr. Steinbeisser asked if the fix was easy and where we stood with insurance. Mr. Farr explained what he knew of the process. He has requested a bill to forward to the insurance company and the adjuster never came on site- he operated from pictures sent over the internet;

- Middle School will be replacing a water heater in the kitchen area;

- Mr. Skinner is working with the contractor on completion of the West Side fence at the housing complex;

- West Side roof information was submitted to the insurance company due to hail/wind storms in August;

- Central second floor punch list items were reviewed;

- No news has been received on the Montana Department of Commerce Quality School Planning Grant application;

- Work continues on the high school CTE wing expansion. As noted above, meetings have been scheduled to continue the process;

- Discussed the proposed property business development west of West Side;

- The non-functioning pump in the sewer lift station has been replaced and should hold until the gravity line is installed- even if this is in the spring; and

- The 1949 wing on the first floor of Central is the next project slated to be completed. Research on temporary storage for items currently in that wing is underway. Hoping to begin asbestos abatement over Christmas break.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: November 4, 2013***

Mr. Thiel highlighted the following agenda item discussions:

- October claims, the county investment report and September financial and lunch reports were reviewed. The good news is lunch participation at the high school has increased substantially. When students in attendance were questioned about this, factors determined to influence this are: 9th graders with no drivers licenses, colder weather making the trip to Super Pumper a challenge and less expensive to eat at school;

- 2013-2014 enrollment stands at 1310- a slight decrease from last month;

- Plans for the JD Land purchase have been finalized and papers signed;

- Obsolete property sale date has been finalized. Administrators are working with staff to determine property to be offered for sale;

- Dr. Farr will be attending the next Montana Quality Education Coalition meeting November 18th in Helena;

- District property and liability insurance will be up for bid in January;

- Preliminary conversations regarding the 2015 legislative session are underway;

- Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRA) for teachers who began teaching in Sidney during the 2012-2013 school year and who signed a 2013-2014 contract and returned to teaching this fall are eligible for the $1500.00 HRA paid to certified staff in June per a Memorandum of Understanding with the SEA. This is on the Consent Agenda this evening; and

- Ms. Dey asked if a meeting had yet been arranged with Mr. Vogele and Mr. Melton from MTSBA. Mr. Farr stated he continues to work on scheduling this.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: November 5 , 2013***

Mr. Steinbeisser shared the following information on committee discussions:

- School Effectiveness Reports for the district are complete and have been submitted to OPI;

- A request has been made for the CTE (Career and Technical Education) advisory agendas, minutes and schedules;

- Mr. Farr presented information regarding the Common Core umbrella standards for English/Language Arts;

- Discussion on the Eagle Card program was postponed;

- The District has to show its principal/teacher evaluation process is aligned with state requirements;

- Articulation agreements are in place with Williston State College and Miles City Community College for dual credit classes to begin second semester. Discussions are underway with progress being made with the University of Montana, MSU-Billings and Dawson Community College;

- Safety Committee and Trustees have begun review of Sections D, E, F, G, H, I and J of the Safety Policy;

- No official request has been received from Fairview Schools regarding a softball co-op. Receipt of this request is anticipated at a future date; and

- Mrs. Cooley reported she had attended the meeting held with parents, students and teachers with regards to dual credit opportunities soon available in the District. The meeting was well attended and the response of students has other teachers considering offering their classes for dual credit.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resignations**

- Tamara Haase – Pre-school Special Education Aide

- Stacey McNally – Middle School Girls Basketball Coach

**New Hires**

- Cinde Wiseman – Food Service Hot Cook

- Pam Hansen – Pre-school Special Education Aide

**Health Retirement Arrangement (HRA)**

$1500.00 for 2012-2013 first year teachers who signed contracts and returned to teach in 2013-2014 as per MOU

***High School:*** Crystal Weltikol, Elizabeth Kleinke, Peggy Strupp and Kilee Sundt (.5) ***Total: $5,250.00***

***Elementary:*** Debbie Denowh, Kilee Sundt (.5), Miranda Fehilly, Molly McLaughlin, Darla Pust, Jace Sullivan, Colleen Zimmerman, Aleah Rosaaen, Lorraine Allen, Tamara Johnson and Amy Larson ***Total: $15.750.00***

Mrs. Cooley moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Mrs. Everett 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 8:30 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk