

MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 505
MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
June 18, 2003

Chair Mary Mattison called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present were Charlie Crabtree, Mary Mattison, Rob Olson and Judy Boxx.

Second grade students from Irene Reither Primary School led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Charlie Crabtree and seconded by Judy Boxx. Motion passed.

CONSENT AGENDA

The following items on the consent agenda were approved on a motion by Rob Olson and seconded by Judy Boxx.

- A. Minutes for May 21, 2003
- B. Accounts Payable/Payroll
- C. Budget Status Reports
- D. Resolution No. 5-03 Canceling Outstanding Warrants

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Superintendent Dickerson thanked Sheri Folsom for her service and commitment to the school board. He said Sheri always showed a positive attitude, was supportive, and that he appreciated her input. He gave Mrs. Folsom a letter and a Certificate of Appreciation and said she would be missed.

REPORTS

A. Principals' Reports

IRPS Principal Lynne Jermunson gave a synopsis of five main areas of focus this past school year: School Improvement Process, Site Council Progress and Accomplishments, Strategic Plan Supportive Activities, Programs for Capable Learners and Remedial Assistance, and Student Discipline Plan. She said that the Math and Reading research teams have been established with five teachers serving on each team. She said the primary goal of the Site Council is to focus on student achievement. Mrs. Jermunson outlined the Strategic Plan Supportive Activities: academic progress, community goals, facilities, and administrative goals and the programs for Capable Learners and Remedial Assistance. She thanked the many parent volunteers and stressed the importance of at-home reading. She completed her report by saying that attendance is one of the main factors for achievement in school.

TMCE Principal Randy Flowers reported on work being done on the School Improvement Plan. He said staff would be gathering data beginning in the fall. He said the Site Based Council has been working on the Student/Parent Handbook, and it will be completed for the beginning of school. Mr. Flowers said the Super Star Program would be reestablished with a focus on positive behavior. He said the school newsletter will be improved to add more depth, a back-to-school night will be scheduled in September to provide information to parents about expectations, and that the student binders have been expanded to give information about assessment. He said a

parent volunteer coordinator would be hired by next year, and will assist in bringing more parents into the classroom.

MMS Principal Gerry Sanderson said Ron Zegers and Lee Clonts would be receiving training for Gates Teacher Leadership Project Replacement Grants this summer. He reported that Outdoor Education Camp was another success, and that the high school counselors were outstanding. He spoke about academic requirements for 8th grade students, after school support programs, and the Honor Level Discipline/Student Behavior Management System. Mr. Sanderson said focus in the area of staff development would be in implementing a year long approach for preparing for the WASL. He thanked Bruce Burpee for his help in guiding the Site Council. Teacher Kim Fast gave a year-end report on math and reading academic support activities. She gave information on what worked, as well as what didn't work, and gave thanks to the MMS staff for their expertise and flexibility.

MHS Principal Bill Giller said this has been a challenging and stimulating year with never a dull moment. He said the School Improvement Plan is well under way, and data has been collected to support the nine characteristics of successful schools. He said the Site Council is interested in finding ways to involve more parents as volunteers. Mr. Giller said the council is focused on improving the appearance of Old Main by painting, lowering pictures on the walls and improving the lighting. He gave information on student discipline and how the Leadership Class helps in that area. Martin Fleming, a national speaker, gave a presentation to staff on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying. He said WASL testing was shortened from 13 days last year to nine days this year. Mr. Giller's report also included statistical information given to him at a School to Work Meeting with Linda Cowan.

Each principal completed their report by thanking the school board for their continued support and opportunity to serve in the Meridian School District.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment

RECESS

The board recessed at 8:27 p.m. and returned to regular session at 8:35 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Sale of Real Property

Superintendent Dickerson explained that there has been discussion regarding the possible sale of school property at previous board meetings, a public hearing has been held, and information in the district newsletter was mailed to residents of the district inviting input about the topic. He said he received one written and one verbal comment on the subject. Mr. Dickerson said he had attended a meeting on a proposed 600-acre development near the North Bellingham Golf Course area called Larrabee Springs. He said the development is planned over a period of 20 to 30 years with approximately 2,000 residential units. The developer hopes to have the acreage incorporated as part of the Bellingham city limits. The proposed plan includes two separate school sites, based upon population. Mr. Dickerson said it is advantageous to be part of the planning process and have input in the early stages. He said the proposed school sites would be made available to the district at no charge to help with the impact. Conversation returned to the sale of property. Mr. Dickerson reviewed the Notes on Sale of Real Property. After discussion, there was board consensus to prepare a resolution ready for the July 16th meeting, declaring the property surplus.

B. *Second Reading and Adoption – Policy Revisions*

There was second reading on revisions to Policy 3413 -- Immunization and Life Threatening Health Condition. Judy Boxx made a motion to approve the revisions to policy number 3413 and Charlie Crabtree seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. *Budget Update/Insurance Options*

Mr. Dickerson reported that, although the legislature had adjourned its special session it would take OSPI some time to translate the information to the computer program. He said the funding reductions are not as severe as had been anticipated, but that financial impact is passed on to the employee. Mr. Dickerson said that although the district is dealing with a compressed timeframe, the final budgets would be ready for the public hearing at the July meeting. He reported on the unanticipated large increase in property and liability insurance rates that is being imposed by the Washington Schools Risk Management Pool. He said the district is obligated to a three and one-half year notice if the district wishes to leave the pool. Mr. Dickerson said in comparison, the Eastern Washington Insurance Group requires a one year withdrawal notice. He said information he had received from the Eastern Washington insurance group would save the district approximately \$24,000 annually. After discussion, there was board consensus for the Meridian School District to give notice to withdraw from Washington Schools Risk Management Pool.

D. *FFA Barn Project/Laurel Grange*

Superintendent Dickerson said the Laurel Grange Committee and Randy Anderson are working together to shape ideas for the new barn. He said ideally the barn would need to be located near the high school, and the area north of the high school sports complex is being considered. Mr. Dickerson said the board would finalize the decision, as the building will belong to the district.

NEW BUSINESS

A. *Electricity Conservation Initiatives*

Maintenance Supervisor Keith Shelly reported that Governor Locke had signed the Engrossed House Bill law requiring school districts to complete energy audits. He said the district has hired Jim Merfeld from United Energy Engineers and that three of the required four steps have been completed. Mr. Shelly said digital controls and software for the main heating units at each campus will be installed. This will enable him to look at outside and inside temperatures, as well as hot water temperatures at each campus. The cost for the project is \$27,703 of which Puget Sound Energy will fund approximately 50 percent. Mr. Shelly estimates a savings of \$9385 per year figured at today's energy costs.

B. *Site Council Plan – MHS*

The Site Council Plan for Meridian High School was approved on a motion by Rob Olson and seconded by Charlie Crabtree.

C. *Personnel Report*

The Personnel Report was approved on a motion by Rob Olson and seconded by Judy Boxx. See attached.

D. *Board Operating Protocol*

School Board Operating Protocol was reviewed. There was a suggestion to remove item number 18 on the list. It was also suggested that an item outlining the role of the board as outlined by WSSDA be added. Charlie Crabtree made a motion to approve the Board Operating Protocol as amended and Rob Olson seconded the motion. Motion passed.

E. *School Board Elections – Candidate Filing*

Superintendent Dickerson stated that two board positions are up for election in the fall. He said candidate filing week is July 28 through August 1, 2003 and that filings may be submitted by mail as early as July 14.

BOARD SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

INTERVIEWS FOR PROSPECTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Three candidates for the vacant board position were interviewed by the board. Candidates included John Garcia, Ken Thomas, and Bryan Vander Yacht.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Deliberations on Selection of Board Member

The board went into executive session at 10:13 p.m. for the purpose of deliberation regarding the selection of a board member. The board returned to regular session at 10:30 p.m.

SELECTION OF BOARD MEMBER

There was a roll call vote with unanimous support for the selection of Bryan Vander Yacht to fill the vacant board position on a motion by Rob Olson that was seconded by Judy Boxx.

ELECTION OF LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVE

Charlie Crabtree was nominated to serve as Legislative Representative for the board and was approved by a unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mary Mattison adjourned the meeting at 10:33 p.m.

Mary Mattison, Chair of the Board

Burton Dickerson, Superintendent
And Secretary to the Board