

Meridian Community Board Minutes
March 9, 2006
7:00 P.M.

Minutes of a Regular School Board Meeting of February 23, 2006

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Larson, to elect Tim Jagielski as temporary chair in the absence of President Ron Steenken and Vice-President Barb Reeverts. Motion carried unanimously.

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Meridian Community Unit School District #223 was called to order by temporary chair, Tim Jagielski, on February 23, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meridian District Board of Education Room located in the Meridian Junior High School. Members present: Bonne, Glendenning, Janes and Larson. Superintendent Prusator was also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Larson, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the February 9, 2006 board meeting and payroll of March 3, 2006. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes and Larson. Abstain: Bonne. Motion carried.

Mr. Prusator handed out and reviewed possible Targeting Achievement through Governance meeting dates. Mr. Prusator explained the Targeting Achievement through Governance program and that the current topic is on volunteers. The next meeting is scheduled for March 18th. Mr. Prusator asked board members to check their calendars and let him know which dates are best for the additional three meetings.

Mr. Prusator reviewed the governor's budget proposal regarding education funding which includes a \$400 million dollar increase in K-12 education. He stated the increase to the foundation level would be \$170 and an increase of around \$500,000 for general state aid.

Under Notices and Communications, Mr. Prusator notified the board of a Northwest Division Meeting in Lena, Illinois on March 2, 2006. Mr. Prusator reviewed a letter from the State Board of Education indicating that each of the district's school buildings was awarded certificates of recognition for 2005-2006. Mr. Prusator also handed out and reviewed some information from the correspondence from the Lee/Ogle Regional Office of Education. Mr. Prusator reviewed that the Meridian School District is currently listed as the second largest in student enrollment in the two-county area, only behind the Dixon School District.

Under Community Input, Carla Duschen requested information regarding an issue at Highland School. Anna Standard asked a question regarding the organizational structure in the transportation department. Ron Pifkin addressed the board regarding the school nurse position at Highland.

Mr. Prusator reviewed a resolution authorizing the district to appeal to the Property Tax Appeal Board for tax year 2005. Mr. Prusator reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of appealing rather than intervening at the state level. After much discussion, the board opted to not appeal.

Mr. Prusator updated the board on the status of the long-range planning and facility committee. Several board members submitted names of possible committee members. Mr. Jagielski and Mrs. Bonne will meet with Mr. Prusator to work on getting committee members. The board would like a full-established committee to have an initial meeting in March.

Mr. Steenken arrived at 7:53 p.m. and chaired the rest of the meeting.

New science textbooks are on display for the 2006-2007 school year. The science textbooks are for Grades 6, 7, and 8 at MJH. The new textbooks are geared to the Illinois Learning Standards.

Mr. Prusator reviewed the process for getting items placed on the Board Goals and Priorities for 2006-2007. Board members, staff, parents and community members may place items on the list over the course of the next two months. The 2006-2007 Goals and Priorities will probably be recommended for adoption by the board in May.

Under Board Comments, Mr. Jagielski stated that there have been several implications made to staff, administration, and the board that certain actions of the district could result in tort liability for the district and for individuals representing the district. He stated that he would like to obtain, from the district's counsel, a memorandum explaining tort liability for a school district. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Janes, that the district obtain from the district's counsel a memorandum explaining tort liability for a school district, school district employees and school boards within the State of Illinois pending an estimated cost from the district's attorney. The memorandum should include, but not be limited to, an explanation of district and individual district employee's or board member's tort liability risks for actions taken on behalf of the district or as part of that employee's regular duties and obligations that comply with the requirements of the Illinois School Code; actions taken that provide a service or benefit to students that is in excess of the requirements of the Illinois School Code; and inaction when District services do not meet the requirements of the Illinois School Code. In addition, the memorandum should explain any immunities available to district employees and Board while performing their regular duties and obligations. Ayes: Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Bonne, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Jagielski, to adjourn to executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the district. Ayes: Janes, Larson, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 8:11 p.m.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Larson, to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 10:42 p.m.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Janes, to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2006 executive session minutes as corrected. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson and Steenken. Abstain: Bonne. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Larson, to hire Diane Eubanks, Highland RN aide. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Bonne and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Jagielski, to accept the resignation of Nancy Daugherty, aide for special needs bus. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Bonne, to approve the superintendent's evaluation as presented. Ayes: Janes, Larson, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board received a summary report from Mr. Prusator and reached a consensus to continue with the plan to resolve relevant issues at Highland.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Fruin, Secretary