

MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 505  
MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
January 18, 2006

Chair Charlie Crabtree called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

High school students Robert Kratzig and Bryant Michaelson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Judy Boxx 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 Judy Boxx.

- A. Minutes for December 21, 2005 and January 10, 2006
- B. Accounts Payable/Payroll
- C. Budget Status Reports

**REPORTS**

**A. *School Board Recognition***

Superintendent Dickerson said January is set aside to give special recognition to board members. Mr. Dickerson said he wished to acknowledge the voluntary service that board members provide and also express gratitude on behalf of the students in the district. He presented each member with a Certificate of Appreciation.

**B. *Special Feature – Barn Project***

Mr. Dickerson reported that the Barn Steering Committee has been meeting regularly and that Jeff Alvord and Frank Priebe are coordinators of the project. He said the district now has a building permit and that the Mt. Baker Rotary Club has agreed to give a \$25,000 cash donation for the project. Mr. Dickerson said with the pledges, cash donations and contributions to-date, the district will be short only about \$25,000 to \$30,000. He said with the boost from the rotary club, the building project will move ahead and will be ready for use by the start of school **in the fall**.

**C. *Director of Special Programs***

Mr. Steve Dahl gave information on the Developmentally Appropriate WASL (DAW), how a student is appropriately assessed, and how the DAW will impact AYP calculations under the No Child Left Behind Law. Mr. Dahl also discussed the Washington Alternate Assessment System (WAAS) and the Portfolio Option. He said Karen Goodwin and all Lifeskills teachers have received initial training on developing Portfolios for students. Also, plans are being made to bring in an educator from La Conner School District who has experience developing Portfolios as well as scoring them for OSPI.

Meridian High School Lifeskills Teacher John Craig, and paraeducator Cindy Clark gave a special DVD presentation highlighting the various activities in which the students are involved. Mr. Craig said students in the Lifeskills class have moderate to severe handicapping conditions, and that the students are engaged in learning occupational skills. Some of the activities the students are involved with are making dog biscuits for sale, (which includes mixing, baking,

sorting, separating, packaging and weighing), doing laundry for Blue Skies for Children as well as the athletic department at the high school, recycling paper, working in the bus garage and helping with children in the preschool.

**D. *Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment***

Mr. Bruce Burpee said he and Tracy Newby had recently refurbished the science kits and that teachers are using them for the first time. He said that perhaps the Lifeskills class could help with refurbishing in the future. There was discussion as to the best place to store the kits when not in use. Mr. Burpee said the Math Committee met recently and that new math materials are changing the way teachers teach and thus may require a different approach. In the area of instruction, Mr. Burpee reported that the next Learning Improvement Day will focus on good teaching and supporting the School Improvement Plans.

He said the WASL will be administered to students in grades 3-8, and grade 10 this spring. There was discussion about MAP testing and WASL and if there will be a need for MAP data in the future.

Mr. Burpee said the Small Repair Grant application had recently been completed. Mr. Dickerson stated a total of 128 Small Repair Grants were submitted to the state. It was also reported that Jeannie Fitzsimmons is also working on a grant that would provide opportunities for middle school students.

The Parent Partnership Program will start in February with approximately 40 students, and Mr. Burpee said he is pleased with the variety of classes that will be offered. Mr. Dickerson and the members of the board congratulated Mr. Burpee for his work in setting up a very big program in such a short period of time. Mr. Burpee said he is pleased with the results because it meets the district's mission.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Billy Slesk said his brother Steve Slesk had applied for a baseball coaching position in the fall and had not heard anything more about the position. Mr. Slesk said he had hoped that the board members could meet his brother. He said he couldn't think of anyone who would be a better mentor for young men.

**RECESS**

The board recessed at 8:10 p.m. and returned to regular session at 8:15 p.m.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. *Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policy***

There was second reading of Board Policy 4130 – Title I Parental Involvement. Mary Mattison made a motion to approve the policy and Brian Evans seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. *Personnel Report***

Judy Boxx made a motion to approve the personnel report and Brian Evans seconded the motion. The motion passed. Bryan Vander Yacht opposed the approval of the personnel report. (Copy attached)

**B. *First Reading Board Policy 2220 School Calendar***

There was first reading and discussion of Board Policy 2220 – School Calendar. Mr. Dickerson reported on the results of the recent questionnaire conducted by the Calendar Committee. He said the four main topics were the beginning of school, Christmas break, mid-winter break, and early release days. Mr. Dickerson also gave information on Learning Improvement Days, the change from a five year calendar template to a three year template, and the need to apply for a two day waiver to the 180 day Basic Education Compliance requirement.

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

Mr. Dickerson said that each January the Affirmative Action Plan is reviewed and that the numerical analysis data has been updated. Bryan Vander Yacht made a motion to approve the Affirmative Action Plan. Mary Mattison seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**D. Approve Interdistrict Cooperative Agreement with Ferndale School District**

The Interdistrict Cooperative Agreement with Ferndale School District was approved on a motion by Bryan Vander Yacht that was seconded by Judy Boxx.

**E. Resolution No. 1-06 – Authorizing County Treasurer to Invest**

Resolution No. 1-06 – Authorizing the County Treasurer to invest district funds was approved on a motion by Mary Mattison. Bryan Vander Yacht seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**F. Resolution No. 2-06 Local Financing**

Resolution No. 2-06 Local Financing was approved on a motion by Bryan Vander Yacht and seconded by Judy Boxx.

**Board Signature of Official Documents**

**Executive Session – Evaluation of Superintendent**

The board went into executive session at 8:55 p.m. for the purpose of personnel evaluation and returned to regular session at 10:25 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Charlie Crabtree adjourned the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

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Chair of the Board

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Burton Dickerson, Superintendent  
And Secretary to the Board