

MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT #505
MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
August 23, 2007

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brian Evans at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

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 Bryan Vander Yacht and seconded by Charlie Crabtree.

- A. Minutes for July 18, 2007
- B. Accounts Payable/Payroll
- C. 2006-2007 Budget Status Reports

REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Yeomans gave information to board members on how he will provide information each month. He said he intends to provide weekly updates via e-mail, telephone and personal contacts instead of giving information all at one time. He also pointed out a new item, Information from Board Members, which will appear on the agenda monthly.

WASL and AYP Information. Mr. Yeomans said he was contacted by a Bellingham Herald reporter for information on the release of WASL scores for Meridian students. He said Meridian students made progress in all areas except for middle school special education. Mr. Burpee said the students in that group did not meet AYP in Reading and Math. He said it is a statistical reason because of data aggregation and that the group was 1.4% below the standard. There will be no penalty for not making AYP the first year, but if it continues, there may be some sanctions.

21st Century Grant. Superintendent Yeomans said application has been made for a 21st Century Grant to be utilized at the middle school. Mr. Burpee said if the grant is approved, the school will partner with the Lynden Boys and Girls Club, and that the club will provide a leadership and community service component.

Professional Development for Administrators and Staff. Mr. Yeomans said seven staff members attended a Powerful Teaching and Learning professional development opportunity facilitated by the BERC Group. He said it was very productive and that information, which provides a clear framework around instruction, was presented at the administrators retreat and for the IRPS Leadership Team.

B. Impact Fee and UGA Update

Mr. Yeomans reported that he had met recently with staff from the Bellingham Planning Department and also a representative from DR Horton in regard to a 1996 mitigation

agreement that is still in effect. He said that the district has missed two opportunities to update the agreement and revise the fee of \$850 that is currently collected per single family home. He said there would be approximately \$2500 in legal fees to revise the agreement. He also reported that the Urban Growth Area has been expanded to north of the Van Wyk Road and has the potential to add as many as 160 new homes in the district. There was lengthy discussion of whether to modify the current SEPA agreement or go through the process of having the city of Bellingham collect the fees during the permitting process. Mr. Yeomans also gave information on how the revenues from the impact fees must be spent and the timelines. There was board consensus for Mr. Yeomans to proceed gathering more information to modify the current SEPA agreement.

C. ASB Revenue Question Update

Mr. Yeomans referred to a graph reflecting MHS revenues and expenditures from 2002 to 2007. The graph illustrated the increase in officials fees and the decrease in ticket and vending machine sales. Mr. Yeomans said the ASB must remain solvent, and there was discussion on how to increase ASB revenues. Mr. Vander Yacht said the Booster Club is planning a fundraiser during the school year to help the ASB.

D. Bond Information and Levy Dates

Jon Gores from D.A. Davidson recently met with Superintendent Yeomans to discuss the initial stages of bond and levy planning. He said the district has very little long-term debt and the tax rate has been declining. There are many facility improvement needs, and there was discussion relating to running the levy and bond together. Mr. Yeomans said he has called officials at OSPI for help in determining what structures in the district would qualify for state match. He also gave information on proposed election dates and resolution filing deadlines.

INFORMATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board members reported on the many activities they have been involved with over the past few months. Charlie Crabtree said he is a member of City Club, a community organization that meets monthly. He reported that Superintendent Yeomans from Meridian and Ken Vedra, Superintendent from the Bellingham School District were invited to be guest speakers at the August meeting. He said comments were very positive regarding Mr. Yeomans and that his passion for children and education was evident. Mary Mattison said she attended a conference in Renton on math standards presented by the State Board of Education. She said it was very informative, and that there is a need to improve. Bryan Vander Yacht said he was on the hiring committee for athletic coaches and praised newly hired Athletic Director Eric Tripp. Brian Evans said the Construction Careers Academy will use the old animal building for tools and storage for the time being, and that students will use that area for the construction of small structures. It was reported that five students from Meridian will attend the Constructions Careers Academy. Judy Boxx was a member of the district negotiating team for the PSE and MCEA units.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

BREAK

The board recessed from 8:05 p.m. to 8:10 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Filling of Unfilled Board Seat

There was discussion regarding the need to fill Director District Number One. The area is north of King Tut Road, to the Nooksack River and west of the Guide Meridian, and includes West Wiser Lake Road, West Pole Road and a portion of Northwest Road. It was decided to advertise the vacancy in September and October and invite candidates to the October meeting for interviews. It was determined that the WSSDA Conference in November would be valuable for the new board member to attend.

B. Director District – At Large Information

Mr. Yeomans said Meridian, due to the size of the district, is considered a second class school district. Second class school districts are allowed three director districts and two at-large directors. He stated the pros and cons of at-large directors. It was determined that there was no need to change the way directors are elected.

C. WSSDA Conference Information Available

All board members had received their WSSDA Conference information and there was discussion in regard to finalizing conference plans and reservations.

NEW BUSINESS

A. First Reading – Policy No. 5001, Retire- Rehire

There was first reading and discussion of policy number 5001, Retire-Rehire. Mr. Yeomans explained the changes to the law pertaining to the hiring of retired employees, and said there are clearly defined school district responsibilities and retired employee responsibilities stated in the policy.

B. Negotiated Agreements with PSE and MCEA

Mr. Yeomans gave information on the newly negotiated agreements with Public School Employees and Meridian Classified Employees Association. He said the duration for both agreements is for two years. Bryan VanderYacht made a motion to approve the negotiated agreements with PSE and MCEA for 2007-2008 and 2008-2009. Charlie Crabtree seconded the motion and the motion passed.

C. Declare 1983 Bluebird 65 passenger and 1985 Ward 65 passenger buses as surplus

Mary Mattison made a motion to declare the 1983 Bluebird 65 passenger bus and the 1985 Ward 65 passenger bus as surplus. Judy Boxx seconded the motion and the motion passed.

D. Agreement for Interdistrict Cooperative Educational Services Construction Careers Academy.

Agreement for Interdistrict Cooperative Educational Services Construction Careers Academy was approved on a motion by Charlie Crabtree and seconded by Mary Mattison.

E. Resolution 12-07 Budgeted Transfer from GF to CPF

Bryan Vander Yacht made a motion to approve Resolution 12-07, transferring funds from General Fund to Capital Projects Fund. Mary Mattison seconded the motion and the motion passed.

F. Personnel Report

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

G. I-728 Plan 2008

The I-728 Plan for 2008 was approved on a motion by Charlie Crabtree and seconded by Mary Mattison. (See attached)

H. Proposed Presentation and Meeting Schedule

Superintendent Yeomans provided information on proposed board presentations, topics and schedules for the coming year.

BOARD SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board went into executive session at 9:05 p.m. to discuss the following items:

- A. Superintendent evaluation
- B. Real Property
- C. Personnel Issues
- D. Legal Issues

The board returned to regular session at 10:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m. by Chair Brian Evans.

Chair of the Board

Timothy S. Yeomans, Superintendent and
Secretary to the Board