

Meridian Community Board Minutes
January 11, 2007
7:00 P.M.

Minutes of a Special School Board Meeting for Levy Hearing of December 14, 2006

A special meeting of the Board of Education of Meridian Community Unit School District #223 was called to order by President Ron Steenken on December 14, 2006 at 6:45 p.m. in the cafeteria at Highland Grade School for the purpose of a Tax Levy Hearing. Members present: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson and Reeverts.

The proposed 2006 Tax Levy had been on display in the District Office. Mr. Prusator commented that there were no changes from the previous two meetings.

There was no public comment.

Hearing no comments or questions, a motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Jagielski, to adjourn the Tax Levy Hearing. Ayes: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Fruin, Secretary

Minutes of a Regular School Board Meeting of December 14, 2006

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Meridian Community Unit School District #223 was called to order by President Ron Steenken on December 14, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria at Highland Grade School. Members present: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson and Reeverts. Superintendent Prusator, and Principals Mandzen, Davidson, Zurko and Coulahan were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Reeverts, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the November 4, 2006 special board meeting, the minutes of the November 9, 2006 regular board meeting, payrolls of December 20, 2006 and January 5, 2007, and accounts payable for December 2006 per review by Mrs. Bonne. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne and Steenken. Abstain: Janes. Motion carried.

Mr. Prusator reviewed the Meridian CUSD #223 intervention in the 2006 Veolian ES Orchard Hills (formerly Onyx Orchard Hills Landfill) assessment appeal to Ogle County. Mr. Prusator also reported that Under Notices and Communications, he received a letter from the Ogle County Board of Review informing him of a hearing on Thursday, January 18, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. in the old Courthouse in Oregon.

Under Building Principal Reports, Mr. Coulahan reported that first grade teacher, Nicole Martinez's, husband passed away in his sleep last Friday night. She will be out on medical leave until after the birth/maternity leave of her child in January. Mrs. Linda Christensen has been hired to work in Mrs. Martinez's classroom. Santa and the Elves Shopping Workshop was held at Highland and Monroe Center last week. Thank you to all of the PTO members and parents that make this happen each year. "Second Step" in the counseling area is about one-third done. The first semester at Highland has gone extremely well. Report cards will go out at the end of our first week upon return from Winter Break. Mr. Coulahan reported teachers and staff continue to work hard with students on a daily basis and everything is going well at Highland School. Happy Holidays to all members of the Board.

Mr. Zurko reported that the environment at Monroe Center School continues to be full of positive learning and high student achievement. The Monroe Center staff will continue to implement parts of their school improvement plan to help monitor and achieve their target academic goals that will support the high standard of teaching and learning that the district and school strives for on a daily basis. Monroe Center School continues to focus on character education in the classroom and throughout the school. "Character Counts" street signs were placed in the hallway to help students visualize and support the six pillars of character (honesty, caring, citizenship, trustworthiness, respect and fairness). The Elementary Counseling Grant has been focusing on "The Second Step Program." This program focuses on empathy training, impulse control and problem solving, and anger management. The Santa and Elves Workshop was very successful this year. PTO worked extremely hard to organize and run this tradition. Happy Holidays!

Mr. Davidson reported that Mrs. Timm organized a math-a-thon fundraiser for her 7th grade classes. The fundraiser was to benefit the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. It gave the students the opportunity to work on their skills while raising money for a worthwhile cause. The class raised approximately \$3,000. Thank you to Mrs. Timm and the 7th grade for all of their hard work. Mr. Davidson also reported on the money raised at the book fair. The library raised over \$1,200 and received \$170 in free scholastic books. Mrs. Kunce had challenged the MJH to increase sales by 10% from last year; and the students responded by increasing over 26%. This may have been partially due to the incentive that she placed in front of the students. If they reached their goal, Mr. Davidson would hold an assembly and shave off his mustache. Thank you to Mrs. Kunce and all of the library staff for working so hard for the MJH students.

Mr. Mandzen reported that Mr. Polasky is a National Board Certified Teacher (49th in the state of Illinois). Congratulations! Mr. Mandzen reported on the Drug Dog Search held on Wednesday, December 13th. Mr. Mandzen was pleased to announce that

the Daughter of the American Revolution recipient is Amelia Garcia. Sons of the American Revolution Recipients are Scott Hlavin and Jordan Miles. Mr. Mandzen announced the Illinois State Scholars. They will be recognized at the Academic Awards Banquet in April. On January 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m., a representative from Rock Valley College will be speaking on a number of topics including dual credit opportunities and registering for RVC courses. Financial Aid Night is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. Information covered that evening will include information on filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and help with searching for private and corporate scholarships. The District is hosting a workshop for all community members regarding bullying on Wednesday, January 10, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Mandzen distributed an Activities Report to each board member.

There was no Community Input.

With no further discussion regarding the levy, a motion was made by Glendenning, seconded by Jagielski, to adopt the 2006 Levy as presented. Ayes: Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Coulahan presented the 2006-2007 School Improvement Plan for Highland Grade School. He introduced team members including: Diane Griffith, Susan Moon, Rhonda Ledger and Stephanie Haugh who participated in the presentation. Mr. Steenken invited board comments or questions. Mr. Zurko presented the 2006-2007 School Improvement Plan for Monroe Center School. He introduced team members including: Kathy Mandzen, Kathy Benesh, and Christa Papke who participated in the presentation. Mr. Steenken invited board comments or questions. Mr. Davidson presented the 2006-2007 School Improvement Plan for Meridian Junior High School. He stated that committee members were Leslie Zoet, Tina Isaacs, Kim Hofmeister, and Leslie Showers. Mr. Steenken invited board comments or questions. Mr. Mandzen presented the 2006-2007 School Improvement Plan for Stillman Valley High School. He reported that the team consisted of the principal, facilitators and classroom teachers of SVHS. Mr. Steenken invited board comments or questions. Board members thanked all of the principals and team members for their hard work and very informative presentations.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Reeverts to approve the building school improvement plans as presented. Ayes: Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator distributed copies of the bus driver handbook. He reported that he met with bus drivers again last night. He stated the handbook would be a useful document and a good starting point to help the transportation department run more smoothly. The handbook will be reviewed and approved yearly. ??clean up??

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Glendenning, to approve the bus driver handbook as presented. Ayes: Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator stated that the resolution authorizes Mr. Whitt to intervene in property assessment appeal filed by Veolian ES Orchard Hills (formerly Onyx Orchard Hills Landfill).

A motion was made by Reeverts, seconded by Janes, to approve resolution to intervene in property assessment appeal filed by Veolian ES Orchard Hills (formerly Onyx Orchard Hills Landfill). Ayes: Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mandzen reviewed new courses and course revisions proposed for SVHS for 2007-2008.

Mr. Stewart arrived around 9:00 p.m.

Mr. Prusator reported that all of the bid documents were not completed and ready for the board to act on. Mr. Prusator suggested that the Board consider a special meeting for the following week for the purpose of reviewing bids so that the project could be worked on during vacation.

Under Board Comments, Mrs. Reeverts commented on a workshop she attended at the School Board Convention. She said it was a good workshop on passing referendums.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Reeverts, to adjourn to closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the district and the semi-annual review of closed session minutes. Ayes: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 9:20 p.m.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Jagielski, to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 11:20 p.m.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Janes, to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2006 Executive Session. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Glendenning, to approve suggested actions on executive session minutes dated from June 22, 2006 through November 2006 as recommended. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Glendenning, to accept the personnel report of items 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.6 including: **3.1 accepting the resignation** of Ann Myrvold, MC head cook; **3.2 hiring** Aimee Stewart, MJH academic bowl coach (replaces K. Lundine); Brent Hall, MJH 8th grade basketball coach (repeat hire from last year); Tim DeVries, SVHS assistant wrestling coach (repeat hire from last year); Carol Conderman, SVHS chess team coach (repeat hire from last year); Mary Ann Goley, MC cook

(replaces Myrvold); Trella Hester, MC dishwasher (replaces Gunderson who transfers to MC asst. cook); Donna Roeglin, MC part-time custodian (2 hours per day during lunch and replaces time Babcock committed during lunch on his former shift at MC); Nancy Schabacker, Highland dishwasher (replaces Mary Jones who transferred to aide at Highland); Raylene Rzasz, Highland individual student aide per IEP; Paul Larson, SVHS individual aide; and Trudy Hoey, individual student aide at MJH; **3.3 accepting family leave request** for Nicole Martinez, Highland 1st grade teacher, leave expected to begin January 10, 2007 and Jaime Williams, Highland 1st grade teacher, leave expected to begin January 11, 2007; and **3.6 accepting the fall head coach evaluation** of Mike Lalor, football; Katrina Sturtevant, volleyball; and Lyn Larsen, boys' soccer. Ayes: Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, and Steenken. Abstain: Larson. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Fruin, Secretary