

# **Meridian Community Board Minutes**

## **Regular School Board Meeting of October 13, 2011**

### **Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Meridian Community Unit School District #223 was called to order by President Bruce Larson at 7:00 p.m. in the Meridian District Board of Education Room located in the Meridian Junior High School. Members present: Glendenning, Pierce, Smith and Steenken. Superintendent Morelan, administrators and directors were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

### **Approve Agenda**

A motion was made by Steenken, seconded by Smith, to approve the agenda. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Consent Agenda**

A motion was made by Glendenning, seconded by Steenken, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the September 22, 2011 board meeting and payroll of October 14, 2011. Ayes: Glendenning, Pierce, Smith, Steenken and Larson. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Flynn arrived at 7:04 p.m.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **Annual ISBE Fall Housing Report**

Dr. Morelan reviewed an Enrollment by Grade Level Report as of 9/30/11. These figures showed a total district enrollment of 1986 which is an increase of 39 students and a 2% increase from the 9/30/10 report.

#### **PEP Grant for 2011**

Dr. Morelan reviewed the PEP Grant for 2011 commenting that it is a tremendous amount of work, but a tremendous opportunity for getting the students of the district in shape. Steve Stewart is the Project Director and Kim Glendenning is the Project Coordinator.

#### **National Junior Honor Society**

Mr. Gaudreau reported that Mrs. Hall, Mrs. Eyster and Mrs. Brooks are making plans for a National Junior Honor Society at Meridian Junior High to focus, encourage and enhance student achievement.

#### **Foreign Language Grant**

Dr. Morelan reported that the district had applied for an Illinois State Board of Education Arts and Foreign Language Planning Assistance Grant in the subject area of Foreign Language.

Dr. Morelan also reported that Lynn Larsen received the Boys' Soccer Coach of the Year award sponsored by the National Federation of State High Schools. He also announced the birth of a son to Allison and Ben Hickerson.

### **Student Advisory Report**

Paxton Abbott reported that he will meet with Mr. Mandzen on Monday to discuss Latin Honors which needs to be edited more and differentiated between the NHS. He is still working on more student participation for the student advisory committee. He also commented on the interesting artwork.

### **Notices and Communications**

The Board received an invitation from the district's law firm to attend a reception being held at the Shedd Aquarium during the Conference in Chicago in November.

### **Community Input**

There was no Community Input.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **Update on ticket sales procedure**

Mr. Stewart reported that the procedure implemented for ticket sales at the football games has gone pretty well. Attendance at the past two football games at Stillman has been around 1400 people.

#### **Update on job descriptions**

Dr. Morelan reported that more job descriptions are coming in.

#### **Review transportation pay for route vs. trip vs. office work**

Mr. Gaudreau reviewed the procedure for how routes, trips and office work are paid. Mr. Gaudreau will meet with the transportation director and bus drivers to make sure everyone in the department understands the procedure.

#### **Motion:**

A motion was made by Pierce, seconded by Glendenning, to remove item 10.3 review transportation pay for route vs. trip vs. office work from unfinished business. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Review Transportation Handbook**

The Transportation Handbook was made available to the Board. Discussion followed regarding having an evaluation process and form included in the handbook, whether the cell phone section is consistent with board policy on cell phone usage, review by legal counsel and bus driver input. This item will return as unfinished business.

### Review website management

Mr. Bolhous reviewed three options for website management. Mr. Bolhous will provide additional information on cost and how many people visit the website at the November 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

### **New Business**

#### Preliminary review of Health/Dental/Life Insurance renewal rates

Laurie Miller and Mike Parrott from Miller, Buettner and Parrott, Inc. reviewed health/dental life insurance renewal rates .

#### Motion:

A motion was made by Flynn, seconded by Smith, to accept the renewal rates for health/dental/life insurance from Blue Cross Blue Shield , Delta Dental, and TruAssure as recommended. Ayes: Smith, Steenken, Flynn, Glendenning, Pierce and Larson. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Discussion and deliberation to set board strategic priorities

Mr. Larson handed out a list of policy committee delegated concerns and pending issues to be addressed and a list of unfinished/uncompleted business of the board. The Board will review the lists and set priorities.

### **Board Comments**

Mr. Larson commented to Paxton Abbott that he does a good job with the band. Mr. Pierce thanked Mr. Gaudreau for the extra work he is doing and that he has heard that many people are pleased. Mr. Steenken commented that he liked Mr. Larson's list of policy committee delegated concerns/pending issues to be addressed and unfinished/uncompleted business of the board.

### **Adjourn to Closed Session**

A motion was made by Steenken, seconded by Smith, to adjourn to closed session to discuss information regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District or other stated exceptions to the Open Meetings Act. Ayes: Steenken, Flynn, Glendenning, Pierce, Smith and Larson. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 8:40 p.m.

### **Reconvene in Open Session**

A motion was made by Pierce, seconded by Glendenning, to return to open session. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 10:00 p.m.

### **Board Action from Closed Session**

#### **Review the minutes of the September 22, 2011 executive session**

A motion was made by Steenken, seconded by Smith, to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2011 executive session. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Personnel Report**

A motion was made by Smith, seconded by Steenken, to approve item C, **leave** – Jennifer Porter, six week leave of absence effective September 23, 2011 and ending November 1, 2011 and item D, approve salary increase for 2011-2012 for Educational Support Personnel, Administrators and Directors (except for Tom Gaudreau and Dr. Morelan) which was included in the FY12 budget. Ayes: Pierce, Smith, Steenken, Flynn, Glendenning and Larson. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Other:**

##### **Motion:**

A motion was made by Pierce, seconded by Smith, to retain the services of Lynn Dowd and Tim Mahoney with continued expenditures with Mr. Whitt. Ayes: Smith, Steenken, Flynn, Glendenning, Pierce and Larson. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Adjourn**

A motion was made by Steenken, seconded by Glendenning, to adjourn the meeting. Ayes: All. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Fruin, Secretary