

MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 505  
MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
January 17, 2007

Chair Brian Evans called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

High school senior Tanya Schuitema led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

- A. Minutes for December 20, 2006
- B. Accounts Payable/Payroll
- C. Budget Status Reports
- D. Resolution No. 1-07 Authorizing County Treasurer to Invest District Funds

**REPORTS**

**A. *Summer Sabbatical Grant Report***

Jeanne Claire Saucer and Lori Whitehead reported on the summer school program for students entering kindergarten that they piloted last summer. They used kindergarten screening to target children that would benefit from the group learning experience and had 13 students involved in the two-week program. The program helped students learn daily school routines, as well as help with fine motor skills, social skills and literacy. Progress reports were sent home at the end of the period, and Mrs. Whitehead and Ms. Saucer said there was significant growth. A special thank you was given to Mrs. McCourt for her help with meal service, transportation and finding a location for the program.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Several parents were present to express their opinion about the change in the graduation date due to snow days. Lori Hazen spoke on behalf of the Booster Club and said that planning for graduation events had already taken place. She also expressed concern over the notification process and said there should have been more dialogue and better communication with parents. Barb Himes said their family had already purchased airline tickets and asked the board for reconsideration. DeeDee Swartz asked if there would be open discussion regarding the graduation date and would there be a new system in place for future planning. Mr. Dickerson said a new calendar committee would be forming soon and to let the district office know if anyone was interested in participating on the committee. Nancy Slesk had a question about the school year when the district had snow makeup days. Charles Morrison asked if there was any answer to the communication piece, and Kathy Ableman asked about the possibility of having a makeup day on a Saturday. Nathan Hull expressed his concern over the recent rash of parking lot break-ins, where thieves smashed windows and stole property out of vehicles.

## **B. Principals' Reports**

Mr. Flowers reported on the Food to Flowers Program at Ten Mile Creek Elementary and how all biodegradable products are being picked up by Sanitary Service and composted at Grow Source. He also gave information about the after-school Junior Master Gardner Program, Girls on the Run, Boys Read and Girls Read. Mr. Flowers said students are learning Swing Dance in Mr. Hanaway's P.E. class and that students raised \$12,000 in a recent fund raiser. The funds will be used for assemblies and field trips. He said the Christmas Program that was cancelled in December has been rescheduled for January 25<sup>th</sup>. Fifth grade teacher Jim Lissner gave a Power Point Presentation on the Four Square Writing Program that he and other teachers are using to teach students how to write a five paragraph letter. The method also incorporates Six Trait Writing.

Jerry Sanderson reported that Judy McCourt has presented 1<sup>st</sup> Steps in Mathematics to middle school math staff and gave information on how teachers are using the materials and procedures to improve assessment scores. Mr. Sanderson said funds from middle school fund raisers are used to pay for ASB activities and that there is a large gap in the amount of money raised and the ability to pay for game officials. He said last year the school paid over \$3900 in official fees. Sixth grade teacher Chris Thompson gave information on TechReach, an after school program developed to help increase middle school girls' interest in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields. Music teacher Sandi Rogers reported on the music program at the middle school and said there are over 200 students involved in choir and band classes. She gave information on the various festivals and concerts the students are involved with, and that she is starting a marching band so students can participate in local parades.

Mr. Dave Shockley spoke about the challenges the A.P. teachers are facing because of the snow days. He said the A.P. exam is based upon material that has been presented and is given the latter part of May. He said a part-time teacher and a para educator have been hired for the Innovative Remediation Program. High School student Eric DePeppe reported on the video programming class that he takes at Sehome High School and said in order to be eligible to take the class a student must have a good grade point average, have good math skills and be committed to the program. Mr. Shockley said plans are underway for the Whatcom County Construction Careers Academy, and that Mrs. Bagwell, CTE Director, will oversee the program.

Bruce Burpee reported that Meridian Parent Partnership Program just completed registration for the second semester and that as the program grows, classes are expanding to Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Lynne Jermunson stated that K.C. Rhodes and Scarlett Ballard will facilitate the January 31 inservice on Science Notebooking. Benefits of the science notebook are for students to have a complete record of their learning, develop critical thinking skills and reinforce their understanding of concepts. Benefits for teachers are that it encourages and illustrates the importance of writing across the curriculum. Mrs. Jermunson said science writing is focused on four types of writing: writing to inform, writing to explain, writing to persuade and writing to explore.

## **C. 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 children and community. He read a proclamation from Governor Gregoire, and presented each member with a Certificate of Appreciation.

## **RECESS**

The board recessed at 9:11 p.m. and returned to regular session at 9:23 p.m.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

There was second reading of Board Policy 2255 – Alternative Learning Experience Programs. Brian Vander Yacht made a motion to approve the policy and Mary Mattison seconded the motion. The motion passed.

### **B. *Board Operating Protocol***

Superintendent Dickerson said the board had discussed and reviewed board operating protocol at their retreat in December. Brian Vander Yacht made a motion to approve Board Operating Protocol and Charlie Crabtree seconded the motion. The motion passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. *First Reading – Policy No. 6580 Domestic Violence***

There was first reading of Board Policy number 6580 – Domestic Violence. Mr. Dickerson said he has been serving as the K-12 education representative on the Whatcom County Commission Against Domestic Violence since 2003. He said he had been approached some time ago to help develop a model policy for schools on domestic violence. Mr. Dickerson said plans are to provide staff members with the board policy and a handbook titled Children Exposed to Domestic Violence. Sue Parrott and Cindy Bauleke from the commission were present to answer questions and provide additional information.

### **B. *First Reading – Policy No. 1820 Student Representative on Board***

There was first reading of Board Policy number 1820 – Student Representative on Board. After lengthy discussion it was determined that MHS senior Nick Meyer would meet with Mr. Shockley and the senior project committee, and that Mr. Steve Lawrence would help Nick with any changes in the wording of the draft policy.

### **C. *Timber Ridge School Improvement Plan***

The Timber Ridge School Improvement Plan was approved on a motion by Brian Vander Yacht and seconded by Charlie Crabtree. Mr. Burpee said in the future he would make sure that the school improvement plan for Timber Ridge would be on the same schedule as the other schools.

### **D. *School Calendar***

Brian Vander Yacht made a motion to make up the January 11, 2007 snow day on Friday, February 16. Charlie Crabtree seconded the motion, and after discussion, the motion passed.

### **E. *Affirmative Action Plan – Annual Review/Approval***

The Affirmative Action Plan was approved on a motion by Charlie Crabtree and seconded by Judy Boxx.

### **F. *Personnel Report***

Charlie Crabtree made a motion to approve the personnel report and Brian Vander Yacht seconded the motion. The motion passed. (Copy attached)

## **Board Signature of Official Documents**

### **Executive Session – Evaluation of Superintendent**

The board went into executive session at 10:40 p.m. and returned to regular session at 10:54 p.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Brian Evans adjourned the meeting at 10:54 p.m.

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Chair of the Board

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Burton Dickerson, Superintendent  
And Secretary to the Board