

Meridian Community Board Minutes
January 12, 1005
7:00 P.M.

Minutes of a Special School Board Meeting for Levy Hearing of December 15, 2005

A special meeting of the Board of Education of Meridian Community Unit School District #223 was called to order by President Ron Steenken on December 15, 2005 at 6:52 p.m. in the new cafeteria at Highland Grade School for the purpose of a Tax Levy Hearing. Members present: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson and Reeverts.

The proposed 2005 Tax Levy had been on display in the District Office. Mr. Prusator briefly reviewed the levy figures and stated the total tax rate, with anticipated tax rate of \$4.72.

Hearing no further comments or questions, a motion was made by Janes, seconded by Bonne, to adjourn the Tax Levy Hearing. Ayes: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Fruin, Secretary

Minutes of a Regular School Board Meeting of December 15, 2005

A regular meeting of the Board of Education of Meridian Community Unit School District #223 was called to order by President Ron Steenken on December 15, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the new cafeteria at Highland Grade School. Members present: Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson and Reeverts. Superintendent Prusator, Principals Hedemann, Davidson and Mandzen, Mr. Rude and Mr. Bearrows were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Mr. Coulahan arrived after covering an event.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Janes, to remove item 4.4 approve/adopt 2005 levy from the consent agenda. Ayes: Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Reeverts, seconded by Jagielski, to approve the consent agenda including the minutes of the November 10, 2005 board meeting, the payrolls of December 20, 2005 and January 5, 2006, and the accounts payable for December 2005 per review by Mr. Larson. Ayes: Jagielski, Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

With no further discussion regarding the levy, a motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Jagielski, to adopt the 2005 levy as presented. Ayes: Janes, Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Prusator reviewed the Meridian CUSD #223 intervention in the 2005 Orchard Hills Landfill (Onyx) assessment appeal to Ogle County. Mr. Prusator stated that the hearing before the Ogle County Board of Review would probably occur in January.

Mr. Prusator gave a presentation on the IASB II.schoolboard.net and e-tools that would allow him to share information with board members and the public electronically. Mr. Prusator said the district has a 90-day free trial of the program to see if it would be a benefit to the district.

Mrs. Hedemann passed out a copy of her principal's report. Mrs. Hedemann highlighted a few items. She reported the first and second grade students participated in Jump for Heart this week. There were 131 students who collected pledges and raised \$5,699.90. The money will be given to the American Heart Association. First and second grade teachers attended a Guided Reading Workshop last Thursday and Friday, respectively. Interviews will take place on Monday for the part-time Learning Disabilities teaching position at Highland. Mrs. Hedemann has been working with grant writer, Linda Spangrud, to secure funding to service our ESL students. On Institute Day, January 4th, Deb Endress from the ROE will meet with teachers to assess their needs in implementing Guided Reading. Mrs. Hedemann stated she is very pleased with school counselor, Stephanie Haugh. Lastly, Mrs. Hedemann stated that Highland would end the quarter and the semester on January 6th with report cards going out on January 13th.

Mr. Coulahan thanked the PTO for their work with Santa and Elves. It was another good shopping experience for the students. Students have participated in rollerskating for P.E. for the last two weeks. Students at Monroe Center School are writing a lot and very focused on learning. DARE classes will finish in January and the DARE Graduation Ceremony will take place at the end of January. Meridian Youth Basketball has 26 groups practicing at MC School. Mr. Coulahan stated he has been putting the Monroe Center Newsletter online. The MC institute agenda will include some information on interventions, accommodations and modifications for students before special education referrals are made. Deb Endress will continue to work with the teachers on local assessments. The programs continue to run very smoothly at MC School. The teachers and students are very focused on learning. Students are keeping up the good behavior that is expected of them on a daily basis.

Mr. Davidson reported that Deb Endress from the ROE came to MJH on Tuesday to help prepare for upcoming ISAT tests. She has helped teachers to get started in writing quarterly exams tied to the state standards. Report cards will be sent home on Friday, January 6th. The JH chorus had its Winter Concert on Tuesday night. The JH band had their Winter Concert on Monday, December 5th with the 6th grade performing at 6:00 p.m. and the 7 & 8th grade performing at 7:00 p.m. The boys' basketball teams finished their seasons this past weekend. The library just finished the book fair at MJH on Tuesday. It was a great success with a very significant increase in the number of books sold. Mr. Davidson expressed his thanks to Dana Kunce and Faith Pauling for all of their hard work.

Mr. Mandzen reported on the Drug Dog Search for illegal drugs conducted last Friday, December 9th at SVHS. He explained the process and the outcome. Mr. Mandzen handed out and briefly reviewed the first semester exam schedule and the exemption policy. Congratulations to Mrs. Haas and the concert and symphonic bands for their wonderful performances last Thursday. Also, congratulations to Mr. Owen and the concert choir, chorale, and acapella choir including the many ensembles for their marvelous performances. Mr. Mandzen handed out the 78th National FFA Convention Directory. He pointed out that the edition had an article written by SVHS student, Alyssa Bishop.

Mr. Rude reported that winter sports and activities are underway and gave their various opening schedules and dates. He also stated that auditions are being conducted for the musical. Mr. Rude told board members about a website www.highschoolsports.net that they can visit to view a schedule/calendar of events.

Mr. Bearrows reported the parts came in for the MJH locker room. That project was completed about two weeks ago.

Mr. Steenken gave board members an opportunity to ask questions of the administrators.

Under Notices and Communications, Mr. Prusator briefly reviewed a letter from the Village of Stillman Valley regarding an annexation hearing. The district was notified because the land being annexed into the village is within a certain distance of school district property.

Under Community Input, Brian Grover and Kelly Knoll addressed the board regarding concerns in the transportation area. Mr. Grover also expressed appreciation for the mass notification system and the good music program.

Mr. Bob Willis, from the Red Oak Group, made a presentation showing how his company helps involve the community in establishing a mission and vision for a school district. Mr. Prusator said the district would also consider other programs, which would assist the school district in engaging the community.

Mr. Prusator handed out an updated School Board/Superintendent communication/information process. He also stated that Skyward would be visiting in January to train staff on how to get the kind of reports wanted by board members.

Mr. Prusator had on hand two copies of the draft of the bus driver handbook for review. He stated it has been on display for about four weeks at the bus garage. Feedback is encouraged. The Board would like to adopt the bus handbook in late January or February.

Mr. Mandzen handed out and reviewed proposed course description changes for 2006-2007.

Under Board comments, Mr. Jagielski, Mr. Janes, Mrs. Reeverts, and Mr. Steenken commented on the sessions they attended at the School Board Convention. Mr. Janes offered comments on the importance of correlation between state assessments and local assessments, particularly in mathematics. Mr. Glendenning inquired of the process to remove snow at Stillman Valley High School while events are scheduled.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Janes, to adjourn to executive session to discuss the appointment, evaluation, employment or dismissal of an employee, student disciplinary hearing, student special education placement, review of executive session minutes, or other stated exception to the Open Meeting Act. Ayes: Larson, Reeverts, Bonne, Glendenning, Jagielski, Janes and Steenken. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 9:45 p.m.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Jagielski, to return to open session. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 12:23 a.m.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Reeverts to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2005 executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Bonne, to approve suggested actions on executive session minutes dated from June 23, 2005 through November 10, 2005 as presented opening the June 23, 2005 and August 25, 2005 minutes and keeping the remainder confidential. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Bonne, to accept the resignations of the following: Micki Zack, Highland noon supervisor; Peggy Silberhorn, Highland RN school nurse; and Duane Pansegrau, MJH 2nd shift custodian. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Reeverts, to hire the following: Jodi Peters, Highland noon supervisor (replaces Zack); Janet Hake, Highland dishwasher (replaces Ewald); and Robin Brewington, SVHS cafeteria worker (replaces Nutt). Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Janes, seconded by Bonne, to approve the SVHS fall coaches evaluations of Mike Lalor, football; Carri Murphy, volleyball; and Lynn Larson, boys' soccer as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Janes, to approve the maternity leave request of Jennifer Tompkins, Monroe Center 3rd grade teacher; anticipated leave will begin on or around February 18, 2006 and end on or around May 1, 2006. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Jagielski, seconded by Bonne, to approve the expulsion of Student B for a period of two years. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Jagielski, to approve modified extra-curricular/activity differential schedule as presented. Ayes: Jagielski, Reeverts, Bonne and Steenken. Nays: Glendenning, Janes and Larson. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Bonne, seconded by Reeverts to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Fruin, Secretary