

# **Meridian CUSD #223 School Board**

## **Agenda and Board Packet**

### **Regular Meeting**

**November 12, 2009**

**Meridian Junior High Board Room**

**7:00 p.m.**



*“Our mission is to educate students to be self-directed learners,  
collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers and community  
contributors”*



## **Mission**

*Our mission is to educate students to be self-directed learners, collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers and community contributors.*

## **Long Range Vision**

**As an exemplary School District we continually strive to:**

- Engage in highly effective communication to Community, School Board, Administration, Faculty, Support Staff and Students.
- Achieve organizational trust through integrity, collaboration, reliability, accountability, transparency, fairness and loyalty.
- Utilize an aligned, well- rounded and comprehensive curriculum that focuses on life- long learning skills.
- Promote high learning expectations for all students.
- Practice visionary district leadership to create and implement district goals.
- Value and maintain a safe environment for Students, Staff and Community.
- Provide educational facilities that support and enhance the students' educational experience.
- Make decisions using research and best practice that incorporates fiscal responsibility, collaboration and impact on the Community, School Board, Staff and Students.

**MERIDIAN CUSD #223**  
**Board Agenda**  
**Thursday, November 12, 2009**  
**7:00 P.M**  
**Meridian Junior High Board Room**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll call**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Approve Consent Agenda** *(All items listed under the consent agenda are considered to be routine by the Board of Education and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion of these unless a Board member or citizen so requests in which event the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered individually.)*
  - 4.1 **Approve minutes of October 22, 2009 Meeting**
  - 4.2 **Approve payrolls of November 13<sup>th</sup>, November 25<sup>th</sup>, and December 11<sup>th</sup> 2009**
  - 4.3 **Approve accounts payable for November 2009**
5. **Report of the Superintendent**
6. **Notices and communications**
  - 6.1 Available at meeting
7. **Community Input:** *(This is the time when visitors may request to address the Board of Education on any item relating to the role and function of the Board of Education. When the Board President so directs, persons should stand, give their name and address and begin their statements. Persons are asked to refrain from making any personal comments regarding any individual. The Board President reserves the right to limit presentations to five minutes.)*
8. **Old Business:**
  - 8.1 Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2009 Audit
  - 8.2 Review/discuss October 28, 2009 Community Focus Group Session
  - 8.3 Preview District Improvement Plan
  - 8.4 Review/approve resolution to intervene in Veolia (Orchard Hills) 2009 Assessment
  - 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.**
9. **New Business:**
  - 9.1 Review/possibly approve ARRA grant funded academic interventionist positions for remainder of 2009-2010
10. **Board Comments**
11. **Adjourn to closed session to discuss: The appointment and employment of specific employees of the District**
12. **Reconvene in open session**
13. **Approve the minutes of the Executive Session on Thursday, October 22, 2009**
14. **Board action from closed session**
15. **Adjourn**

# **Meridian Community Board Minutes**

## **Regular School Board Meeting of October 22, 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, Larson, Mellon, Pierce and Reeverts. Superintendent Prusator and Director of Business/HR Porter were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

### **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Mellon, seconded by Reeverts, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the October 8, 2009 board meeting and October 17, 2009 retreat; payroll for October 30, 2009; accounts payable for October in the amount of \$587,781.29 per review by Mellon; and Health/Dental and Life Insurance renewal for 2009-2010. Ayes: Glendenning, Larson, Mellon, Pierce, Reeverts and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jagielski arrived at 7:02 p.m.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **5.1 2009 State Report Card for Meridian CUSD #223**

Mr. Prusator reviewed the 2009 State Report Card for Meridian CUSD #223 which includes information on student achievement, demographics, and finances. Discussion followed. The 2009 State Report card is posted on the District's website.

### **Notices and Communications**

There were no Notices and Communications.

### **Community Input**

There was no Community Input.

### **Old Business**

#### **8.1 Review/approve Meridian CUSD #223 School Board Manual**

Mr. Prusator reviewed a few corrections to the customized and updated School Board Policy Manual. Still unfinished is the Educational Philosophy and Privacy Statement. The next phase will be to review, customize, and update the Administrative Procedures that support the policies.

#### **Motion:**

A motion was made by Glendenning, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the School Board Manual as amended. Ayes: Jagielski, Larson, Mellon, Pierce, Reeverts, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

8.2 Review/approve Meridian CUSD #223 Administrative Procedures for Drug/Steroid Testing

The administrative procedures to implement the drug testing policy have been on display since September 24<sup>th</sup>. The next phase will be to start communication and implementation of the procedures.

Motion:

A motion was made by Mellon, seconded by Reeverts, to approve the Meridian CUSD #223 Administrative Procedures for Drug/Steroid Testing. Ayes: Larson, Mellon, Pierce, Reeverts, Glendenning, Jagielski and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

8.3 Student Achievement Report

Mr. Prusator gave a power point presentation on Student Achievement results from state assessments and from the ACT regarding college and workplace readiness levels.

8.4 Preview Community Focus Group Session scheduled for October 28, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at SVHS multi-purpose room

The topic for the upcoming October 28, 2009 Community Focus Group Session is transportation. The Board discussed what questions to ask the community members who are invited to this session.

**New Business**

9.1 None

**Board Comments**

Mrs. Reeverts shared a question raised by the Julia Hull Library Board. Mr. Glendenning inquired about the sewer line at the bus garage.

**Adjourn to Closed Session**

A motion was made by Mellon, seconded by Pierce, to adjourn to closed session to discuss the evaluation of specific employees of the District. Ayes: Mellon, Pierce, Reeverts, Glendenning, Jagielski, Larson and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 9:43 p.m.

**Reconvene in Open Session**

A motion was made by Pierce, seconded by Glendenning, to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 11:55 p.m.

**Board Action from Executive Session**

Approve the minutes of the October 8, 2009 executive session

A motion was made by Reeverts, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2009 executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Superintendent Evaluation

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Pierce, to approve the superintendent's evaluation. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Larson, Mellon, Pierce, Reeverts and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Fruin, Secretary

**Consent Agenda Items: 4.1, 4.2, 4.3**

Consent agenda items 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3, include approving the minutes of the regularly scheduled October 22, 2009 meeting; Approving the payrolls for the November 13; November 25; and December 11, 2009 pay; and approving accounts payable for November (per review by Mr. Ron Steenken).

**Agenda Item 5: Report of the Superintendent**

**Agenda Item 8.1: Presentation of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 Audit**

**Background**

This item is on the agenda for the purpose of providing the School Board with the FY 2009 audit. The public Accounting firm, Sikich, conducted our audit for the 2009 Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2009. The audit is also referred to as the Annual Financial Report (AFR). A representative from Sikich will be in attendance to review the audit. This report is an annual requirement.

**Recommendation**

This is an informational/discussion topic only. No Board action is required.

## **Agenda Item 8.2: Review/Discuss October 28, 2009 Community Focus Group Session**

### **Background/Information:**

On Wednesday, October 28, 2009 the Meridian School Board conducted its fourth Community Focus Group Session at Stillman Valley High School. Approximately thirty community members attended to provide the Board with their perspectives on the District's Transportation Department. Community members were asked to respond to three questions: 1) What has gone well with the department? 2) What has not gone well? and 3) What suggestions do you have to improve the department.? The feedback for these questions was conducted in seven small groups with a Board member assigned to each group with administrators serving as facilitators. At this meeting, the Board will review their perspectives on the feedback. The information/feedback will be integrated into improvement activities for the Meridian School District. The entire list of comments shared in each of the groups is included, as well as the top five issues coming from each group.

**Recommendation:** This is an informational item and a discussion topic. No Board action is required.

**Question #1 - What has gone well with transportation?  
(what have you liked?)**

**Red**

Ownership drivers take in their job  
Dedication of bus drivers  
Loyalty-low turnover  
Drivers do well with discipline  
Excellent safety record  
Reasonable maintenance history  
Bus drivers explain reason for lateness (breakdown, etc.)  
Bus drivers patient with parents and students

**Orange**

Safety record  
Law compliance  
Trip time reasonable, for the parameters of the district  
Efficient  
Face extraordinary challenges with the layouts of the subdivisions  
Extra-curricular transportation very well supervised  
Discipline

**Black**

Shorten time  
Feedback, called back from Transportation Dept.  
Administration on buses  
Name tags on kids and buses  
Pick-up time got closer  
Some pick-up and drop are consistent  
Two-tier bussing  
Very friendly bus driver

**Yellow**

Drivers - friendly and nice  
    aware of student needs  
    structure on buses - assigned seats etc.  
        loading and unloading  
    assigned seating helps  
Drop and pick up locations  
Two-tier system  
45 min. Marrill Rd. to MC  
All Call System

### **Light Blue**

Good equipment (safe)

Communication at end of 2009 (Pre-registration)

Improvement of shuttle times (wait)

Good bus staff/drivers

Put the safety of the students first

Very warm/welcoming with students

Good communication via e-mail with bus dispatcher/garage

cell phone contact with drivers is also good

Time schedule is consistent

Parents are well informed of changes

Meeting with parents of kindergarten students prior to the school year

to address busing and rules and to meet teachers

Two-tier system

younger students separate from older students

### **Dark Blue**

Animal signs on the bus

To and from school safely

Bus drivers are caring

After the first couple of weeks, the buses have been timely

Bus drivers are consistent (not a lot of turnover)

### **Green**

Trust of drivers - experience of routes - local

Happy with the dedication of staff

Use of picture (animals) on bus

Control on buses - better than previous

Seating chart on bus

District being open to feedback

Trust with drivers and continuity

Feedback provided to parents

Hand sanitizer on bus

## **Question #2 - What has not gone well with transportation? (what issues/concerns do you have?)**

### **Red**

Bus driver does not wait for students even when student is in sight  
(time schedule, driver can't wait)  
Management of bus drivers/transportation has been poor  
(7 supervisors in 8 years)  
Lack of direction for drivers  
Time pressure on drivers  
JH student on bus over hour after school (High Hills)  
Lack of busses, drivers, personnel  
Time on bus with respect to proximity from school  
Frosted windows/not able to see students at pick up  
Transportation Department - lack of timely response to concerns  
sent to bus garage (ongoing)  
Travel time for students exceeding limit expectation

### **Orange**

Historically, too many stops with too much traffic between them  
Early-ness of pick ups...6:30, 6:45 a.m.  
Lack of understanding/clarity of the actual routes driven  
No one knows where bus has stopped and where it goes next  
Seems like a long time to go such a short trip  
Little to no proactive, simple communication of the reasons why/challenges  
faced by the district in terms of transportation, time & logistics  
Not run well/timely at start of year  
Historically, don't start the year well - buses 20, 30, 40 minutes late even  
90 minutes late!  
Inability of district to explain this  
Hard to see bus signs/numbers through tinted windows  
Symbols on buses - sort of a joke  
Substitute drivers - listen to kids if they don't know routes  
Better maps/directives for drivers (subs)  
Bus stops at intersections - kids line up in road - should be corrected...  
stops in driveway  
Could roads be painted, where the stop is? Or signage?  
For families with multiple children - the two-tier system is very frustrating

### **Black**

Number of kids on bus. 3-4 kids per seat shuttle  
Trouble maker on bus. Behavior problems not being dealt with  
Pick-up and drop-off time not consistent

### **Yellow**

PreK at bus stop with older kids

PreK letter in September regarding no more door to door service  
no ownership of letter-communication

Timing: buses late in morning pick up at home

problem started this year

not all have assigned seats

buses too early affecting parent schedule and day care  
(problem as weather changes)

Change in pick up and drop off times and routes into year affecting  
work schedules of parents

### **Light Blue**

Dry runs were done after the bus notices were mailed to parents

Amount of time spent sitting/waiting (at the end of the day) for bus

The shuttle system (safety of students waiting for shuttle)

Overcrowded (3 to a seat) when students are older

Bus director/waited too long to finalize staffing

Lack of communication with parents when problems arose (who was in charge?)

Accountability

Phone calls needed to be returned within a reasonable time

### **Dark Blue**

Students arriving to school too early

Students standing in weather when arriving early

Students arriving at school with no adult supervision

DJ train causing inconsistent pick-up times

First week confusion - not enough help

Time on the bus - two miles from the school and child rides for 1 hour

### **Green**

Turn around time on Director position

Children being released at 3:15

not arriving home til 4:45

children waiting at school for bus

Not happy with shuttle system

waiting at building for bus

Young students afraid of shuttling to distant school

Unhappy with the amount of transfers

Unhappy with educational time lost by late arrivals and early releases

Plan for weather/train traffic

Curious on route/bus numbers in years previous

Unhappy with the amount of chaos

### **Question #3 - What suggestions do you have to improve transportation?**

#### **Red**

Evaluate need for more drivers/bus fleet  
Why can't we find/keep effective management at bus garage?  
(why are we losing them?)  
Standard operating procedures for the department  
Is this a 2 person job?  
Could we outsource for extra-curricular activities  
Stagger start times for grade schools

#### **Orange**

Stops in driveways rather than intersections  
Create marking for stops - signage?  
Inform parents that sub driver is on a route  
Better maps of routes for drivers/parents (proactive communication)  
Give experienced drivers more flexibility in running the routes  
District needs to revisit start of year procedures in order to learn from them  
Share with parents the entire route of their child's bus with timetables  
Project costs of 2-tier vs 1-tier  
Stabilize the leadership of Transportation Director

#### **Black**

Drive route ahead of time  
Administration on bus before school starts  
Improve dispatch  
More bus and routes. Cut down time  
Sub drivers (leave route early)

#### **Yellow**

Age appropriate assigned seats  
to speed up timing  
Re-examine routes based on population clusters  
effectiveness of software  
More consistency in riding patterns  
kids on some days/off some days  
Compare troubled routes to old routes  
More buses and more drivers if needed  
Policy/procedures for bus drivers and expectations of students  
Kindergarten all day

#### **Light Blue**

Clean/sanitize buses?  
Routine cleaning?

Has it been stepped up due to health concerns  
Set deadline for registration and stick to it  
Dry runs be done prior to parental notification  
Small groups in town could be directly bused to their applicable school  
Increase equipment and staff  
Staff needs to be hired in early summer  
Look at financial impact of hiring "First Student" as opposed to  
    additional equipment and staff  
Look at demographics/ages of students when determining bus stops  
Utilize bus director to do dry runs in summer

### **Dark Blue**

Extra help for first week confusion (am & pm)  
    on bus at school  
    off bus at school  
Supervision (adult)  
    on and off bus  
More buses and drivers  
Small buses for rural routes  
Limit before school recess  
Re-assess proximity to schools and time on bus

### **Green**

Use of impact/transition fees to supplement transportation  
Consider feedback from drivers before year start  
Communication of transport issues  
Add more drivers and fleet  
Plan for staff need prior to year start  
Don't outsource transportation  
Send notes with students requesting transportation aid  
Solicit data/knowledge from other districts both rural and city  
Be mindful of cost per student going to educational use  
Route management to reduce RR crossings and possibly left turns  
    (reference to UPS)

## **Top 5**

### **Red**

Evaluate need for more drivers and/or busses  
Transportation leadership issues need to be resolved (turn over/retention)  
Standard operating procedures for department  
Travel time for students  
Great dedication, loyalty, and ownership by drivers

### **Orange**

Better communication of the stops and routes to parents  
Special notification of sub drivers and/or route difficulties  
More driver input/flexibility in running of the routes  
Stabilize leadership  
Project out/tier vs 2 tier  
    financials and feasibility  
Mark the stops!

### **Black**

Good feedback from transportation department  
    reported status  
    returned calls  
    administration on bus  
    bus drivers friendly  
Bad/no feedback from transportation department  
    didn't return calls  
    no one answers and never returns messages  
Bad route planning/lack of practice route early  
    geographic  
    number of kids (3-4 per seat on shuttle)  
Safety on buses  
    behavior/trouble maker  
    number of kids  
More buses and routes  
    routes shorter  
    not as many kids  
    like two-tiers

### **Yellow**

Re-examine efficiency of routes  
    population clusters-pick up/drop off locations  
    use of software  
    timing  
Policy and procedure for bus drivers with positive expectations for students

ie assigned seats to help load and unload  
Supportive bus drivers - caring  
All day kindergarten

### **Light Blue**

Good staff/drivers and equipment (safety)  
Overcrowding (w/regard to older students - sizes)  
Improve determination of bus stops based on demographics  
(adequate dry runs)  
Communication and accountability  
(Pre-registration - parental notices-beginning of school year -  
address problems in timely manner)  
Need to reduce time waiting and on the bus

### **Dark Blue**

Animal signs on buses  
Bus drivers are caring and get student to and from school safely  
First week confusion - not enough help  
Students arriving to school too early with no adult supervision  
Provide additional adult supervision and extra help first week

### **Green**

Unhappy with shuttle/wait time at buildings  
District being open to feedback - staff/community  
Trust drivers experience of routes and local staff  
Pre-planning with driver feedback before the beginning of the school year  
Gather data from other districts - rural and city to plan for upcoming  
transportation needs including staff

### **Agenda Item 8.3: Preview District Improvement Plan**

#### **Background**

Last year the Meridian School District developed its first District Improvement Plan to help establish goals and activities to make progress toward the District's Long Range Vision. The activities identified in the 2009-2010 improvement plan are very similar to those identified in 2008-2009. The School Board evaluates the progress of goals during the year and is provided an end of year summary. The draft of the 2009-2010 plan is included.

#### **Recommendation**

This is an informational item for the Board as they review the District Improvement Plan.

Meridian CUSD #223  
Goals and Objectives  
Action Plan for 2009-2010

**Vision Component #1: Engage in Highly Effective Communication to Community, School Board, Administration, Faculty, Support Staff and Students.**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Timelines</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
Conduct a minimum of two community focus group sessions	Superintendent/District Leadership Team	District Supplies	Data and feedback that contribute to the Board gaining accurate community perspective on the School district; Assistance for specific Board projects	Fall 2009 and Spring of 2010	Feedback is integrated into improvement activities.
Communicate to every household in the District through a newsletter	Superintendent; Administrative Staff	District funds to support the cost	Entire community is better informed of District	Quarterly, beginning in Fall of 2009 (end of each quarter)	Community Survey which reflects high level of familiarity with District; Establish baseline data
Institute approaches to communicate school information to new families in order foster a welcoming atmosphere	Administrative team; Administrative assistants and Staff; PTO	District publications; user-friendly registration process; building and classroom communications	New families feel welcomed, informed and supported	Beginning of School year; ongoing	Survey that shows that new family satisfaction is high

<b>Project</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Timelines</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
Develop more comprehensive school communication methods	Superintendent, Building Principals; Directors, Staff	Accurate information; Technology; publication resources; media	Greater awareness/use of web page; mass phone system, Skyward Family	Ongoing	Parent survey; hits on web page
Conduct regular District Communication opportunities	Superintendent; Building Principals; Teacher leaders	Designated meeting times	Improved communication among district staff at all levels; high trust levels	Monthly	Climate survey

Meridian CUSD #223  
Goals and Objectives  
Action Plan for 2009-2010

**Vision Component: Promote high learning expectations for all students**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Timelines</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
Establish minimum benchmark levels of learning for each grade level and content area	Building administrators; Teacher Leaders; Staff	ACT Research AIMSweb	Pre-K through 12 staff, parents, administration understand minimum competency levels	Ongoing	All students reach proficiency levels
Integrate effective utilization of teams throughout District to establish goals, analyze assessment data and improve instructional practices	Building administrators; Teacher Leaders; Staff	Professional Development, early release time, teacher institute days, test data	Documented team goals, data summaries and changed instructional practices	Ongoing	All students reach proficiency/benchmark levels/Survey results
Begin full implementation of ACT WorkKeys and the ACT national employability certificate program	Superintendent; Administrative team; and Staff	ACT and time allocation to give ACT Locating Information Assessment	All students, beginning as early as upper elementary, understand the levels of knowledge, skills and problem solving ability to engage a meaningful career upon graduating from the Meridian School District	Ongoing	Students exit District “work place” ready as determined by ACT WorkKeys, in addition to other appropriate measures

<b>Project</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Timelines</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
Implement and improve second year of summer school program	Building Administrators, Teacher Leaders and Staff	Title 1 Funds, District Funds, Julia Hull Library	Identified students are provided with effective individual instruction in reading and mathematics	Summer 2010	Proficiency levels in reading and math are met.
Begin researching and developing a District Academic Intervention System	Superintendent, Administrators, Teacher Leaders and Staff	Title Funds	Specific programs and expectations are provided for students who don't meet identified learning outcomes AND for those who have already demonstrated mastery of identified outcomes	Throughout 2009-2010 school year	A draft recommendation for intervention system

Meridian CUSD #223  
Goals and Objectives  
Action Plan for 2009-2010

**Vision Component: Achieve organizational trust through integrity, collaboration, reliability, accountability, transparency, fairness and loyalty.**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Timelines</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
Conduct school climate surveys	Superintendent, staff	Valid climate surveys	Better idea of climate of schools; potential for growth of administrators	Survey at end of year	Improved climate survey results; growth from previous year
Continue Interest Based Problem Solving Meetings	School Board; Superintendent; SVEA and Administrative Team	Facilitator Ken Reinhart and research	Effective relationship between Board, SVEA and administration and method to solve issues	Monthly	Survey and evidence of effectively solving problems and maintaining effective relationship
Implement Administrator/Teacher/Staff Evaluations	Superintendent; Building Principals; District Administrator for Business/Human Resources	New research-based evaluation instruments and appropriate training	Teachers administrators/staff more aware of their performance; all groups can set professional and personal goals to ensure growth	Up to 2 observations with pre-post meetings; quarterly performance reviews for administrators	Administrators/Teachers/Staff show improvement; goals are made and met

<b>Project</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Timelines</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
Implement organizational structure	Superintendent, Administrative team; Staff	Meeting time, organizational chart, job descriptions, evaluations	Greater capacity for the District to meet needs of the instructional program and improved communication; everyone knows and utilizes “chain of command”.	Current Year	All staff know to whom they and everyone reports; communication follows the chain of command; staff work is focused in areas of expertise
Institute second year of customer satisfaction survey	Administration/Staff	Survey Instrument	Better understanding of areas where District is performing well and where it needs to perform better	End of year survey	Data/information to assist in improving customer satisfaction.

Meridian CUSD #223  
Goals and Objectives  
Action Plan for 2009-2010

**Vision Component: Value and maintain a safe environment for students, staff and community.**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Timelines</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
Establish a district wide discipline policy that effectively rewards positive behavior and provides appropriate consequences for negative behavior	School Board, staff, parents and students	Research on effective discipline policies and practices	Clear expectations for behavior and consistent responses for negative behavior throughout the district	Research/study in 2008-2009 with pilot implementation for 2009-2010	Adoption of research based K-12 student behavior management policy
Implement/drill emergency response/crisis management plan	Administrative team; staff	Emergency response/crisis management plan/Local agencies	Enhanced familiarity with procedures in plan. Staff is prepared for emergencies	Ongoing	Feedback from drill; survey
Establish a strong character education/anti-bullying program at all levels	Principals, guidance and staff	Elementary Counseling Grant	Schools have a positive climate and are safe	Research and implement in 2008-2009	Establish behavior and discipline baseline data. Documented decrease in negative behavior and improvement in climate
Research/implement drug/steroid testing administrative procedures	Activities Director/Administration	Legal Counsel/IHSA	Drug/Steroid Testing Policy; Decrease/eliminate drug/steroid use	2009-2010 school year	Approved procedures and eventually baseline data from testing
Research/implement student management program for buses	Administration/bus drivers		Clearly states bus conduct program and consequences	2009-2010 school year	Reduced incidents of bus misconduct

Meridian CUSD #223  
Goals and Objectives  
Action Plan for 2009-2010

Vision Component: Make decisions using research and best practice that incorporates fiscal responsibility, collaboration and impact on the community, school board, staff and students.

<b>Project/Goal</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Timelines</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
When appropriate, identify the following criteria on recommendations and decisions: 1) Research used 2) Fiscal impact 3) Group/people used in recommendation 4) Impact on a) community, b) School Board, c) staff and d) students	School Board, Administrative team and staff	Access to research and meeting time	Recommendations consistently meet the established criteria; effective decisions throughout all levels of the District	Ongoing	Monitor and evaluate decisions made; follow up data

Meridian CUSD #223  
Goals and Objectives  
Action Plan for 2009-2010

**Vision Component: Utilize an aligned well-rounded and comprehensive curriculum that focuses on life long learning**

<b>Project/Goal</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Timelines</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
Finalize/document essential learning outcomes for each grade level and content area	Building administrators and certified staff	Illinois Learning Standards; Collaboration time; organizational structure; appropriate oversight	Students experience an instructional program that is coherent and consistent between buildings, grade levels and content areas Pre-K through 12	By end of first semester, 2009-2010	Documentation that reflects consistent coherent vertical and horizontal curriculum alignment Pre-K through 12
Begin process to develop common formative classroom assessments that provide evidence of the level that students have mastered essential learning outcomes	Building administrators and certified staff	Learner outcomes; collaboration time; professional development	Grade level and content area teams develop assessments that provide insight into the level that students have or have not mastered content; interventions for students and modifications in instruction are developed from assessment results	2009-2010 and ongoing	Common formative assessments are developed and implemented throughout District.
Research/develop district wide grading and assessment program	IBPSC	Research; meeting time	Grading and assessment practices are consistent throughout District and contribute to higher levels of student learning	2009-2010 school year	Recommendation by end of 2009-2010 school year

Meridian CUSD #223  
Goals and Objectives  
Action Plan for 2009-2010

**Vision Component: Utilize facilities that enhance the students' educational experience**

<b>Project/Goal</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Timelines</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
Provide appropriate technology hardware to meet instructional needs	Building administrators and technology department	District funds and Technology Grant	Classrooms are equipped with functional, appropriate technology consistent with grade level and content area	Ongoing	Technology use survey that indicates satisfaction with technology
Classrooms and learning areas have appropriate space, temperature, ventilation, lighting, equipment and noise reduction	Building administrators and Department of Buildings and Grounds	District Funds	Classrooms and learning area environments are conducive to student learning	Ongoing	Survey indicating satisfaction with facilities for student learning
Establish building facility plan that would include next major building project	School Board; administrative team; staff	Possible architect and financial planning	Building plan framework to prepare effectively and timely for additional student growth	2009-2010 school year	Approved plan for facilities.

Meridian CUSD #223  
Goals and Objectives  
Action Plan for 2009-2010

Vision Component: Practice visionary district leadership to create and implement district goals

<b>Project/Goal</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Timelines</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
Utilize projection data and reasonable assumptions whenever possible to assess goals and recommendations/decisions 5+ years in future	All	Appropriate projection data/creativity	Goals/decisions/recommendations support sustainability and effectiveness over time	Ongoing	Goal and decision outcomes benefit district into future
Reasonable risk is assumed and tolerated in establishing goals, making recommendations and decisions	All	Research/data/creativity	Goals/recommendations/decisions may carry certain degree of uncertainty.	Ongoing	Periodic, but consistent rewards
Research and possibly recommend renewable energy component to District Operations	Superintendent, District Administrator Business/Human Resource; Director of Buildings and Ground	Research/financing	Recommendation which provides reasonable integration of renewable energy component to provide more efficient/cost effective energy source for District operations	Ongoing	Cost savings and energy conservation through renewable energy

<b>Project/Goal</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Timelines</b>	<b>Measure of Success</b>
Collaborate with municipalities (Stillman Valley, Davis Junction, Monroe Center) to establish effective fees to support growth	Superintendent; District Administrator for Business/Human Resource	Legal counsel	Impact/transition and other fees to support enrollment growth	Ongoing	Village ordinances that support growth for District
Establish building facility plan	School Board; Administrative Team; Staff	Architect	Framework for facility plan	2009-2010	Approved Facility Plan
Provide bus routing information to families prior to beginning of school year	Transportation Department	Routing software	Communication sent to parents documenting all stops on their child's route	Prior to 2010-2011 school year	Parents understand routes
Evaluate organizational structure of Transportation Department and make recommendations for changes	Transportation Department; Director of Business/Human Resource	TBA	Summary report on need for organizational change to positively impact all facets of transportation department	2009-2010 school year	Improved functioning of transportation department

## **Agenda Item 8.4: Review/approve Resolution to Intervene in Veolia (Orchard Hills) Landfill Assessment**

### **Background**

This item is on the agenda for the purpose of the School Board reviewing and approving a resolution to intervene in the 2009 assessment of the Veolia Orchard Hills landfill in Davis Junction. The District believes the value placed on the Landfill is less than what it should be. Because the District relies on a large portion of property tax for revenue, the resolution is intended to provide the opportunity to challenge the assessment and provide for greater property taxes paid by Veolia. The resolution is included.

### **Recommendation**

The Superintendent recommends the resolution be approved as presented.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF  
MERIDIAN COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 223  
OGLE COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COMPLAINT TO THE  
OGLE COUNTY BOARD OF REVIEW**

WHEREAS, the Ogle County Supervisor of Assessments has heretofore set the assessment for the Veolia Orchard Hills Landfill property located at 8900 HWY 251, Davis Junction, Illinois, Permanent Index Numbers: 11-02-400-001, 11-02-100-002 and 11-02-300-003 for the year 2009 at \$8,684,153; and

WHEREAS, the Ogle County Supervisor of Assessment published the assessment for the Veolia Orchard Hills Landfill on October 22, 2009; and

WHEREAS, 35 ILCS 200/16-25 provides “[a]ny taxing body that has an interest in an assessment made by any local assessment officer or officers may have the assessment reviewed by the board of review by filing a complaint in writing with the board of review within 30 calendar days after publication of the assessment list under Section 12-10”; and

WHEREAS, the above-captioned parcels are within the corporate boundaries of Meridian Community Unit School District No. 223 and said School District derives revenues therefrom; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of Meridian Community Unit School District No. 223 finds and determines that it is in the School District’s best interests to have the above referenced assessments reviewed by the Ogle County Board of Review for the year 2009.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of Meridian Community Unit School District No. 223, Ogle County, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION ONE: That the Preambles to this Resolution are hereby incorporated in this Section One as if fully set forth and restated herein *verbatim*.

SECTION TWO: That the Board of Education hereby authorizes and directs WHITT LAW LLC, attorneys for Meridian Community Unit School District No. 223, to file a complaint with the Ogle County Board of Review for the said parcels for the year 2009 on behalf of Meridian Community Unit School District No. 223 and authorizes WHITT LAW LLC to represent said School District before the Ogle County Board of Review in said proceedings.

SECTION THREE: That this Resolution shall be in full force and effect forthwith upon and after its adoption.

ADOPTED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2009.

Ayes

---

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Nays

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Absent

---

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Its President

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Its Secretary

STATE OF ILLINOIS                    )  
  )  
COUNTY OF OGLE                    )        SS.

**CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES**

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that I am the duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Education of Meridian Community Unit School District No. 223, Ogle County, Illinois (the “Board”), and as such official I am the keeper of the records and files of the Board.

I do further certify that the foregoing constitutes a full, true and complete transcript of the minutes of the meeting of the Board held on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2009, insofar as same relates to the adoption of a resolution entitled:

RESOLUTION authorizing complaint to Ogle County Board  
of Review

a true, correct and complete copy of said resolution as adopted at said meeting appears in the foregoing transcript of the minutes of said meeting.

I do further certify that the deliberations of the Board on the adoption of said resolution were conducted openly, that the vote on the adoption of said resolution was taken openly, that said meeting was called and held at a specified time and place convenient to the public, that notice of said meeting was duly given to all of the news media requesting such notice, that an agenda for said meeting was posted at the location where said meeting was held and at the principal office of the Board at least 48 hours in advance of the holding of said meeting, that said agenda contained a separate specific item concerning the proposed adoption of said resolution, that said meeting was called and held in strict compliance with the provisions of the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois, as amended, and with the provisions of the applicable Code of the State of Illinois, as amended, and that the Board has complied with all of the provisions of said Act and said Code and with all of the procedural rules of the Board.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto affix my official signature, this 12<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary, Board of Education

**Agenda Item 8.5: Preliminary discussion / place 2009 Levy figures on display for 2009 taxes due June/Sept. 2010. The levy hearing will take place at on December 17, 2009 at 6:45 p.m. at Highland School**

This item is included on the agenda to allow the School Board the ability to begin the process to determine the 2009 tax levy and meet applicable requirements of the Truth in Taxation Act for a school district that intends to adopt a tax levy that is greater than 105% of the previous year's tax extension. At this meeting, the School Board will review preliminary Equalized Assessed Valuation figures and potential tax rates. The levy hearing is scheduled for December 17, 2009 at 6:45 p.m. at Highland School.

We recently received our preliminary 2009 Equalized Assessed Valuation from both Ogle and Winnebago Counties (attached). At this point, our district EAV is set at \$187,898,210 which is an increase of 2.25 % from last year. Our average increase over the past 4 years is around 7%.

Attached is the timetable to meet the requirements of the Truth in Taxation Act as well as the historical EAV and tax rate history for the Meridian School District. Also attached is an explanation of the levy process. Finally, there is an attached preliminary levy.

**Meridian CUSD #223**

**Tax Levy and Truth in Taxation Timeline  
for 2009 Levy**

- 11/12/2009**    **Determination of 2008 Tax Levies and Truth in Taxation Resolution approved at School Board Meeting**
- 12/3/2009**    **Official publication of public hearing notice in newspaper. (Published not more than 14 days nor less than 7 days prior to public hearing.)**
- 12/17/2009**    **Official Truth in Taxation public hearing and adoption of 2009 tax levies.**
- 12/29/2009**    **Deadline to file with Ogle and Winnebago County Clerks the 2009 tax levies and certificate of compliance with the Truth in Taxation Act. (By the last Tuesday in December; the last Tuesday this year is Christmas Day)**

TAX LEVY - 2009

TAX LEVY	MAX. RATE	1995	1995	1996	1996	1997	1997	1998	1998	1999	1999	2000	2000
		EXTENSION	RATE	EXTENSION	RATES	EXTENSION	RATES	EXTENSION	RATES	EXTENSION	RATES	EXTENSION	RATES
Education	\$2.78	\$2,052,515	\$2.7190	\$2,278,879	\$2.78000	\$2,433,726	\$2.7800	\$2,638,763	\$2.7800	\$2,843,486	\$2.7800	\$2,884,524	\$2.7800
Operation-Maint.	\$0.50	\$369,157	\$0.4890	\$409,870	\$0.50000	\$437,721	\$0.5000	\$474,598	\$0.5000	\$511,418	\$0.5000	\$518,799	\$0.5000
Transportation	\$0.20	\$147,663	\$0.1956	\$163,948	\$0.20000	\$175,088	\$0.2000	\$189,839	\$0.2000	\$204,567	\$0.2000	\$207,520	\$0.2000
Working Cash	\$0.05	\$36,916	\$0.0489	\$0	\$0.00000	\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.0000	\$30,481	\$0.0298	\$21,163	\$0.0204
Sp. Ed. Bldg.	\$0.04	\$29,533	\$0.0391	\$32,790	\$0.04000	\$35,018	\$0.0400	\$35,595	\$0.0375	\$40,913	\$0.0400	\$41,504	\$0.0400
Tort Immunity	(NA)	\$70,000	\$0.0927	\$50,000	\$0.06099	\$40,000	\$0.0457	\$40,056	\$0.0422	\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.0000
Social Security	(NA)	\$82,000	\$0.1086	\$95,000	\$0.11589	\$95,000	\$0.1085	\$100,045	\$0.1054	\$111,796	\$0.1093	\$111,107	\$0.1071
IMRF	(NA)	\$92,000	\$0.1219	\$99,000	\$0.12077	\$99,000	\$0.1131	\$105,076	\$0.1107	\$121,922	\$0.1192	\$121,689	\$0.1173
RENT	\$0.05	\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.00000	\$26,263	\$0.0300	\$27,906	\$0.0294	\$38,663	\$0.0378	\$0	\$0.0000
*FP/SEC Fund	\$0.05	\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.00000	\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.0000	\$42,327	\$0.0408
Bond and Interest	(NA)	\$435,845	\$0.5775	\$615,822	\$0.75124	\$635,500	\$0.7259	\$655,989	\$0.6911	\$674,689	\$0.6596	\$905,820	\$0.8730
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$2,879,784</b>	<b>\$3.8149</b>	<b>\$3,129,487</b>	<b>\$3.8177</b>	<b>\$3,341,815</b>	<b>\$3.8173</b>	<b>\$3,611,878</b>	<b>\$3.8052</b>	<b>\$3,903,248</b>	<b>\$3.8161</b>	<b>\$3,948,633</b>	<b>\$3.8055</b>
<b>TOTALS W/ B&amp;I:</b>		<b>\$3,315,629</b>	<b>\$4.3924</b>	<b>\$3,745,309</b>	<b>\$4.5689</b>	<b>\$3,977,315</b>	<b>\$4.5432</b>	<b>\$4,267,867</b>	<b>\$4.4963</b>	<b>\$4,577,936</b>	<b>\$4.4757</b>	<b>\$4,854,453</b>	<b>\$4.6785</b>

	2001	2001	2002	2002	2003	2003	2004	2004	2005	2005 Rates	2006	2006 Rates
	EXTENSION	RATES	EXTENSION	RATES	EXTENSION	RATES	EXTENSION	RATES	EXTENSION		EXTENSION	
Education	\$3,030,687	\$2.7800	\$3,176,980	\$2.7800	\$3,500,003	\$2.7472	\$3,679,534	\$2.7800	\$3,909,698	\$2.7800	\$4,308,853	\$2.7909
Operation-Maint.	\$545,088	\$0.5000	\$571,399	\$0.5000	\$630,002	\$0.4945	\$661,787	\$0.5000	\$703,183	\$0.5000	\$774,218	\$0.5015
Transportation	\$218,035	\$0.2000	\$228,560	\$0.2000	\$250,005	\$0.1962	\$264,715	\$0.2000	\$281,273	\$0.2000	\$310,102	\$0.2009
Working Cash	\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.0000	\$39,707	\$0.0300	\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.0000
Sp. Ed. Bldg.	\$43,607	\$0.0400	\$45,712	\$0.0400	\$50,006	\$0.0396	\$52,943	\$0.0400	\$56,255	\$0.0400	\$62,030	\$0.0402
Tort Immunity	\$75,538	\$0.0700	\$46,283	\$0.0405	\$48,044	\$0.0383	\$52,943	\$0.0400	\$84,382	\$0.0600	\$139,216	\$0.0902
Social Security	\$118,701	\$0.1100	\$138,736	\$0.1214	\$144,145	0.11314	\$185,300	0.14000	\$239,082	0.17000	\$262,964	\$0.1703
IMRF	\$129,491	\$0.1200	\$138,736	\$0.1214	\$144,145	0.11314	\$119,122	0.09000	\$126,573	0.09000	\$170,163	\$0.1102
RENT	\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.0000
*FP/SEC Fund	\$43,160	\$0.0400	\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.0000	\$39,707	\$0.0300	\$42,191	\$0.0300	\$77,207	\$0.0500
Bond and Interest	\$942,708	\$0.8647	1,064,631	\$0.9316	1,107,539	\$0.8693	\$1,152,493	\$0.8707	\$1,194,437	\$0.8493	\$1,242,434	\$0.8047
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$4,204,306</b>	<b>\$3.8600</b>	<b>\$4,346,406</b>	<b>\$3.8033</b>	<b>\$4,766,350</b>	<b>\$3.7421</b>	<b>\$5,095,757</b>	<b>\$3.8500</b>	<b>\$5,442,637</b>	<b>\$3.8700</b>	<b>\$6,104,753</b>	<b>\$3.9541</b>
<b>TOTALS W/ B&amp;I:</b>	<b>\$5,147,014</b>	<b>\$4.7247</b>	<b>\$5,411,037</b>	<b>\$4.7349</b>	<b>\$5,873,889</b>	<b>\$4.6114</b>	<b>\$6,248,250</b>	<b>\$4.7207</b>	<b>\$6,637,074</b>	<b>\$4.7193</b>	<b>\$7,347,187</b>	<b>\$4.7589</b>

2007	2007 Rates	2008	2008 Rates	2009	2009 Rates	TAX LEVY	MAX. RATE
\$4,700,018	\$2.7622	\$5,108,613	\$2.7800	\$5,223,588	\$2.7800	Education	\$2.78
\$850,007	\$0.4996	\$918,815	\$0.5000	\$939,494	\$0.5000	Operation-M	\$0.50
\$340,011	\$0.1998	\$367,526	\$0.2000	\$375,798	\$0.2000	Transportation	\$0.20
\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.0000	Working Cash	\$0.05
\$69,357	\$0.0408	\$73,505	\$0.0400	\$75,160	\$0.0400	Sp. Ed.	\$0.04
\$165,002	\$0.0970	\$1,001	\$0.0005	\$50,000	\$0.0266	Tort Immunity	(NA)
\$282,004	\$0.1657	\$310,910	\$0.1692	\$317,128	\$0.1688	Social Security	(NA)
\$215,011	\$0.1264	\$304,778	\$0.1659	\$310,873	\$0.1654	IMRF	(NA)
\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.0000	\$0	\$0.0000	RENT	\$0.05
\$81,998	\$0.0482	\$91,882	\$0.0500	\$93,949	\$0.0500	*FP/SEC Fu	\$0.05
\$1,295,128	\$0.7612	\$1,894,846	\$1.0311	\$1,889,448	\$1.0056	Bond and Int	(NA)
\$6,703,407	\$3.9396	\$7,177,030	\$3.9056	\$7,385,991	\$3.9308	<b>TOTALS</b>	
\$7,998,536	\$4.7008	\$9,071,876	\$4.9367	\$9,275,438	\$4.9364	<b>TOTALS W/ B&amp;I:</b>	

Assessed Valuation (EAV):	% + / -
1984	\$40,903,678
1985	\$39,640,888
1986	\$40,272,097
1987	\$44,402,149
1988	\$45,012,785
1989	\$45,697,226
1990	\$46,989,901
1991	\$49,877,949
1992	\$54,892,752
1993	\$60,926,479
1994	\$66,276,015
1995	\$75,488,349
1996	\$81,974,063
1997	\$87,544,100
1998	\$94,919,532
1999	\$102,283,683
2000	\$103,759,847
2001	\$109,017,501
2002	\$114,279,861
2003	\$127,404,415
2004	\$132,357,323
2005	\$140,636,610
2006	\$154,388,604
2007	\$170,153,284
2008	\$183,763,073
2009	\$187,898,210

NOTE: Woodcrest added to district

TOTAL Increase 1990 to 1996:  
86.30%      14.38%

Landfill assessment

Actual  
Preliminary

**Assessor Estimated EAV Report by Tax District  
Winnebago County**

Totals	
Board of Review Abstract	15,738,247
- Exemptions	1,722,341
- Under Assessed	0
+ State Assessed	11,758
Total EAV	14,027,664
- Tif Increment / Ezone	0
Rate Setting EAV	14,027,664

New Construction	
Commercial	0
Farm	0
Industrial	0
Local Rail Road	0
Mineral	0
Residential	26,027
Total	26,027

Exemption Category	Commercial		Farm		Industrial		Local Rail Road		Mineral		Residential		State Rail Road		Totals	
	Value	Count	Value	Count	Value	Count	Value	Count	Value	Count	Value	Count	Value	Count	Value	Count
Parcel Count		0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0
Board of Review Abstract	354,249		1,895,510		0		0		0		13,488,488		0		15,738,247	
- Home Improvement		0	3,721	1		0		0		0	73,759	14		0	77,480	15
- Veteran's		0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0
+ State Assessed		0		0		0		0		0			11,758		11,758	
= EAV	354,249		1,891,789	1		0		0		0	13,414,729	14	11,758		15,672,525	15
- Senior Assessment Freeze		0	60,584	3		0		0		0	273,777	15		0	334,361	18
- Owner Occupied		0	78,000	13		0		0		0	1,058,000	178		0	1,134,000	189
- Senior Citizen's		0	24,000	6		0		0		0	144,000	36		0	168,000	42
- Disabled Person		0		0		0		0		0	6,000	3		0	6,000	3
- Disabled Veteran		0		0		0		0		0	2,500	1		0	2,500	1
- Returning Veteran		0		0		0		0		0				0		0
- Fraternal Freeze		0		0		0		0		0				0		0
- Vet Freeze		0		0		0		0		0				0		0
- Under Assessed		0		0		0		0		0				0		0
- EZone		0		0		0		0		0				0		0
- TIF		0		0		0		0		0				0		0
- Drainage		0		0		0		0		0				0		0
= Taxable Value	354,249		1,729,205		0		0		0		11,932,452		11,758		14,027,664	

**Assessor Estimated EAV Report by Tax District  
Ogle County**

Totals	
Board of Review Abstract	189,738,869
- Exemptions	18,715,933
- Under Assessed	0
+ State Assessed	990,556
Total EAV	172,013,492
- Tif Increment / Ezone	0
Rate Setting EAV	172,013,492

New Construction	
Commercial	90,900
Farm	94,223
Industrial	0
Local Rail Road	0
Mineral	0
Residential	1,645,904
Total	1,831,027

Exemption Category	Commercial		Farm		Industrial		Local Rail Road		Mineral		Residential		State Rail Road		Totals	
	Value	Count	Value	Count	Value	Count	Value	Count	Value	Count	Value	Count	Value	Count	Value	Count
Parcel Count		0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0
Board of Review Abstract	5,911,793		33,728,197		9,191,090		0		0		140,907,789		0		189,738,869	
- Home Improvement		0	132,384	14		0	0		0	0	540,565	81		0	672,949	95
- Veteran's		0		0		0	0		0	0		0		0	0	0
+ State Assessed		0		0		0	0		0				990,556		990,556	
= EAV	5,911,793		33,860,581	14	9,191,090		0	0		0	140,367,224	81	990,556		190,056,476	95
- Senior Assessment Freeze		0	364,168	25		0	0		0	0	2,365,051	170		0	2,729,219	195
- Owner Occupied		0	1,364,000	248		0	0		0	0	11,987,916	2,181		0	13,351,916	2,429
- Senior Citizen's		0	382,270	96		0	0		0	0	1,531,079	384		0	1,913,349	480
- Disabled Person		0	8,000	4		0	0		0	0	28,000	14		0	36,000	18
- Disabled Veteran		0	2,500	1		0	0		0	0	10,000	2		0	12,500	3
- Returning Veteran		0	0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0		0	0	0
- Fraternal Freeze		0	0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0		0	0	0
- Vet Freeze		0	0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0		0	0	0
- Under Assessed		0	0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0		0	0	0
- E-Zone		0	0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0		0	0	0
- TIF		0	0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0		0	0	0
- Drainage		0	0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0		0	0	0
= Taxable Value	5,911,793		31,474,875		9,191,090		0		0		124,445,178		990,556		172,013,492	

## **Meridian CUSD #223**

### **Tax Levy 2009 Information**

The following "Questions and Answers" for taxpayers is, in part, a reprint of a feature article from the Illinois Association of School Boards News Service. It is very helpful in understanding the complex "tax levy" process.

#### **What is a "tax levy"?**

The tax levy represents the governmental unit's estimate of revenue required from the local taxing authority. In a school district's case, estimates of necessary expenditures and revenues are prepared in the budget process. The portion of revenue that the district requires from local property taxes is forwarded to the county clerk's office. This is called the "tax levy."

**NOTE:** Unfortunately due to time delays, the budget process completed in the months prior to the levy process is for a different fiscal year. In other words, the budget process completed in June/Sept. of 2009 is for revenue and expenditures for the FY10 year or for July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010; while the "levy" process completed in Oct./Dec. of 2009 is for taxes levied on calendar year 2009 property, due and collected in June and September 2010 and distributed to the school district in July and September, 2010 for fiscal year 2011 (FY 11).

#### **Does this mean that the school district can raise or lower my taxes at will?**

No. Regardless of the amount of monies needed by the district, there are legal limits on the rates a district can ask for or extend. These rates can be increased **ONLY BY LOCAL VOTERS OR BY THE STATE LEGISLATURE**. In our school district, Meridian C.U.S.D. #223, the following tax rate limits apply per \$100 of equalized assessed valuation (EAV):

Education Fund:	\$2.78
Operation & Maintenance:	\$ .50
Transportation Fund:	\$ .20
Special Education Fund:	\$ .04
Working Cash Fund:	\$ .05

No matter what the need or levy, the above fund rates **CANNOT BE EXCEEDED WITHOUT VOTER APPROVAL.** Other fund tax rates can be levied higher or lower depending upon the need. These include: Tort Liability Fund; Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund; Bond and Interest Fund; and the Social Security and Medicaid Fund.

**Can a district ever exceed the rates listed above in the Education, Operations & Maintenance, Transportation, Special Education, or Working Cash Funds?**

Only if the local voters approve a higher rate in a referendum.

**How is this tax rate used?**

Your property has been assessed by the local assessor and verified by the State of Illinois. There is no intervention in this process by the school district. One-third of the value of all privately owned property within the boundaries of the school district is called the "Equalized Assessed Valuation" (EAV). The county clerk then multiplies these values by the tax rates in the various funds as provided by law. If the total dollars generated are less than the amounts requested, the clerk will stop at the legal rate limits. This amount - legal tax rates times EAV - is called the "tax extension," the amount charged the taxpayer.

**The county clerk STOPS at the legal rate limit for each fund?**

Yes. Even though the dollars the district will receive are less than it needs from local taxes, the tax rates will never exceed the legal limits. For example:

School district "A" budgets \$1,500,000 for expenditures in the Education Fund. \$1,000,000 of this must come from local sources. The tax "levy" would be \$1,000,000 for the Education Fund. If your property has a market value of \$60,000, the assessor would report its assessed value to the county clerk at \$20,000. Your taxes for School District "A" (if the Education Fund rate was \$2.78 / per \$100) would be  $\$2.78 \times \$20,000$  divided by 100 (remember, the rate is per \$100) or \$556 at the most. If one-third of the total value of all private property (Equalized Assessed Valuation) were equal to \$30,000,000 in School District "A," the maximum dollars generated would be  $(\$2.78 \times \$30,000,000 / 100)$  \$834,000. Since the district levied \$1,000,000 but the legal tax rate generated only \$834,000, the district will only get \$834,000.

**Then, regardless of the tax levy, my tax RATES cannot be increased above the legal limits?**

Not without voter approval.

**Why levy more than you believe you will receive in the extension?**

As the budget indicates, the district needs that amount of money even though it does not realistically believe it will receive it. Since the district cannot receive more than the legal limit tax rates times the Equalized Assessed Valuation of the district, it still must levy the amount needed to assure that it will get as much of the need it legally has due if there is an increase in assessed valuation. Say, for example, the assessor determined that the value of your property rose from \$60,000 to \$66,000 due to improvements. Your tax rate would not change, but you would owe more taxes - (now \$2.78 times \$22,000 not \$20,000 divided by 100) - \$611.60 vs. \$556 or a \$55.60 increase. If a significant increase, say a \$20,000,000 plant expansion, were to appear on the tax rolls, then the district would receive these tax dollars (up to the levy request) **BECAUSE IT LEVIED WHAT IT NEEDED, NOT WHAT IT EXPECTED TO RECEIVE.**

**What happens when the extension is less than the levy?**

This is a common occurrence in today's economy. Federal and State support of education is greatly reduced, requiring school boards to seek greater local taxes. Once the legal taxing limits are reached, the options are few, including:

1. Cut expenditures by reducing services
2. Try to increase other revenue sources
3. Borrow
4. Ask the local voters for a higher tax rate

**Generally speaking, the process is:**

- 1. The district requests local taxes to support education from the county clerk.**
- 2. The county clerk determines what tax rate must be used times the assessed valuation of the district to obtain the requested taxes.**
- 3. The county clerk will NOT allow the tax rates to exceed the legal limits, even if that tax rate will not generate the requested tax dollars.**

Precisely.

**So, even though the paper may say the tax levy is up 18%, my tax rate cannot go up beyond the legal limit, and my tax bill will go up only by the rate times whatever increase there may have been in the value of my property?**

Correct.

**Why the big deal in the paper since my tax rate is not increasing?**

Chapter 120, Paragraph 861 of the Illinois revised Statutes requires that the notice be published.

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

**Background**

This item is included on the agenda for the purpose of reviewing and possibly approving academic interventionist positions to be paid through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). After reviewing test data and identifying areas of needed improvement in order to meet adequate proficiency levels, the recommendation is being made to establish positions that will provide additional time and support to students who have not reached identified proficiency levels. These positions will work collaboratively with building staff to engage in research based, best practice activities with students in small groups to meet proficiency standards. Reading will be targeted at Highland, Monroe Center and the Meridian Junior High. Mathematics will be recommended to be targeted at Stillman Valley High School. These positions will be evaluated for their effectiveness at assisting students in reaching proficiency levels at the end of the school year.

**Recommendation**

The superintendent recommends approving the interventionist positions paid through ARRA funds..