

Meridian Community Board Minutes
November 10, 2005
7:00 P.M.

Minutes of a Regular School Board Meeting of October 27, 2005

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Meridian Community Unit School District #223 was called to order by Vice President Barb Reeverts on October 27, 2005 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, and Larson. Mr. Jagielski was present via the telephone. Superintendent Prusator, Principals Hedemann, Coulahan, Davidson and Mandzen, and Mr. Bearrows were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Bonne, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the October 13, 2005 board meeting and the payroll of November 4, 2005. Ayes: Bonne, Glendenning, Janes, Larson and Reeverts. Note: The telephone connection with Mr. Jagielski was lost during this vote. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator reviewed the Meridian CUSD #223 2005 State Report Card. Mr. Prusator highlighted instructional and financial information and notified the board that the Meridian CUSD #223 State Report Card would be posted on the district web page and also made available to anyone who would like a hard copy.

Mrs. Hedemann reported that Highland students had recently begun to deliver the morning announcements. They lead the Pledge of Allegiance, give the date, lunch menu, birthdays, an interesting piece of information and tell a joke. The students are very excited about this new feature in the building. Students received their first quarter report cards on October 21st and are doing well. The implementation of Guided Reading is going well in the kindergarten, first and second grade classrooms. The Highland Crisis Prevention Intervention Team received refresher training and has established a crisis plan for the building. FLEX training continues. Teachers and some aides were trained today in Picture Exchange Communication. Mrs. Moon is being trained in ACCESS to screen ESL students. Mrs. Hedemann will attend the Early Childhood Block Grant Administrator's Conference in Arlington Heights on November 2nd and 3rd.

Mr. Coulahan reported that parent/teacher conferences would be held on November 8th and 9th. Mr. Coulahan attended the annual Principal's Conference on Monday and Tuesday of last week. He thanked the board for allowing him to attend the worthwhile conference. Three teachers were sent to an accelerated reader in-service to continue working on the reading goals as per the school improvement plan.

Mr. Davidson reported that our grant writer, Linda Spangrud, met with the reading teachers today to create a program to increase funds for the reading program. She is trying to help the band program also. Parent/teacher conferences will be held on November 8th and 9th. The sixth grade team will be holding addition conference times from 12-4.

Mr. Mandzen reported that Dr. Edith Young would return tomorrow for the second part of the professional development training entitled Developing Content-Literacy Mastery Across the Content Areas. The focus will be on strategies to help improve reading comprehension. On Wednesday, November 2nd, Mr. Mandzen and three high school teachers will be attending a workshop entitled ISAT/PSAE and Making AYP. Congratulations to Coach Murphy and the volleyball program for being the Big Northern Conference Co-champions. Congratulations to Coach Lalor and the football program for making the playoffs for the 9th straight year.

Mr. Bearrows reported that he is trying to get information from the vendor on the status of the parts for the MJH locker room. Mr. Bearrows and his crew continue to take care of whatever comes along.

Board members had the opportunity to ask questions of administrators.

Under Notices and Communications, Mr. Prusator stated he received confirmation from Miller and Buettner that the increase in dental insurance went from 9.9% to 4.91%.

Under Community Input, Leslie Ilkow stated that the overcrowding on the buses in the Harvest Glenn Subdivision had still not been solved and that buses continue to be late to school. She expressed concerns because parents were told at the October 13th board meeting that it would be taken care of and it has not been. Mrs. Ilkow also expressed the importance of keeping students safe by not having them get on and off buses any more than what is necessary. Mr. Prusator stated that the plan was to add an additional route, but the driver was not available for four days, so the timetable to implement the additional route was moved back. Mr. Prusator said that the plans were to have the additional route in operation by the middle of the next week. Janice Bathje expressed concerns about the excessive amount of time and miles her student rides the bus and that kindergarten students are waiting on the bus for 10 minutes before they are let into the school. She also asked for help for students who are struggling in math at MC.

Mr. Jagielski arrived in the boardroom at 7:40 p.m.

Mr. Prusator asked board members if they had any questions regarding the Board of Education policy revisions on display in the district office since September 22, 2005. There were none.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Larson, to approve the Meridian CUSD #223 Board of Education policy revisions as were displayed in the district office

since September 22, 2005 as presented. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Bonne and Reeverts. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator asked board members if they had any questions regarding the resolution to modify the current Ogle County Impact Fee formula. There were none.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Bonne, to approve resolution to modify current Ogle County Impact Fee formula. Ayes: Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Bonne, Glendenning and Reeverts. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator stated he reviewed the Meridian CUSD #223 Mission Statement at the SVEA/administration meeting on Wednesday.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Janes, to approve the Meridian CUSD #223 Mission Statement as presented. Ayes: Janes, Larson, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski and Reeverts. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Davidson presented the "2005-2006 School Improvement Plan" for Meridian Junior High School. Committee members were Mrs. Kristina Lundine, Mrs. Tina Isaacs, Ms. Kim Hofmeister and Mr. Davidson. Mr. Davidson answered questions from board members. Mrs. Reeverts thanked Mr. Davidson and his committee for their hard work and very informative presentation. Mr. Mandzen presented the "2005-2006 School Improvement Plan" for SVHS. Mr. Mandzen answered questions from board members. Mrs. Reeverts thanked Mr. Mandzen and his committee for their hard work and very informative presentation.

Mr. Prusator presented the FY05 supplemental graphs and charts from information provided by the Fiscal Year 2005 audit. Mr. Prusator reviewed enrollment, revenue and expenditure history, fund balances and additional financial data including Meridian CUSD #223 Illinois State Board of Education Financial Profile. Mr. Prusator reported that the districts profile score of 3.70 places the district on the state's highest category of "recognition".

Mr. Prusator handed out and reviewed the proposed FY05 tax levy figures. Mr. Prusator stated that the estimated Equalized Assessed Valuation for the district is \$140,405,397. Mr. Prusator reported that the anticipated total tax rate for the school district would remain at \$4.72 per \$100 of assessed value. Mr. Prusator said the levy would be reviewed again at the November 10, 2005 board meeting and is scheduled for adoption at the December 15, 2005 board meeting.

There was discussion on the board/superintendent communication process. Mr. Prusator and the Board reviewed the type of information they have been receiving and discussed additional types of information that would be beneficial in better understanding district issues.

Review of the proposed Transportation Department handbook was postponed.

Under Board Comments, Mr. Janes commented on the wonderful FAA National Convention that he attended in Louisville, Kentucky.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Bonne, to adjourn to executive session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the district and student disciplinary case. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 10:23 p.m.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Larson to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 11:41 p.m.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2005 executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Janes, to accept the resignation of Connie Davidson, SVHS basketball cheerleader advisor, effective at the end of the 2005-2006 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Jagielski, to hire Keith Hall, assistant 6th grade boys' basketball coach (due to numbers) and Shannon O'Hare, SVHS assistant girls' basketball coach (replaces Steve Stewart). Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Bonne, to hire Carol Conderman, SVHS chess advisor (replaces Bratta). Ayes: Larson, Bonne, Jagielski, Janes and Reeverts. Abstain: Glendenning. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Janes, to accept maternity request for Ann Green, Monroe Center 3rd grade teacher, anticipated beginning date of February 7, 2006 with an anticipated return date of April 13, 2006. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Fruin, Secretary

