**January 28, 2020**

A special meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Monday, January 28th, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Administration Office, 101 S Central Avenue on posted notice by the clerk for the purpose of discussion and possible action regarding the renewal of employment contracts of the 2019-2020 football coaches for the 2020-2021 school year. Present were Trustees Ben Thogersen, David Seitz, Lisa Gorder, Kelly Dey, Craig Steinbeisser, Randy Iversen and Jon Marker. Also in attendance were Superintendent- Monte Silk, Clerk- Nicole Beyer, High School Principal- Brent Sukut, High School Vice-Principal- Carl Dynneson and Activities Director- Chris Lee.

At 7:00 PM Chairman Thogersen called the meeting to order welcoming the visitors in attendance: Eric Gill with the Sidney Herald; Maria Peters, Duane Peters, Jason Schrader, Matt Buske, Steve O’Toole, Jillian Stanek, Danny Coryell, Kevin Clausen, Stacey Collins, Justin Collins, Libby Berndt, Kallie Berndt, Terry Bolen, Shannon Huges, Jerry Hughes, Sammie Nevels, Riley Thiessen, Ximena Rosas, Adam Smith, Nicole Enriquez, Deb Prevost, Railyn Herbst, Peggy Ann Strupp, Chad Jordan, Leigh Merritt, Roger Merritt, Terry Williams, Jodi Mueller, Mary Pfau, Shay Steinbeisser, Briana Villegas, Devin Bell, Katie Dasinger, Alex Villegas, Jerome Hoffman, Zachary Clayton and. Mr. Thogersen stated an opportunity for community comment on non-agenda items would be provided at the end of the meeting. He then reviewed the protocol that would be used tonight for public comment on the agenda item.

Superintendent Silk explained that two Trustees had requested a special meeting to address the tie vote regarding employment renewal of the 2019-2020 football coaches. Mr. Silk reminded Trustees that Mr. Sukut, Mr. Dynneson, Mr. Lee and he, himself, had recommended the renewal of these contracts at the January 13, 2020 meeting and stood by that recommendation tonight.

Mr. Seitz moved to renew the contracts of the 2019-2020 football coaches for 2020-2021. Mr. Iversen seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

Chris Lee, Activities Director, addressed the Board with his concerns regarding process utilized for the hiring/non-renewal of coaches. He again expressed his support of the football coach.

Jason Schrader asked the Trustees to listen to those present tonight.

Steve O’Toole stated he would like to hear from the football coaching staff prior to making his comments.

Roger Merritt reviewed his career and his coaching history. He asked the Trustees to reconsider renewing his contract for the head football coach position.

Danny Coryell spoke in favor of renewing Coach Merritt and spoke to his coaching experiences, including and the reputation of Sidney School athletics.

Mr. O’Toole then added his support for renewing the coaches.

Briana Villegas spoke of the positive influence the Sidney football program, particularly its coaches, had on her son and stated her support for renewing the coaching contracts.

Terry Bolen spoke in favor of renewing the football coaching staff.

Deb Prevost added her support for renewing the football coaching staff with a plea for everyone to look at the effect decisions have on the entire program.

Mary Pfau commented in favor of renewing the football coaching contracts.

Shannon Hughes spoke in support of the coaches and added her frustration regarding communication between Trustees and the AD throughout this process.

Jillian Stanek expressed appreciation to both Coach Merritt and Coach Melby for the support she received from them as she began her tenure as head volleyball coach.

Brent Sukut, High School Principal, talked about long-term plans for the football program. Mentoring processes for future coach replacement are currently in place in the football program and non-renewal could shake up this process and have a ripple effect across other sports. He also explained that the student survey process was started not as a coach evaluation tool but as a way to provide coaches with feedback to improve programs and to look for possible bullying or hazing.

Zachary Clayton expressed his support of the football coaches commenting on his Middle School coaching under Coach Merritt.

Carl Dynneson also stated his support of the coaches explaining his short tenure with the football program as a coach.

Leigh Merritt spoke in favor of the renewal of the coaching contracts and thanked the High School administration for their support of the program.

Katie Dasinger expressed concerns about utilizing student surveys as tools for program complaints rather than students using processes in place to address the issues with coaches and administration. She spoke in favor of renewing the contracts.

Matt Buske spoke in favor of renewing the coaches and student concerns as to how coach non-renewal could affect the Middle School program.

Mr. Thogersen called for the vote. The following football coaches were renewed for 2020-2021 on a four to three vote with Mr. Iversen, Mr. Seitz, Mrs. Gorder and Mr. Marker voting for renewl and Mr. Steinbeisser, Mr. Thogersen and Mrs. Dey voting against the motion.

Head Coach – Roger Merritt Assistant – Guy Melby Assistant – Chad Quilling

Assistant – Danny Coryell Assistant – Ty Graves Assistant – Jerome Hoffman

Middle School – Ryan Waters Middle School – Ethan Graves

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

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk