

**Sidney Community School District
Board of Directors Strategy Session
January 19, 2015 7:00 pm 2754 Knox Road**

The strategy session was held to discuss negotiations with the Sidney Education Association. The meeting was exempt from Iowa Open Meeting Law.

**Sidney Board of Directors Regular Meeting
January 19, 2015 7:30 pm 2754 Knox Road**

Call meeting to order and determine quorum

President Heidi Lowthorp called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Directors present were Heidi Lowthorp, Alisha Ettleman, Erika Graham, Brad Johnson, and Larry Holt. Also present were 7-12 Principal/Superintendent Gregg Cruickshank and Board Secretary Janet Lemrick.

Recognition of guests and public comment

There were six guests present. No public comment.

Approve agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Director Johnson with second by Director Graham. Motion carried. Ayes 5, Nays 0

Approve minutes

Motion to approve the December 15, 2014 regular meeting minutes was made by Director Graham with second by Director Holt. Motion carried. Ayes 5 Nays 0

Consider bills to be paid

Motion to pay the bills as presented was made by Director Ettleman with second by Director Holt. Motion carried. Ayes 5 Nays 0

Financials

Motion to approve the financial report as presented was made by Director Graham with second by Director Johnson. Motion carried. Ayes 5 Nays 0

Audiences

Craig Hagenau – Spiral Communications visited with the Board about services they can provide the school concerning telecommunication and internet.

Trevor Scholting – Hayes Mechanical visited with the Board on the condition of the high school heating and cooling system and ways to become more energy efficient.

High School Student Council – Mrs. Rhonda Sheldon, Student Council sponsor, and Peter Johnson, past Student Council member, discussed with the Board plans to continue with the walking path project to town. The council has raised \$15,000 and they would like to see it used towards a path.

Reports

Mr. Cruickshank presented the elementary report.

Mr. Cruickshank presented the high school/superintendent report.

- Students were recognized for Honor Roll and Attendance for first semester.
- Parent-Teacher conferences have been moved back to the high school and parents have scheduled appointments to visit with teachers.
- Professional Development for March 16 will focus on Iowa Assessment data results. A representative from Green Hills AEA will coordinate the activities.
- Property/Casualty insurance-Iowa Public School Information Program would like to bid on the school's property/casualty insurance. The policy is currently held by Employers Mutual Casualty/Jester Insurance Services in Des Moines and Hummel Insurance is the local agent.
- Health Insurance update – options will be available soon in case Coopportunity Health is unable to continue coverage.
- Before Christmas break City Mayor Paul Hutt and City Manager Mark Travis met with Business Manager Jennifer Maher, Transportation Director Pat Barrett, Maintenance Director Ray Moreland, and Mr. Cruickshank to discuss sharing school and city resources/personnel.
- Legislative session – Rural school priorities, modified supplemental assistance, and the school start date were discussed. Mr. Cruickshank will attend the Iowa Association of School Boars Legislative Day on January 26.
- Property Tax Evaluations for Fremont County were shared.
- Fiscal Year 2014 Sales Tax Error was discussed. The state overpaid the school \$16,167.37. The school has yet to be notified how repayment will occur.
- Preliminary 2014 Unspent Budget Authority worksheets were shared. Sidney's preliminary balance is \$1,226,314.
- Corner Conference basketball tournament brackets were shared.

Discussion

Jr. High/High School Principal report

Board members will review the applications individually. Finalists will be selected based on consensus with a deadline of January 31. Interviews will be scheduled the middle of February.

Enrollment/staffing

Current enrollment numbers were discussed. The district's served enrollment as of January 16 was 398 pre-school through 12th grade.

Master Schedule 2015/16

Corner Conference Principals are discussing the possible elimination of homeroom in the daily bell schedule.

Discussion/Action

Tuition Reimbursement agreement

Motion to reimburse Melissa Godfread tuition costs for course work to obtain a Masters Degree in School Counseling was made by Director Ettlleman. Motion failed due to lack of second.

Motion to reimburse Melissa Godfread tuition costs and book fees to obtain a Masters Degree in School Counseling was made by Director Graham with second by Director Johnson. Motion carried. Ayes – Lowthorp, Graham, Johnson, Holt, Nays – Ettlleman.

Action

Motion to accept with regrets the resignation of Shawn Thompson, Special Education Associate, was made by Director Johnson with second by Director Holt. Motion carried. Ayes 5 Nays 0

Board Comment

There were no board comments.

Celebrations

Matthew Benedict won the fifth grade Fremont County Flag Essay contest sponsored by the American Legion Post 128.

Winners of the Celebrating Art Fall 2014 sponsored by Dick Blick are Alexis Slater, Sidnie Baier, Abigail Whitehead, Savannah Hall, Olivia Larsen, Presley Brumbaugh, Griffin Spencer, Chase Reed, Aidan Case, Bailey Wilson, Jay Morgan, Halie Buttry, Cassie Timmons, Sabrina Hendrix and Tyler Richards.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 10:15 pm was made by Director Holt with second by Director Ettlleman. Motion carried. Ayes 5 Nays 0

Next regular scheduled meeting will be February 16, 2015

This publication of minutes is the unofficial report of action taken. Official minutes are available for review at the Sidney Community School District after approval at the next regular board meeting.