

Meridian Community Board Minutes  
March 23, 2006  
7:00 P.M.

Minutes of a Regular School Board Meeting of March 9, 2006

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of the Meridian Community Unit School District #223 was called to order by President Ron Steenken on March 9, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Meridian District Board of Education Room located in the Meridian Junior High School. Members present: Bonne, Jagielski, Janes and Reeverts. Superintendent Prusator and Principals Hedemann, Coulahan and Davidson were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A motion was made by Reeverts, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the February 23, 2006 board meeting, payroll of March 20, 2006 and accounts payable for March 2006 per review by Mr. Glendenning. Ayes: Bonne, Jagielski, Janes, Reeverts and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator handed out and reviewed a Spring 2006 Kindergarten Pre-Registration and Projection for 2006-2007 Enrollment Report. He stated that all of the pre-registration was done at Highland this year. He reported the pre-registration number of 100 is a little smaller group than last year. The Board was reminded of the upcoming Targeting Student Achievement through Governance meeting to work on volunteer policy that is scheduled for Saturday, March 18, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. in the Board of Education Room. Mr. Prusator also handed out and reviewed the 2006-2007 School Calendar Considerations. He stated he met with the superintendents and principals of Byron, Oregon, Winnebago, SV, and the OCEC yesterday to coordinate their calendars. Mr. Prusator will review the calendar considerations with the union and may have a calendar recommendation for the next board meeting.

Mr. Larson arrived at 7:07 p.m.

Mrs. Hedemann reported on the many strains of flu, cases of strep, and a few reported cases of scarlet fever at Highland. Highland school nurse, Diane Eubanks has been busy providing the health needs for as many as 24 students in a day. Highland teachers have been networking with other teachers around the state by attending various conferences and workshops. Kindergarten and pre-school students will attend a play on Thursday, March 16. They will travel to Rockford for a performance of "If You Give A Mouse A Cookie". Highland students were excited about voting for their favorite Monarch book. Pre-school screening will take place next week on March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at Highland and on March 15<sup>th</sup> at Monroe Center. The Terra Nova Test will be given to second grade students next Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Preparation is underway for Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, when Highland will celebrate Young Author's Day. Report cards will go home on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Screening and testing of ESL students officially ended on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Results should be back in May. The first Pre-K Parent Night is

scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> with supper at 5:30 p.m. and program at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Hedemann had the opportunity to serve as one of two speakers at a forum on Blending Early Childhood Special Education students into the regular pre-school setting. Highland teachers will finish up their quarterly testing tomorrow. Their dedication to the evaluation process is evidence of the outstanding job they do each day in the classroom.

Mr. Coulahan reported that spring pictures took place on Tuesday of this week. Dr. Flynn will be in next Tuesday and Wednesday to work with fourth grade students and teachers to help the children learn about the ill effects of smoking. The teachers at MC are preparing the third, fourth, and fifth grade students for the ISAT tests that will take place next week. Young Author's Potluck was at 5:30 p.m. tonight at MC. The Young Author representative from MC will read her story at the next board meeting. Report cards will go home on Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. Fun Fair was a great success once again on February 26<sup>th</sup>. It looks like profits will be around \$9,000. Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers, parents, students, teachers and staff. Growth continues to make an impact on our district. Five new students have registered to start on Monday.

Mr. Davidson reported that the girls' 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball tournament was going on at this time. Teachers have been a big help in preparing for the ISAT tests on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. He stated that it has been a big ordeal to get ready for the ISAT tests. The entire MJH schedule had to be revamped from 45 minute classes to 55 minutes classes. Seventeen students will be taking the Image test.

Under Notices and Communications, Mr. Prusator acknowledged the work Mrs. Hedemann did in coordinating the ESL testing for all the buildings. Mr. Prusator notified the board of a School Board Legal Liability Seminar in Rock Falls on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

There was no Community Input.

Mr. Prusator presented the Certified Teacher Seniority List for 2005-2006. He stated the list had been out in the buildings for the past month for teachers to review their years and area of teaching. He stated the list is accurate and reflects the appropriate number of years and teaching area of staff.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the Certified Teacher Seniority List for 2005-2006 as presented. Ayes: Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator stated that board members, staff, parents and community members would be able to place items on the Board Goals and Priorities for 2006-2007 lists until the end of May.

Mr. Prusator handed out and reviewed a list of people committed to work on the Long Range Planning and Facility Committee. He stated that the list is not complete, as some people are still deciding on whether to commit. The first meeting date will

probably be scheduled for April. Mr. Prusator will update the committee list at the next meeting.

Board members briefly discussed the science textbooks for MJH that have been on display since February 23, 2006.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Reeverts, to approve science textbooks for the Meridian Junior High School. Ayes: Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Jagielski and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator reviewed the possibility of Highland School becoming a demonstration site for Response to Intervention as part of a professional development grant through the Ogle County Education Cooperative. Mr. Prusator reminded the board that this was the program that was presented by Mike Noble from the OCEC at a previous meeting. Mrs. Hedemann spoke about the commitment needed to be involved. There was much discussion. Board members asked that Mr. Prusator contact Mr. Noble to answer some of their questions. The consensus of the board was that the teachers would need to understand the commitment and be willing to fully participate. Additionally, Mr. Prusator was asked to investigate other district commitments to the initiative.

Under Board Comments, Mr. Jagielski inquired about spring pre-registration for the entire district. Mr. Prusator stated that a meeting had been scheduled for next week with office staff from each building.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Janes, to adjourn to closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the district. Ayes: Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Jagielski, Janes, and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 8:26 p.m.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Bonne, to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 10:31 p.m.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Bonne, to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2006 executive session as presented. Ayes: Bonne, Jagielski, Janes, Larson and Steenken. Abstain: Reeverts. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Larson, to accept the retirement request of Marvin Engelkes, head custodian Highland School, effective June 30, 2006; accept the resignation of Jodi Isom, SVHS lunch cashier; and hire Diane Koenig, assistant math team coach. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Fruin, Secretary

