

MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 505
MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
April 20, 2005

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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 Brian Evans.

- A. Minutes for March 16, 2005 and April 6, 2005
- B. Accounts Payable/Payroll
- C. Budget Status Reports
- D. Approve Board Operating Protocol

REPORTS

A. Principal's Reports

Irene Reither Primary School Principal Lynne Jermunson reported that the after-school math program, Math Olympiad, supervised by Mrs. Otten was a big success. She said she would like to see it continued next year with Meridian High School students helping with the program. Mrs. Jermunson said the Read-Across-America assembly was a multicultural event in which a poem was read in several different languages. Reading Fluency Assessments were administered and reports indicate significant improvement in the area of reading. Kindergarten screening is scheduled for May 4-6 at Laurel Community Baptist Church. Ms. Jermunson reported on the work being done by math coach Janet Mock, and said Ms. Mock has invited staff members to attend WWU to hear speaker Ruth Parker.

Randy Flowers, Principal of Ten Mile Creek Elementary, said two high school students had contacted him to ask if they could lead a Math Olympiad program at TMCE next year as part of their senior project. Mr. Flowers said math coach Bruce Camblin has been working with individual teachers as well as grade level teams. Part of his approach is to make math meaningful by teaching students to communicate math verbally. He said teams will get together in May and June to continue work on GLE's. He said 160 students went skating in March as part of the new "Honors Program" and that approximately 100 "All Stars" will go to the water slides in June. "All Stars" are students with no disciplinary action throughout the year. Mr. Flowers thanked Debbi Britt for her work in developing and planning the Mother Daughter Book Group and Lori Routh for initiating the Math Carnival Night. He said both events were well received.

Meridian High School Principal Dave Shockley stated that a summer school program for credit retrieval will be offered this summer for students in grades 9-11 who are deficient in English. A fourth Advanced Placement class, U.S. Government and Politics, will be offered next year and taught by Mr. Steve Lawrence. Other new course offerings for next year are Digital Imaging

taught by Mr. VandePutte and 3-D Design taught by Mr. Holz. Mr. Shockley said the on-line grading system, Basmati, is working well because teachers are updating on a regular basis. Pastor Cameron from Laurel Community Baptist Church visited the high school recently and expressed the church's continued support of the school. Mr. Shockley said that sixteen percent of Running Start students are on academic alert or probation at WCC, and that students who fail Running Start classes run the risk of not being able to graduate from Meridian High School. Mr. Shockley said the high school staff plans to send an informational letter to parents explaining these concerns.

Meridian Middle School Principal Jerry Sanderson reported that band students received an "excellent" rating at the recent San Juan Music Educator's Association large group assessment and the choir received a "superior" rating. He said there was greater than 97% participation from parents at the recent student-led conferences. In the areas of school improvement, Mr. Sanderson said student, parent and staff surveys were completed and sent to NWESD 189. Feedback on the surveys should be available next month along with MAP test scores. Math coach Bruce Camblin completed his month of coaching and will be back in May and June. Mr. Camblin met with teachers one-on-one as well as worked with teachers in the classroom. Sixth Grade Outdoor Education Camp will be held May 10-13.

Mr. Shockley, Mr. Sanderson and Mr. Flowers all reported that WASL testing was going smoothly.

B. *Readiness to Learn Report*

Whatcom County Readiness to Learn Coordinator Mary Jo Durborow gave a Power Point presentation on the RTL program in Whatcom County. She presented information on the background of Readiness to Learn, the Mission Statement, the five goals of RTL – Healthy Children, Safe in the Neighborhood, Free of Alcohol and Drugs, Access to Work and School Support, and Safe at Home. She also provided information on the many services that students and families receive which are linked through RTL. She said the impact on children and families will be enormous if the legislature does not provide funding for the RTL program. Meridian School District Readiness to Learn Coordinator Jeannie Fitzsimmons spoke about one family that she recently contacted and was able to help with the many community connections as well as several home visits.

RECESS

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

PUBLIC HEARING – I 728 Program

A public hearing was held on the I-728 Plan. Bruce Burpee gave a Power Point presentation on the program giving background information, allowable uses of the funds, and the source of the funding. He said a public hearing must be held by May 1, with the final plan adopted by August. The I-728 funding is based on the number of students enrolled in the district, and Mr. Burpee said the projected allocation for 2005-06 is \$300 per student FTE. He also provided a hand out which detailed 2004-05 budgeted expenditures for class size reduction, extended learning opportunities for students, professional development for staff, and early childhood education. A meeting will be scheduled in May comprised of members of the community, staff, and parents to help develop the I-728 Program for 2005-06.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. *District Budget/Finance Information*

Superintendent Dickerson gave a brief budget overview with information on the development of the budget, adoption of the budget and how the budget is monitored throughout the year. He said the General Fund is the main focus because it is the largest part of the budget, but that the budget covers all funds. He said there are uncertainties in terms of revenues due to declining enrollment projections. He said he would be meeting with administrators to discuss ways to maintain current levels of staffing.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Personnel Report

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

Board Signature of Official Documents

Executive Session

The board went into executive session at 9:15 p.m. to confer with legal counsel 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