

## **Meridian Community Board Minutes**

### **Minutes of a Regular School Board Meeting of February 14, 2008**

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

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 pm. in the Meridian District Board of Education Room located in the Meridian Junior High. Members present: Glendenning, King and Larson. Superintendent Prusator, Director of Business/HR Porter, and Principals Coulahan, Zurko and Mandzen were also present. (Mr. Davidson attended after chaperoning the Junior High Dance.) The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

#### **Consent Agenda**

Mr. Steenken stated that accounts payable for February 2008 were not reviewed due to an illness and asked for a motion to remove that item from the consent agenda.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Steenken, seconded by Glendenning, to remove item 4.3, approve accounts payable for February 2008, from the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Reeverts arrived at 7:02 p.m.

**Motion:** A motion was made by King, seconded by Larson, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the January 24, 2008 regular board meeting and January 26, 2008 special board meeting and payroll of February 20, 2008. Ayes: King, Larson, Glendenning and Steenken. Abstain: Reeverts. Motion carried.

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

#### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Prusator updated the board on the January 31, 2008 Ogle County Board of Review Assessment Appeal Hearing for Veolia Orchard Hills Landfill. Mr. Prusator relayed that the Board of Review kept the assessment at the same level as 2006.

Mr. Prusator also reviewed the February 15, 2008 Teachers' Institute Program.

#### **Notices and Communications**

Mr. Prusator informed the Board he received correspondence from Jesse White, Secretary of State and State Librarian, that Meridian CUSD #223 would receive a FY08 School District Library Program Grant award of \$1,442.98. Appropriate uses of the grant funds might include library materials to support reading for academics and enjoyment, library subscriptions to electronic resources, or improved technology to support student research.

He also shared a correspondence from the Illinois State Board of Education to Bill Davidson informing him that MJH had received an Academic Improvement Award – 2007 Illinois Honor Roll School showing academic improvement in reading and mathematics over the last three years.

#### **Community Input**

Mr. Ken Diehl and John Talbot, Davis Junction trustees, were in attendance. Mr. Diehl updated the Board on the status of the waste-water treatment plant project for Davis Junction. Mr. Diehl also reviewed the status of

the modified annexation agreements for sub-divisions in Davis Junction in order to support the expansion of the waste-water treatment facility.

### **Old Business**

#### 8.1 Review Draft of District Long Range Vision Statement

Mr. Prusator reviewed the draft of the District Long Range Vision to make certain the vision statements reflect the language and concepts agreed upon at the meeting held on January 26, 2008. Discussion followed. The Board reviewed the draft statements and modified parts of the statements to provide additional clarity.

#### 8.2 Review/plan for and consider scheduling Community Focus Groups

Mr. Prusator led discussion for the purpose of planning for and scheduling Community Focus Groups. Board members should identify community members who they would like to invite to participate in the focus groups. The Board also discussed identifying the topics/questions to be discussed at the focus groups. The date of the first Community Focus Groups will be April 3, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

### **New Business**

#### 9.1 Review/place on display k-5 elementary textbook adoption for mathematics

Mr. Zurko, principal at Monroe Center Elementary School, gave a power point presentation on the process for the selection and background of the recommended k-5 mathematics textbook series, EnVision Math. Mr. Coulahan, principal at Highland Elementary, also participated in the presentation. The textbooks will be put on display. It is expected that the recommendation to adopt the k-5 textbook series will be at the February 28, 2008 regular school board meeting. School Board members expressed appreciation at the thoroughness of the process in making the recommendation.

#### 9.2 Review/possibly approve new courses/revisions of courses for 2008-2009

Mr. Mandzen presented the recommended courses/revisions of courses for 2008-2009. Mrs. Rogers and Mrs. Zoet gave a power point presentation describing the process and rationale for new and revised science courses that would ensure that science courses are appropriately aligned and sequenced. School Board members expressed appreciation for the depth of research, analysis and collaboration that the 6-12 science teachers utilized in making the recommendation.

**Motion:** A motion was made by King, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the proposed new courses and revisions of existing courses for 2008-2009 as presented. Ayes: King, Larson, Reeverts, Glendenning, Jagielski and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

#### 9.3 Review/consider change of board meeting dates for April and June

Mr. Prusator presented some dates he recommends changing due to conflicts with the superintendent's schedule. He recommends changing the Thursday, April 24th meeting to Wednesday, April 23rd. He also suggests changing the June 12<sup>th</sup> and June 26<sup>th</sup> meetings to June 5<sup>th</sup> and June 19<sup>th</sup>. Board members did not see a problem with changing to the suggested dates. Mr. Prusator will communicate the changes.

### **Board Comments**

There were no board comments.

### **Adjourn to Closed Session**

A motion was made by Reeverts, seconded by King, to adjourn to closed session to discuss appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of a specific employee of the District. Ayes: Larson, Reeverts, Glendenning, Jagielski, King and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 9:50 p.m.

### **Reconvene in Open Session**

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Reeverts, to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously.  
Time: 10:10 p.m.

### **Approve the minutes of the Closed Session on January 24, 2008**

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Glendenning, to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2008 executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Approve the Personnel Report**

A motion was made by King, seconded by Reeverts, to approve the personnel report including the **employment** of Ana Dominguez, MJH ESL instructor for the 2008-2009 school year (vacant position); Jennifer Smith as MJH ESL instructor for the remainder of the 2007-2008 school year (vacant position); Jamie McCarty as an assistant high school wrestling coach (replaces Glaudel); Aaron Ray as the assistant spring musical director; Jake Rippentrop as assistant 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls' basketball coach due to numbers; and Dan Mullin as the SVHS musical instrumental (replacing N. Haas). The personnel report also included the **resignations** of Jim Baker, MJH assistant wrestling coach, effective 1/1/08 and Natalie Haas, SVHS musical instrumental, effective at the end of the 2006-2007 school year. The personnel report included the **retirement** of John Fischer, Highland 2<sup>nd</sup> shift custodian, effective February 1, 2008; **family medical leave** of Ann Green, MC 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, effective April 25, 2008 until the beginning of the 2008-2009 school year; **transfer** of Victor Bozzi to position of 2<sup>nd</sup> shift custodian from MJH to Highland (replaces Kissinger); and the **increase of hours** for Deb Castle (MJH special education aide) from 3 hours per day to 3 ½ hours per day to accommodate original posting.

### **Adjourn**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Fruin, Secretary