

Meridian Community Board Minutes
October 11, 2006
7:00 P.M.

Minutes of a Regular School Board Meeting of September 14, 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 Monroe Center Gymnasium. Members present: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, and Reeverts. Superintendent Prusator was also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Mr. Janes arrived immediately after roll call.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Janes, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the August 24, 2006 regular board meeting and the minutes of the August 29, 2006 special board meeting, payroll of September 20, 2006 and accounts payable for September 2006 per review by Mr. Jagielski. Ayes: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Reeverts and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator reported that a Long Range Planning and Facility Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 21, 2006 at SVHS. He also reported that the Senior Citizen Luncheons at SVHS would begin on Thursday, September 21, 2006.

Mr. Prusator stated that written principal reports were distributed at each board member seat. He instructed board members to call the principals with any questions.

Under Notices and Communications, Mr. Prusator received an invitation to participate in a pilot/focus group for IASB's latest LeaderShop core workshop entitled "The Board and Its Superintendent – Developing and Maintaining an Effective Relationship" on Saturday, September 30th in Naperville. Mr. Glendenning and Mr. Steenken stated they would attend with Mr. Prusator. Mr. Prusator handed out the Coming to Order book from the Illinois Association of School Boards. Mr. Prusator also stated the board received a thank you card for flowers from the Marcia Janes family.

Under Community Input, Julie Weber expressed concerns about the number of students in the fifth grade classrooms at Monroe Center.

Mr. Joel Cowen from Health Systems Research presented a Meridian CUSD #223 Enrollment Projection Report. Mr. Prusator said that the projections from the report would be used by the long range planning facility.

Mr. Prusator provided an update on the Building and Grounds Task Force Committee whose task was to evaluate the department and ways to function more efficiently. Mr. Prusator identified the major areas that the committee had focused on

which included topics such as organizational structure, leadership, job descriptions, evaluations, and work order systems. The committee will finalize the process and hope to present a final report in October.

Mr. Prusator reported that the Board is now eligible for participation in Year-Two of the Targeting Achievement through Governance Program. The Board felt the first year was very worthwhile so will participate in the second year.

Mr. Prusator stated the budget hearing is scheduled for Thursday, September 28, 2006 at 6:45 p.m. The budget remains on display in the district office.

Mr. Prusator reviewed the timeline for the decision on the Health, Dental and Life insurance effective November 1, 2006. He stated the insurance committee would meet with Miller and Buettner the last week in September to review some preliminary rates. Mr. Prusator hopes to have a recommendation at the first board meeting in October.

Mr. Prusator reviewed the process for the annual Illinois State Board of Education “2006-2007 Application for Recognition of Schools”.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Bonne, to approve the “2006-2007 Application for Recognition of Schools”. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Reeverts, Bonne and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Under Board Comments, Mr. Jagielski commented on the changing focus of the board’s second meeting of the month. At the first meeting of the month, the board would take care of business related tasks. On the second meeting of the month, the board would work on policy. He stated that this change should be announced to the public and put on the website. He also commented on weighted grades and the MJH band facility.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Reeverts, to adjourn to closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the district. Ayes: Jagielski, Janes, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 8:39 p.m.

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

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Reeverts, to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2006 executive session and the August 29, 2006 executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Bonne, to approve the following items as discussed under Part 2 – Personnel of the executive session agenda including hiring Noelle Herzel, Highland School Counselor (paid out of grant); Amanda Schwartz, .5 FTE Highland School Counselor (paid out of grant); Shannon Meehan, Monroe Center School Counselor (paid out of grant); Jennifer DiFiore, Monroe Center special education

individual student aide (per IEP); Kimberly Flynn, Monroe Center school nurse (3 days per week), job share with Connie Nyberg; Leslie Showers, full-time Meridian Junior High School Assistant Principal; and approve maternity leave request for Janet Hall, MJH special education teacher, expected to begin Monday, December 4, 2006 with a tentative return date of February 12, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Fruin, Secretary