

MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 505
MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
January 19, 2005

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Second grade students Haley Sandberg, Stefan Fiorucci, Tala Mulder, and Samara Hunt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Minutes for December 15, 2004
- B. Accounts Payable/Payroll
- C. Budget Status Reports
- D. Resolution No. 1-05 Authorizing County Treasurer to Invest Funds

REPORTS

A. *Principal's Reports*

Mr. Dickerson stated that Mr. Flowers and Mr. Sanderson were attending the OSPI Conference and had prepared written reports in advance.

Irene Reither Primary School Principal Lynne Jermunson began her report by making a correction to the 1st grade Oral Reading Fluency Chart that was included in board packets. She reviewed information shown on the Fluency Graphs and explained that rubrics were determined by combining the recommended standards from the Developmental Reading Assessment and Open Court Reading. She said the task to align the standards has been done through team meetings, Report Card Committee, the School-Wide Title team and Open Court Reading consultant Kristy Woods. The student information is then reported at parent-teacher conferences, on report cards and other meetings with parents. Mrs. Jermunson said 16 second grade and 8 third grade students were recommended through teacher referrals and math MAP scores for participation in Math Olympiad. The students are coached by Bellingham High School students who earn community service credit. She said she would be speaking to Mr. Shockley to see if MHS students might be interested in coaching students in the future. Mrs. Jermunson introduced Janet Mock, a lecturer at Western Washington University, who was hired recently for the math coach position. Mrs. Mock, with the help from the second grade students who led the Pledge of Allegiance, demonstrated a Number Talk. Number Talks are designed to improve number sense and thinking flexibly about numbers.

Meridian High School Principal Dave Shockley reported on two broad categories: student life and academic life at Meridian High School. He said the Special Events Team helped organized three outstanding assemblies this semester. One assembly which was particularly noteworthy was conducted by Mr. Brad Henning. Mr. Shockley said he is working on providing more advanced placement options for college bound students. He reported that 73% of the incoming freshmen

class had failed one or more parts of the WASL test, and that he, Mrs. Kheriaty and Mrs. Axelson are working on a learning improvement plan for those students.

B. *MHS Senior Culminating Project/Class Projects Update*

Mr. Shockley said the Graduation Project Committee had met and presented the proposed project to parents, students and staff. He said there was great feedback from the meeting, and that a final project proposal will be ready for board approval in March. Mr. Shockley stated that many neighboring school districts have senior project coordinators, and he is trying to find additional teacher support to advise students. He said one option was to implement an additional early release day and have seniors stay to work with their advisor. Mr. Shockley reported on the high number of Running Start students and problems that occur when a student wishes to attend Running Start classes full time starting spring quarter.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Mr. Dickerson reported that January is Board Recognition Month. He said it is an opportunity to give a formal thank you for the commitment and involvement that school board members give to the community. He said he particularly wished to thank the Meridian School Board for their support to the administration and staff and for their high level of interest in students and what is best for them. He presented each member with a Certificate of Appreciation.

RECESS

The board recessed at 7:35 p.m. and returned to regular session at 7:43 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. *Accountability System/Policy*

Superintendent Dickerson gave a handout of a Power Point presentation that was presented at a recent superintendent's meeting. He explained the main points and said it was a broad overview of student learning requirements. Mr. Dickerson said it is very important to intervene early and to involve the student, parents and staff and to ensure that all students are on track for graduation. Review of the sample accountability policies and discussion followed.

B. *FFA/Vo-Ag Barn Project*

Mr. Dickerson said the Laurel Grange, school district and vocational agriculture department have been working on plans to construct a barn to support the activities of the FFA program and vocational agriculture classes at the high school. Mr. Dickerson said he and Randy Anderson have been in contact with the Mount Baker Rotary Club. Mr. Anderson and Mr. Shockley are scheduled to give a presentation to the club next Tuesday which will include an overview of Meridian School District, the vocational agriculture department, increased involvement, and ideas of how a barn would fit into the future of the program. Mr. Dickerson said cost of the structure would be in the \$70,000 to \$80,000 range, which would not include site work, road building, or electrical work, but that the cost would be less if there was community involvement.

NEW BUSINESS

A. *Annual Review and Approval for Affirmative Action Plan*

Superintendent Dickerson said that each January the Affirmative Action Plan is reviewed and updated. He reported that the only changes are to the numerical analysis data. Mary Mattison made a motion to approve the Affirmative Action Plan and Charlie Crabtree seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Requirement Regarding Adoption of Nutrition/Fitness Policy

Mr. Dickerson reviewed a sample WSSDA policy regarding nutrition and fitness programs for students. He said the legislature requires school districts to adopt a policy by August 2005. Amy Wilcox, Food Service Supervisor, was present to answer questions. After discussion, it was decided that other sample policies would be reviewed as well.

C. Personnel Report

The personnel report was approved on a motion by Charlie Crabtree and seconded by Mary Mattison. (Copy attached)

D. Agreement for Interdistrict Cooperative Educational Services

An Agreement for Interdistrict Cooperative Educational Services with the Lynden School District was approved on a motion by Mary Mattison and seconded by Charlie Crabtree.

Board Signature of Official Documents

Executive Session

The board went into executive session at 8:25 p.m. to review personnel performance and returned to regular session at 8:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Judy Boxx adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Burton Dickerson, Superintendent
And Secretary to the Board