

**MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 505**  
**MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
September 20, 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**

Irene Reither Primary School third grade students led the Pledge of Allegiance. The students were Jamie Baeder, Elvis Mendez, Emma Weg, Alicia Dotinga.

**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 Bryan Vander Yacht.

- A. Minutes for August 16, 2006 and August 29, 2006
- B. Accounts Payable/Payroll
- C. Budget Status Reports
- D. Resolution No. 10-06 Canceling Outstanding Warrants

**REPORTS**

**A. Summer Sabbatical Reports**

IRPS Academic Support Teacher Liz Theirbah used her summer sabbatical grant to develop a set of Second Grade WASL-like math questions. Mrs. Theirbah created 112 questions, 56 for second grade teachers and 56 for use in the Title I program, and incorporated important concepts linked to the EARL's and GLE's. She gave a Power Point presentation which included sample questions. Mrs. Theirbah said she will meet with all second grade teachers to distribute notebooks and discuss classroom application of the math questions. Extended Learning Coordinator Judy McCourt said she and middle school teacher Kim Fast created independent projects for highly capable students in Language Arts at the middle school. Mrs. McCourt said they began by surveying teachers as to needs in differentiated instruction in Language Arts. They then developed independent projects that students can work on while the class receives instruction that students have already mastered. Mrs. McCourt said the units are tied to the reading curriculum and that teachers will monitor student use of guides. Notebooks for teachers were given out at the beginning of the school year. Social Studies teacher Steve Lawrence said he was among 30 teachers from across the nation selected to participate at a Supreme Court Summer Institute, a week-long learning experience in Washington, D.C. He said he met with Supreme Court justices, staff and attorneys. Mr. Lawrence said he gained valuable information that he will be able to use in his classroom. He said he would like to create a Law Consortium with other county teachers and lawyers and plans to work on a grant for funding.

**B. Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment – Bruce Burpee**

Mr. Burpee reported that the Meridian Parent Partnership Program (MP3) began its first day of classes today with a total of 120 students enrolled. He said most students attend Monday and Wednesday classes, and that parents spend a minimum of 25 hours each week home schooling their children. Mr. Burpee said his goal this year is to work on getting high school credit for the program. He said he is looking at a rigorous on-line support program and that a decision must be made before the end of October. Mr. Burpee reported that the state has lost the third grade WASL tests, and that he, Lynne Jermunson and Randy Flowers will be preparing a letter to parents explaining the situation. He said that he and Judy McCourt had spent a considerable amount of time on a grant application proposal focused on students not meeting standard on the 10<sup>th</sup> grade WASL. Mrs. McCourt gave information on “First Steps in Math.” She said she applied for, and received a grant through OSPI. Barb Wood, Liz Theirbah and Judy all received seven days of training and materials. Mrs. McCourt said the professional development is designed to enable teachers to diagnose, plan, implement and evaluate their students’ learning experiences. She said staff development was planned for K-8 math teachers and paraeducators and will continue throughout the year. Bruce Burpee said the materials will help teachers understand how math is learned and will be a diagnostic tool. Discussion followed on the WASL test and Meridian’s low math scores and what can be done to improve the scores. Mr. Burpee said each school has math as the school improvement goal and that math is a concern state-wide.

**C. Special Programs – Deka Smith**

Mrs. Smith reported that student count in special programs is 190 and that the number will likely increase. She reported that there are new ELL testing guidelines this year, and that Elizabeth Sanchez will receive training next week. End of the year reports and applications for the new year for Title 1 and LAP have been completed. Mrs. Smith reported that Meridian has two students attending the Transition Program in the Lynden School District and that Meridian is serving a Bellingham student in the Life Skills program. She said all personnel positions have been filled.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Parent Joel Harris said he has two children who attend Irene Reither Primary School, and he expressed his concern over the increase in class size in the third grade.

**RECESS**

The board recessed at 8:00 p.m. and returned to regular session at 8:10 p.m.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**A. *Technology Program Update***

Superintendent Dickerson said he had recently sent an e-mail to all staff regarding technology in the district. The e-mail summarized a number of changes that will help improve the reliability and support for staff.

**B. *Facilities Plan Update***

Mr. Dickerson said he plans to form an advisory committee to help fine tune the next steps on the Long Range Facilities Plan. He reported that he had visited the D.R. Horton housing development in the south end of the district. He said there are 750 lots planned and 40 lots have been sold. Representatives from D.R. Horton reported that lot sales have been slower than expected.

**C. *Accountability Policy Development***

Superintendent Dickerson reported on the need to develop a policy and procedure for student accountability throughout the district. He said plans are to form a Study Team to research, make site visits and then formulate a policy.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. *Proposed High School Student Trips***

**1. *MHS Cheerleader Trip to Hawaii***

Cheer Advisor Tara Berger stated that the Meridian High School Cheer Squad has been selected to perform during the pre-game and half-time show of the NFL Pro Bowl game in Honolulu, Hawaii February 7-11, 2007. Ms. Berger said the girls will be chaperoned at all times and outlined the fund raising events scheduled to help fund the trip. Bryan Vander Yacht made a motion to approve the MHS Cheerleader Trip to Hawaii. Mary Mattison seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**2. *MHS AP Government Trip to D.C. – Close Up***

Steve Lawrence presented information on a proposed trip for the Advanced Placement Government students to participate in the Close Up Foundation's Washington, D.C. program. The trip is scheduled for April 8-14, 2007. Students will have the opportunity to spend time on Capitol Hill with local senators and representatives and see first hand each aspect of government. The estimated cost of the trip is \$1588 per student. Judy Boxx made a motion to approve the AP Government Trip to D.C. and Mary Mattison seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**B. *Approve Curriculum Materials – MHS Chemistry***

Brian Evans made a motion to approve the MHS Chemistry curriculum and Bryan Vander Yacht seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**C. *Program Applications for 06-07***

**1. *Highly Capable Program***

**2. *Title II, Part A***

Bryan Vander Yacht made a motion to approve Highly Capable Program and Title II, Part A Application for 2006-07. Mary Mattison seconded the motion and the motion passed.

**D. *Contract with Timber Ridge for 06-07***

Mr. Dickerson said superintendents from the five county schools have been meeting with Timber Ridge administrators and corporate office representatives to identify future direction and desires to identify and implement program improvements. Superintendent Dickerson said the contract with Timber Ridge is for 2006-07 only. Bryan Vander Yacht made a motion to approve the contract with Timber Ridge for 2006-07 and Judy Boxx seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**E. *Agreement with Lynden School District for Special Services***

Bryan Vander Yacht made a motion to approve the Agreement with Lynden School District for Special Services and Mary Mattison seconded the motion. The motion passed.

**F. *Personnel Report***

Mary Mattison made a motion to approve the personnel report and Judy Boxx seconded the motion. The motion passed. (See attached)

**G. *Second Reading and Adoption***

**1. *Policy 5010 Nondiscrimination***

There was second reading of Board Policy Number 5010—Nondiscrimination. Mary Mattison made a motion to approve Policy Number 5010—Nondiscrimination and Bryan Vander Yacht seconded the motion. The motion passed.

***H. Student Enrollment Update***

Superintendent Dickerson reported that student FTE is 1438 as compared to 1421 last September, but does not include the Parent Partnership Program. The MP3 enrollment will be included in the October report. He stated that grade three enrollment is larger than was anticipated at budget building time and that grade six also has high numbers. He spoke about the challenges the district experienced at budget building time and gave reasons as to why two teaching positions were not filled. He said Class Size Committees have met and given recommendations on how to alleviate the crowding conditions for both third and sixth grade. Mr. Dickerson said the good news is that the reserves are being built up again, and that enrollment is increasing. After discussion, he said the bottom line is that decisions must be made with the best possible response to competing needs.

**Board Signature of Official Documents**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Charlie Crabtree adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

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Chair of the Board

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Burton Dickerson, Superintendent  
And Secretary to the Board