

Meridian Community Board Minutes
February 23, 2006
5:00 P.M.

Minutes of a Regular School Board Meeting of February 9, 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 February 9, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. in the Julia Hull Library located in Stillman Valley High School. Members present: Glendenning, Jagielski, and Janes. Superintendent Prusator and Principals Hedemann, Coulahan, Davidson and Mandzen were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Janes, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the January 26, 2006 regular board meeting, payroll of February 17, 2006, and accounts payable for February 2006 per review by Mr. Jagielski. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator reminded the board that the next meeting of the “Targeting Student Achievement through Governance” process on developing policy on volunteers was scheduled for Monday, February 13, 2006 in the district boardroom at 6:00 p.m.

Mr. Prusator thanked the Julia Hull Staff for the use of their facilities for the meeting tonight. Mr. Prusator also reported that 18-20 adults are taking advantage of the English as a Second Language (ESL) course being taught at Stillman Valley High School through Rock Valley College.

Mrs. Hedemann reported that Highland kindergarten and first grade students celebrated the 100th day of school on Tuesday, January 31st. Teachers planned a variety of activities and students moved from room to room by classes to enjoy the activities. Audra Swenson from SVHS has once again organized “Book Buddies”. Approximately 50 high school students come to Highland each Wednesday to read to a small group of kindergarten or first grade students. The students really look forward to the day with their Book Buddy. Testing for students with English as a Second Language continues at Highland and Monroe Center. Thank you to Susan Moon, Cindy Lewis, Julia Woessner and Phil Bratta for their diligence in completing the screener and the ACCESS Test. Eighty-seven students were screened and tested. Kindergarten Pre-Registration will be held on February 16 and 17 at Highland from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and 1 p.m.- 3 p.m. both days.

Mr. Coulahan reported that Jennifer Tompkins started her maternity leave today. Ms. Jacqui Shaver has taken over her class for the next twelve weeks. A bullying assembly will be held at MC on Valentine’s Day before the Valentine parties. The dates for Lorado Taft next year will be August 30-September 1. Students are now working on their Young Author stories. Those should be completed by Wednesday, February 15th.

Meridian Youth Basketball is completed. MC received a \$500 donation from the organization. Mid-term reports for third quarter go home tomorrow. The annual Fun Fair will be held at Meridian Junior High School on Saturday, February 26 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The Blue and Gold Scouts Banquet will be held at MC on Saturday. Mr. Coulahan encouraged everyone to check out the Monroe Center Newsletter online.

Mr. Davidson reported that the Meridian Junior High School would be receiving two glass backboards from Meridian Youth Basketball. The staff at MJH is working hard to get ready for ISAT testing. Mr. Davidson thanked Mrs. Hedemann and Mrs. Woessner for their work with the ESL students. MJH had seventeen students tested. Mr. Davidson expressed his thanks to SVHS for giving him the chance to perform with his daughter during half time on January 31st.

Mr. Mandzen reported on the second quarter awards for honor roll, perfect attendance and 94.50% attendance. Third quarter mid-terms will be mailed home tomorrow. Mr. Mandzen reported 21 students are currently enrolled in the Credit Recovery Program. Several students are earning credits so they can still graduate on time in May. SVHS hopes to have the first run of the 2006-2007 master class schedule by March 8th. All students have received their course registration paperwork. Last week the superintendents and principals from Stillman, Byron, Oregon and Winnebago met to continue discussions on how we can utilize each of the four high schools schedules and class offerings. Mr. Mandzen also encouraged everyone to check out the new web page that will be available on Monday. Lastly, he updated the board on the accomplishments and schedules of the wrestling team, girls' basketball, boys' basketball, band, chess team and scholastic bowl team.

There were no Notices and Communications.

Under Community Input, Teri Weaver addressed the board regarding her concerns about not having an RN at Highland. Kelly Knoll addressed the board asking them to resolve an ongoing situation at the bus garage.

Mr. Larson arrived at 5:20 p.m.

The board discussed establishing a long range planning and facility committee. Discussion centered around who/what groups should make up the committee, establishing a goal with a timeline, and determining what tasks need to be undertaken. Board members were asked to come up with names to consider by the Monday, February 13th meeting.

A motion was made by Glendenning, seconded by Steenken, to have the board start the process of setting up a long range planning and facility committee with a meeting set in March to charge a task force to evaluate the needs and facilities for the district. Ayes: Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator reported that he has been working with Byron, Oregon, and Winnebago schools to coordinate the school calendar because of the shared programs. He hopes to have a definitive calendar at the next meeting.

Mr. Jagielski spoke on Study Circles, which is a process for school districts to solicit community input/feedback on various topics. Mr. Jagielski attended a session at the annual school board conference on this process. Mr. Jagielski relayed that the Study Circles Resource Center provides training for moderators who will facilitate the discussion. Ultimately, the study circle brings a recommendation to the school board for consideration. Mr. Jagielski commented that the Study Circles process that strives to bring wider community input into the issues facing schools and school boards. Mr. Jagielski answered questions. Board members also offered comments. The consensus of the board members was to direct Mr. Prusator to make contact with the Study Circle Resource Center and inquire about the Meridian School District utilizing the process.

There were no Board Comments.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Jagielski, to adjourn to executive session to consider appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the district. Ayes: Janes, Larson, Glendenning, Jagielski and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 6:20 p.m. ??didn't have motion paper??

Mrs. Reeverts arrived at 6:42 p.m. during executive session.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Jagielski, to return to open session. Ayes: Larson, Reeverts, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2006 executive session. Ayes: Reeverts, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Larson, to accept the retirement request of Richard Armour, district maintenance, effective at the end of the working day of March 31, 2006. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Glendenning, to approve the transfer of Tom Castelli from FT MC night custodian to Monroe Center head custodian (replaces Jim Parker). Ayes: Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Reeverts, to hire Rita Perry, FT MC night custodian (replaces Tom Castelli who moved to head custodian replacing Jim

Parker). Ayes: Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Glendenning, Jagielski, and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Fruin, Secretary