**April 13, 2020**

A regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Monday, April 13th, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Administration Office, 101 South Central Avenue on posted notice by the clerk. Present were Trustees Ben Thogersen and Jon Marker. Also in attendance were Superintendent- Monte Silk, Clerk- Nicole Beyer. Present via Google Meet: Kelly Dey. Present via conference phone: David Seitz, Randy Iversen, Lisa Gorder and Craig Steinbeisser. Absent was: Trustee- Alex Villegas.

At 7:00 PM Chairman Thogersen called the meeting to order no visitors were in physical attendance. Community Members were present via conference call and Facebook Live. Mr. Thogersen stated an opportunity for community comment on non-agenda items would be provided at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Marker moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held March 9th, 2020, the special meetings held March 17th, 23rd, 26th and 30th and the March Claims Warrants 232229 through 232267 in the amount of $228,175.38. Mr. Thogersen seconded the motion which passed 7 to 0.

Trustees reviewed the March Associated Student Body report. No transfers were requested.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Monte Silk**

**Resignations will be covered on the Consent Agenda**

**Transfers:**

- Ashley Copple – From West Side Grade 3 to Middle School Math

- Kylie Young – From West Side Grade 1 to Grade 2

- Sarah Beyer – From Central Grade 4 to Grade 3

- Rhea Christensen – From Central K1 to West Side Grade 1

- Taylor Condon – New teacher assigned to Grade 4

- Katlyn Winter – New teacher assigned to Grade 2

- Karen Lund – From Central K1 AM/Special Projects to Central K1 full-time

**Current Certified Staff Openings Prior to Possible Transfers:**

- Kindergarten (2) K2 & Possible K1 Grade 1 (1) Grade 2 (1)

- Library/Media (2) Title One (1)

**Enrollment: 1364 including pre-school numbers.**

**Spring Sports/Activities and MHSA Action**

- MHSA met on April 9, 2020, regarding the directive from the Governor to continue with shelter-in-place. This has created a delay until April 24th for spring activities

- It was decided that if the Governor extends the school closure beyond May 4th that spring activities/sports will be cancelled

- If school resumes prior to May 4, 2020, there will be only a five practice requirement for athletes

**Offsite Learning**

- Staff continues to prepare digital and paper/pencil learning as best fits the needs of students at each school

- High percentages of elementary students are engaged. High School is seeing three to five percent of students are

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: April 6, 2020 Ben Thogersen***

- The building principals and Michelle Monsen were in attendance to report on off-site learning at each of their buildings. Staff was complimented for their quick response to the need for distance learning

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

- 2020-2021 Certified Extended Staff Contracts are on the Consent Agenda for consideration

- 2020-2021 Licensed Professional Staff Contract Renewals and Salary are on the agenda tonight

- Chris Lee reported winter sports/activity renewals will be discussed at the May committee meetings

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: April 6, 2020 Ben Thogersen***

- Building Updates:

\* Central School

* McKinstry has provided an investment grade audit proposal for the HVAC project in the kindergarten/ 5th grade wings as approved by the Department of Commerce for pre-construction services

\*High School

* Weather and COVID-19 have affected timing for track striping
* Masonry wall resulting from a vehicle accident in January has not been repaired. This will be addressed as soon as the weather warms up

\*West Side Elementary

* West Side parking lot will be put on hold for this year due to the cost

\*Middle School

* Gym Bleachers have been removed by Corland Construction at a cost of $7,800
* Floor sanding is scheduled for June with bleacher installation to follow in July
* At this time, bleacher installation will take place in July or August. There are concerns that COVID-19 will slow the availability of steel
* Discussed the possibility of extending the gym into the old kitchen area to bring it to regulation out of bounds size. Trustees would like to see a quote
* Mr. Iversen requested the District proceed in getting a quote for cutting out the square at the entrance of the back door and slanting it out for safety reasons

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: April 6, 2020 Ben Thogersen***

- Clerk Financial Reports, County Investment Reports and the ASB Report for Febnuary were reviewed as well as March Claims

- Clerk Beyer updated Trustees on the election. The Trustees were comfortable with the suggested wording on the ballot requesting permission to purchase the old Stockman Bank. They also reviewed which elections would be cancelled by acclamation

- Mr. Silk provided current enrollment figures

- The Board reviewed the documentation provided by McKinstry showing year 1 verified energy savings of $32,020; above the guaranteed $28,852 for the lighting projects at all schools, Central Office HVAC replacement, HS Controls upgrade and Central ventilation upgrade

- 2020-2021 contract with Interquest Detection Canines is on the Consent Agenda

- The District is still awaiting workers compensation quotes from the Montana State Fund and the Montana Schools Group Insusrance Authority (MSGIA)

- Transportation Supervisor, Martin Morales, provided quotes pre-trade for a 77 passenger capacity route bus ($106,000) and an 83 passenger bus ($106,500). This item is on the Consent Agenda for discussion tonight

- Discussed the appraisal of $890,000 on the old Stockman Bank building and placed it on tonight’s agenda

- Information regarding the federal CARES act was provided to the Trustees

- A preliminary classified salary schedule for 2020-2021 was provided for Trustee information. Concern was expressed regarding the downturn in the local economy and proceeding cautiously with salary increases

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: April 6, 2020 Ben Thogersen***

- A curriculum update from Thom Barnhart was included in the packets

- Central Elementary and Sidney High School have been redesignated as Universal for ESSA purpsoes

- The payroll department created a COVID-19 form to help in determing applicable leave type for employees during the pandemic. A copy was included

- Labor Management Committee is scheduled for Thursday, April 9, 2020

**-** Board Policy review continues and policy changes/additions are on the agenda tonight

- Mary Pfau, SEA President, reported via conference phone that the Association has approved and signed the Memorandum of Understanding regarding COVID-19 as recommended by the MFPE and MTSBA

- A change to high school course requirements is on the agenda this evening

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**\* New Hires:**

- Tommy Baldwin – Grade 4 Teacher 2020-2021

New hires approved pending results of background checks and fingerprint clearances.

**\*Acceptance of Resignations**

Nic Cass – Middle School Cross Country Coach

Debra Denowh – West Side Librarian effective at the end of 2019-20

London Gordon – Middle School Volleyball Coach

Lukas Johnson – Middle School Math Teacher effective at the end of 2019-20

Alexandria Knowshisgun – 1st Grade Teacher effective at the end of 2019-20

Witni Eilson - 2nd Grade Teacher effective at the end of 2019-20

Lee Vandall – Middle School MTSS Specialist at the end of 2019-20

Kenny Vannatta – Middle School Head Custodian effective the end of May

**\*Renewal of 2020-2021 Extended Day Contracts**

Terry Bolan + 5 Days Counselor/Rgstrtn Linda Clark + 5 Days Counselor/Rgstrtn

Stacey Collins +10 Days Counselor/Rgstrtn/Srs Penny Filler + 5 Days Annual

Ted Fulgham +10 Days FFA Smmr Program Roger Merritt + 6 Days IA/Ag Equip Mntn

Mary Pfau + 5 Days Counselor/Rgstrtn Greg Schell + 5 Days Counselor/Rgstrtn

**\*Renewal of 2020-2021 Licensed Staff Contracts**

Sheridan Cotrell – Speech Therapist 173 Days 1 FTE $82,471.00

Jill Albertson – School Pyschologist 163 Days 1 FTE $61,200.00

**\*Renewal of 2020-2021 Contract with Interquest Detection Canines**

**\* Second Reading and Adoption of Proposed Changes to the Following Board Policies**

- Policy 3650- Montana Pupil Online Personal Information Protection Act: Addresses compliance with the new law governing contracts with vendors/providers to ensure student data remains securely stored and used for educational purposes

- Policy 3650F- Montana Data Privacy Agreement: Form provided to contracted vendors to ensure vendor accountability to the law for protection of student data

- Policy 5332- Maternity and Paternity Leave (MTSBA Policy 5330): Revised to address inconsistencies with law; specifically referencing paternity leave

- Policy 5430F- Volunteers and Chaperones Form: Revised to ensure comprehensive review of policies applicable to volunteer services

- Policy 7260- Donations, Endowments, Gifts and Investments: Reflects legislative action broadening authority and flexibility school district have over donated funds

- Policy 7520- Independent Investment Accounts: Expands authority to control school district resources separate from the County Treaurer as per Montana law

- Polciy 8225- Tobacco Free Policy: Ensures compliance with legislative action specifically prohibiting vaping devices on school district property

The Consent Agenda was approved 6 to 0 on a motion by Mr. Marker and a second by Mr. Thogersen.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA:**

**\* Graduation Class Requirement: Personal Finance**

- This will be phased in as a graduation requirement at Sidney High School:

* 2020-21 Junior Class will be required to take Personal Finance to graduate.
* It will be optional for 2020-21 Seniors
* It will be offered for dual credit
* Business Essentials, currently required for Freshmen, will be dropped as a required course

- This will be a unique requirement with Sidney High School being the first Class A school requiring this course

Mr. Seitz moved to approve Personal Finance as a required course for graduation for Sidney High School beginning with the Class of 2022 (2020-21 Juniors). The motion passed unanimously following a second by Mr. Thogersen.

**\* Removing Class Requirement for Business Essentials and Making the Class Optional for Students**

- This will open up an elective for Freshman which allows for expanded choices in the CTE area

Mr. Marker moved to make Business Essentials an optional course starting with 2020-2021 school year. Mr. Thogersen seconded the motion which passed 7 to 0.

**\* Extension of the Middle School Gym Floor**

Three possible options to consider

- Leave PE office as is and finish floor as already approved but replace volleyball sockets to even up the size of crosscourt playing areas. Sand and paint new lines

- Push office back to match 7 foot out of bounds area on the north side. This will keep four to five feet of storage available. The water heater would stay in the ceiling beneath the upstairs bleachers

- Remove office and extend the floor to the wall and remove the water heater above the office. Remove tile floor and put in same wood that is there now. Either move or enclose the sewer pipe that currently runs through that space. Estimated additional cost for this option could be between $20,000 to $25,000

These options can be done at a later date as the out of bounds area does not have to match the gym floor. Following discussion on cost, funding soures and a need for firm cost estimates, Mr. Steinbeisser moved to dely a decision to a later date pending the outcome of the election and the District finances. The motion passed 7 to 0 following a second by Mr. Marker.

**\* Purchase of 77-Passenger and 83-Passenger Route Buses**

Proposals for two new route buses were received from Bluebird. One is a 77 passenger bus at a cost of $106,000 and one is an 83 passenger bus at a cost of $106,500. District buses available for trade-in are a 2012 bus with 46,135 miles at $14,000 and a 2012 bus with 83,600 miles at $12,500. Rationale for the purchase of the larger capacity buses include continuing to keep the fewest number of routes possible as bus drivers are a rare commodity and the fact that a few of our buses currently run at or near capacity. Mr. Steinbeisser questioned utilizing trade-in amounts or selling the used buses outright. Mr. Silk explained the lack of interested buyers and the low selling price of the used buses sold last year. Following the discussion, Mr. Seitz moved to purchase the two buses as per quote minus the allotted trade-in amounts. Mr. Marker seconded the motion which passed 7 to 0.

**\* Purchase Offer on the Property at 101 S Central Ave (the old Stockman Bank building)**

- Reviewed the official appraisal for the property which was $890,000 as of March 19, 2020

- Mr. Seitz expressed concern regarding the comps used in the appraisal and fel that the $500,000 being considered by the Trustees to be a valid offer. He suggested tabling this item for a month to get past the election and the COVID-19 issues the District is currently facing

Following this discussion, Mr. Seitz moved and Mr. Marker seconded the motion to extend and offer of $500,000 to Mr. Coffee for the property located at 101 South Central Avenue known as the old Stockman Bank Building. The motion passed 6 to 1 with Mr. Steinbeisser voting against the motion.

Chairman Thogersen provided an opportunity for Community Comment on non-agenda items: None

**\* District Clerk Annual Evaluation**

At 7:50 PM Chairman Thogersen 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 7:59 PM, Chairman Thogersen reconvened the meeting.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk