

Meridian CUSD #223 School Board

Agenda and Board Packet

Regular Meeting

October 23, 2008

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 C.U.S.D. #223
BOARD AGENDA
Thursday, October 23, 2008
Meridian Junior High
District Board Room
7:00 PM

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll call**
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 4. Approve Consent Agenda** (*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 the items unless a board member or citizen requests, in which event the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered individually.*)
 - 4.1 Approval of minutes of October 9, 2008 Board Meeting**
 - 4.2 Approval of payroll for October 31, 2008**
 - 4.3 Approval of Accounts Payable for October per review by Mr. Bruce Larson**
 - 4.4 Approval of Health/Dental and Life Insurance renewal for 2008-2009**
- 5. Report of the Superintendent:**
 - 5.1 2008 ISAT and PSAE Summary
- 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 Review 2008 State Report Card Data
 - 8.2 Review/approve Fiber Optic installation
 - 8.3 Review/possibly approve modification to teacher leader (facilitator) structure
 - 8.4 Review Community Focus Group Session conducted on October 20, 2008
- 9. New Business:**
 - 9.1 Preliminary discussion of 2008 Levy for 2008 taxes due June/Sept. 2009. The levy hearing will take place on December 18, 2008 at 6:45 p.m. at Highland School
- 10. Board Comments**
- 11. Adjourn to closed meeting to discuss: (No Closed Session scheduled as of 10/17/08)**
- 12. Reconvene in open session**
- 13. Motions from Closed Session**
- 14. Adjourn**

Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting of October 9, 2008

Call to Order and Roll Call

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Meridian Community School district #223 was called to order by Vice President Barb Reeverts at 7:05 p.m. in the Meridian District Board of Education Room located in the Meridian Junior High School. Members present: Jagielski, King, and Larson. Superintendent Prusator, Director of Business/HR Porter, and Technology Director Bolhous were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Consent Agenda

Item 4.1 approval of the minutes of the September 24, 2008 Board Meeting was removed from the Consent Agenda for additions. Item 4.3 approval of accounts payable for October 2008 per review by Mr. Larson was removed from the Consent Agenda because Mr. Larson was not able to review the accounts payable prior to the meeting. This item will be held over until the October 23, 2008 board meeting.

Motion:

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Reeverts, to approve the payroll of October 17, 2008. Ayes: Jagielski, King, Larson and Reeverts. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion:

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by King, to approve the minutes as amended. Ayes: Jagielski, King, Larson, and Reeverts. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

5.11 Review the Annual ISBE Fall Housing Report/enrollment as of 9/30/08

Mr. Prusator reviewed the Annual Fall Enrollment and Housing Report that shows enrollment on 9/30/08. He also reviewed an Enrollment by Grade Level Report. These figures showed a total district enrollment of 1993 which is an increase of 42 students and a 2.15% increase from 9/30/07. Mr. Prusator will provide updates on the student numbers periodically throughout the school year.

5.12 Technology Department Report

Mr. Bolhous gave a power point presentation highlighting current projects. He also provided information on his recommendation for the purchase and installation of a fiber optic line to support the District's network. It is expected a recommendation will be presented at the October 23, 2008 meeting.

Mr. Steenken arrived at 7:23 p.m. and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Glendenning arrived at 7:25 p.m.

Notices and Communications

Mr. Prusator stated that he had distributed an IASB Report to the Membership at each seat. He also reviewed the timeline for the April 7, 2009 School Board Election. Four seats will be open for this election. Four year terms are expiring for Mr. Steenken, Mr. Jagielski, Mrs. Bonne and Mr. Glendenning.

Community Input

There was no Community Input.

Old Business

8.1 Approve Resolution for Issuance of Working Cash Fund Bonds

Mr. Prusator reviewed the financing for the 148 acres of land located south of SVHS. He stated that the Stillman Bank is purchasing the bonds. The closing date is October 27, 2008. Mr. Prusator also reviewed the Tax Rate Impact the purchase of the property might have.

Mr. Glendenning requested that the minutes reflect that he is not against the purchase of the land, but will abstain from the vote because of his relationship with the Stillman Bank.

Motion:

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by King, to approve the Resolution for Issuance of Working Cash Fund Bonds. Ayes: King, Larson, Reeverts, Jagielski and Steenken.

Abstain: Glendenning. Motion carried.

8.2 Review Community Focus Group Session for October 20, 2008

Mr. Prusator reviewed the format for the Community Focus Group Session scheduled for Monday, October 20, 2008 at Stillman Valley High School. Mr. Prusator handed out a list of possible questions to be asked at this session. Discussion followed. The Board reached consensus on three questions for the focus group session: 1)What do you look at to determine how well our district is doing; 2) In five years, what kinds of issues do you think the School District will need to discuss/address?; and 3) What are the critical areas of needed improvement? Feedback from the community will be compiled and discussed by board members at a later meeting. The community's feedback will be taken into consideration in deciding priorities in the future.

New Business

9.1 Review Meridian CUSD #223 Board Policy Manual; Section 2

As part of the process to review board policy, The Board began to review and evaluate the second section of the policy manual, which focuses on the School Board. Discussion followed regarding the policy language in the section. Because of time constraints, the

Board was not able to complete the review of section 2 and will continue with the evaluation at the November 13, 2008 board meeting.

9.2 **Preliminary review of health/dental/life insurance bid for 2008-2009; final recommendation will be made at the October 23, 2008 board meeting**

Mrs. Porter reviewed the bid process. The district's current carriers returned the most favorable renewal rates. Mrs. Porter handed out and reviewed the renewal rates. She also stated that the Insurance Committee met this afternoon to review the rates. Mike Parrott from the district's insurance consultants, Miller & Buettner, Inc., was also present to answer questions. At the October 23, 2008 board meeting, the recommendation will be to retain all of the current vendors for the 2008-2009 benefit year.

Board Comments

Mrs. Reeverts requested an update on the Ogle County Educational Cooperative and the possibility of the Byron School District leaving. Mr. Larson distributed a handout on high schools issuing employability certificates. Mr. Jagielski commented on the enrollment figure increases which will have an impact on the facilities and the need to continue to consider expansion.

Adjourn to Closed Session

A motion was made by Reeverts, seconded by Jagielski, to adjourn to closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District. Ayes: Larson, Reeverts, Glendenning, Jagielski, King and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 9:25 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Reeverts, to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. Time 9:59 p.m.

Board Action From Executive Session

Approve the minutes of the September 11, 2008 and September 24, 2008 executive sessions.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Reeverts, to approve the September 11, 2008 and September 24, 2008 executive session minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve the Personnel Report

A motion was made by King, seconded by Larson to approve the personnel report including the **employment** of James Burke, technology technician (new position); Tara Elder, Highland cashier (new position); Stephany Fritz, human resource assistant (replaced A. Cook); Donna Hall, MC cashier (new position); Bethani Lauer, SVHS attendance secretary (new position); Tracy Nason, MC head cook (replaces L. Nyman); Kathy Niemczyk, MC lunch supervision aide (replaced S. Hager); Dena Peterson, Highland dishwasher (open position); Yolanda Torres, SVHS head cook (replaced M. McDuffie); Jose Vargas, MC 2nd shift custodian (replaced J. Rydeberg); Michelle

Eyster, assistant high school academic bowl coach for the 2008-2009 school year (replaces R. Gilbert); Jessica Starr, assistant 8th grade volleyball coach for the 2008-2009 school year due to high numbers (new position). The personnel report includes the **resignation** of Jessica Rydeberg, MC 2nd shift custodian effective September 12, 2008. The personnel report also includes the **family medical leave** of Rebecca Barton, MJH 7th grade science teacher effective February 25, 2009 until May 4, 2009 and Cynthia Gunderson, MC cafeteria worker effective August 26, 2008 for 12 weeks. Ayes: Jagielski, King, Larson, Reeverts, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Steenken, 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 9, 2008 meeting; the October 31, 2008 payroll; and approving accounts payable for October (per review by Mr. Bruce Larson).

Consent Agenda Item 4.4: Approval of Health/Dental/Life Insurance Renewal for 2008-2009

Background: At the last meeting, District Administrator for Business and Human Resources, Jennifer Porter reviewed the process and terms for renewal of health, dental and life insurance premiums for 2008-2009. The District's insurance consultants, Miller & Buettner, Inc., and the Human Resources Department have been worked over the past few months on the District's health/dental /life renewals for November 1, 2008. The bid process has taken place with the District's current carriers returning the most favorable renewal rates.

As reviewed at the October 9, 2008 meeting, the attached renewal rates are the final rates for review by the Board. The District's Insurance Committee met and reviewed the renewal rates.

Overall, the 2008-2009 renewal rates came out favorable with a net increase of 1.7% for medical (Blue Cross/Blue Shield), dental (Delta) and life (Reliance). The medical rates overall increased 1.97%. The dental rates remained at the current rate and our life insurance rates decreased 11.11% due to negotiations with our current vendor Reliance.

The plan designs for all remain the same.

Recommendation: The superintendent recommends the Board accept the bid from Blue Cross/Blue Shield for health insurance, Delta Dental for dental insurance and Reliant for life insurance for the next plan year ending October 31, 2009.

Meridian C.U.S.D. #223
Executive Summary Presented October 9, 2008
November 1, 2008 Renewal

I. Medical PPO - BC/BS								
		Current	Initial Renewal	Increase	%	Final Renewal	Increase	%
EE	64	\$ 352.93	\$ 369.84			\$ 359.27		
EE/SP	6	\$ 727.70	\$ 759.73			\$ 738.02		
EE/Ch(ren)	4	\$ 666.74	\$ 715.88			\$ 695.43		
Family	8	\$ 1,041.53	\$ 1,105.77			\$ 1,074.17		
Monthly		\$ 37,952.92	\$ 39,937.82			\$ 38,796.48		
Annual		\$ 455,435.04	\$ 479,253.84	\$ 23,818.80	5.23%	\$ 465,557.76	\$ 10,123	2.22%
II. Medical HMO - BC/BS						Final Renewal		
EE	57	\$ 358.70	\$ 373.07			\$ 362.41		
EE/SP	4	\$ 739.61	\$ 766.35			\$ 744.46		
EE/Ch(ren)	7	\$ 677.65	\$ 722.12			\$ 701.48		
Family	13	\$ 1,058.58	\$ 1,115.40			\$ 1,083.54		
Monthly		\$ 41,909.43	\$ 43,885.43			\$ 42,631.59		
Annual		\$ 502,913.16	\$ 526,625.16	\$ 23,712.00	4.71%	\$ 511,579.08	\$ 8,666	1.72%
Medical Totals				\$ 47,530.80	4.97%	\$ 18,788.64		1.97%
III. Dental - Delta Dental								
EE	126	\$ 28.40	\$ 28.40			\$ 28.40		
Family	52	\$ 86.02	\$ 86.02			\$ 86.02		
Monthly		\$ 8,051.44	\$ 8,051.44			\$ 8,051.44		
Annual		\$ 96,617.28	\$ 96,617.28	\$ -		\$ 96,617.28	\$ -	0.00%
IV. Group Life & AD&D - Reliance Standard								
Monthly		\$ 730.80	\$ 730.80			\$ 649.60		
Annual		\$ 8,769.60	\$ 8,769.60		0.00%	\$ 7,795.20	\$ (974.40)	-11.11%
Total		\$ 1,063,735.08	\$ 1,111,265.88	\$ 47,530.80	4%	\$ 1,081,549.32	\$ 17,814.24	1.7%

Agenda Item 5: Report of the Superintendent

5.1 2008 ISAT/PSAE Summary

Mr. Prusator will provide a summary on the District's ISAT and PSAE 2008 scores.



Meridian CUSD #223
ISAT/PSAE Report
October 23, 2008

1

Academic Warning

Student work demonstrates limited knowledge and skills in the subject. Because of major gaps in learning, students apply knowledge and skills ineffectively

2

Below Standards

Student work demonstrates basic knowledge and skills in the subject. However, because of gaps in learning, students apply knowledge and skills in limited ways.

3

Meets Standards

Student work demonstrates proficient knowledge and skills in the subject. Students effectively apply knowledge and skills to solve problems.

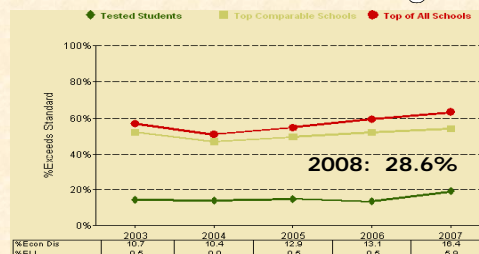
4

Exceeds Standards

Student work demonstrates advanced knowledge and skills in the subject. Students creatively apply knowledge and skills to solve problems and evaluate the results.

5

3rd Grade Reading



Important Note: This shows the achievement of all tested students regardless of how long they have been at the school. The achievement of students who have been enrolled for three years or more is a better reflection of a school's academic program, and will become available when the state provides the data.

Meridian CUSD #223

