

**September 9, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Monday, September 9, 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, Lisa Gorder and David Seitz. Also in attendance were Superintendent- Monte Silk, Clerk- Nicole Beyer, Central Principal- Sara Romo, High School Principal- Brent Sukut, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson, and West Side Principal- Sharri Vandell. Absent were: Trustees- Randy Iversen and Craig Steinbeisser, Assistant High School Principal- Carl Dynneson and Curriculum/ Federal Programs Director- Thom Barnhart.

At 7:00 PM Chairman Thogersen called the meeting to order welcoming the visitors in attendance: Amy Efta with the Sidney Herald, Jeff Mead, Heather Schneider and high school students- Will Steinbeisser, Christine Turek, Cooper McGlothlin, Rae Hintz and Ximana Rosas. 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 August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and the special meetings held August 20<sup>th</sup> August 22<sup>nd</sup> and September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 as well as July claims #231841 through 231856 in the amount of \$667,647.35. Mr. Seitz seconded the motion which passed 4 to 0.

There are no warrants to be cancelled or ASB transfers. The Trustees noted they have reviewed the July ASB report.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT: No Report**

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

**Monte Silk**

**Resignations:**

- Rylee Gonzalez – High School Special Education
- Patricia Keithley – Food Service Worker
- Jaymie Romo- Elementary Boys Basketball Coach

**Vacancies:**

- |                        |                              |  |                   |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| - Title I Teacher      | Special Education Aides      | Bus Route Drivers                          | Custodians        |
| - Food Service Workers | Technology Assistant I or II | Part-time Secretary- C                     | HS VB Ass’t Coach |
| - MS Cheer Ass’t Coach | MS Football Coach            | Elementary Boys and Girls Basketball Coach |                   |

**Enrollment: 1331**

**Facilities Update:**

- Mid-Rivers Concession Stand on the north side of the football field opened August 30, 2019
- Track should received second coat of paint next Saturday with line striping to follow
- Track shed should be up by October 10, 2019
- The Lowman-Walton Complex sign has been installed and dedication is scheduled for half-time of the homecoming game on September 13<sup>th</sup>
- Sprinklers and sod for the football field and around the track should be finished by the end of September- weather permitting
- The roof is complete on the Central gym with electrical, flooring and painting to take place over the coming month
- Sealant has been applied to the Middle School parking lot

**Updates:**

- New teachers were introduced at Kiwanis providing a short bio about themselves
- Certificate of Excellence received from the OPI “In recognition of exceptional school policyefforts to preventand reduce tobacco use as part of the Montana Tobacco Free School Excellence Initiative”
- School year off to a good start
  - A few issues with new bus route pick-up/drop-off times and bus number covering altered routes. District still concerned with lack of route drivers
  - Custodial services continue to be a concern in all buildings. The District is utilizing part-time help and students of legal age to fill some of the gaps
  - The tech department is off to a strong start this year. Classroom technology equipment was ready to go with the start of school

- Pam Radke was able to find enough help for Food Service to maintain the breakfast programs
- Students and staff are settling into the routine of the new year
- Provided a listing of upcoming home events for the Trustees

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: September 3, 2019 Kelly Dey***

- Vacancies, Transfers and Resignations were reviewed. New Hires are on the Consent Agenda tonight;
- Nathan Roth, IT Director, reported on school start-up in the technology department.
- 2019-2020 co-curricular contract for FCCLA to Jeanne Lang is on the Consent Agenda tonight
- The committee reviewed the process for increasing the Board to seven members as required by the reclassification to a Class I District. This is on the Discussion/Action

***BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: September 3, 2019 Lisa Gorder***

- Project Updates:
  - Work on the Central gym continues on schedule
  - Additional rubber mulch has been installed on the Central playground in areas of concern
  - The Lowman-Walton sign is up at the High School track
  - Rubber membrane has been installed with sprinkler and sod work will take place after mid-September
  - Reviewed track shed construction timeline
  - The Mid-River's logo has been attached to the new concessions stand which will be open for Friday's game
  - West Side has had a tree removed and curbs and crossing painted- an old crossing has been resurrected
  - Middle School parking lot sealant was applied on Labor Day weekend
- Discussion Items:
  - Discussed track/concessions stand drainage engineering services
  - Reviewed track shed placement and possible addition of roll-up door
  - Decided to wait on paving the parking lot at West Side but bring in a load of gravel
  - Consider concrete for the Central outdoor basketball court. Asphalt is not standing up to use
  - Seeking additional quotes on replacement of Middle School gym bleachers. Project is slated for spring
  - Spoke about re-finishing the Middle School gym floor. Requested more information on when it was installed and if this has been done previously.

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: September 3, 2019 David Seitz***

- Began with a special meeting to address 2019-2020 fuel bids and the sale of an old route bus
- Reviewed August claims, the July County Investment Report and the July ASB Report
- Mr. Silk updated Trustees with current enrollment figures
- Reminded the Trustees of the MTSBA Legal Primer Workshop in Glendive, September 11, 2019
- Discussed the Notice to Continue Lease with Stockman Bank
- Reviewed projects that would be eligible for the Department of Commerce Grant application
- Discussed compensation for High School Link Crew leaders. This item is on the agenda tonight

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: September 3, 2019 Kelly Dey***

- The next Strategic Planning session will be scheduled for September
- Mr. Barnhart- Curriculum Director, reported on the state report card and his presentation to the Kiwanis
- The state report card reflected some good areas as well as areas requiring focus and attention in the coming year
- First reading of MTSBA recommended policy 8205-R regarding Meal Charges is on the agenda tonight
- The final report from lobbyist, Daniel Farr was reviewed

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**\* New Hire**

- Alicia Esterby – West Side Special Education Aide
- Shenae Sorteberg – West Side Part-time Custodian
- Jeanne Lang - .875 High School Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher and FCCLA Advisor
- Kathy Nicholson – Central Part-time Secretary

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

**\* Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policies as noted below:**

- 1112-Resignation – Clarify procedure for Trustee resignation
- 1113-Vacancies – Added statement regarding effective date of Trustee resignation to declare vacancy

- 1425-Abstentions from Voting – Clarification regarding Trustees voting abstentions
- 1512-Conflict of Interest –Additions regarding when a conflict of interest may exist
- 1512F-Relationships Defined and Chart – Chart defining degrees of consanguinity
- 1610-Annual Goals and Objectives –New policy regarding Trustees meeting to set annual goals
- 1700-Uniform Complaint Procedure –Clarification to existing policy
- 3125-Education of Homeless Children –Add paragraph regarding concern/complaints in education of homeless child
- 5223-Personal Conduct –Added paragraph on employee conduct regarding weapons and threatening others on school property
- 5256-Reduction in Force –Change from the specific “certified” employees to employees
- 8225-Tobacco Free Policy –Addition of “other tobacco or nicotine” as per legislative action

Mr. Seitz moved to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Dey seconded the motion which passed 4-0.

### **DISCUSSION/ACTION AGENDA:**

#### **\* Consideration of 2019-2020 Fuel Bids**

- Bids were opened at the committee meetings on September 2, 2019. Trustees had requested additional information on submitted bids for re-consideration this evening
- A total of three bids had been received: Western Choice Cooperative (Formerly Cenex Farmers Elevator) submitted an unsealed, e-mailed bid one day after they were due; Town Pump and Miller Corner
  - Town Pump submitted information on the WEX card and quoted a discount of \$.15 under the posted price on that day. Statements would need to be submitted to Town Pump to receive the rebate
  - Miller Corner submitted information on the EXXON card which would grant an immediate \$.08 discount at the pump, requiring a copy of the statement to be provided to Millers Corner for the additional rebate. This rebate will vary depending on the price at the pump

Following a discussion on cost differences (decided the difference was minimal) advantages/disadvantages of each location, additional work for administration office staff and the desires of the Transportation Department, Ms. Dey moved to accept the bid of Town Pump for the 2019-2020 year. Mrs. Gorder seconded the motion which passed 4-0.

#### **\* Stockman Bank Lease – November 1, 2019 through October 31, 2020**

- Mr. Seitz moved to approve the continuation of this lease for the location of the Administration Office for the period noted above. The motion passed 4 to 0 following a second by Ms. Dey.

#### **\* Selection of the Department of Commerce Grant application project:**

- Reviewed three potential projects:
  - Pneumatic controls/air conditioning in east classroom at Central
  - Replace single pane windows at Middle School with new double pane windows
  - Major upgrade/renovation to high school gym and locker room wing

Following discussion of the project, building needs, project cost and matching fund availability, Mr. Seitz moved to apply for \$650,000.00 with the District contributing an additional \$100,000 for replacement of the pneumatic controls and installation of air conditioning in the east wing of Central School. Ms. Dey seconded the motion passed 3 to 0 with Mrs. Gorder abstaining on this elementary issue.

#### **\* High School Link Crew Stipend**

- Considered information provided by Hunter Gordon regarding Link Crew Advisor- what it is, additional duties that should occur throughout the year and providing current co-curricular stipends of a similar time duration and responsibility. Following discussion of this item, Ms. Dey moved to approve a stipend of \$1,000.00 for the Link Crew Advisor which may be split between multiple individuals. Mr. Seitz seconded the motion which passed 4 to 0.

#### **\* Drainage Plan for the North side of the High School Track (Update/discussion only)**

- Reviewed anticipated Interstate Engineering costs estimated between \$6000.00 and \$10,000.00
- Looked at timeline for conducting a “quick and basic” drainage plan behind the stadium and concession stand

#### **\* Declaration of Immediate Trustee Vacancies – District 5/1 Due to Classification of Sidney Public Schools to a Class I District**

- State law sets the number of elementary trustess for Class I District at 7; the District currently has 5
- Certain outlying elementary districts belonging to Sidney High School District 1 may be eligible for a representative on the Board. They must request this of the County Superintendent
- To begin the process, the Trustees must declare two vacancies- these individuals would then need to run to complete the two years of a three-year term in May
- Proposed timeline, interview questions and ad were provided for discussion

Mr. Setiz moved and Ms. Dey seconded the motion to declare two new positions vacant on the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees for Elementary District #5 and to proceed with the process to fill them. The motion passed 3 to 0 with Mrs. Gorder abstaining on this elementary issue.

**\* First Reading of Proposed Changes to the Following Board Policy**

- Policy 2000 – School Year Calendar and Day: Adds statement regarding aggregate hours for students demonstrating proficiency
- Policy 2160 – Title I Parent and Family Engagement: Adds definitions for family and community engagement
- Policy 2167 – Correspondence Courses: Adds Distance Education Accrediting Commission as source to approve correspondence courses
- Policy 2168 – Distance, Online & Technology-Delivered Learning: Adds statement regarding aggregate hours for students demonstrating proficiency
- Policy 3225 – Sexual Harassment, Sexual Intimidate and Sexual Misconduct: Adds Sexual Misconduct to policy, removes some obsolete paragraphs and adds required language

Mr. Setiz moved and Ms. Dey seconded the motion to approve the first reading of the above policies. This motion passed unanimously.

**\* Setting Dates for Final Strategic Planning session with Debra Silk of MTSBA**

- Agreed to 5:00 PM on October 22, 2019, at the High School library

**\* Superintendent’s Letter of Resignation**

- Mr. Silk read his letter of resignation effective at the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 2020
- Ms. Dey thanked Mr. Silk for his service to the District and for providing early notice which allows the District to begin a search for a new superintendent early in the process
- Trustees requested Mr. Silk contact Elizabeth Kaleva and MTSBA for options and cost of hiring a company to conduct the search as a third party

Ms. Dey moved to accept the letter of resignation from Superintendent Silk effective June 30, 2020. The motion passed unanimously following a second by Mr. Seitz.

Chairman Thogersen provided an opportunity for Community Comment on non-agenda items: Community member Heather Schneider spoke to her concerns regarding the mental health of area. She spoke to the need for an active role by the school in dealing with this issue.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Clerk