

Meridian Community Board Minutes
May 25, 2006
7:00 P.M.

Minutes of a Regular School Board Meeting of May 11, 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 May 11, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the Monroe Center Gymnasium. Members present: Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson, and Reeverts. Superintendent Prusator and Principals Hedemann, Coulahan, Davidson and Mandzen, and Mr. Bearrows were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A motion was made by Steenken, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the April 11, 2006 board meeting, payroll of May 19, 2006 and approve accounts payable for May 2006 per review by Mr. Steenken. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator updated the board on the May 25, 2006 SVEA/Board of Education retirement dinner. The retirement dinner will be held at 5:00 p.m. in the SVHS multipurpose room with the board meeting scheduled for 7:00 p.m. The SVEA and Board of Education will be honoring the service of Richard Armour, Marvin Engelkes, Jim Parker and Connie Stender.

Mr. Prusator reviewed the final 2005 Equalized Assessed Evaluation figures and relayed that the actual assessed value of the school district matched closely to what the board had anticipated in December when the 2005 tax levy was adopted.

Mrs. Bonne arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Mrs. Hedemann thanked the PTO and parents for all the goodies and treats this week for Teacher's Appreciation Week. Teachers K-2 are finishing up Illinois Snapshots of Early Literacy at Highland. Mrs. Moon and Mrs. Burke will have an annual Title I meeting on May 23rd in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Title 1 program. The students have enjoyed their spring field trips to Severson Dells and the Discovery Center. Student annual reviews are in progress through next week. All students with an IEP are having their goals revised for next year. Mrs. Hedemann has met with five new families in the last few weeks. Three will be attending first grade causing first grade to bubble in enrollment for next year. Students at Highland are continuing to learn new things and are staying focused.

Mr. Coulahan reported that Mr. Eaton was working on 5th grade band instrument testing and recruiting students for the 6th grade band next year. Instrument display night will be next Wednesday night at MC. Once again, most of the 5th graders are interested.

Field Day will be held on May 25th at the MC Park. The Awards Assemblies will be held for 5th graders on May 22nd, 4th graders on May 23rd, and 3rd graders on May 24th. All awards assemblies start at 2:00 p.m. On May 24th, the 4th grade classes will be going to Brookfield Zoo. Invite letters for summer school went out. Elementary Summer School will be held on June 5 - June 30 from 8:30 – 12:00. Foundation tickets are now available. Three \$500 scholarships were awarded to graduating seniors this year. The third grade teas and special persons days will take place next week. Thanks to the PTO for their goodies for Teacher's Appreciation Week. All things are in order and plans are made to have a great end of the year at MC.

Mr. Davidson reported that the Junior High Band had its Spring Concert on Tuesday. The 6th grade band performed at 6:00 p.m. and the 7th and 8th grade bands performed at 7:00 p.m. The bleachers were filled for each performance, as usual. Today, Mrs. Miller brought high school students to MJH for a "real world" activity that ties into the bridges curriculum. The science department is setting up a time for training in the next two weeks to utilize the new online connection for the new science books. The Junior High Play, "Crossroads Inn", will be presented on Friday night at 7:00 p.m. and Saturday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. at SVHS.

Mr. Mandzen reported on the recent dog drug search at SVHS. Mr. Mandzen handed out the semester exam schedules for seniors and freshmen - juniors. The Grand March/Prom/Post-prom held on May 6th went well. Congratulations to Michelle Eyster and the junior class officers for a job well done. 233 awards were given to 114 different students at the Awards Banquet held on May 1st. Congratulations to Natalie Haas and Brad Owen for the beautiful sounds of music last night and to Steve Stender for the impressive display of art projects. The FFA chapter has been awarded the Heritage and the Cooperative Activities Award for the Section One FFA at the State level. This is the first time that SVHS has won both of these awards in the same year. Two FFA members will be going on an all expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. On Friday, Renaissance Team members will be delivering prizes to those students selected from a drawing who have met the criteria. Baccalaureate will be held on Saturday, May 20th at 4:00 p.m. Graduation will be held on Sunday, May 21 at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Mandzen also reported on the end of the year athletic events/competitions.

Mr. Bearrows reported that the Building and Grounds crew are taking care of things as they come up.

Under Notices and Communications, Mr. Prusator read a letter from FCAE thanking Mr. Janes, Mr. Glendenning, and Mrs. Bonne for attending the National FFA Convention in Louisville.

There was no Community Input.

Mr. Prusator stated it was a pleasure to present certificates and pins to this year's recipients of the staff recognition awards. This is the fourth year for the awards that honor staff who performed in an exemplary manner in the school district. Susan Moon

highlighted the accomplishments and contributions of Highland recipient, Connie Stender. Julie Foss highlighted the accomplishments and contributions of Highland recipient, Susan Moon. Mr. Mandzen highlighted the many accomplishments and contributions of SVHS recipient, Vera Armour. Mr. Steenken congratulated each recipient and presented each with a certificate and pin. The Board took a five-minute break to congratulate the recipients.

Mr. Prusator stated that he hopes to have the final list of the “2006-2007 Board Goals” and “Priorities for 2006-2007” at the next meeting on May 25th.

Mr. Steenken reported that the last step in the TAG process on the volunteer policy was completed on May 2nd. Mr. Prusator thanked the board, Dana Kunce and Jean Welker, and parent volunteers, Jill Huber, Raylene Rzasa and Chris Maday, for their time and contributions working through the process.

Mr. Prusator reviewed a Health Life Safety Amendment for the MJH music room. Discussion followed regarding the cost and scope of the project. Discussion also included evaluating other options to address the condition of the MJH music room that could be done within Health/Life/Safety.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Reeverts, to approve the Health Life Safety Amendment for the MJH music room as presented. Ayes: Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator reviewed the background of Joel Cowen, University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford, to conduct demographic and enrollment analysis and present information to aid the district’s long-range planning and facility committee. He stated that he has done a lot of work in Winnebago County and is familiar with Ogle County demographics. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Jagielski, to hire Joel Cowen to conduct demographic and enrollment analysis and present information to aid the district’s long-range planning and facility committee at a cost of \$1500 as presented. Ayes: Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Glendenning reported that information from the Building and Grounds Task Force Committee was sent to board members. Mr. Glendenning will meet with Mr. Prusator before the next meeting on May 25th. The information will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mr. Prusator briefly reviewed the proposed budget amendment for FY06. He indicated that the amended budget reflects a slightly better financial situation than the original budget. Mr. Prusator said that the amended budget would be adjusted over the course of the next couple meetings. The proposed amended budget is on display.

Under Board Comments, Mr. Jagielski suggested creating a “translation/cheat sheet” for the public so they can understand the peculiar phraseology used in the school district. He also suggested posting it to the website. Mr. Glendenning stated that the public needed to see where the district is allocating their money. Mr. Glendenning also thanked Mr. Mandzen for keeping May Day under control this year.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Bonne, to adjourn to executive session to consider information regarding appointment, employment, evaluation or dismissal of an employee, student disciplinary hearing, student special education placement, or other stated exception to the Open Meeting Act. Ayes: Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 8:47 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Janes, to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2006 executive session. Ayes: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Janes, to accept the resignation of the following: Brody Rude, SVHS assistant principal/athletic director; Julia Woessner, MJH 8th grade Language Arts; Lisa Tourdot, Highland School 2nd grade teacher; and Sheri Pearson, Highland special education aide. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Reeverts, to hire the following: Brent Hall, SVHS assistant softball coach (replaces Bukoski); Ryan Boldt, District computer technician (replaces Herman); and Rhonda Abraham, individual aide for MJH ESL student for 1 hour per day for remainder of school year. Ayes: Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Jagielski, to transfer Mike Coulahan from principal at Monroe Center School to principal at Highland School. Ayes: Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Jagielski, to approve maternity leave request for Kristina Lundine, MJH which should begin in early November 2006. Ayes: Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Reeverts, seconded by Bonne, to approve administrator performance stipend for 2005-2006 as presented. Ayes: Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Fruin, Secretary