

**MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 505  
MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
November 17, 2004**

Chair Judy Boxx called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Seventh grade student Zoeila Becker from Meridian Middle School led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board members present were Brian Evans, Judy Boxx, Mary Mattison, Charlie Crabtree, and Bryan Vander Yacht.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Mary Mattison and seconded by Brian Evans. Motion passed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items on the consent agenda were approved on a motion by Brian Evans and seconded by Charlie Crabtree.

- A. Minutes for October 20, 2004
- B. Accounts Payable/Payroll
- C. Budget Status Reports
- D. Resolution No. 12-04 – Cancel Outstanding Warrants
- E. Resolution No. 13-04 – Transfer Funds from CPF to DSF

**REPORTS**

Superintendent's Report – Progress on Strategic Plan

Mr. Dickerson gave a quarterly update on the five goals outlined in the Strategic Plan, Five Years – Five Goals. He said the district is three years into the five-year plan and spoke about the progress in the goal areas, as well as where work still needs to be done. He thanked Bruce Burpee and Judy McCourt for their help in the Academic Goal area. Mrs. McCourt gave a Power Point presentation of the new Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment website pages that she recently designed for the district website. Mrs. McCourt said the website design was her summer sabbatical project.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

MYAA Vice President Travis Blankenship spoke regarding the gymnasium scheduling needs of MYAA. He said there are approximately 200 students in grades K-6 who play basketball. Mr. Blankenship said it is most convenient to use the MMS Gym because a large facility is needed for the 17 MYAA teams. He said some coaches work with as many as three teams, and because of that, it would be difficult to split the MYAA groups between MMS and TMCE. Mr. Blankenship requested that the Board consider establishing some type of priority system to help assure that MYAA will continue to be able to provide programs for students in the Meridian School District.

**RECESS**

The board recessed at 7:40 p.m. and returned to regular session at 7:50 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Purchase of New School Bus*

Mr. Dickerson gave information on the purchase of a new 75-passenger Thomas bus. He said purchasing a new bus every two years enables the district to operate a newer fleet of buses. He said the purchase price of the new bus is \$89,000, and can be purchased within this fiscal year from funds in the Transportation Vehicle Fund. Bryan Vander Yacht made a motion to purchase the new bus and Mary Mattison seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**B. *Contract for School Psychologist Services***

Mr. Dickerson said Special Services Director Steve Dahl has recommended a contract for additional school psychology services to help school psychologist Chris Latham with a work overload. Charlie Crabtree made a motion to approve the contract for psychologist services. Mary Mattison seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**C. *Personnel Report***

The personnel report was approved on a motion by Charlie Crabtree and seconded by Bryan Vander Yacht. (Copy attached)

**D. *MHS Senior Project Proposal – Next Steps***

Superintendent Dickerson reviewed the timeline for the Senior Project proposal. He said the high school staff plans additional work on the proposal and will present information at the January board meeting, with plans to finalize the proposal at the March meeting and implementation in April.

**E. *Accountability Policy Development – Student Learning***

Mr. Dickerson stated that accountability for student learning is related to the strategic plan, and said he would like to take some time reviewing sample policies. Mr. Dickerson referred members to the Bellingham School District policy on progress and promotion in the notebooks they had received earlier. Discussion followed. It was noted that an accountability plan is a multi-year endeavor and that it would be productive to develop a standard, but there must also be some flexibility.

**F. *Review WSSDA Conference Information***

Mr. Dickerson reported that the school board had attended the WSSDA Conference in Spokane and he asked board members if they would like to share ideas or information. Charlie Crabtree said he was impressed with information he had received regarding WASL testing and the No Child Left Behind law. Brian Evans said he was impressed with a session he attended that put emphasis on the value of a high school diploma.

**G. *Special Education Funding***

Superintendent Dickerson said several school districts across the state are suing the state to fully fund special education. He shared information about a sample resolution showing support to achieve a better system of funding for special education. He said there are mandatory program costs with inadequate funding to meet the needs, and that schools all across the state are struggling.

**Board Signature of Official Documents**

**Executive Session**

The board went into executive session at 8:50 p.m. to review personnel performance and returned to regular session at 9:55 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Judy Boxx adjourned the meeting at 9:55 p.m.

---

Chair of the Board

---

Burton Dickerson, Superintendent  
And Secretary to the Board

