

Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting of January 22, 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 School. Members present: Bonne, Glendenning, and Jagielski. Superintendent Prusator was also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Mr. Larson arrived at 7:03 p.m.

Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Glendenning, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the January 8, 2009 regular board meeting and the payroll for January 23, 2009 and February 6, 2009. Ayes: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Larson and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report

5.1 Recognize 2009 Illinois State Scholars from SVHS

Mr. Prusator and the School Board wanted to publicly recognize the twenty seniors who had been named as Illinois State Scholars. Mr. Prusator commented on the students' strong commitment to their education and stated that only the top 10% of the state's graduating seniors qualified for this distinction which is based on a combination of the ACT test score and class rank at the end of the junior year. Mr. Steenken offered congratulations and presented certificates to Grace Bushnell, Nicole Gorsegner, Sara Langston, Zachary Mengel, Taylor Miles, Bethany Myelle, Sara Pearson, Hannah Smith, Ethan Standard, Jordyn Strohman, Jessica Sweeney and John Tackes. The following students were unable to attend: Gabrielle Bunk, Darby Canciamille, Faith DeVries, Alex Nyman, Nathan Robert, Jaimi Shaver, Caleb Warner and Shaya Weir.

The Board took a short recess to offer congratulations to the recipients.

5.2 Reminder of Special Board meeting scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to noon at MJH Board Room to continue review of School Board self-evaluation

Mr. Prusator reminded the Board of the special meeting scheduled for Saturday, February 7, 2009, to review information provided through the School Board self-evaluation from August.

5.3 Review Dashboard (District Monitoring) Committee meeting held on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at MJH Board Room

Mr. Prusator, Mr. Glendenning, and Mr. Larson met on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 to look at ways to design dashboards, or reports/information as they relate to monitoring district progress and policy. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Notices and Communications

Mr. Prusator shared an email that was sent to Mrs. Griffith at Highland from a family that left the district. The email thanked the district for the good learning experience and environment provided to the students while they attended our district.

Community Input

There was no Community Input.

Old Business

8.1 School Board Policy Customization Session with representative from the Illinois Association of School Boards

Mr. Prusator introduced Jackie Griffith, an IASB consultant, who worked with the Board to start the process of reviewing, modifying, and customizing the District's Board Policy Manual. The Meridian School Board responded to questions that Ms. Griffith asked relating to board preferences on policy relating to all section of the policy manual. The session lasted until approximately 10:30 p.m.

Mr. King arrived at 7:48 p.m.

8.2 Present/review/discuss the seniority list for 2008-2009 (certified staff only)

The 2008-2009 Certified Seniority list was available for review. Per the Collective Bargaining Agreement, the seniority list must be published by the School Board by February 1st of each year. Each teacher will then have thirty calendar days to file written objections to his/her ranking. The seniority list will be recommended for approval at the February 26, 2009 board meeting.

New Business

There was no New Business.

Board Comments

There were no Board Comments.

Adjourn to Closed Session

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Larson, to adjourn to closed session to consider information regarding appointment, employment, evaluation or dismissal of an employee and probable or imminent litigation. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 10:58 p.m.

Reconvene in Open Session

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by King, to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 12:08 a.m.

Board Action from Executive Session

Approve minutes of the December 18, 2008 executive session

A motion was made by Glendenning, seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes of the December 18, 2008 executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Personnel Report

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the personnel report including the **employment** of Angela Alfano, Assistant 6th grade girls' basketball coach for the 2008-2009 school year (new position); Diana Bandy, bus driver (replaces V. LaForme); Joe Blume, SVHS head track coach for the 2008-2009 school year; Arthur LeDoux, technology technician (replaces J. Burke); and Lori Tepinski, MC 5th grade aide (replaces Hurt). The personnel report includes the **resignation** of Michelle Eyster, MJHS cheerleading coach effective end of 2008 cheerleading season; Beverly Robson, MC individual special education aide, effective January 16, 2009; and Eric Swenson, SVHS head track coach effective end of 2008 track season. The personnel report also includes the **maternity leave** of Julie Boelkins (Highland - kindergarten teacher) effective February 12, 2009 until approximately April 18, 2009 and Maryjean Hoffman (district -bus driver) effective January 5, 2009 until approximately March 30, 2009. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

A motion was made by King, seconded by Glendenning, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Fruin, Secretary

Meridian CUSD #223

District Dashboard (Monitoring) Committee Meeting

Minutes for January 21, 2009 Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Present: Board Members Bruce Larson, Kevin Glendenning and Superintendent Bob Prusator

The meeting began at 6:30 p.m. The Committee reviewed the documentation from the presentation provided at the fall School Board Conference, "School Board Accountability: Monitoring and Reporting District Performance". The committee also reviewed the District's Mission and Long Range Vision to determine what data/reporting would be meaningful to assess District progress and effectiveness. The committee also reviewed dashboard documentation from another school district. The committee also discussed grouping the dashboard into areas such as: 1) Student Learning; 2) Customer Satisfaction; and 3) Resource Utilization. The Committee identified potential reporting/data for each area. Bob Prusator will determine the accessibility of the suggested data and provide a summary of the data at the next committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2009. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Prusator". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned at the bottom left of the page.

Meridian CUSD #223

District Dashboard (Monitoring) Committee Meeting

Minutes for January 28, 2009 Meeting

6:30 p.m.

Present: Board Members Ron Steenken, Bruce Larson, Kevin Glendenning and Superintendent Bob Prusator

The Committee reviewed the documentation reflecting data and reports that were discussed at the January 21, 2009 meeting. The committee addressed the timeline, method and format for the Board to receive "dashboard"/monitoring information. The committee also discussed the role of an annual agenda calendar to schedule "dashboard"/monitoring data. Mr. Prusator will work with the technology department to determine the potential to have data represented graphically. Mr. Prusator will also work with the District's directors to finalize the types of information/reports that would be meaningful for the "dashboard". The committee is expected to provide a "dashboard" recommendation to the Board in March and place in the appropriate place in the policy manual. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bob Prusator".

Activity/Athletic Eligibility Meeting

February 4, 2009

Meeting Summary

Present: Ron Steenken, Tim Jagielski, Bruce Larson, Kevin Glendenning, Lyn Larsen, Karen Hall, Kathy Owen, Melanie Lichty, Heather Alderks, Jim Miller, Eric Swenson, Ryan McDevitt, Mike Lalor, Scott Wilhite, Michael Mandzen, Steve Stewart, Jeff Voltz, Bob Prusator

Meeting began at 6:30 p.m. Bob Prusator reviewed eligibility criteria and eligibility/grade reports from the first semester. Mr. Prusator also reviewed the application of the first semester grades on the final year of the three year phase-in. Mr. Prusator shared the steps that are being taken to notify students, parents, teachers and coaches/advisors that have become ineligible or would not meet the 3rd year eligibility criteria. Mr. Prusator also shared other components of the instructional program that are or will be addressed to make the eligibility policy more effective such as: process for entering grades; student placement in courses, summer school/in-year interventions, calculation of semester grades and transition to high school. Mr. Prusator also shared that the strategies and interventions are designed to assist all students, not just those in activities. Mr. Prusator also relayed that while the policy is in the implementation phase, every effort will be made to ensure that no student is harmed unreasonably or unfairly.

Discussion included concerns by the coaching/advising staff that the heightened criteria in the final year of implementation may have the potential to exclude low performing students from activities. Concerns were also raised that the eligibility bar may be raised too high and might result in certain students losing the benefit of extra-curricular activities. Coaching/advisors also suggested that the final implementation should be delayed until all systematic and intervention practices are in place. Another suggestion from the coaches/advisors was to leave the semester eligibility threshold at the current "fail no more than one course" and eliminate the grade point minimum of 4.0. The group also discussed a potential situation where a student and parents fully committed to an academic improvement plan, but still could not meet the eligibility threshold and what might be done in that case.

Mr. Prusator stated that the administration and Board would continue to monitor student grade/eligibility data and that the next report would be compiled following the 3rd nine weeks. The Board also committed to convening another meeting for the group after the 3rd nine weeks in order to review the data/information. The Board will also place the eligibility as an item at a future board meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

