

## **Minutes of a Regular School Board Meeting of August 27, 2008**

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

Following a brief reception for new teachers at 6:40 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 7:14 p.m. in the Meridian District Board of Education Room located in the Meridian Junior High School. Members present: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Larson and Reeverts. Superintendent Prusator, Director of Business/HR Porter, and Principals Coulahan, Davidson, Mandzen and Zurko were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

### **Calendar Waiver Hearing for Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Mr. Prusator reviewed that a hearing to receive public comments is part of the ISBE waiver process to allow two evenings of parent-teacher conferences in lieu of a student attendance day.

There were no comments from the public.

### **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Bonne, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the August 14, 2008 regular school board meeting; payroll of September 5, 2008; and ISBE Calendar Waiver for Parent-Teacher Conferences. Ayes: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Larson, Reeverts and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Prusator reviewed a handout of the fifth day enrollment numbers that showed a total of 1989 students which is an increase of 1.64%. He stated that the numbers would continue to fluctuate for the next few weeks. He stated he would keep the board posted on the numbers.

### **Principals' Report**

Mr. Coulahan reported that Highland is off to a good start. He was pleased to say that the final four air conditioners were installed this morning. The new bathrooms at Highland are spectacular. There are five kindergarten sections at Highland. Mr. Coulahan stated that having kindergartners come to school on the first day was his idea and that it did pose busing problems. He reported that the second grade classes are getting to have pretty high numbers and that would be watched closely. The Imperial Crowne PTO fundraiser, now called Geckler, kicked off on Monday. Picture Day was last Thursday. The PTO had their first meeting of the year on last Monday. The teachers will be working on building level goals on Friday on Early Out Day.

Mr. Zurko reported that Monroe Center School is off to a good start. He commented that the new gym floor looks great, as well as, all physical aspects of the building. The updates of the bathrooms are very much appreciated. Class sizes continue to remain appropriate. Mr. Zurko

was pleased with ISAT scores and will share that information at another meeting. A main component to student learning this year will be to implement \$20,000 worth of intervention materials that was purchased through the PTO and school district. Mr. Zurko reported on a great turnout for the MC Open House last night. Fifth graders are attending Lorado Taft in two sessions this year.

Mr. Davidson also reported that Meridian Junior High is off to a good start. He expressed thanks to the entire staff for all of their hard work, not only the past few weeks, but throughout the summer. Many staff members attended workshops over the summer to improve student learning and school climate. A group of teachers attended AIMSWeb training in August which is a national testing program for monitoring students throughout the year. A discipline committee attended PBIS training recommended by the ROE and came up with a new way of working with student behavior. MJH also had a group attend the technology training here. Mr. Davidson commented that the 6<sup>th</sup> grade team wanted to inform the board that the back to school night was a great success. Mr. Davidson expressed thanks to Mr. Mickle for the bathroom upgrades and the air conditioning in the band room.

Mr. Mandzen thanked the staff at SVHS for eight great days of school. He reported that class meetings are being conducted for a review of the Student Handbook. Tomorrow will be Back to School Night at SVHS. Mr. Mandzen had a handout of the SVHS Early Release Professional Development Agenda. Annual transcript reviews for all 4<sup>th</sup> year students will begin the first or second week of September. He also handed out the 2007-2008 AP results and an Activities Report prepared by Mr. Stewart. Lastly, Mr. Mandzen reported that interviews for a new receptionist/attendance secretary position should be completed by the end of next week.

Mr. Steenken invited comments or questions from Board members.

### **Notices and Communications**

Mr. Prusator shared a poster board card from Mr. Eaton and the MJH band classes expressing gratitude for the air conditioning in the band room. Mr. Prusator also reviewed that the board governance self evaluation survey deadline is September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Steenken encouraged board members to get this done as soon as possible.

### **Community Input**

Laura Gray, Carrie Beck, Sheryl Hawley and Heather Wallin expressed concerns about the busing problems at the start of the school year. Comments were made regarding lack of communication and information regarding transportation. Comments were also made regarding the length of routes, bullying on the bus and dissemination of student health issues. The Board communicated that after convening, a response would be provided to the community members through Mr. Prusator.

## **Old Business**

### **9.1 Site Analysis Study Presentation for Potential Land Purchase**

Ron Pifkin and school architect Dick Johnson presented information on the property which is being considered for purchase. Mr. Pifkin and Mr. Johnson reviewed the type property and the general contour and soil type. The Board requested Mr. Johnson to provide for soil borings to be taken on the property and to submit a soils analysis at a future Board meeting.

### **9.2 Review/approve 2008-2009 Meridian CUSD #223 District Improvement Plan**

Mr. Prusator reviewed a couple additional goals and objectives to the District Improvement Plan. The Board reviewed a draft at the August 14, 2008 board meeting.

#### **Motion:**

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the 2008-2009 Meridian CUSD #223 District Improvement Plan with the addition of community meetings. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

## **New Business**

### **10.1 Discuss/Schedule Upcoming Community Focus Group Session**

Mr. Prusator presented a few possible dates for the next Community Focus Group Session for the board's consideration. It was agreed that the next session will be held on Monday, October 20, 2008 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

### **10.2 Discuss Professional Development for District Leaders**

The board discussed professional development activities for district leaders for the 2008-2009 school year. Mr. Larson suggested the District attempt to secure a speaker to present on site. The Board agreed that Mr. Prusator should arrange to schedule a speaker who would be willing to present to the District leaders and to the community at an evening session.

## **Board Comments**

Under Board Comments, Mr. Larson commented on a program which would focus on getting kids ready for life after high school.

## **Adjourn to Closed Session**

A motion was made by Reeverts, seconded by Glendenning, to adjourn to closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, and compensation of specific employees of the district. Ayes: Jagielski, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 10:05 p.m.

Due to not feeling well, Mrs. Bonne left the meeting.

### Reconvene in Open Session

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Reeverts, to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 12:05 a.m.

### Board Action from Executive Session

#### Approve the minutes of the August 14, 2008 Executive Session

A motion was made by Reeverts, seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2008 executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Approve the Personnel Report

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Glendenning, to approve the personnel report including **employment** of Laura Allton, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher for the 2008-2009 school year (replacing P. Reilly); Holly Gratza, .67 FTE kindergarten teacher for the 2008-2009 school year (MC-addition section needed due to numbers); Thomas Kowalewski, business teacher for the 2008-2009 school year (SVHS-replacing S. Lewis); Cynthia Piros-Raimer, .67 FTE kindergarten teacher for the 2008-2009 school year (Highland-replacing R. Rippel); Renie Rippel, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher for the 2008-2009 school year (Highland-M. Vidlak); Richard Simmering, .14 FTE art teacher for the 2008-2009 school year (SVHS-additional section needed due to numbers); Monika Wolarek, elementary art teacher for the 2008-2009 school year (Highland/MC-replacing K. Rosenbloom); Chris Griesbach, assistant 7<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball coach for the 2008-2009 school year (due to numbers); Brenden Johnson, assistant high school golf coach for the 2008-2009 school year; Thomas Kowalewski, assistant high school volleyball coach for the 2008-2009 school year (SVHS-replacing R. Gillespie); and John Vos, assistant high school outdoor club advisor for the 2008-2009 school year (replacing P. Reilly). The personnel report also includes the **resignation** of Cynthia Wennmaker, effective July 31, 2008 (SVHS-resource room aide) and the **family medical leave** of Kristen Kendzie, effective September 2, 2008 for 12 weeks. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Steenken, seconded by Reeverts, to approve extending the superintendent's contact through 2011-2012. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Glendenning, seconded by Steenken, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Fruin, Secretary