

MERIDIAN SCHOOL DISTRICT #505
MINUTES OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
October 17, 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, Charlie Crabtree, and student representatives Clare Chambers and Haley Pratt.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

Charlie Crabtree made a motion to remove the September 19, 2007 board minutes from the consent agenda. Mary Mattison seconded the motion and the motion passed. Charlie Crabtree made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Judy Boxx seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- A. Minutes for September 27, 2007 meeting
- B. Accounts Payable/Payroll
- C. 2007-2008 Budget Status Reports

Mary Mattison made a motion to approve the September 19, 2007 minutes as corrected. It should be noted that Charlie Crabtree abstained from the vote on Resolution No. 14-07, Transfer of Scholarship Funds. Judy Boxx seconded the motion and the motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORTS

Pupil Transportation. Superintendent Yeomans reported on a recent inquiry of transportation of students on private roads and said that the district has a procedure on transportation of students on dead-end roads.

Architect Visit and Drop in Long Term Interest Rates. Mr. Yeomans said he had visited with the architect from Stewart and King on October 3 and again on October 17 as a follow up to the facilities plan. He said Mr. King has preliminary ideas and recommendations as to how school campuses might look in the future. Mr. Yeomans also reported that long term interest rates on debt have dropped one-half a percentage point, which is important if the district decides to run a bond issue.

NW Conference Attendance Requirements. Superintendent Yeomans said Meridian Middle School students are allowed to attend high school sporting events if they have a middle school ASB card. He reported that of the 12 schools in the conference, Meridian is out of compliance with the league and remains the only district not charging admission to middle school students. He said he is bringing this information to the board at this time because it requires board action to make a change.

Enrollment Update. Mr. Yeomans reported that school enrollment for October is 1540.28 FTE which includes Meridian Parent Partnership Program. He said the enrollment has dipped below the yearly average attendance budgeted, and that the MP3 program will be monitored carefully

as enrollment fluctuates. Mary Mattison said a spreadsheet would be helpful to compare the actual and budgeted enrollment.

Lift-A-Thon. Meridian High School will hold a Lift-a-Thon fund raiser in November to help refurbish the weight room and Mr. Stacy and Mr. Tripp are coordinating the effort.

Professional Development Resource Center. The Professional Development Resource Center at Western Washington University has inquired if board members would be interested in professional development directed specifically to board members.

PRESENTATIONS

Meridian Parent Partnership Program—Mr. Bruce Burpee stated that the Parent Partnership Program is an Alternative Learning Experience program where parents are the primary teacher. Currently there are 140 students enrolled in the program and each student has a student learning plan in place. There are three certificated teachers who are each in charge of approximately 50 students and they meet with the students monthly to assess their progress. Enrichment classes and core classes are provided to students, and he stated that student achievement is very important. Mr. Burpee also reported on the Digital Learning Commons. It is a nonprofit organization that is partly supported by the state and is created to improve access to educational opportunities by providing online courses. He said many MP3 students and parents will be able to use DLC for on-line library resources, digital images, and literacy tools for research projects. Mr. Burpee stated that MP3 did not meet AYP, but that is was mostly a statistical issue and staff will be working in that area. He said the MP3 site council had met and that the desire of the school is to expand to Tuesdays and Thursdays and the focus will be grades K-5. He also reported on Class Tools, which is part of the DLC program at the high school.

Meridian Middle School—Mr. Jerry Sanderson reported that two teachers from the middle school will attend a DLC conference in Quincy on November 5th. He stated that there were only two slots open for the conference and that representatives from the company said they would be available to come to the school to provide staff development. Mr. Sanderson gave a Power Point presentation giving information on School Improvement. He said the SIP committee will continue to work cooperatively with the high school and TMCE to help align curriculum, and is committed to continuing the summer school program. He reported that 18 students started summer school, but only eight students finished the session. Mr. Sanderson said the middle school is planning to subscribe, train and utilize the Digital Learning Commons, but there is a need for updated technology. Mr. Sanderson reported that they will move the MAP testing to some time in February, the middle school will become an active school in the North Cascades and Olympic Science Partnership, and said 100% of the 7th and 8th grade students met the health standards which was a year long effort. He said although the middle school did not make AYP, there were great improvements in scores at all levels.

Ten Mile Creek Elementary— Mr. Flowers showed graphs illustrating how Ten Mile Creek Elementary staff is using data to make instructional decisions. He said he was encouraged by the improvement in math from 4th to 5th grade as measured on the WASL and MAP scores. Mr. Flowers demonstrated how MAP and WASL strand data is being used by TMCE staff to plan interventions intended to bring more students up to standard on the math portion of the WASL. First Steps in Math is one of the interventions in which TMCE staff is being trained. The training is led by Judy McCourt, Liz Theirbah and Barb Wood during early release and learning improvement days. Mr. Flowers said that this work is a major portion of Ten Mile's school improvement plan.

Irene Reither Primary School—Lynne Jermunson said students must have a solid basic understanding in reading and math and they must be fluent in reading to be fluent in math. She said currently students spend 90 minutes each day in reading and 60 minutes each day in math. Mrs. Jermunson said the Meridian Early Childhood Program currently has nine coop students enrolled and twenty-five students with an individual learning plan. She said the focus of the School Improvement Plan is reading and math. Mrs. Jermunson said staff is not pleased with the results of the WASL scores and that this is the first year to get the scores back. She said they are particularly disappointed in reading. She showed graphs giving information on sustainability. The graphs illustrate that students lose ground over the summer months. Elizabeth Sanchez is going to receive additional training on how to teach reading and math to ELL students. In the area of professional development, teachers will have a refresher course on Open Court Reading.

INFORMATION FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Charlie Crabtree reported that he is scheduled to speak on Initiative 4204 at a League of Women's Voters meeting on Saturday. He said he and Mr. Yeomans recently attended a legislative assembly meeting with state legislators from the 40th and 42nd districts. Some of the subjects discussed were time on subject, flexibility within the 180 day school system, rising cost of health care expenses for employees and changes in the math curriculum. Judy Boxx reported that she is volunteering in the after school Junior Master Gardeners' program and is enjoying the experience very much. She said she is working with 16 students.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Parent Kris Wilson shared her concern with faith based volunteering in the schools. She said she would like the district to adopt guidelines for school volunteers and to look at the diversity of the student body.

BREAK

The board recessed from 8:50 p.m. to 8:55 p.m.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

A. Policy Update – Volunteers and Policy on Distribution of Materials

Mr. Yeomans said the district did not have a policy/procedure on volunteers in the schools and had obtained a policy from a neighboring school district for review. Mr. Crabtree suggested including school volunteers in the decision making process to help form new policy and procedures.

B. Minimum Basic Education Requirement Compliance

Mr. Yeomans stated that the Minimum Basic Education Requirement Compliance is a report completed annually. Bryan Vander Yacht made a motion to approve the report and Mary Mattison seconded the motion. The motion passed.

C. Agreement for Interdistrict Cooperative Educational Services with the Bellingham School District for Health Care Services and Video Game Programming and Design/Animation Program

The Agreement for Interdistrict Cooperative Educational Services with the Bellingham School District was approved on a motion by Mary Mattison and seconded by Charlie Crabtree.

D. Personnel Report

Mary Mattison made a motion to approve the personnel report and Bryan Vander Yacht seconded the motion. The motion passed on a three to two vote. (See attached)

E. First Reading of Board Policy Revision Number 6590 – Sexual Harassment

There was first reading of revision to Board Policy Number 6590 – Sexual Harassment. Mrs. Deka Smith provided information on the revisions to the policy.

BOARD SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board went into executive session at 9:10 p.m. to discuss the following items:

- A. School Board Candidate Interviews
- B. Superintendent evaluation
- C. Real Property
- D. Legal Issues

The board returned to regular session at 10:45 p.m. Craig Wasilewski was confirmed by board action as Director of District 1.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m. by Chair Brian Evans.

Chair of the Board

Timothy S. Yeomans, Superintendent and
Secretary to the Board