

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

Minutes of a Regular School Board Meeting of January 26, 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 26, 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, Jagielski, Janes and Reeverts. Superintendent Prusator was also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Janes, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the January 5, 2006 special meeting; January 12, 2006 regular board meeting; and payroll of February 3, 2006. Ayes: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Reeverts and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator reviewed the January 18, 2006 Ogle County Board of Review Hearing on the Onyx 2005 Assessment Appeal. Mr. Jagielski also attended the meeting. Mr. Prusator reported that the Ogle County Board of Review voted to keep the assessed value of the Orchard Hills Landfill at \$8,633,000.

Mr. Prusator handed out and reviewed mid-year district enrollment numbers. He stated the district has a current enrollment of 1906 which is an increase of 11 students from September 30, 2005. He will update the board on enrollment figures again at the end of the school year.

Under Notices and Communications, Mr. Prusator reviewed a letter that Attorney Stu Whitt wrote on behalf of the school district asking for a three-month extension to the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board for the purpose of allowing the appraiser additional time to determine the value of the Orchard Hills Landfill. He also read an invitation to the retirement party for Jim Parker, MC custodian. The retirement party will be held tomorrow at Monroe Center School.

Under Community Input, Carolyn Pifkin, Kim Flynn, Ron Pifkin, Dr. Tim Flynn and Brian Grover each addressed the board regarding their concerns about the lack of sufficient nursing coverage within the district since the resignation of the Highland school nurse in December. Their comments included the need for an R.N. for the position, an appropriate salary and concerns about the liability if one is not hired. Mr. Prusator stated that the position had not been filled and district was currently receiving applications and would probably be conducting interviews by the following week.

Mr. Larson was present via telephone at 7:16 p.m.

Mr. Prusator reviewed the status of the “Targeting Student Achievement through Governance” process on developing policy on volunteers. He reminded the board that the next meeting would be held on February 13, 2006. The board discussed how many people should be involved to make a productive committee. The consensus was to have a smaller group of five to six who would facilitate and then contact various groups in the community and bring recommendations to the board. Mr. Steenken volunteered to be one of the board members on this committee.

Mr. Prusator briefly reviewed the new language in the Educational Support Staff Policy on health insurance. Mr. Prusator stated the change impacts employees who are retired from a previous employer.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the change in Educational Support Staff Policy on health insurance as presented. Ayes: Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne and Steenken. Nays: Glendenning. Motion carried.

Mr. Prusator reviewed a handout of potential tasks for a Buildings and Grounds Committee Task Force for the board to consider. The general purpose of the task force committee will be to review all relevant components of the building and grounds operation. Mr. Janes and Mr. Glendenning volunteered to be on the task force.

A motion was made by Glendenning, seconded by Janes, to establish a Buildings and Grounds Task Force as described. Ayes: Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator handed out and reviewed the resolution to intervene in the Onyx 2004 assessment appeal to Property Tax Appeal Board. Mr. Prusator stated that the resolution gives the attorney the authority to be part of the appeals process. Mr. Jagielski read the resolution.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Reeverts, to approve the resolution for intervention in Onyx 2004 assessment appeal to Property Tax Appeal Board as read. Ayes: Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator reported that there is a hold up getting information from Byron and the OCEC regarding the Official School Calendar for 2006-2007. He stated that the calendar survey questions will be identified once the OCEC and the calendars of other districts where shared programs exist are made available. Mr. Prusator stated he hopes to have the additional information next month.

Mr. Prusator reviewed the process for initiating enrollment and facility study for the next potential construction project. There was discussion on what format to use to come to conclusions and recommendations. Mrs. Bonne felt the committee format worked well for the last long range planning and facility committee and had a great

outcome. For the next meeting, Mr. Prusator asked board members to identify groups, task, timeline, and intent.

The Meridian CUSD #223 Certified Teacher Seniority List was handed out and reviewed. The list will be available for teachers to review for thirty days and will be adopted at a future meeting.

Under Board Comments, Mr. Jagielski stated he won a flash drive as a door prize at the IASB Convention. He gave the flash drive to the district.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Reeverts to adjourn to executive session to consider the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the district. Ayes: Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 8:28 p.m.

Mr. Larson left the meeting (via telephone) at 9:59 p.m.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Bonne, to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 10:07 p.m.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Bonne, to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2006 executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Jagielski, to hire Beth Taber, .40 FTE Highland special education teacher (due to increased case load). Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Reeverts, to hire Deborah Sweeney, Highland special education aide (has been working as a substitute and is now certified). Ayes: Jagielski, Janes, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Janes, to hire Art Peterson, MJH assistant 8th grade girls' basketball coach (due to numbers). Ayes: Janes, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Reeverts, to hire Bill Langston, MJH assistant 7th grade girls' basketball coach (due to numbers). Ayes: Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Janes, to hire Duane Pansegrau, MJH second shift custodian. Ayes: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Reeverts and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Reeverts, to hire Aaron Ray, SVHS assistant musical director pending signed contract. Ayes: Jagielski, Reeverts, Bonne and Steenken. Nays: Glendenning and Janes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Steenken, seconded by Jagielski, to approve reassignment of Dale Pohl (bus supervisor) to transportation director. Ayes: Jagielski, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning and Steenken. Nays: Janes. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Fruin, Secretary