

JULY 26, 2021

A special meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held at 5:30 PM July 26, 2021, at the Administration Office on posted notice by the clerk for the purpose of consideration of ratification of the Master Agreement, 2021-2022 Out-of-District Attendance Agreement, New Hires, 2nd Reading of Policies, Chromebook Order, Speech Therapy Services, Facility Updates, MS Auditorium Seating and COVID leave. Present were Trustees Ben Thogersen, Jon Marker, David Seitz, Kelly Dey, Josh McGahan, Lisa Gorder and Alex Villegas. Also in attendance were Superintendent- Brent Sukut and District Clerk- Nicki Beyer. Absent was Trustee: Randy Iversen.

At 5:30 PM, Chairman Thogersen called the meeting to order and welcomed all community members attending via Facebook Live or call in. Mr. Thogersen stated an opportunity for community comment on non-agenda items would be provided at the end of the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA:**A. Approve June 28, 2021 Minutes****B. 2021-2023 Master Agreement with the Sidney Education Association (SEA)**

- The SEA has ratified the 2021-2023 Master Agreement with the changes outlined below:
- Certified Salary Schedule with 2.5% on the base in each of the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years
- Guaranteed 40 minute uninterrupted prep period daily for all certified staff
- Increase District contribution to more than single health/dental coverage from \$150 a month to \$180 a month
- BA+3 with 14-16 years of experience with the District will receive an annual \$1,000 longevity stipend

C. 2021-2022 Out of District Attendance Agreements

- Approved Parental Requests (No tuition charged)
 - Brorson (MT) (2- Gr 4; 1- Gr 5; 1- Gr 6)
 - Rau (MT) (1- Gr 6)
 - Fairview (MT) (1- Gr K2; 1- Gr 2)
 - Savage (MT) (1- Gr 4 & 1- Gr 5)
 - Lambert (MT) (1- Gr 12)

D. Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policies

- Changes needed to comply with legislative updates in regards to meal procedures for negative lunch balances

E. Chromebook Order

- Authorize the purchase of Chromebook devices to replace outdated equipment at a cost of \$78,673 to be paid with ESSER funds

F. New Hires

- Linda Buckley – Food Service Worker
- Jaci Byre – West Side Custodian
- Julie Batty – Part-time Central Secretary/Part-time Special Education Aide
- Tawni Tribbey – Middle School Alternative Education Teacher

Ms. Dey moved and Mr. Villegas seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed 7 to 0.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:*** 2021-2022 SPEECH THERAPY OPTION**

- The intention to partner with Sidney Health Center to hire an individual to serve both the school and the hospital fell through as they have not been able to contract for these services
- Michelle Monsen, Sped Director, checked on costs associated with contracting services through an on-line group offering virtual services or Big Sky Therapy & Consulting based out of Whitefish
- The cost for 100 students is estimated at about \$100,000 annually which includes on-site services and is comparable to what the District was paying for the prior speech therapist
- When verifying the caseload for the District, the number of students requiring services will be between 50 and 60 which will decrease the cost

Mr. Seitz moved to approve contracting with Big Sky Therapy Associates for speech therapy services as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding for the 2021-2022 school year. Ms. Dey seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

*** FACILITY UPDATE BY SUPERINTENDENT SUKUT**

- ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

- o Office remodel is on hold
- o Working with Electricland on installing key fob entry doors allowing restricted entry- particularly at the rear door for staff and student safety reasons
- o McKinstry will work with Mr. Sukut on preparing a cost estimate and specs for replacing the HVAC system in this building. The system has extreme fluctuations in daily temperature ranges both with air conditioning and heating.

- WEST SIDE ELEMENTARY

- o The staff parking lot (\$80,000 estimated cost) is on hold
- o Yellowstone Painting LLC has begun painting the outside gym wall
- o Corland Construction has also begun the work on the crosswalk cement replacement
- o Thiel Brothers are nearing completion on the West Side roof that was damaged by spring wind storms

- CENTRAL ELEMENTARY

- o McKinstry met with custodians and Mrs. Romo on the new HVAC system controls. More training will be provided to the custodians to assist with accurate system control
- o No progress has been made on the door between the kitchen and the old gym
- o Food Delivery Ramp is also on hold

- SIDNEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

- o Still trying to find a contractor to work on the Middle School windows. They are an unusual type of window and replacement will be costly. While ESSER funds can be used to assist with the expense, it is anticipated that only broken ones will be replaced to save on cost
- o We are awaiting a timeline from Johnsons on repairs to the fire alarm and control system
- o Also waiting for MTI to provide a timeframe on needed upgrades

- SIDNEY HIGH SCHOOL

- o The re-sanding of the gym floor is currently in progress
- o The grading of the north grandstand has been completed. We will need to see what happens this fall
- o The landscaping around the track shed is awaiting cooler weather to hydroseed

*** PROPOSAL BY THE EAGLE FOUNDATION TO REPLACE MS AUDITORIUM SEATS**

- The EAGLE Foundation has requested permission to start the process for replacing the existing seating in the Middle School auditorium. They intend to apply for grants and fundraise to cover the cost which is estimated to be \$75,000

Mr. Seitz moved and Mr. McGahan seconded the motion to permit the EAGLE Foundation to begin the process of replacing the Middle School auditorium seats. The motion passed 7 to 0.

***COVID LEAVE FOR STAFF**

- The COVID leave for staff and payment of substitutes who work for those on COVID leave, were paid out of government CARES and ESSER funds this past year and a half
- There is no government edict regarding COVID leave for the coming year but the District wants to be prepared to address this with employees when necessary
- Mr. Sukut proposed offering eight days of COVID leave per year for staff who are quarantined/ill due to COVID or who have children that are quarantined/ill. This leave would be funded by ESSER and would be allowed to be used by staff with no loss of leave or salary prior to utilizing personal sick leave
- Mr. Sukut reported that communication with County Health indicated that the required quarantine of close contacts will continue with the exception that vaccinated individuals would not need to quarantine

Following discussion regarding this topic, the Trustees expressed their approval of proceeding with the documentation regarding the implementation of this COVID leave proposal. Mr. Sukut will finalize the criteria/documentation required to access the leave and add this topic to the August 9th agenda

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

Topics for next agenda include:

- 1) Mr. Sukut broached the subject of changing Board meeting times to 5:30. This would allow Trustees to attend some school events (concerts) after meetings and avoid late nights. The Trustees were amenable and Mr. Sukut will bring the policy for first reading August 9th
- 2) Mr. Sukut informed the Trustees that currently only one coach had been hired for Middle School football. Ideas presented including looking at the number of varsity participants and see if a coach is available to help with the Middle School program. Trustees feel that all programs should be monitored for number of participants vs. coaching positions as budgets are tight

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 PM.

Board Chair

Approved: _____

Attest:

District Clerk