**March 17, 2020**

A special meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Tuesday, March 17th, 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 school district plans in response to the statewide school closure by Governor Bullock. Present were Trustees Ben Thogersen, Kelly Dey, Randy Iversen, Lisa Gorder, Craig Steinbeisser, Alex Villegas, Jon Marker and David Seitz via phone. Also in attendance were Superintendent- Monte Silk, Clerk- Nicole Beyer, High School Principal- Brent Sukut, Assistant High School Principal- Carl Dynneson, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson, Curriculum Director- Thom Barnhart, Central Principal- Sara Romo and West Side Principal- Sharri Vandall. Arriving after the discussion regarding prom and the motion declaring an unforeseen emergency at 7:10 PM was Trustee, Craig Steinbeisser.

At 7:00 PM Chairman Thogersen called the meeting to order welcoming the visitors in attendance: Everett Jensen, Lily Johnson, Nick Kallem, Zoe Morrill, Tami Larson, Dani Larson and Alexa Iversen. Members of the public also participated by conference call. Mr. Thogersen stated an opportunity for community comment on non-agenda items would be provided at the end of the meeting.

Conversation began with the topic of postponing prom scheduled for March 28, 2020. Brent Sukut, High School Principal, recommends postponing prom until MHSA meets on April 13, 2020 to reconsider the scheduling of spring sports. He also brought up the idea of a community prom headed up by parents to avoid date overlapping. Board consensus was to postpone the prom and leave the re-scheduling up to Administration.

**Declaration of an Unforeseen Emergency:**

- Governor Bullock has declared all Montana K-12 schools closed for two weeks

- It is unknown at this time if the days must be made up in order to maintain full funding

- Declaring an unforeseen emergency due to health concerns regarding COVID 19 allows the District to suffer only proportional reductions rather than two times the penalty under MCA 20-1-301

Ms. Dey moved to declare an unforeseen emergency in accordance with Sections 20-9-801 through 20-9-806, MCA, due to the community and school health concerns related to COVID-19 and authorize the administration to take necessary steps to execute this declaration and inform the public and government agencies of this declaration. The motion passed 7 to 0 following a second by Mr. Iversen.

**Declaration of Proficiency Determination and Offsite Instructional Methods**

- Discussed assessing student proficiency at different grade levels

- How high school students’ grades will be reflected on transcripts

- Allow the administration (superintendent and staff) to determine how proficiency will be determined

Following discussion regarding high school GPA, 3rd quarter grades on transcripts and other items of concern, Mr. Iversen moved to authorize the superintendent to work with district staff in making determinations regarding pupils who are proficient in courses in which the pupils are enrolled without regard to the aggregate hours of instruction provided. The superintendent is directed to make a final determination of proficiency for each pupil for each enrolled course, using district assessments, including class grades at a minimum, and reporting a full-time equivalent conversion to ANB for such pupils, based on the scheduled time ordinarily provided through the aggregate hours of instruction for such courses. The motion passed 7 to 0 on a second by Mrs. Gorder.

**Offsite Instruction**

Ms. Dey moved to allow the superintendent to work with district staff in providing instruction for pupils of the district. Such instructions may include any method or methods identified as appropriate by the superintendent including but not limited to offsite instruction as defined and referenced in law- Sections 20-1-101(5); 20-1-101(14); 20-7-118; and 20-9-311(11) MCA. Mr. Iversen provided a second to the motion which passed unanimously.

**Superintendent Report on COVID-19 Concerns:**

- Recommend teacher attendance at schools during this school closure. Individual immune compromised staff will be considered on a case by case basis

- Recommend pay and benefits continue for all staff who continue to work during any school closure with or without students

- Recommend “grab and go” breakfasts/lunches be provided to all students. Work with the Boys and Girls Club who have an approved Summer School Food Program to provide this benefit free to all students 18 years of age or younger

- Recommend keeping aides a school during school closure to assist with learning packets, school cleaning and delivering food/learning packets

- Recommend building administrators develop plans for possible extended school closure with recommendation for board action as required

- Recommend administrator/staff plan for providing access to student learning materials

- Recommend no student/staff out of state travel in connection with school groups/activities

**Option for Biosafe Industries to electrostatically treat all schools**

**-** Estimated cost $20,000 to $25,000 to do all schools. Two-day completion. Due to the unknowns regarding school closure, student return, length of effectiveness and cost, trustees were not interested in this process at this time.

**Superintendent Search/Interview Process**

- Due to COVID-19, staff/community meet and greet scheduled for 3:30 on Monday, March 30, 2020, will be cancelled

- Interviews will continue but the two out of town candidates will be given the option to participate via visual electronic means

**Special Board Meeting to be held Monday, March 23, 2020, at 6:00 PM**

- Necessary for Trustees to adopt the Resolutions of Intent to Impose an Increase in Levies for Elementary District #5 and High School District #1

- State law provides public notification of this information via newspaper and on the District’s website prior to March 31, 2020

**Superintendent’s Report Other**

- Conference phone access for the Board meeting on March 23 is available by calling 406-272-9718

- All school gyms and the High School weight room are closed to students and the public

- Bleachers will be removed from the Middle School gym this week

- McKinstry’s engineers are touring Central School regarding the HVAC upgrade through Wednesday

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 7:55 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk