

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

Minutes of a Regular School Board Meeting of October 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 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, Larson and Reeverts. Superintendent Prusator was also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Mr. Jagielski arrived immediately after roll call at 7:01 p.m.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Reeverts, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the September 28, 2006 board meeting; payroll of October 20, 2006; and accounts payable for October 2006 per review by Mr. Glendenning. Ayes: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator handed out and reviewed the Annual Fall Enrollment and Housing Report that shows enrollment on 9/30/06. He also reviewed an Enrollment By Grade Level Report. These figures showed a total district enrollment of 1955 that is an increase of 60 students and a 3.17% increase from 9/30/05.

Mr. Prusator handed out and reviewed a Long Range Planning and Facility Committee Update. He stated that the committee met three times thus far. The committee most recently reviewed the enrollment projection study provided by Joel Cowen and discussed various options for housing an additional 1,000 students over the next ten to twelve years. Mr. Prusator said that the board will need to provide some parameters for the committee regarding the actual recommendation.. A special board meeting is tentatively set for Saturday, November 4, 2006 for the purpose of the school board determining parameters for the committee.

There were no building principal reports.

Under Notices and Communications, Mr. Prusator had distributed the Annual Report to Membership from the Illinois Association of School Boards. He also received a letter from Jesse White, Secretary of State, notifying the district of being awarded an emerging technology grant for district's libraries. Mr. Prusator also reviewed a letter from the Illinois Association of School Boards informing the board of their acceptance into year-two of the Targeting Achievement Through Governance Program.

There was no Community Input.

Curt Kleckler from Millikin, Benning, Kleckler, and Kobischa presented the FY06 Audit and related information to the Board. He handed out a draft copy to each board member and stated that everything was in good order.

Mr. Prusator briefly reviewed suggested board policy changes. This is an annual process to make sure the district keeps the board policy manual up-to-date. The suggested board policy changes will remain on display in the district office until the November 9th board meeting.

Mr. Prusator distributed a handout with the health insurance renewal rates. He stated that the district's insurance consultant went out to twelve carriers for bids. Blue Cross/Blue Shield showed a decrease in premiums. Delta Dental and Reliance showed no increase. The recommendation was to continue with current carriers.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Bonne, to renew health insurance with Blue Cross/Blue Shield at the proposed rates, renew dental insurance with Delta Dental and renew life insurance with Reliance Standard. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator handed out and reviewed the preliminary FY06 tax levy figures. Mr. Prusator reported the estimated equalized assessed valuation showed an increase of just under 10%. The board also discussed the anticipated tax rate for the district of \$4.75 per \$100 of assessed value.

Under Board Comments, Mr. Janes commented on the Ethanol Plant Meeting held on October 7, 2006 at the Stillman Valley Fire Department. He stated he would like to see school board members be more visible at these meetings. He felt the ethanol plant would bring in a good amount of money into the school district. Discussion followed. Mr. Prusator stated that the school district typically does not speak for or against specific projects, but explains the potential impact that particular projects may have on the school district. Mr. Prusator commented that, in general, commercial property that meets community standards is viewed favorably by taxing bodies.

A motion was made by Reeverts, seconded by Jagielski, to adjourn to executive session to consider information regarding appointment, employment, performance or dismissal of an employee, or other stated exception to the Open Meeting Act. Ayes: Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 9:31 p.m.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Glendenning, to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 10:22 p.m.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Janes, to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2006 executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Reeverts, to approve the personnel items on the executive session agenda that includes hiring the following: Shu-Chu Carlson, MJH dishwasher (replaces Toth transfer to SVHS); Rachel DeVries, MC teachers' aide (replaces Bybee transfer to office); Carla Duschen, Highland noon supervisor (replaces Zito); Gina Person, Highland noon supervisor (replaces Bauer); Kim Ray, SVHS special education program aide (due to IEP's); Colleen Yarbrough, AM/PM bus driver (new route); Christine Kurgan, SVHS basketball cheerleading coach (replaces Davidson) and that includes accepting the retirement request of Diane Bruch, District Human Resource/Payroll. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Donna J. Fruin