

MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 505  
MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
March 16, 2005

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

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Principal Jerry Sanderson introduced middle school students Katie Wasel, Amy Dean, and Alex Hull who led the Pledge of Allegiance. The students briefly gave information on their recent fund raisers which benefits the local Red Cross. Together, the middle school and high school students raised a total of \$4444.00.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

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

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION – Classified Employees**

Superintendent Dickerson gave a special thank you from the school board in recognition of Classified School Employee Week, March 14-18, 2005. Mr. Dickerson said classified employees do a variety of work including transportation, custodial and maintenance, food service, classroom assistance and clerical work. He recognized representatives from Meridian Classified Employees Association, Public School Employees Association and the unrepresented group who work on behalf of the district by reading a proclamation from Governor Christine Gregoire. He said the classified employees all work together as a valued part of the team and play a key role in the operation of the district. Mr. Dickerson introduced Laney Brannen, MCEA President, and John Picht, PSE President. Members of the represented groups were also introduced. (See attached)

**CONSENT AGENDA**

The following items on the consent agenda were approved on a motion by Charlie Crabtree and seconded by Bryan Vander Yacht.

- A. Minutes for February 16, 2005
- B. Accounts Payable/Payroll
- C. Budget Status Reports
- D. Resolution No. 3-05 Delegating Authority to WIAA

**REPORTS**

- A. Director of Special Programs – Steve Dahl  
Mr. Dahl gave recognition to Intervention Specialist Linda DuBois for her outstanding work in serving the needs of Meridian School District students particularly in the Drug and Alcohol Prevention Program. He gave information on the necessity for additional school psychologist support to help meet student needs. Mr. Dahl said the number of students served in special services has increased approximately 35% over the past seven years and that growth in the preschool is also a contributing factor. He also gave information on the recently re-authorized federal law, IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). In response to questions from the Board, Mr. Dahl indicated that while one of the changes in the new IDEA is to allow for up to 15% of IDEA funds to be spent on non-qualified students, there would not necessarily be more funding for this.

B. Director Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment – Bruce Burpee

Mr. Bruce Burpee reported that the Science Curriculum Committee has been busy and that the state is doing a good job of completing GLE's, which makes the committee work easier. He said as part of a regional science grant, a team will be sent to a five-day strategic planning session on science in Seattle, June 26 to July 1. The team will include Pat Preisinger from the high school, K.C. Rhodes from IRPS, someone from the curriculum department and two community members. Both Mary Mattison and Charlie Crabtree expressed interest in being part of the team.

Mr. Dickerson stated that Terry Bergeson, Superintendent of Public Instruction had sent congratulations stating Meridian has earned the Washington State Academic Improvement Award for the 2003-04 school year. Mr. Dickerson said he was awarded plaques for the school district and the three schools receiving the award at a recent ESD meeting. The award is given to schools that have reduced by 10 percent the number of students who missed meeting the reading, mathematics or writing goals from one school year to the next. The high school and TMCE were awarded distinction by improving reading, writing and math and the middle school improved in reading and writing. Superintendent Dickerson said he will present the plaques at school staff meetings.

C. IRPS Title I/Academic Support Update

Academic Support Teacher Liz Theirbah gave a Power Point presentation on Title I at Irene Reither Primary School. Members of the Title I team are Elizabeth Sanchez, Jenny Couch, Sally Van Zee and Mrs. Theirbah. Mrs. Theirbah said each student is screened for fluency in reading and assessed in math at the beginning of the year and at the end of each trimester. This screening, along with MAP testing and teacher input, helps determine if a student needs extra support. Each of the teachers spoke about the areas in which they give instruction. Mrs. Sanchez said she works with 70 ELL students from preschool to third grade. Mr. Dickerson thanked them for their presentation and their excellent work.

D. Information Systems Manager – Joe O'Brien

Mr. O'Brien reported on technology in the district by demonstrating how a wireless Tablet-PC operates and how teachers and other educators would benefit from its use. He gave information on the district Technology Integration Project which focuses on integrating technology into the curriculum. Judy McCourt and Chris Thompson, who are both Gates TLP Grant trainers, have modified the TLP materials and will be district trainers. Five teachers will be selected to participate this year and recipients will receive a wireless laptop computer, seven refurbished desktop computers for the classroom, software, projector and training. Mr. O'Brien also reported on the expected E-Rate refund and said the district will no longer be utilizing Verizon for phone services due to overcharges and rate hikes. WCI, a telecommunications firm from Seattle, will provide our service with a savings of \$300 per month for standard service. They will also provide our long distance service for three and one-half cents per minute. Mr. Dickerson said the district will be in a much better position with the new phone service and thanked Mr. O'Brien.

E. *Legislative Conference/Issues – Charlie Crabtree, Board Legislative Representative*

Superintendent Dickerson said he and Charlie Crabtree had recently attended the Legislative Conference. Mr. Crabtree reported he and Mr. Dickerson visited with Representative Doug Erickson, Senator Dale Brandland, Senator Harriett Spanel, and Representative Kelli Linville and had the opportunity to speak about educational issues. Mr. Crabtree said the conference was a good experience and that Mount Baker, Ferndale, Bellingham and Meridian were school districts representing Whatcom County.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **RECESS**

The board recessed at 8:02 p.m. and returned to regular session at 8:14 p.m.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **A. *Approve Senior Project Plan***

Principal Dave Shockley and Tami Scott, chairperson of the Projects Committee, gave information on the Senior Project Plan. Ms. Scott said the project consists of four major components. The components are Research Paper, defined as a scholarly paper that demonstrates writing and thinking skills; a Portfolio, a collection of work achievement that documents progress along a learning pathway and includes a year 13 plan; Applied Activity, which is a self-directed hands-on, real life application of learning; and the Presentation, which is a presentation of past learning, current projects and future plans. Ms. Scott shared student and parent concerns and information about the grading process. Mr. Shockley said each faculty member will be an advisor to four or five students. He said what still needs to be determined is when faculty members will be available to meet with students to help guide them through their project. He listed several ideas. Mary Mattison made a motion to approve the Senior Project Plan and Brian Evans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **B. *Approve Transactions to Relocate MHS Sign***

Superintendent Dickerson said that many months ago he had given information on the Guide Meridian widening project and that the Meridian High School Reader Board sign would be relocated. He said Meridian School District will release interest in the easement to the Cadman property where the sign is presently located and receive a new easement similar to the current easement. Mr. Dickerson also stated that the district will be compensated in the amount of \$4600 to relocate the sign. Mr. Shockley mentioned that the high school Leadership Class is obtaining bids for a new electronic reader board.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. *Personnel Report***

The Personnel Report was approved on a motion by Charlie Crabtree and was seconded by Mary Mattison. (See attached copy)

### **B. *Selection of Consultant for Long Range Facilities Plan***

Mary Mattison made a motion to select ALSC Architects to prepare the Long-Range Facility Plan and the Study and Survey. Brian Evans seconded the motion and the motion passed.

### **C. *Special Programs Agreements***

Special Programs Agreements for Physical Therapy Services with Patricia Collins, Interdistrict Agreement for Cooperative Educational Services with Ferndale School District, Interdistrict Agreement for Cooperative Educational Services with Mount Baker School District, and Consultant Contract with Therese Fitzgerald, Psychologist were approved on a motion by Charlie Crabtree and seconded by Mary Mattison. The motion passed.

### **D. *School Retirees Proclamation***

Mr. Dickerson read a proclamation from Governor Christine Gregoire in recognition of School Retirees Appreciation Week, March 21-27, 2005. The proclamation states that Washington State School Retirees Association aids in advancing education, promotes group and individual involvement in charitable projects and activities, sponsors scholarships, and maintains interest and participates in educational and community activities. (See attached)

E. *Schedule Annual Board/Superintendent Retreat*

The annual Board/Superintendent Retreat was scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 6:30 p.m. at Dutch Mothers Restaurant in Lynden.

**BOARD SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m. by Chair Judy Boxx.

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Chair of the Board

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Burton Dickerson, Superintendent  
And Secretary to the Board