

JANUARY 15, 2024

A regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held at 5:30 PM Monday, January 15, 2024, at the Administration Office on posted notice by the clerk. Present were Trustees Ben Thogersen, Kelly Dey, Josh McGahan, Randy Iversen, John Marker, Lisa Gorder, Alex Villegas, Trustee David Seitz by phone. Also in attendance were Superintendent- Brent Sukut; District Clerk- Tracy Click and West Side Principal- Sharri Vandall; Special Ed Director- Michelle Monsen; High School Principal- Carl Dynneson, High School Assistant Principal- Danny Coryell; Middle School Principal- Ashley Copple; Central School Principal- Sara Romo, Curriculum Director- Thom Barnhart, Absent were: IT Director- Nathan Roth and Athletic Director- Chris Lee.

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:

-HS BOILER REPLACEMENT- \$9,902.00 and \$12,561.00 to replace. Mr. Sukut recommends going with the \$12,561.00, board agrees. Mr. Dynneson will contact Olson Plumbing to get this boiler installed.

-WRITTEN ADMISTRATOR REPORTS FROM: Mrs. Vandall, Mrs. Monsen, Mrs. Romo, Mrs. Copple, Mr. Dynneson and Mr. Barnhart

- FINANCE REPORTS:

- o December District Cash Balances, Revenues and Expenditure Reports.

- ENROLLMENT:

- o West Side – 317; Central – 256; Middle School – 285; High School – 376 = TOTAL 1234

- REVIEWED CALENDAR OF HOME EVENTS FOR JANUARY THROUGH MID-FEBRUARY

- DISTRICT PROJECTS:

- o *CENTRAL:*

- Fire alarm panel-working again

- o *HIGH SCHOOL:*

- Weight room and concession roof-Thiel Bros.-No update and work has not started.
- AC Unit for HS Gym-Have engineer working on specs. Will start bid process as soon as we have specs.
- Concrete Floors-will update when official bid is received.

- o *MIDDLE SCHOOL:*

- Intercom System-Continuing to research companies.

- o *WEST SIDE:*

- Hallway and classroom flooring-asbestos tiles-Discussion/Action Agenda.

- o *ADMIN BUILDING:*

- Core was in on 11/29/23 and made some small adjustments to the system-Working well.

- o *ALL SCHOOLS:*

- Safety needs for each building.

- DISTRICT WEBSITE AND APP DECISION:

- District has decided to go with Apptegy. Part of this program will allow all students, parents and community members the opportunity to download an app and have school/district information available to them immediately. We will use this app and the website to display what is happening in every school and also to push out important information. Each teacher will still have their own website with this program and all of the materials they currently have will be transferred over by the Apptegy team. I will have more information about when we will be transitioning to this program soon.

- EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR:

- HS-Mary Pfau-Counselor
- MS-Marnee Averett-History
- CS-Jen McLaughlin-4th Grade
- WS-Jessica Netzer-Kindergarten

Congratulations to each of these individuals for being selected as EOY for their respective buildings. This year’s district educator of the year goes to Jen McLaughlin. Mrs. McLaughlin has taught a total of 28 years in the Sidney School District. She was a 2nd teacher for 8 years, a 5th and 6th grade Reading/Language Arts teacher and K-5 P.E. teacher for 1 year, had a 2nd and 3rd grade combination class for 1 year, was an 8th grade Language Arts teacher for 1 year and now has been the a 4th grade teacher for the last 15 years. Mrs. McLaughlin is the “jack of all trades” when it comes to teaching. Her maturity, judgement, and commitment to students is top notch. She is truly an excellent educator. She will be presented the Educator of the Year award at the Chamber Banquet on January 18th .

- CALENDAR COMMITTEE:

- Waiting on feedback from staff about the changes to the 1st semester dates.

- JOB OPENINGS:

<i>Certified</i>	<i>Classified</i>	<i>Co-Curricular</i>
Special Education Teacher(s)	Custodians	HS Head Football Coach (24.25)
CDL Teacher	Social Media Specialist	HS Asst Girls Softball Coach
HS Math Teacher	Route Bus Drivers	
	Special Education Aides	
	Superintendent’s Office Admin Asst.	
Activity Drivers, Substitute Bus Drivers, Substitute Teachers		

COMMITTEE REPORTS: No Committee Meetings for January

CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve December 11, 2023 Minutes**
- B. Approval of December 2023 Claims Warrants #234226 – 234270 in the amount of \$290,924.10**
- C. Cancel District Warrants and/or Associated Student Body Checks:**
 - Void Payroll Warrant-70031200 MT State Dept of Revenue-payroll error.
 - Vold Warrant-234229 employee reimbursement error.
 - No cancellations for ASB.
- D. Associated Student Body Information:**
 - Approve the November 2023 Report
- E. 1st Reading Board Policy – 1240 Recommended Change**
 - Recommend to not adopt the changes to this policy at this time. No 2nd reading will be required.
- F. 2nd Reading Board Policies- Required Changes**
 - Approve 2nd reading of the required changes to existing Board Polices as presented.
- G. Out of District Attendance Agreements**
 - Acknowledge and approve the attendance requests for the 12 (twelve) in-district students to attend Fairview Public Schools for the 2023-2024 school year.
- H. TR6 Approval-1st Semester**
 - Approve the Bus Route Reimbursement Claim for the 2023-2024 school year 1st semester.
- I. New Hires:**
 - Kardell, Kaylee – CS Special Education Aide
 - Stedman, Matt – Elementary Girls’ Basketball Coach
 - Swisse, Frank – HS Custodian
 - Van Every, John – Elementary Girls’ Basketball Coach/Activity Driver
 - Edwards, Robert – MS Boys’ Basketball Coach
 -

Approve employment of the recommended hire(s) for the 2023-2024 school year pending reference/background checks.

J. Resignations

- Merritt, Roger – HS Head Football Coach (effective for the 2024-2025 season)

- Neff, Maria – Superintendent’s Office Administrative Assistant
- Vitt, Cody – Elementary Boys’ Basketball Coach

Ms. Dey moved and Mr. Iversen seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion pass unanimously.

ACTION/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

* **BUS RENTAL AGREEMENTS:** Discussion on rental of school district buses. Mr. Sukut spoke with all Eastern Montana schools and Tracy Click asked District Clerks in Montana, no school district allows rental of school district buses. Mr. Sukut recommends to no longer allow non-school sponsored groups to rent or use Sidney Public Schools buses.

Ms. Dey moved and Mr. Iversen seconded to no longer allow non-school sponsored groups to rent or use Sidney Public Schools buses. The motion pass unanimously.

* **WEST SIDE FLOORING BID**

We have discussed the West Side flooring issue and need to be proactive in coming up with a solution. The tiles in the flooring at WS contain asbestos and to properly replace them would require an abatement. As an alternative solution to this, we have found a product that would seal the existing tiles. This would be a long term solution and the cost savings we get would also benefit the district. Once this product is applied, we would no longer have to wax the floors. We do have to apply resurface coat in about 8-10 years, but the cost saving that we get from supplies and labor to wax the floors would make up for this cost.

Board decision upon review of the estimates. Received one bid from Bruco. Total bid of \$206,944.00 for entire West Side School.

Mr. Iversen moved and Mrs. Gorder seconded to accept the bid from Bruco for West Side School flooring for \$206.944.00. The motion pass unanimously.

***ACTIVITY BUS BIDS**

In looking at our current activity bus situation, we have a 2009 C5500 with roughly 141,000 miles on it. This bus was purchased for smaller groups to transport to activities. It has very limited storage and space, so it has not been utilized as much as anticipated. We have received estimates on a Prevost Coach, a Van Hool Coach and an MCI Coach. The cost of a new Prevost Coach is approximately \$640,000. The Van Hool Coach would cost \$630,000-\$640,000 and the cost of the MCI is approximately \$597,000. All of the buses we received bids on are new. It would take a year to a year and a half to get the Prevost and Van Hool Coaches. The MCI is currently in stock and ready for delivery. The specs for all buses have been included. The interior and exterior features are very similar as well. Continued rotation of these buses helps keep the cost and time of maintenance minimized.

Ms. Dey moved and Mr. Iversen seconded the purchase of the MCI Activity Bus at the price of \$597,000.00. The motion passed unanimously.

* **FALL COACHING RECAP AND RECOMMENDATION:**

- **CROSS COUNTRY**

Mr. Dynneson recapped the 23-24 Cross County season. Based upon satisfactory pre and post-season meetings as well as the evaluation process, Mr. Sukut recommends the rehire of Justin Collins for the 2024-2025 Cross Country season.

Mr. Villegas moved and Mr. Marker seconded a motion hiring Justin Collins as Head Cross Country Coach for the 24-25 season. The motion pass unanimously.

- **GOLF**

Mr. Dynneson recapped the 23-24 Golf season. Based upon satisfactory pre and post-season meetings as well as the evaluation process, Mr. Sukut recommends the rehire of Ben Berg for the 2024-2025 Golf season.

Mr. Iversen moved and Mr. McGahan seconded a motion hiring Ben Berg as Head Golf Coach for the 24-25 season. The motion pass unanimously.

o VOLLEYBALL

Mr. Dynneson recapped the 23-24 Volleyball season. Based upon satisfactory pre and post-season meetings as well as the evaluation process, Mr. Sukut recommends the rehire of Anil Kara for the 2024-2025 Volleyball season.

Mrs. Gorder moved and Mr. Marker seconded a motion hiring Anil Kara as Head Volleyball Coach for the 24-25 season. The motion pass unanimously.

o FOOTBALL

Mr. Dynneson recapped 23-24 Football Season. Mr. Lee would like to close the application in February with coach hired by March, 2024. No rehire of assistant coaches until Head Coach is hired.

*** ELECTION RESOLUTION: Poll Election May 7, 2024 12:00pm to 8:00pm at SPS Administration Office.**

Mr. Marker moved and Ms. McGahan seconded to approve the Trustee Resolution Calling for an Election on May 7, 2024 for the purposes listed in the Resolution. The motion pass unanimously.

OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY COMMENT: None

Additional Information: None

Topics for next agenda include:

- 1) Tenure Teacher Contracts
- 2) Administrator Contracts
- 3) District Clerk Evaluation

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

At 6:33 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 6:55PM, Chairman Thogersen reconvened the meeting. With no further business to come before the Trustees, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Board Chair

Approved: _____

Attest:

District Clerk