

**JANUARY 10, 2022**

A regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held at 5:30 PM Monday, January 10, 2022, at the Administration Office on posted notice by the clerk. Present were Trustees Ben Thogersen, Kelly Dey, Josh McGahan, Randy Iversen, Jon Marker, Alex Villegas and Lisa Gorder. Also in attendance were Superintendent- Brent Sukut; District Clerk- Nicki Beyer and West Side Principal- Sharri Vandall; Special Ed Director- Michelle Monsen; High School Assistant Principal- Danny Coryell; Middle School Principal- Ashley Copple; Central School Principal- Sara Romo and Curriculum Director- Thom Barnhart. Absent were: Trustee- David Seitz and High School Principal- Carl Dynneson.

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

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT AND ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS:**

- WRITTEN ADMISTRATOR REPORTS FROM: Mrs. Vandall, Mrs. Monsen, Mrs. Romo, Mrs. Copple, Mr. Dynneson and Mr. Barnhart
- FINANCE REPORTS: Due to loss of server, no reports for November
- GIFTED & TALENTED TEAM FROM CENTRAL: Megan Coryell, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Representative on the SOAR committee, presented information on this new program and committee goals. Central will begin with a Math program second semester for qualified 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders as a pilot program. During 2022-23, the intention is to pull qualified students twice a day every day for both Reading & Math. Mr. Sukut extended thanks to the team members for their time in establishing this program
- ENROLLMENT:
  - o West Side – 334; Central – 265; Middle School – 300; High School – 388 = TOTAL 1287
- REVIEWED CALENDAR OF HOME EVENTS FOR JANUARY THROUGH MID-FEBRUARY
- DISTRICT PROJECTS:
  - o *CENTRAL:*
    - Kitchen/Gym Accordion Door- B&B Builders has completed installation
    - Monsen/Albertson Room Cabinet – Cabinets are finished. Once the sink is installed, the project will be complete
    - Heating system issues continue. Working with McKinistry to get remote access working
  - o *HIGH SCHOOL:*
    - Band wing boiler went out. Agri determined an internal part broke requiring a new boiler at an estimated cost of \$35,000. This project will be completed this week
    - Gym heater replacement is estimated at \$100,000+ with potential AC addition
    - HS Weight Room A/C projected to cost \$7,000
    - 400 Wing HVAC fix failed. A replacement part has been ordered that should fix this issue
    - PA systems with sound/speakers in all rooms- Mr. Sukut has again contacted Electricland and they intend to get this project completed
  - o *MIDDLE SCHOOL:*
    - Mr. Vannatta continues to work on the west entrance stairs replacement
  - o *ALL SCHOOLS:*
    - Nothing new on the Intercom System updates. Will be starting bid process for two schools this year so that we can begin a rotation basis
    - Phone system replacement- the results from the bidding process are on the Action/Discussion Agenda this evening
  - o *ADMINISTRATION BUILDING:*
    - McKinistry estimated the replacement cost of the HVAC system at \$360,000. Mr. Sukut has reached out to Kyle Hergenstein and he agreed with McKinistry's recommendation. Working with Jeff Davis at McKinistry to begin this process
- STRATEGIC PLANNING:
  - o Grades 6-12 students has completed surveys for strategic planning process
  - o Parent and community/business surveys have been sent out and will close January 21<sup>st</sup>. The District worked with the Chamber to reach a large number of businesses
  - o Teachers will take their surveys this coming PLC Friday

- ENROLLMENT UPDATE:

- o Reached out to other Class A Schools about their enrollment trends:
  - Glendive has not noticed much fluctuation
  - Miles City has seen some decrease at the High School level and attributes it to increased dropout rate, COVID and homeschool/off-site learning
  - Lewistown has seen increases over what was expected. Family movement from various states for multiple reasons- COVID related: Mask mandates, In-person Instruction; Work & the Return of previously homeschooled students. Increases were at all grade levels and did not result in a certified staffing issue but a shortage in food service, custodial & transportation staff
  - Havre has also noted an increase in their enrollment. They are conducting research to determine what has caused this fluctuation

- REVIEWED JOB OPENINGS and NEW HIRES which are on the Consent Agenda this evening

- RESIGNATIONS RECEIVED:

- o David Huskamp – Elementary Grade 5 & 6 Coach (Replacements found and hired)

- COVID UPDATE 1/7/22: Active Positive Cases = 1; Staff in Quarantine = 1; Students in Quarantine = 3

YTD: Student Positive Cased = 86; Staff Positive Cases 22; TOTAL 108

- REVIEWED OIL & GAS RECEIPTS THROUGH SECOND QUARTER (November 2021)

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: No Committee Meetings for January**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**A. Approve December 14, 2021 Minutes**

**B. Approval of December 2021 Claims Warrants # 233625 - 233309 in the amount of \$315,271.95**

**C. Cancel District Warrants and/or Associated Student Body Checks: None**

**D. Associated Student Body Information:**

- o Approve the November 2021 Report
- o Transfers: None

**E. New Hires:**

- o June Decker – Central School Special Education Aide
- o Marie Holler – Middle School Cheer Coach
- o Liliana Johnson – Middle School Cheer Coach
- o Brett Norby – Elementary Grades 5 & 6 Basketball Coach
- o Austin Papka – Elementary Grades 5 & 6 Basketball Coach
- o Becca Rogers – Elementary Grades 5 & 6 Basketball Coach
- o Lacey Waid – Middle School & Elementary Grades 5 & 6 Basketball Coach

2021-2022 New Hires approved pending reference/background checks

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

**ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**\* DISTRICT PHONE SYSTEM BIDS:**

- o Received Five Quotes
 

Cerium Networks (Avaya)	Clearly IP
Star2Star	Ring Central
Vonage	

Mr. Sukut recommends delaying this decision until February to give the Tech/Admin team time to do additional research, set up demos and explore lower quoted monthly costs. Vonage has provided a no hardware cost quote for non-profit 501-(c)3 entities. The District does not qualify under that IRS code and we are waiting for a return call from Vonage.

Following Trustee discussion regarding use of cloud based phone systems, Mr Sukut and Mr. Roth were instructed to proceed with gathering additional information for further consideration of this issue.

**\* MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (MHSA) ANNUAL MEETNG PROPOSALS:**

Activities Director, Chris Lee, and Superintendent Sukut reviewed the proposals and rationales on the table for voting at next weeks meeting. Most were clear-cut but the Board concensus was to vote for the establishment of

baseball as an MHSAsponsored sport to provide additional student opportunities. Consideration of adding the program locally would still require Board consideration and action going forward.

**\* ADVANCED OPPORTUNITY ACT FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:**

Mr. Barnhart explained this new funding opportunity established by the 2021 legislative session encourages expansion of career and technical education. This funding will make these pathways available to all students no matter what socioeconomic background. Currently he is working with the University of Montana on the ability to offer a medical worker certification/licensing programs for Sidney Schools that would kick off I 2022-223. This pathway would be a mixture of classes from the Digital Academy, Miles City Community College and University of Montana. It includes job shadowing in the different medical areas with certification earned prior to graduation that provides preparation for an additional one-year licensing program following graduation. These would replace electives and would include a work schedule and a 3.5 GPA.

A student application process will be put in place based on interest profiles and contracts required for participants to remain in the program. Student integrity becomes important in this program because of the ties to the community.

Following the presentation and discussion, Mr. Iversen moved and Mr. Marker seconded the motion to approve the submission of the Advanced Opportunity Act Funding Grant. The motion passed unanimously.

**\* FOUNDATION FOR COMMUNITY CARE GRANT:**

Willing to provide \$14,000 towards the installation of bleachers in the Central gym. They want the grant money earmarked for this purpose.

Ms. Dey moved and Mr. Villegas seconded the motion to accept the \$14,000 grant earmarked by the Foundation for Community Care for installation of bleachers in the Central School gym. The motion passed unanimously.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COMMENT: None**

**Additional Information: None**

**Topics for next agenda include:**

- 1) School Election Resolution
- 2) District Clerk Evaluation
- 3) Fall Sports Coaching Contracts
- 4) Tenure Teacher Contracts
- 5) Administrator Contracts

At 6:25 PM, Chairman Thogersen called the meeting to order and announced that the next matter to come before the board was a personal matter and that he had determined as follows: 1) that the matter of the individual’s privacy is involved; 2) that such privacy demands protection of the individual for the sake of reputation, and otherwise, little, if anything, could be gained by publicly disclosing the information to be discussed; and 3) that the demand for privacy in this matter clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure. Therefore, he called for an executive session for the purpose of the Superintendent’s Annual Evaluation.

At 7:20 PM, Chairman Thogersen reconvened the meeting. With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

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Board Chair

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

Attest:

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