

Meridian Community Board Minutes  
September 12, 2007  
7:00 P.M.

Minutes of a Regular School Board Meeting of August 23, 2007

Following a brief reception for new teachers at 5:40 p.m., a regular meeting of the Board of Education of Meridian Community Unit School District #223 was called to order by President Ron Steenken at 6:55 p.m. Members present: Glendenning, Larson, Reeverts and Steenken. Superintendent Prusator, Director of Business/HR, Jennifer Porter, and Principals Coulahan, Davidson, Mandzen and Zurko were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A motion was made by Glendenning, seconded by Reeverts, to amend the agenda to include item 11.1: Discuss School Board Goals for 2007-2008. Ayes: Glendenning, Larson, Reeverts and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Reeverts, to amend the reason to adjourn into executive session to include discussion on: litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the District has been filed or is pending before an administrative tribunal. Ayes: Larson, Reeverts, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Reeverts, seconded by Larson, to adjourn to executive session to discuss collective bargaining matters between the District and Stillman Valley Education Association **and** litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the District has been filed or is pending before an administrative tribunal. Ayes: Reeverts, Glendenning, Larson and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.  
Time: 7:05 p.m.

Mr. Jagielski arrived at 8:07 p.m. during the executive session.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Reeverts, to return to open session. 8:53 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Steenken, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the new 4-year contract (2007-2008 through 2010-2011) with the Stillman Valley Education Association. Ayes: Jagielski, Larson, Reeverts, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Board members thanked SVEA members for their involvement and hard work in the negotiating process. John Vos thanked the board members for adjusting the TAG schedule so teachers could be present at the ratification meeting.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Reeverts, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the August 9, 2007 regular school board meeting, accounts payable for August 2007, and payroll of September 5, 2007. Ayes: Larson, Reeverts, Glendenning, Jagielski and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator reviewed a handout of the fifth day enrollment numbers that showed a total of 1957 students that is an increase of only .1%. He stated the numbers would continue to fluctuate for the next few weeks. He stated he would keep the board posted on the numbers.

He stated that a special board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 8, 2007 to establish School Board goals for 2007-2008. Mr. Prusator also stated that a Calendar Waiver Hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, September 12, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. at Monroe Center School. He stated that the 5-year calendar waiver has expired and another hearing and application for waiver needs to be completed.

Mr. Coulahan reported that all teachers had been hired at Highland and almost all ESP personnel have been hired. He stated that the building looks great and thanked the custodial staff for their hard work this summer. He also thanked Jody and Kim for all of their hard work in getting the school year off to a good start. Mr. Coulahan reported that 418 students attend Highland at the present time. He expressed thanks to Sue Miller and Becky DeShazo for helping to get the bussing ironed out. The Highland Open House will be held on September 11. The Imperial Crown Fundraiser will kick-off on Monday. Mr. Coulahan also reported that the heat is pretty unbearable at Highland; but the PTO has been trying to help in various ways to remedy that situation.

Mr. Zurko reported that the beginning of the year at Monroe Center School is off to a great start. Hallways, classrooms and all physical aspects of the building are looking fantastic. Class sizes are appropriate and the building is fully staffed. Mr. Zurko is very pleased with the unofficial ISAT scores from last year and looks forward to sharing the scores in the future. He thanked the board for approving a certified art teacher for the elementary level. Monroe Center School is preparing for their Open House that will take place on Tuesday evening. Fifth grade students will go to Lorado Taft next week from Wednesday through Friday. Mr. Zurko is very excited about another school year at MC.

Mr. Davidson also reported that the school year is off to a good start. He reported the number of students in each grade level. He is concerned about the high number of students in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level; and is working hard to keep class sizes at appropriate numbers. He thanked the board for allowing a fulltime computer teacher at MJH. Mr. Davidson reported that the numbers in chorus are the highest since he has been at MJH. Mr. Davidson thanked the entire staff for their hard work, not only the past two weeks, but all through the summer. ISAT results for this past year were very positive. He will give an official report once all results are in.

Mr. Mandzen reported that the two days of in-service for the new teachers and the two days of Teacher Institute went well. He reviewed Dr. Many's presentation on "What

is a Professional Learning Community?" Mr. Mandzen thanked the custodial staff for all their hard work in getting the building in tremendous condition. He also thanked his exceptional office staff for their dedication and exceptional work ethic to keep things running smoothly at SVHS. Class meetings are being conducted for an in depth review of the Student Handbook. Thanks to Mr. Voltz, Mr. Stewart and Mrs. Winter for their help. Annual transcript review for 4<sup>th</sup> year students will begin to verify that all seniors have/will have their requirements for graduation. Mr. Mandzen also reported on some high class size numbers. The Colin Smith Memorial Tournament will open tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. Volleyball will open up against Durand on Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, in Durand. The first football game will be tomorrow night against Rich South in Stillman.

Board members were given the opportunity to ask questions of the principals.

There were no Notices and Communications.

There was no Community Input.

Mrs. Porter handed out and reviewed the renewal for the school district property/liability insurance package. The Horton Group put bids out with only Indiana submitting a bid. Mrs. Porter would like to start this process earlier next year and engage a process with a greater number of bids.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Steenken, to approve the 2007-2008 renewal for school district property/liability insurance package with Indiana Insurance. Ayes: Reeverts, Glendenning, Jagielski, Larson and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator stated that approving the ESP staff policy change on 26-pay option was put on hold. He stated the IRS has laid claim to school districts in regard to spread pay. Mr. Prusator is in contact with the district's attorney regarding this matter.

Mr. Prusator handed out and reviewed the Budget Summary for FY 08. The budget will be placed on display. The formal hearing is scheduled at the Thursday, September 27, 2007 regular board meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Meridian Junior High Board Room.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Glendenning, to place the budget on display. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Reeverts, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2007 executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Porter updated the board on the director of buildings and grounds, director of food service, and director of transportation positions that are still open.

Mr. Prusator stated that the TAG meeting would have to be rescheduled. He asked board members to look at the calendars for possible meeting dates.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Reeverts, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Fruin, Secretary