

Meridian Community Board Minutes

Regular School Board Meeting of November 12, 2009

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Meridian Community Unit School District #223 was called to order by President Ron Steenken at 7:00 p.m. in the Meridian District Board of Education Room located in the Meridian Junior High. Members present: Glendenning, Jagielski, Mellon and Pierce. Superintendent Prusator and Director of Business/HR Porter were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Steenken, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the October 22, 2009 board meeting; payrolls of November 13th, November 25th, and December 11th 2009; and accounts payable for November 2009 in the amount of \$1,608,117.16 per review by Steenken. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Mellon, Pierce and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Prusator reported that the customized Board Policy Manual came in. The Policy Manual will be posted on the website. The Policy Committee will meet to work on an Educational Philosophy, Administrative Procedures, and to review updates from PRESS. Mr. Prusator gave an update on the OCEC and the hearing process for Byron's withdrawal. Mr. Prusator relayed that American Education Week is next week. The turkey dinner sponsored by the district and SVEA will be tomorrow. Bagels will be provided to staff on Monday.

Notices and Communications

Mr. Prusator stated he received notification from the State Board that the district had been awarded an Enhancing Education through Technology Grant of approximately \$300,000 over two years.

Community Input

There was no Community Input.

Old Business

8.1 Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2009 Audit

Curt Kleckler and Stephanie Lombardi from SIKICH presented the FY09 Audit and related information. After review and discussion, an adjustment will be made on the auditor's report regarding the purchase of land and the impact it will have on the District's Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Financial Profile.

Motion

A motion was made by Mellon, seconded by Jagielski, to accept the report of the auditors. Ayes: Jagielski, Mellon, Pierce, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

8.2 Review/discuss October 28, 2009 Community Focus Group Session

Board members discussed the community feedback regarding transportation from the Focus Group Session held on October 28, 2009. Community feedback will be used in the development of priorities for the District.

8.3 Preview District Improvement Plan

Mr. Prusator relayed that the District Improvement Plan was very similar to last year. Mr. Prusator highlighted some of the goals and activities that will help make progress toward the District's Long Range Vision.

8.4 Review/approve resolution to intervene in Veolia (Orchard Hills) 2009 Assessment

Mr. Prusator reviewed the process and resolution to intervene in the Veolia 2009 Assessment.

Motion:

A motion was made by Pierce, seconded by Mellon, to approve the resolution to intervene in the Veolia 2009 Assessment as presented. Ayes: Mellon, Pierce, Glendenning, Jagielski and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

8.5 Determination of the 2009 Tax Levy and Truth in Taxation Resolution; Levy hearing on Thursday, December 17, 2009; Highland School; 6:45 p.m.

Ms. Porter reviewed the preliminary FY09 tax levy figures and projected Equalized Assessed Valuation for the school district. The Levy Hearing is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 6:45 p.m. at Highland School.

New Business

9.1 Review/possibly approve ARRA grant funded academic interventionist positions for remainder of 2009-2010.

Mr. Prusator explained the recommendation for academic interventionist positions which would be funded by an ARRA (American Recovery and Reinvestment Act) grant. The recommendation is being made to provide additional time and support to students who have not reached identified proficiency levels in reading at Highland, Monroe Center and MJH and math at SVHS and MJH.

Motion:

A motion was made by Glendenning, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the ARRA grant funded academic interventionist positions for the remainder of 2009-2010 as Mr.

Prusator deems appropriate per the discussion. Ayes: Pierce, Glendenning, Jagielski, Mellon and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Board Comments

Comments were made about the possibility of having recycling containers at football games, parents donating time as math volunteers, and students wearing ID badges.

Adjourn to Closed Session

A motion was made by Mellon, seconded by Pierce, to adjourn to closed session to discuss the appointment and employment of specific employees of the District. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 10:47 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

A motion was made by Mellon, seconded by Glendenning, to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 11:37 p.m.

Board Action from Executive Session

Approve the minutes of the October 22, 2009 executive session

A motion was made by Pierce, seconded by Steenken, to approve the minutes of the October 22, 2009 executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Report

A motion was made by Glendenning, seconded by Mellon to approve the Personnel Report including the **employment** of Jacqui Goodman, as a .21 FTE kindergarten intervention teacher for 2009-2010 school year (Highland-new position); Dawn Kruger, as a .21 FTE kindergarten intervention teacher for the 2009-2010 school year (Monroe Center-new position); Jennifer Lichty, as the assistant girls basketball coach for the 2009-2010 school year (SVHS-replaces B. Mellon); Paul Logan, as the assistant boys basketball coach for the 2009-2010 school year (SVHS-replaces B. Hickerson); Dana Rohr, as a special education aide (SVHS-new position); and Henry Roos, as a general service worker (SVHS-new position). The Personnel Report also includes the **retirement** of Roger Lemke, retiring effective December 1, 2009 (MJH-night custodian). Ayes: Pierce, Glendenning, Jagielski, Mellon and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Pierce, seconded by Mellon, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Fruin, Secretary

Interest Based Problem Solving Committee
Meeting Summary
November 18, 2009
Meridian Junior High Board Room
6:30 p.m.

Present: John Vos, Kathy Owen, Steve Stender, Angel Ballard, Michael Mandzen, Ron Steenken, Joyce Wills, Mike Coulahan, Bill Davidson, Bob Prusator, and Ken Reinhart (facilitator).

After check-in, Ken Reinhart reviewed the process to utilize in regard to the topic of grading. Ken suggested that we start by telling the grading story. Bob began by reviewing board policy for both grading and assessment as background to the topic (attached is the handout provided as documentation for the policies and story). The major point of the story was the need for the District to establish a District grading system that clearly, accurately and consistently communicates levels of learning toward identified outcomes to students, parents, and the District. Bob reviewed grading reports from the first nine week that demonstrates inconsistencies in grading within departments and buildings. Bob also shared data comparing PSAE, ACT and ACT WorkKeys math scores to second semester math grades from second semester last year. Bob also reviewed issues with the calculation and determination of semester grades at the high school.

After a brief caucus, John Vos shared perspectives from the teachers on grading. John stated that grading is very personal to teachers and a discussion on grading practices is a big issue. John also shared that the work on essential outcomes and common assessments should result in more standardized grading. Additionally, John wondered if there might be a different underlying problem other than grading. He also relayed concerns about a “cookie cutter” outcome of standardizing grading practices and a potential diminishing level of teacher creativity. Kathy Owen shared a concern about the potential impact of adding additional work to teachers who already feel overwhelmed by current job expectations. Ron Steenken and the building principals also shared experiences/perspectives on grading and assessment.

Ken suggested that the next meeting agenda should include identifying issues in regard to both assessment and grading. The next meeting date was discussed. There is a School Board meeting scheduled for the third Thursday in December. Other conflicts were identified in addition to Ken’s schedule. Ken will e-mail dates he’s available and a December meeting date will be identified from those dates. The next IBPSC training is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, December 4th and 5th. The Friday session is 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Saturday will go from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Respectfully,



**Meridian CUSD #223
Finance Committee Meeting**

**December 7, 2009
6:00 p.m.**

**Meridian Junior High Board Room
Summary Report**

Present: Ron Steenken, Barb Reeverts, Bruce Larson, Tim Jagielski, Bob Mellon, Jennifer Porter, Jon Mickle, Bob Prusator

The Board Finance Committee met on December 7, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Meridian Junior High Board Room.

Jennifer Porter reviewed the FY 09 Annual Financial Report Management Letter and addressed the topics identified in the letter. Ms. Porter provided information on the following areas: 1) Custodial Credit Risk (collateralization); 2) Economic Interest Filing Statements; 3) Activity Funds- Procurement procedures; 4) Activity Funds- Monthly activity fund statements; 5) Activity Funds- Supporting documentation; 6) Purchasing Cards; and 7) Flexible and Petty Cash Accounts. Ms. Porter provided explanations on the remedies for the issues identified in the Management Letter. Committee members asked follow up questions regarding each of the areas.

Ms. Porter reviewed the Treasure's Report and provided a status update on the FY 10 budget and 2009 levy. Committee members followed up with questions with discussion following.

Jon Mickle, Director of Buildings and Grounds provided a template document for a five year capital expenditure plan that would be utilized to determine spending priorities on major facility and grounds projects. Mr. Mickle relayed that the building administrators, directors, the Regional Office of Education and architect would assist in completing the five year plan, which would be reviewed with the Board and modified as needed.

Mr. Prusator reviewed establishing a plan and procedures to collect the necessary information and feedback to provide a recommendation for the next facility project. Although it might be several years before the District will be prepared to construct facilities, it is important to have current information available and a facility plan ready. This topic will be addressed in more detail at the next committee meetings.

The Finance Committee agreed to schedule a meeting in February, preferably early in the month. The Finance Committee adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Prusator

**Meridian CUSD #223
Policy Committee Meeting**

**December 7, 2009
8:00 p.m.**

**Meridian Junior High Board Room
Summary Report**

Present: Ron Steenken, Bruce Larson, Kevin Glendenning, Jennifer Porter, Bob Prusator

The Board Policy Committee met on December 7, 2009 at 8:00 p.m. in the Meridian Junior High Board Room.

The committee reviewed proposed changes to Policy 5:330 (Educational Support Personnel: Sick Days, Vacation, and Leaves). The committee reviewed a proposal to modify the time frame to allocate vacation days and increasing the number of days relative to longevity. The committee evaluated the potential impact on changing the vacation policy within the ESP departments. The consensus of the committee was to recommend allocating 15 vacation days after 10 years of service, instead of after 15 years. The committee will also recommend allowing employees the opportunity to be paid for up to three (3) unused vacation days during the first 10 years of service and one additional day for every two years of service after ten (10) years with a maximum of five (5). Additionally, the committee recommends allowing each director/supervisor the ability to restrict times when vacation can be requested.

The committee reviewed section 1:30 (School District Philosophy), which was not completed during the board policy customization process. The committee reviewed previous documents relating to this topic as well as material gathered from the School Board Conference. The Committee discussed identifying the appropriate language to communicate clearly the belief and philosophy statements that would provide meaningful direction to the School District. After much discussion the Committee decided to spend time working on the language and be ready to finalize the School District Philosophy at the next Policy Committee meeting.

The committee decided to postpone reviewing IASB PRESS issues until the next meeting given the fact there were no particularly urgent policy recommendations in them.

The Policy Committee adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Bob Prusator