

## **Minutes of a Regular Board Meeting of October 9, 2008**

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Meridian Community School District #223 was called to order by Vice President Barb Reeverts at 7:05 p.m. in the Meridian District Board of Education Room located in the Meridian Junior High School. Members present: Jagielski, King, and Larson. Superintendent Prusator, Director of Business/HR Porter, and Technology Director Bolhous were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

### **Consent Agenda**

Item 4.1 approval of the minutes of the September 24, 2008 Board Meeting was removed from the Consent Agenda for additions. Item 4.3 approval of accounts payable for October 2008 per review by Mr. Larson was removed from the Consent Agenda because Mr. Larson was not able to review the accounts payable prior to the meeting. This item will be held over until the October 23, 2008 board meeting.

### **Motion:**

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Reeverts, to approve the payroll of October 17, 2008. Ayes: Jagielski, King, Larson and Reeverts. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Motion:**

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by King, to approve the minutes as amended. Ayes: Jagielski, King, Larson, and Reeverts. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **5.11 Review the Annual ISBE Fall Housing Report/enrollment as of 9/30/08**

Mr. Prusator reviewed the Annual Fall Enrollment and Housing Report that shows enrollment on 9/30/08. He also reviewed an Enrollment by Grade Level Report. These figures showed a total district enrollment of 1993 which is an increase of 42 students and a 2.15% increase from 9/30/07. Mr. Prusator will provide updates on the student numbers periodically throughout the school year.

#### **5.12 Technology Department Report**

Mr. Bolhous gave a power point presentation highlighting current projects. He also provided information on his recommendation for the purchase and installation of a fiber optic line to support the District's network. It is expected a recommendation will be presented at the October 23, 2008 meeting.

Mr. Steenken arrived at 7:23 p.m. and presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Glendenning arrived at 7:25 p.m.

## **Notices and Communications**

Mr. Prusator stated that he had distributed an IASB Report to the Membership at each seat. He also reviewed the timeline for the April 7, 2009 School Board Election. Four seats will be open for this election. Four year terms are expiring for Mr. Steenken, Mr. Jagielski, Mrs. Bonne and Mr. Glendenning.

## **Community Input**

There was no Community Input.

## **Old Business**

### **8.1 Approve Resolution for Issuance of Working Cash Fund Bonds**

Mr. Prusator reviewed the financing for the 148 acres of land located south of SVHS. He stated that the Stillman Bank is purchasing the bonds. The closing date is October 27, 2008. Mr. Prusator also reviewed the Tax Rate Impact the purchase of the property might have.

Mr. Glendenning requested that the minutes reflect that he is not against the purchase of the land, but will abstain from the vote because of his relationship with the Stillman Bank.

#### **Motion:**

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by King, to approve the Resolution for Issuance of Working Cash Fund Bonds. Ayes: King, Larson, Reeverts, Jagielski and Steenken.

Abstain: Glendenning. Motion carried.

### **8.2 Review Community Focus Group Session for October 20, 2008**

Mr. Prusator reviewed the format for the Community Focus Group Session scheduled for Monday, October 20, 2008 at Stillman Valley High School. Mr. Prusator handed out a list of possible questions to be asked at this session. Discussion followed. The Board reached consensus on three questions for the focus group session: 1) What do you look at to determine how well our district is doing? 2) In five years, what kinds of issues do you think the School District will need to discuss/address? and 3) What are the critical areas of needed improvement? Feedback from the community will be compiled and discussed by board members at a later meeting. The community's feedback will be taken into consideration in deciding priorities in the future.

## **New Business**

### **9.1 Review Meridian CUSD #223 Board Policy Manual; Section 2**

As part of the process to review board policy, The Board began to review and evaluate the second section of the policy manual, which focuses on the School Board. Discussion followed regarding the policy language in the section. Because of time constraints, the

Board was not able to complete the review of section 2 and will continue with the evaluation at the November 13, 2008 board meeting.

9.2 **Preliminary review of health/dental/life insurance bid for 2008-2009; final recommendation will be made at the October 23, 2008 board meeting**

Mrs. Porter reviewed the bid process. The district's current carriers returned the most favorable renewal rates. Mrs. Porter handed out and reviewed the renewal rates. She also stated that the Insurance Committee met this afternoon to review the rates. Mike Parrott from the district's insurance consultants, Miller & Buettner, Inc., was also present to answer questions. At the October 23, 2008 board meeting, the recommendation will be to retain all of the current vendors for the 2008-2009 benefit year.

**Board Comments**

Mrs. Reeverts requested an update on the Ogle County Educational Cooperative and the possibility of the Byron School District leaving. Mr. Larson distributed a handout on high schools issuing employability certificates. Mr. Jagielski commented on the enrollment figure increases which will have an impact on the facilities and the need to continue to consider expansion.

**Adjourn to Closed Session**

A motion was made by Reeverts, seconded by Jagielski, to adjourn to closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees of the District. Ayes: Larson, Reeverts, Glendenning, Jagielski, King and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 9:25 p.m.

**Reconvene in Open Session**

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Reeverts, to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. Time 9:59 p.m.

**Board Action From Executive Session**

**Approve the minutes of the September 11, 2008 and September 24, 2008 executive sessions.**

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Reeverts, to approve the September 11, 2008 and September 24, 2008 executive session minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approve the Personnel Report**

A motion was made by King, seconded by Larson to approve the personnel report including the **employment** of James Burke, technology technician (new position); Tara Elder, Highland cashier (new position); Stephany Fritz, human resource assistant (replaced A. Cook); Donna Hall, MC cashier (new position); Bethani Lauer, SVHS attendance secretary (new position); Tracy Nason, MC head cook (replaces L. Nyman); Kathy Niemczyk, MC lunch supervision aide (replaced S. Hager); Dena Peterson, Highland dishwasher (open position); Yolanda Torres, SVHS head cook (replaced M. McDuffie); Jose Vargas, MC 2<sup>nd</sup> shift custodian (replaced J. Rydeberg); Michelle

Eyster, assistant high school academic bowl coach for the 2008-2009 school year (replaces R. Gilbert); Jessica Starr, assistant 8<sup>th</sup> grade volleyball coach for the 2008-2009 school year due to high numbers (new position). The personnel report includes the **resignation** of Jessica Rydeberg, MC 2<sup>nd</sup> shift custodian effective September 12, 2008. The personnel report also includes the **family medical leave** of Rebecca Barton, MJH 7<sup>th</sup> grade science teacher effective February 25, 2009 until May 4, 2009 and Cynthia Gunderson, MC cafeteria worker effective August 26, 2008 for 12 weeks. Ayes: Jagielski, King, Larson, Reeverts, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously. Motion carried unanimously.

**Adjourn**

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Steenken, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Fruin, Secretary