**March 30, 2020**

A special meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held Monday, March 30, 2020 at 6:00 PM at the Administration Office, 101 S Central Avenue or via conference call on posted notice by the clerk for the purpose of consideration and action of a resolution moving from a poll election on May 5th to a mail ballot, consideration and possible action on the Memorandum of Agreement with the Sidney Education Association and possible action on the Governor’s COVID-19 shelter-in-place order. Present were Trustees Ben Thogersen, Jon Marker and Alex Villegas. Attending via conference call were Trustees Kelly Dey, Randy Iversen, David Seitz and Lisa Gorder with Craig Steinbeisser joining via phone during the Memorandum of Understanding with the SEA discussion. Also in attendance were Superintendent- Monte Silk and Clerk- Nicole Beyer.

At 6:00 PM Chairman Thogersen called the meeting to order. In attendance were: West Side Principal- Sharri Vandall, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson, High School Principal- Brent Sukut, Central School- Sara Romo, Special Ed Director- Michelle Monsen and Activities Director- Chris Lee. Members of the public participated by conference call.

**Adoption of Resolution Moving from A Poll Election to May Ballot for the Regular May 5, 2020, School Election**

- Reviewed new resolution, the plan, timeline and instructions to be submitted to the Secretary of State no later than April 1st

Mr. Marker moved to approve the resolution changing the previously called May 5, 2020 regular school election from a poll election to a mail ballot. The motion passed 7 to 0 following a second by Mr. Villegas.

**Memorandum of Agreement between Sidney Public Schools District #1 and #5 and the Sidney Education Association (SEA) (Attached)**

- Effective April 1st upon approval by the SEA

- Proposed by the Montana School Board Association and the Montana Federation of Public Employees

- Addresses COVID-19 related issues for certified teaching staff

- Expires on June 30, 2020 and is in effect when school is subject to closure by the order of the President, Congress, Montana Legislature, Governor, DPHHS or county department of health

Following discussion by Trustees regarding leave compensation and use of leave, Mr. Steinbeisser moved to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between Sidney Public Schools District #1 and #5 and the Sidney Education Association with an effective date of April 1, 2020 upon approval by the SEA. The motion passed 8 to 0 following a second by Mr. Marker.

**Governor Bullock’s Shelter-in-Place Order**

- Superintendent Silk reviewed the Governor’s shelter-in-place order through April 10, 2020

- He reported that currently eight people are working home after requesting permission

- He reported the staff has been excellent in working with the District to provide distance learning to the Districts’ students and continued to be fluid working through technological and other obstacles

- Superintendent Silk requested that Trustees, in support of the Governor’s shelter-in-place order, grant District administrators authority to allow staff the ability to telework from home as long as they remain as effective in educating students as they would be at school

- Mr. Silk asked Mr. Sukut to report on a conversation from earlier today with County Medical Officer, Jacquelyn Free

 - The District has been allowing staff to bring their children to work as long as constant supervision is provided and they remain in the staff member’s classroom

 - Ms. Free as County Medical Officer stated this practice must stop. No children are allowed in any school buildings with the shelter-in-place order in effect

Following discussion by Trustees who commended District employees for stepping forward to get things in place for students, Mr. Steinbeisser moved that pursuant to the recommendation of Jacquelyn Free, County Medical Officer, as of April 1, 2020, no children will be allowed to come to school. Mr. Marker provided the second to the motion which passed 8 to 0.

Mr. Marker moved to authorize District Administrators the ability to approve employee telework from home as long as student education remains efficient and educational to support the Governor’s shelter-in-place order and to alleviate staff concerns with regards to COVID-19. The motion passed unanimously following a second by Mr. Villegas.

Chairman Thogersen provided an opportunity for Community Comment on non-agenda items:

- Mr. Silk reported the verbal valuation for the bank building was $890,000

- Mr. Iversen reminded staff that communication was the key to success with the distance learning and commented on the positive things he is hearing from the public

- Ms. Dey reiterated the need to support our staff; their well-being and concerns through the COVID-19 situation

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

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 Board Chair

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

Attest:

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District Clerk