

# Meridian Community Board Minutes

## Regular School Board Meeting of November 10, 2010

### 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: Glendenning, Jagielski, Larson and Steenken. Superintendent Prusator and District Administrator of Business/HR were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

### Consent Agenda

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Glendenning, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the October 28, 2010 board meeting; payrolls of November 12<sup>th</sup>, November 24<sup>th</sup>, and December 10<sup>th</sup> 2010; and accounts payable in the amount of \$1,659,205.05 of which the bond & interest was \$1,400,000.00 and actual monthly expenditures for November 2010 were \$259,205.05 per review by Mr. Jagielski. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Larson and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

### Superintendent's Report

- 5.1 Recognition of (1) SVHS graduate Taylor Strehl and current student Connor Strehl for being National Champions at Agriculture Science Fair; (2) SVHS girls' golf team for winning Sectional Championship and competing at the IHSA State Meet; and (3) SVHS boys' soccer team for winning Sectional Championship and placing 4<sup>th</sup> at the IHSA State Finals

The School Board recognized the students and teams for their accomplishments this fall. Taylor Strehl said a few words on what is involved in receiving the award. Certificates were handed out to each student in attendance. Pins for exemplary service were handed out to Lyn Larsen, Steve Nerovich, Ryan Dessing and Brendan Johnson.

- 5.2 Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT) Monitoring Report

Kim Hofmeister, Deb Thibodeau and Cheryl Metcalf presented an Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT) Monitoring Report highlighting project goals and objectives, technology resources, tech savvy classrooms, data collection, multimedia student project, EETT learning teams, professional development, and parent/family professional development. Questions and answers followed.

- 5.3 2011 School Board Election Update

Mr. Prusator provided a brief update on the School Board election for April. He stated that eight packets have been picked up by community members; and explained that the school board could have no more than three members from any one township.

## **Notices and Communications**

There were no Notices and Communications.

## **Community Input**

Karen Marsh spoke regarding selling tickets for the game as a better accounting measure; and also the wage for ticket takers. Rhonda Rose spoke regarding the wage freeze for support staff.

Mr. Mellon arrived at 8:00 p.m.

## **Old Business**

### **8.1 Presentation of the Fiscal Year 2010 Audit (Sikich, Inc.)**

Stephanie Lombardi from Sikich presented the FY10 Audit and related information. This is an annual report to the Board to monitor the District's finances.

### **8.2 Review/place on display modifications to Board Policy 2:40 (student advisory role to School Board)**

The policy committee met at 5:30 p.m. tonight before the regular board meeting to discuss ways in which students might best serve the School board in an advisory role and to finalize modifications to the language.

#### **Motion:**

A motion was made by Mellon, seconded by Larson, to approve a policy change to 2:40 to read "the board will utilize high school students to serve in an advisory capacity. Student members will not have any voting privileges and may not attend executive sessions of the Board." Ayes: Jagielski, Larson, Mellon, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

### **8.3 School Improvement Plan Presentations for Highland and Monroe Center Elementary Schools**

Mike Coulahan and Adam Zurko presented the School Improvement Plans for Highland and Monroe Center highlighting the cultural shifts in a professional learning community and the goals and action plans for 2010-2011.

### **8.4 Review/discuss November 4, 2010 Community Meeting on District finances**

Mr. Prusator briefly reviewed the meeting and stated the Board will keep the community informed on the process. The Finance Committee will meet on December 9, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

### **8.5 Review/approve resolution authorizing complaint to the Ogle County Board of Review in Veolia (Orchard Hills) 2010 Assessment**

This agenda item provides the Board the opportunity to pass a resolution authorizing a complaint for the Veolia Orchard Hills 2010 assessment. This has been done annually since 2005 because the Board believes it is not assessed high enough.

Motion:

A motion was made by Mellon, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the resolution regarding the Veolia Orchard Hills 2010 assessment as presented. Ayes: Larson, Mellon, Glendenning, Jagielski and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

**8.6 Review modifications to health insurance program for Educational Support Personnel**

After reviewing with legal counsel, this agenda item was moved to closed session.

**8.7 Determination of the 2010 Tax Levy and Truth in Taxation Resolution: Levy hearing on Thursday, December 16, 2010; Highland School at 6:45 p.m.**

Ms. Porter said the tax levy hearing is scheduled for December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m. She will put the required posting in the newspaper.

**New Business**

**9.1 Review/place on display modifications to School Board Policy 2:220 (School Board Meeting Procedure)**

Mr. Prusator reviewed the modified language regarding the process for community members to request that items be placed on the meeting agenda.

**9.2 Review/approve PALS resolution for Stillman Valley High School Library**

Mr. Prusator reviewed that because of changes in the regional library automation system, PALS is recommending that boards pass a resolution to a different system at no additional cost.

Motion:

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Larson, to approve the resolution as presented pending legal review and approval except for no additional increase in expenditure of funds. Ayes: Mellon, Glendenning, Jagielski, Larson and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

**Board Comments**

Mr. Jagielski commented to remember Veteran's Day.

**Adjourn to Closed Session**

A motion was made by Mellon, seconded by Glendenning, to adjourn to closed session to discuss the appointment and employment of specific employees of the District and deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Larson, Mellon and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 10:09 p.m.

**Reconvene in Open Session**

A motion was made by Mellon, seconded by Larson, to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Board Action from Closed Session**

### **Approve the minutes of the October 28, 2010 executive session**

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2010 executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Personnel Report**

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Glendenning, to approve the personnel report including the **employment** of Mike Kusek, as the head MJH wrestling coach for the 2010-2011 school year (MJH-replacing Jamie McCarty); Tim DeVries, as an assistant SVHS wrestling coach for the 2010-2011 school year (SVHS-replaces Jamie McCarty, partial); Pamela Loy, as a bilingual teacher for the 2010-2011 school year (MC-new position). The personnel report includes the **resignations** of Kathy Niemczyk, effective for November 5, 2010 as a noon supervisor (MC); Juan Vargas, effective for October 13, 2010 as custodian (MJH); and Jesus Vargas, effective for October 13, 2010 as custodian (SVHS). The personnel report also includes the leaves of Cindy Fisher, on FMLA leave, approximately 10/13/2010 through 11/01/2010 (bus driver-transportation) and Deb Castle, on FMLA leave approximately 11/01/2010 through 11/15/2010 (MJH, 6<sup>th</sup> grade aide). Ayes: Larson, Mellon, Glendenning, Jagielski and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Review modifications to health insurance program for Educational Support Personnel**

A motion was made by Mellon, seconded by Glendenning, to approve a 2.65% increase to all educational support staff retro-active to July 1, 2010 for the 2010-2011 school year only. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Larson, Mellon and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Glendenning, seconded by Mellon, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 1:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Fruin, Secretary