

Meridian Community Board Minutes  
January 26, 2006  
7:00 P.M.

Minutes of a Regular School Board Meeting of January 12, 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 January 12, 2006 at 6:05 p.m. in the Monroe Center Library. Members present: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, and Reeverts. Superintendent Prusator and Principals Hedemann, Coulahan, Davidson and Mandzen were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

The school board and administrators continued working on the "Targeting Achievement through Governance" program. The board and administrators reviewed questions on the policy topic of "volunteers". Discussion followed which included the process and appropriate resources needed to develop/modify policy for volunteers.

Mr. Larson arrived at 6:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the December 15, 2005 board meeting, the payroll of January 20, 2006, and the accounts payable for January per review by Mrs. Bonne. Ayes: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator handed out and reviewed the Ogle County Impact Fee Ordinance approved by the Ogle County Board on December 20, 2005. Mr. Prusator reviewed how the modified ordinance impacts the school district financially.

Mr. Prusator handed out and reviewed some of the information he used for the January 9<sup>th</sup> presentation at the Davis Junction Fire Station. He stated that he presented information for about an hour and then answered questions for about an hour. He stated he thought the meeting went very well. Mr. Prusator thanked the board members who attended the meeting.

Mr. Prusator stated that the Ogle County Board of Review Onyx assessment appeal is scheduled for January 18, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the courthouse. He encouraged any board members who could to attend.

Mr. Mandzen and Mrs. Hedemann handed out their principal report.

Mrs. Hedemann reported that Jean Welker and Mary Ann Akey celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the Meridian School District. A small reception was held for each teacher in honor of their time and service in the district. Preschool Screening is scheduled for March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at Highland and March 15<sup>th</sup> at Monroe Center. Mrs.

Hedemann invited Board members to a dedication in the Highland Library on January 23, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. in memory of Kay Bratta.

Under Notices and Communications, Mr. Prusator stated he received a thank you card from the Batty family for flowers sent in memory of Lawrene Batty. He briefly reviewed a letter from Jim Harrison regarding the date for the Onyx assessment appeal scheduled for Wednesday, January 18, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. He also read a letter from Phil Bratta commending the wrestling coaches on how well the Holiday Tournament was run. Mr. Prusator reviewed correspondence from Rock Valley College regarding the Education as Second Language class, which will take place at Stillman Valley High School. Mr. Prusator also shared a letter from the Ogle County Planning and Zoning Department, which notified the school district that a hearing has been scheduled for January 26, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. regarding re-zoning 70+ acres north of Hales Corner Road.

Under Community Input, Brian Grover addressed the board regarding more concerns in the transportation area.

Mr. Prusator handed out proposed new courses/revision of existing courses at SVHS that were reviewed by Mr. Mandzen at the December 15, 2005 meeting.

A motion was made by Reeverts, seconded by Bonne, to approve new courses/revisions of existing courses at SVHS for 2006-2007. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator handed out and reviewed a mid-year update of the Board Goals for 2005-2006.

Mike Noble, Director of the Ogle County Education Cooperative, gave a presentation on Response to Intervention (RTI) program highlighting the importance of early intervention in the typical general education-learning environment for the purpose of assisting at-risk students.

Mr. Prusator handed out and reviewed the modification to the Educational Support Policy regarding health insurance. The proposed policy modifies the availability for future employees who are retired from a different employer.

Mr. Prusator reviewed a handout to consider the establishment of a Building and Grounds Committee. Mr. Prusator suggested that the committee would improve some of the communication regarding projects and issues in the area of the district's buildings and grounds. Discussion followed regarding the use and purpose of such a committee in the way the district conducts operations. The consensus of the board was to consider a committee with a specific purpose and timeline. Mr. Prusator will present a recommendation for a committee for consideration at the next board meeting with the parameters described by the board.

Mr. Prusator handed out and reviewed a Preliminary School Calendar Survey for 2006-2007 and the process used to determine the official school calendar. Mr. Prusator said that the calendar survey questions will be identified once the Ogle County Education Cooperative (OCEC) calendar and the calendars of other districts where shared programs exist are made available. Support for ending the high school semester before the Christmas break was voiced by board members.

There were no Board Comments.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Reeverts, to adjourn to executive session to consider appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, or performance or dismissal of special employees of the district. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 9:50 p.m.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Reeverts to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 10:55 p.m.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Larson to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2005 executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Janes, to approve the maternity leave request for Michelle Rogers, SVHS earth science teacher, to begin on or around February 29, 2006 and extend through the end of the school year (Family Medical Leave Act). Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Reeverts, to accept the resignation of Ayron Hermann, District Technology Technician, effective January 20, 2006. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Fruin, Secretary

