**March 11, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Monday, March 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM at the Administration Office, 101 S Central Avenue on posted notice by the clerk. Present were Trustees Ben Thogersen, Kelly Dey, Craig Steinbeisser, Randy Iversen, Dennis Lorenz and David Seitz. Also in attendance were Superintendent- Monte Silk, Clerk- Nicole Beyer, Student Representative- Jace Winter, Assistant High School Principal- Carl Dynneson, West Side Principal- Loretta Thiel, Central Principal- Sara Romo. Absent were: Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson, Curriculum/ Federal Programs Director- Thom Barnhart and High School Principal- Brent Sukut.

At 7:00 PM Chairman Thogersen called the meeting to order welcoming the visitors in attendance: Bill Vanderweele with the Sidney Herald; Jaime Writesel with Cucanic Construction and high school students Brandon Rasmussen, Trevor Dean, Ryan Wyman, Maddy Hammer, Katie Burgland, Abby Reitz, Julian Idoate, Ainhoa Idoate and Jonathan Gonzalez. Mr. Thogersen stated 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.

Ms. Dey moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held February 11th, 2019 and the February Claims #231564 through 231596 in the amount of $305,359.02. Mr. Steinbeisser seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

The January 2019 ASB report was reviewed and the following ASB transfers approved 6 to 0 on a motion by Mr. Lorenz and second by Mr. Iversen:

- $345.00 From 2C Basketball (158) To Boys Bsktbll (156) Duplicate transfer in 2015 found when conducting an internal audit of ASB

- $ 98.00 From Athletics (120) To Talon (126) Purchase for Refs- Gatorade/Water

- $ 44.50 From HS Library (107) To Talon (126) Purchase Left over product- AR Store

- $ 57.22 From MS Stdnt Council (211) To Talon (126) Purchase Popcorn/Oil

- $ 91.00 From HS Library (107) To Talon (126) Purchase Left over product- AR Store

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: Jace Winter, Student Council Vice President**

- Wrapping up Quarter 3 and looking forward to Spring Break

- Athletics:

* Wrestling- 1 Season Loss; 21st Divisional Championship; 17 State Qualifiers with 14 State Placers all in the top 4; 10th State Title with an all-time state point record of 310.5 points
* Boys Basketball- Good divisional showing with 2 and 2 record; Bridger Larson reached 1000 points in his Sidney High School career
* Girls Basketball- Won 1st regular season game in over a year; Played well at state tournament showing great improvement throughout the year
* First season practice for Track and Field and Softball; Preliminary Track numbers are at 40 boys and 20 girls; Coach DiFonzo is concerned about weather constraints and facility availability

- Activities:

* Band- Raised $4500 with their Pasta for a Purpose; Headed to Anaheim, CA over spring break
* Choir is at Eastern A in Laurel this week
* FFA- Samuel Stephenson placed 4th in Farm Business Management at the Sidney Meet; State is in Bozeman April 3rd – 6th with six students attending and competing; Kade Anderson will receive his state degree at this conference
* Close-up has four students heading to Washington, DC in April
* American Politics Club has seen a rise in attendance and has enjoyed visiting the topics of transgender athletes; defunding Planned Parenthood and Black and Women’s History Months
* Key Club has four students attending the District Convention in Billings March 24th – 26th and will serve breakfast at Crestwood on March 31st
* FCCLA has eight students attending the State Leadership Convention in Bozeman later this month and continue to operate the Morning Grind
* International Club is meeting tonight with a presentation by Ochirdari (Ochir) Batbileg on Mongolia. The April meeting will have a presentation on Malaysia by Trudi Speldrich
* Club Volleyball- Attended a tournament in Billings this past weekend with the Middle School advancing into the gold bracket and the High School played four games this weekend. Plans are to attend another tournament in Miles City on the 23rd
* LEO Club- 10 members will serve dinner at the Lions State Convention at the end of April
* MCTM Sidney Regional Math Meet- Sidney students had a great showing:

Grade 9: 14 Honorable Mentions; 4 Superior; 2- 1st Places (Jenna Anderson x2)

Grade 10: 18 Honorable Mentions; 4 Superior; 1- 1st Place (Brianna Brost)

Grade 11: 14 Honorable Mentions; 12 Superior;

Grade 12: 7 Honorable Mentions 3 Superior: 4- 1st Place (Lilli Seitz, Michelle Stagle & Caleb Slade x2)

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT: Monte Silk**

**Resignations:**

- Julie Batty – Middle School Administrative Secretary

- Sandra Jepsen- Grade 3 Teacher

- Lori Keenan- Grade 3 Teacher

- Elsie Slingsby – Grade 2 Teacher

- Heidi Tennancour – Special Ed Aide

Superintendent Silk offered a public thank you to all who have worked in the District but made special note of the years of teaching provided by Mrs. Jepsen and Mrs. Keenan.

**Enrollment:**

**-** Central = 347 West Side = 302 Middle School = 284 High School = 382 **TOTAL = 1315 (-1)**

**Calendar Events:**

- Strategic Planning (MTSBA) with additional team members is Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 5:30 in HS Library

- Spring Break is March 18th through the 22nd. No school scheduled.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: February 5, 2019 Randy Iversen***

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

- Middle School Principal, Kelly Johnson, provided information on the need for an additional music instructor and how that position would be utilized in the District

- Special Ed Director, Michelle Monsen, reported on student program numbers, criteria on emotional disturbance diagnosis; challenges staff are facing with current students; steps taken to try to address these needs and stated a possible need for a “safe” room at each school including padding for student use to keep them from hurting themselves and others

- Discussed anticipated track numbers and the number of coaches needed at each level

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: March 5, 2019 Craig Steinbeisser***

- Copies of the track bid advertisement were provided with bids scheduled to be received by March 26th

- Trustees updated on Central compressor replacement. Documents have been signed to allow scheduling and partial payment has been made. Awaiting confirmation of installation- attempted for spring break

- The Committee reviewed track installation notes from the February 28th work session with Mike Stevenson

- Reviewed the latest in concessions stand cost and design

- Central Elementary Gym Addition bids were opened on February 14, 2019, and, at that time, were referred to the District architect for further review. Following a review of bids received and proposed timelines, a list of intended subcontractors, a review by Mike Stevenson and copies of phone interview questions that could be utilized for references on the two low bids, the Trustees instructed Superintendent Silk to complete reference checks on those bidders. (See attached copy of bid recap provided to Trustees)

- Track replacement bid timeline was discussed

- Property and Liability Insurance is due for bid this year. Further information will be provided in April.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: March 5, 2019 Kelly Dey***

- February claims and county investment reports were reviewed

- The January ASB Report was also reviewed

- Superintendent Silk provided updated monthly enrollment figures including a breakdown by grade and a preliminary kindergarten count

- Mr. Silk reviewed key legislative items of concern as noted by the Montana Quality Education

- Consideration of new teaching positions for 2019-2020 as well as the addition of a ½ time auditorium manager & audio/visual/camera specialist and District webmaster is on the Consent Agenda tonight

- Clerk Beyer presented preliminary 2019-2020 general fund budgets following receipt of the Preliminary Data Budget sheets from OPI. Both budgets are a little lower than first estimated

- Clerk Beyer also introduced the required Resolution of Intent to Impose Increase in Levies required to be published prior to March 31. She asked for feedback on levies desired by Trustees in the Bus Depreciation Funds. Her office will be attending classes in Miles City on Thursday in preparation of budget and notice publications. This is a discussion/action topic on tonight’s agenda

- Estimated oil and gas revenue for the year were considered with budgeting for 2019-2020 in mind. Mrs. Beyer told the Trustees they would not need to run a general fund levy in either District if oil and gas funds were used to reach the OverBASE budget cap. The consensus was to use the oil and gas funding for that purpose. Trustees also had initial discussions regarding a transfer from the High School Flex Fund to the Elementary Interlocal Fund to assist with payment of the Central elementary gym and the new reading series or required elevator repairs at Central.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: March 5, 2019 David Seitz***

- Strategic Planning Meeting has been re-scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at the HS Library from 5 to 8 PM

- Mr. Barnhart’s Curriculum Report focused on a need for drivers’ education teachers and the process for certification as well as a bus driver program that may be beneficial for District route drivers

- Trustees discussed the topic of Administration cancelling bus routes due to extreme cold temperatures during the month of February. The consensus was to continue the current practice, the decision will be made by the Superintendent in conjunction with the Transportation Department

- MTSBA policies 5000, 5002, 5010, 5460 & 5500 were again reviewed and are on the Consent Agenda for second reading and consideration of adoption tonight

- MTSBA policies 6110P, 7260, 7320, 7332, 7530 & 8123 were reviewed and are on the Discussion/Action Agenda tonight for first reading

- Lobbyist, Daniel Farr, provided a legislative update for Trustees

- Mr. Barnhart asked the Trustees to add the possible adoption of a reading curriculum to the Items for Future Agendas as affected elementary teachers are working to wrap this process up

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**\* New Hire**

- Alexandria Rootes– Elementary Teacher 2019-2020

New Hires are approved as presented pending results of background checks and fingerprint clearances.

**\* Policy Changes recommended by MTSBA- First Reading**

- Policy 5000 – *Personnel Goals* – Delete. Items covered in other 5000 policies

- Policy 5002 – *Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities & Section 504 of Rehabilitation Act of 1973* – adds employment accommodations for employees with Section 504 issues. Aligns with the ADA

- Policy 5010 – *Equal Employment Opportunity & Nondiscrimination* – added “Genetic Information” to the non-discriminatory section per Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008

- Policy 5460 – *Electronic Resources and Social Networking* – Acceptable staff uses of technology based connectivity and interactivity

- Policy 5500 – *Payment of Wages upon Termination* – Revised to align with 39-3-205 MCA

**\* Approve New Staff Positions for the 2019-2020 school year**

- Additional full-time Music Teacher

- Full-time Alternative Education Teacher

- Full-time Elementary Teacher (most likely Kindergarten for preparation of K-1 classes in excess of 12 students)

- Half-time Auditorium Manager, Audio, Visual, Camera Specialist and Web Master

Ms. Dey moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Steinbeisser seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA:**

**\* Policy Changes- First Reading**

- Policy 6110P – *Superintendent/Board Job Responsibilities:* Adds a note and legal reference and includes a chart which summarizes the job responsibilities in a side-by-side comparison

- Policy 7260 – *Endowments, Gifts and Investments:* clarifies the role of the Trustees in educational foundations and reiterates classification and receipt of public donations by the District

- Policy 7320 – *Financial Management (Purchasing):* Clarification of issues that surfaced this past year; clarifying when the District should use contracts for services and adds the legal reference for the right to reject and all bidders

- Policy 7332 – *Advertising in Schools- Revenue Enhancement:* Editorial changes only

- Policy 7530 – *Procurement of Supplies or Services:* Addition of section 3 regarding the cancellation of invitations for bids or requests for proposals

- Policy 8123 – *Driver Training and Responsibility:*  Adds the school’s obligation to honor the Federal Transportation Law for bus driver driving hours

Mr. Steinbeisser moved to accept the first reading of the proposed policy changes as presented. Mr. Iversen seconded the motion which passed 6-0.

**\* Consideration of Central Elementary Gym Bid Award** (For bid figures, see attached recap sheet)

- Superintendent Silk presented a printout summarizing the reference checks he had conducted on behalf of the Trustees for low bidders Cucancic Construction and B & B Builders

- Mr. Silk also reviewed the choices available to the Trustees under the bidding process and reviewed the list of sub-contractors that had been requested by the Trustees

Mr. Steinbeisser moved to accept the base bid and Alternate M-1 of $1,205,601.00 by B&B Builders. Mr. Seitz seconded the motion. Discussion followed.

- Jaime Writesel with Cucancic Construction addressed the Board requesting they disregard the negative references received from Savage Schools for a project from nine years ago and stated that ownership of the company has changed since that time.

- Trustee Dey stated her concern revolved around the non-attendance by Cucancic Construction at the optional walk-through due to unfamiliarity with the facilities at Central

Following the discussion, the motion passed 5 to 0 with Mr. Lorenz abstaining on this elementary issue.

**\* Approval of Final North Football Concession Stand Cost and Design**

Mr. Seitz moved to approve the use of plastic bathroom partitions rather than steel. Ms. Dey seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

Ms. Dey moved to approve the final design plans for the north football concession stand/bathrooms as presented. Mr. Iversen seconded the motion which passed 6 to 0.

**\* Resolution of Intent to Impose an Increase in Levies**

Clerk Beyer presented information and copies of the proposed 2019-2020 levy resolution (corrected copy attached). She explained the decrease in BASE General Fund taxes is due to increase in state Guaranteed Tax Base monies and oil and gas revenue received in 2018-2019.

Mr. Steinbeisser moved to approve the Resolution of Intent to Impose an Increase in Levies for Districts 1 and 5 with correction of spelling error and addition of Building Reserve permissive levy. Mr. Iversen seconded the motion with passed 6-0.

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 7:34 PM

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk