

# Meridian Public Schools

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Meridian Early College High School Learning Lab – Room 403

June 25, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Michael Bowen, Dennis Cole, Ryan Holzinger, Rebecca Hitsman, Janice Goodall, Deborah Passmore and Stephen Grubaugh  
Absent: None  
Staff: Craig Carmoney, Sarah Glann, Dana Weisenberger, Patrick Malley, Joshua Hook, and J Cole

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance led by President Michael Bowen.

## **Superintendent Communications**

Superintendent Carmoney shared a Transportation power point presentation with everyone in attendance. The power point consisted of a detailed timeline of events, as well as, the Board of Education meeting minutes from December 17, 2017 and February 8, 2018 when the Board discussed the options of increasing Bus Driver wages or preparing an RFP. Superintendent Carmoney stated that the Board members were in agreement to negotiate an increase in bus driver wages and ultimately an agreement was reached but was then voted down by the MESPA voting members. Superintendent Carmoney also shared several frequently asked questions with the Board of Education regarding our current bus driver situation which includes having 13 regular routes, 3 of which were subbed all of last school year with no other applicants applying for these positions. He also discussed the option of a third party contractor and common misconceptions.

## **Public Communications**

Shelby Owens, 2012 graduate, stated that her mom is a paraprofessional and she feels that Meridian is a great community and we should not privatize our transportation department.

Rhonda Sturgeon, MESPA President, graduate of Meridian, and parent shared an essay by Tayla Solano about her favorite MESPA employee, Johnny Thorington, and what a difference he has made in her life.

Jean Thompson, current bus attendant, stated that the RFP doesn't address the current sick leave and retirement with the third party contractor and she is concerned about her own retirement.

Michael Cowell, MESPA Transportation Steward and current bus driver, stated that he is a 2002 graduate and parent, and he left Meridian to join the military but came back because this is a wonderful place to raise his daughter. He does not believe the community will be the same if we privatize the transportation department.

Beth Farling, current bus driver for the past 4 years, stated that this is the same company that took over at her previous district where she was a bus driver and the district still had trouble finding bus drivers. She stated that someone is a bus driver because they are dedicated to the kids, not because of the money.

Pat Baringer, current bus attendant, stated that she has talked to several senior citizens in the community and they all knew nothing of contracting with a third party and are not happy about it.

Karen Ropp, paraprofessional for 13 years and bus attendant substitute, stated that she lives in Sanford and that the agreement didn't pass because "union means family" and you can't give to one group and not give to the rest.

Charles Johnson, husband of Michelle Johnson who is a current paraprofessional, stated that Privatization is for the negative of the district. You have to take care of the community and keep the small town feel.

Renaye Baker, MEA Uniserve Director, stated that many of the facts presented in the Superintendent Carmoney's power point were lacking especially in the pension and insurance areas, people that have 20 years or more will be harmed. She stated that we should go back to the table and keep working on this.

Henry Mashue, past Transportation Director, stated that this is not a new issue, bus driver wages have been low and that someone is not a bus driver to make a living, they do it because they love the kids.

Mackenzie Cowell, daughter of Michael Cowell, asked the Board to not take her daddy's job away.

Jody Jeroue, BAISD Social Worker, stated that first responders, such as bus drivers in this case, are the first people to see the students and sometimes are the ones to make their day better or even save a student's life. They deserve better pay for what they do.

Peggie Brown, current bus driver, stated that the wrong approach was used and she still believes we should go back to double runs to lessen the number of routes and increase the bus driver's hours per day.

### **Consent Agenda**

Motion by Rebecca Hitsman, supported by Janice Goodall, "I move adoption of the consent agenda as presented."

Vote: 7 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

### **Old Business**

None

### **New Business**

#### **Final Budget Amendments for 2017-2018**

Superintendent Carmony stated that he is very proud of our entire staff for the hard work that goes along with meeting the needs of our students and keeping a watchful eye over budget details. He then stated that the 2017-2018 Budget Amendments were presented and reviewed in detail at the Public Hearing before the meeting and he recommends adoption of the 2017-2018 Budget Amendments.

Motion by Deborah Passmore, supported by Dennis Cole, "I move that the Final Budget Amendments for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, for all funds, be adopted as presented by the Meridian Board of Education."

Vote: 7 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

#### **Proposed Budget for 2018-2019**

Superintendent Carmony stated that the proposed budget has been set assuming that we will have 1310 students next year and an increase in state funding of \$240 per pupil. He then stated that the 2018-2019 Proposed Budget was also presented and reviewed in detail as a requirement of the Public Hearing before the meeting. He then introduced Director of Business Services, Sarah Glann, to go over some of the highlights with the Board.

Motion by Rebecca Hitsman, supported by Ryan Holzinger, "I move that the Proposed Budget for the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, for all funds, be adopted as presented by the Meridian Board of Education."

Vote: 7 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

#### **Administrator Contract Renewals**

Superintendent Carmony stated that the following administrators need to be approved at this meeting for the upcoming school year: Craig Carmony – Superintendent, Sarah Glann – Director of Business Services, Gordon Melchi – Director of Operations, J Cole – Technology Director, and Julie Sheets – Early Childhood Director.

Motion by Stephen Grubaugh, supported by Deborah Passmore, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the administrator contracts for Craig Carmony, Sarah Glann, Gordon Melchi, J Cole, and Julie Sheets as presented."

Vote: 6 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

**\*\*Board Member Dennis Cole abstained from the above motion due to Conflict of Interest\*\***

#### Award of Transportation RFP

Superintendent Carmoney stated that the District received three bids for transportation services and the low bidder was Auxilio. He stated that he is recommending that the Board approve a one-year contract with Auxilio to provide transportation services beginning on August 27, 2018. Superintendent Carmoney stated that Auxilio has stated that everyone would get a raise from their current rate of pay if they applied and were approved as a new hire through Auxilio. He stated that next week Auxilio will start reaching out to current employees and that nothing will go into effect until the end of August. There was discussion amongst the Board Members regarding the combining of preschool runs this past school year and having to get creative in order to get through the school year with our shortage of bus drivers and that something needs to be done so that we don't have a shortage of bus drivers this upcoming school year. Superintendent Carmoney stated that having double bus runs again wouldn't be a viable option because of the huge increase of School of Choice students that attend Meridian and many attend because all our students start and end at the same time of day so it allows for easy drop off and pick up of students who wouldn't otherwise attend here. Board Member Janice Goodall stated that she is still interested in looking at other options and Board Member Deborah Passmore stated that at the beginning of last school year, we began this process of having a Transportation Committee look into the Transportation department and make recommendations and we have been working through this process all year. Board President Michael Bowen stated that time is of the essence, we tried to work through the negotiation process throughout this past school year and we are still at this impasse.

Motion by Deborah Passmore, supported by Rebecca Hitsman, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the one-year contract with Auxilio, as presented, to provide transportation services beginning on August 27, 2018, with an option to extend for two additional years."

Vote: 6 – yes, 1 – no. Motion Carried.

#### Recommendation for Teacher Tenure

Superintendent Carmoney stated that Rebekah Deal, a high school math teacher at Meridian Early College High School, has earned tenure in the district and has been recommended for tenure status by Principal Patrick Malley.

Motion by Rebecca Hitsman, supported by Dennis Cole, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the Tenure recommendation for Rebekah Deal."

Vote: 7 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

#### Recommendation for Hire – Elementary Assistant Principal

Superintendent Carmoney stated that he is very excited to recommend Jared Goff, as the new Elementary Assistant Principal. He stated that Jared was the Elementary Assistant Principal at Beaverton this past school year and gained valuable experience while in this role. Jared was present at the meeting and stated that he is very happy to be back at Meridian and he is looking forward to supporting the kids and working with Josh.

Motion by Ryan Holzinger, supported by Janice Goodall, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the hire of Jared Goff, as the new Elementary Assistant Principal."

Vote: 7 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

#### Authorization for Superintendent to Hire

Superintendent Carmoney stated that we are currently in the process of interviewing and hiring a .4 Industrial Arts Teacher at Meridian Junior High School and a .6 At-Risk Behavioral Interventionist to work with primarily Meridian Elementary students. He stated that it would be ideal if we were able to find the right candidate to fill both positions and make it a full-time position. Superintendent Carmoney stated that At-Risk funding would cover

the .6 Behavioral Interventionist position and this position will be a welcome addition to the elementary to help with behavior issues.

Motion by Dennis Cole, supported by Stephen Grubaugh, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education authorize the Superintendent to hire a .4 Industrial Arts Teacher at Meridian Junior High and a .6 At-Risk Behavioral Interventionist for the 2018-2019 school year."

Vote: 7 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

#### 2018 Bond Update

Superintendent Carmoney shared a Bond timeline with the Board of Education which included the next steps related to the Bond and stated that the Bond package will cover construction projects over the next 3 summers. He stated that the immediate needs for the district are safety, security, technology, buses, and fencing at Sanford Elementary Early Childhood Center. Superintendent Carmoney stated that the meeting in January would include approving all of the Bids so that construction could get started in early spring.

#### Renewal of Enhancement Millage Resolution

Superintendent Carmoney stated that included in each Board packet is the Enhancement Millage Renewal Resolution for the November election. He stated that at the April meeting, the Board approved the resolution for the August Primary Election, and this resolution is for the backup date which is the November General Election.

Motion by Ryan Holzinger, supported by Janice Goodall, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the Enhancement Millage Resolution as presented."

Vote: 7 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

#### MHSAA Membership Resolution for 2018-2019

Superintendent Carmoney stated that the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Resolution for the 2018-2019 school year was included in each Board Packet for the Board to review. He stated that the recommendation is to adopt the resolution as presented to include both the Junior High and the Early College High School as members of the MHSAA.

Motion by Stephen Grubaugh, supported by Janice Goodall, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education adopt the MHSAA Membership Resolution for the Junior High and Early College High School to participate for the 2018-2019 school year."

Vote: 7 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

#### Second Reading – NEOLA Policy Updates

Superintendent Carmoney stated that the new policy updates, as well as, an overview and policy comments from NEOLA were all sent in a separate email for the Board Members to review. He stated that the updates are all boiler plate updates with no major changes and he recommends approval of the second reading of the updated policies at this meeting.

Motion by Rebecca Hitsman, supported by Deborah Passmore, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the second reading of the updated NEOLA policies as presented."

Vote: 7 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

Junior High Annual 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Out-of-State Trip to Washington D.C.

Superintendent Carmoney stated that the itinerary for the next annual 8<sup>th</sup> grade Washington D.C. trip to take place in May of 2019 was included in the packet as well. He stated that this is the field trip of a lifetime for so many of our students and he recommends approval.

Motion by Ryan Holzinger, supported by Rebecca Hitsman, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the Junior High 8<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Washington D.C. for May of 2019."

Vote: 7 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

**Announcements/Communications from Board Members or Superintendent**

Superintendent Carmoney stated that he will be at the New Tech Conference conducting business and traveling back on Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, so he will not be at the July Board meeting and will have Sarah help run the meeting. He also stated that we will have MEA Collective Bargaining Agreement on next month's agenda and that the Bond sale is on July 12, 2018.

Motion by Rebecca Hitsman, supported by Ryan Holzinger, "I move to Adjourn at 8:20 p.m."

Vote: 7 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

Dennis J. Cole,  
Secretary, Meridian Board of Education