

Meridian Community Board Minutes

Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting of February 26, 2009

Call to Order

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. Members present: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Larson and Reeverts. Superintendent Prusator, Director of Business/HR Porter, Principal Mandzen, Activities Director Stewart, and Director of Transportation Sherman were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Reeverts, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the February 12, 2009 board meeting and the February 7, 2009 special board meeting; payroll for March 6, 2009; and 2008-2009 Certified Teacher Seniority List. Ayes: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Larson, Reeverts and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Prusator reviewed the incident that occurred at Highland last Friday regarding the recovery of a .22 caliber hand pistol. He commended the staff and the Sheriff's office for their part in the investigation. Mr. Prusator also briefly reviewed the process of the investigation.

Mr. Steenken invited questions or comments from board members.

Notices and Communications

Mr. Prusator stated that a Robert's Rules of Order book was placed at the seat of each board member.

Community Input

Mike Riley, Rex McManaway, Angela Hodges, Cindy Raimer, Patti Cuchiara, and Barbara McManaway expressed concerns about the incident at Highland. Comments focused on the communication to parents, implementing gun safety programs, drills for this type of incident, the responsibility of gun owners, what actually is considered a firearm (and zero tolerance for any guns real or toy), and training for the transportation department.

Old Business

8.1 Review/plan for April 13, 2009 Community Focus Group Session

The Board began planning for the April 13, 2009 Community Focus Group Session. Discussion centered on what topics to cover at this session. Board members are asked to submit their five names of community members by next week.

8.2 Review board self-evaluation topics identified at February 7, 2009 special board meeting

Mr. Prusator reviewed the activities that the Board agreed to undertake during the February 7, 2009 special board meeting. Some of the activities included orientation for new board members; adopting an annual agenda calendar; and working with the Illinois Association of School Boards to update the Administrative Procedures component of the Meridian School Board Policy Manual.

8.3 Approve Board resolution opposing withdrawal of Byron CUSD #226 from the Ogle County Educational Cooperative (OCEC)

Mr. Prusator reviewed that the next step in opposing the withdrawal of Byron from the OCEC was for the board to approve the resolution. He stated that the withdrawal of Byron would disrupt the established OCEC programs. Mr. Prusator stated that all Ogle County School Boards are passing the resolution.

Motion:

A motion was made by Glendenning, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the resolution opposing the withdrawal of Byron CUSD #226 from the OCEC as presented. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

8.4 Review/possibly approve contract with Versa Tran routing software for transportation department

Mr. Prusator reviewed that Versa Tran routing software was a recommendation that Director of Transportation Sherman had as part of his Transportation Report at the last board meeting.

Motion:

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Reeverts, to approve the contract with Versa Tran in the amount of \$18,936.00. Ayes: Jagielski, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Glendenning asked that an evaluation of the program be put on the calendar for next year.

New Business

9.1 Review changes to Meridian Junior High social studies curriculum

Mr. Prusator reviewed the changes to the MJH social studies curriculum. He stated that during the year, he and the MJH and SVHS social studies teachers met to review and analyze the Illinois Learning Standards to determine the best course of study in MJH. The power point presentation highlighted the process. Mr. Wilhite then spoke on the textbooks that were reviewed and the subsequent recommendation. They were put on display.

9.2 Review/place 2009-2010 textbooks on display

Kathy McCarey and Chris Griesbach gave a power point presentation on the books that were reviewed for SVHS biology. Mr. Mandzen showed the geometry books that were reviewed. The textbooks will be put on display until the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 19, 2009.

9.3 Review Drug/Alcohol/Steroid Testing Program

Mr. Stewart reviewed options and costs for the implementation of a drug/alcohol/steroid testing program. Discussion followed which included surveying the community to gain a level of understanding for how important this topic is and how well it would be supported.

Board Comments

There were no Board Comments.

Adjourn to Closed Session

A motion was made by Reeverts, seconded by Bonne, to adjourn to closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the district; student discipline case; and the setting of a price for sale or lease of real property owned by the District. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 10:35 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Reeverts, to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 11:17 p.m.

Board Action from Executive Session

Approve minutes of the February 12, 2009 Executive Session and the February 7, 2009 special board meeting

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Reeverts, to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2009 executive session and the executive session minutes of the February 7, 2009 special board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Personnel Report

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Larson, to approve the Personnel Report. Motion carried unanimously.

Lease of District Property

A motion was made by Steenken, seconded by Bonne, to approve the lease of District property to Glendenning Farms for the current year; the Board will bid the lease in subsequent years. Ayes: Jagielski, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne and Steenken. Abstain: Glendenning. Motion carried.

Adjourn

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

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Fruin, Secretary