

Meridian Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Meridian High School Community Room
7:00 p.m.
Minutes for July 21, 2014

Present: Sue LaBonville, Mike Bowen, Dennis Cole, Becky Hitsman, and Janice Goodall
Absent: Rod Barriger and Ryan Holzinger
Staff: Craig Carmoney, Sarah Glann, Dana Weisenberger, Patrick Malley, Kent Boxey, and Sarah Barratt

Call to Order

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

Changes to Agenda

None

Public Communication

None

Consent Agenda

Motion by Becky Hitsman, supported by Dennis Cole, "I move adoption of the consent agenda as presented."

Vote: 5 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

Old Business

None

New Business

Resignation – Stacey Luberda-Criner

Superintendent Carmoney stated that we received a resignation letter from Stacey Luberda-Criner. Stacey was with Meridian Public Schools for eleven years at the Elementary level and took a Leave of Absence for the 2013-2014 school year. She has officially resigned from Meridian Public Schools and she will be missed.

Motion by Becky Hitsman, supported by Dennis Cole, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education accept the resignation of Stacey Luberda-Criner, effective immediately."

Vote: 5 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

New Hire – Kristina Garski – High School Math Teacher

Superintendent Carmoney stated that we are pleased to recommend the hire of Kristina Garski as a mathematics teacher at Meridian High School. Kristina has an engineering background, and student taught with us last year during the second semester. High School Principal Patrick Malley stated that he and the rest of the high school staff was very impressed with her work ethic.

Motion by Janice Goodall, supported by Mike Bowen, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the hire of Kristina Garski as the new High School Math Teacher for the 2014-2015 school year." Vote: 5 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

2014 Bond – Elementary Classroom Furniture Purchase

Superintendent Carmoney stated that attached are the bids and supporting information for the Elementary Classroom Furniture Purchase through the 2014 Bond. He stated that we are replacing most of the Elementary Furniture, the bid includes desks and chairs for classrooms in 1st through 4th grades. He stated that we are going with a chair that has a higher quality solid frame made with a lighter plastic seat. We are recommending that we go with Dew-El Corporation with their bid of \$37,113.60. In addition, we are recommending accepting the enclosed furniture Bid Alternates of \$7,844.00 with Dew-El Corporation, \$9,460.99 with SBD Commercial Interiors, and \$21,785.23 from Custer.

Motion by Mike Bowen, supported by Dennis Cole, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the bid for the Elementary Classroom Furniture which includes desks and chairs for the purchase price of \$37,113.60 with Dew-El Corporation and Bid Alternates of \$7,844.00 with Dew-El Corporation, \$9,460.99 with SBD Commercial Interiors, and \$21,785.23 with Custer."

Vote: 5 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

Resolution – 18 mill Non-Homestead Renewal

Superintendent Carmoney stated that Thrun has prepared the language and resolution for us. This renewal will appear on the November ballot and is not an increase. This renewal will be over a 10-year period and after speaking with Doug Fillmore, other local school districts, and Thrun, the 10-year renewal is what is recommended.

Motion by Janice Goodall, supported by Mike Bowen, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the Resolution for the 18 mill Non-Homestead Renewal over a 10-year period."

Vote: 5 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

MEA Financial Agreement

Superintendent Carmoney stated that earlier this year, we approved an agreement through June 30, 2016, with an opener around financial considerations. Highlights of the financial considerations are agreeing to step increases for next year and insurance increases which are around 2%. We are also having Thrun review the contract for any prohibited subjects of bargaining which may need to be removed. The 2014-2015 Budget already includes these financial considerations.

Motion by Dennis Cole, supported by Becky Hitsman, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the financial considerations with the Meridian Education Association for the 2014-2015 school year."

Vote: 5 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

Announcements from Principals

Meridian Elementary Principal, Sarah Barratt, shared that nine Elementary staff members traveled to New Orleans for the New Tech Conference and five were in attendance at the Board meeting. She stated that they worked very hard to prepare for the upcoming school year at this training but there is much more work to be done. She also stated that in June and July, the Elementary ran their Summer Book

Buddy program and had 50-60 students come and exchange their books for new reading material. Each student received 5 to 10 books, depending on reading level, in exchange for the ones they brought back.

Meridian Junior High Principal, Kent Boxey, shared that thirteen of the Junior High staff traveled to New Orleans for the New Tech Conference and a lot of work was completed during this training. He also stated that the Junior High parent loop is almost completed.

Meridian High School Principal, Patrick Malley, stated that several of the High School staff went to the training and that two staff members, Mike Bilina and Joshua Hook, actually facilitated training at the conference. He stated that there will be a District-wide 'Critical Friends Training' in a couple weeks and tours and parent meetings will begin soon for the upcoming New Tech classes.

Announcements/Communications from Board Members/Student Rep. or Superintendent

Superintendent Carmoney stated that based on previous discussions with the Board and after meeting with the staffing committee, there is a definite need for added Elementary support. Superintendent Carmoney then shared two pieces of information with the Board. One item listed a description of a Director of Instructional Services in which the person in this position would handle all Special Education Services and Programs as well as all Evaluations on Special Education and Title I staff. This person would also be the State and Federal Testing Coordinator and the Curriculum Coordinator with an emphasis on K-8 grades and math and reading. This person would also be involved with Grant Writing, District School Improvement, and PBL Instructional Support. Superintendent Carmoney is recommending current Elementary Principal, Sarah Barratt, for the position of Director of Instructional Services. The other item Superintendent Carmoney shared was a detailed description of what the District is looking for in an Elementary Principal. It listed that the Principal will provide leadership which will increase student achievement and create a culture of personal and professional growth for all. He stated that we are looking for a leader with a growth mindset who can lead a 21st Century School and lead the implementation of Project-Based Learning. The Principal would also develop and administer the general school routine and coordinate all activities within the school building as well as evaluating, counseling, and motivating staff toward performances to attain the educational goals of the District.

Superintendent Carmoney stated that the Elementary Job Posting will go up as soon as possible because of the timeline necessary to have the new Elementary Principal in place before the start of the new school year. He stated that there will be a committee of about half a dozen people; staff members, administrators, and at least one board member, to conduct the interviews and he plans to have a recommendation for the Board of Education at their meeting on August 11, 2014.

Motion by Mike Bowen, supported by Becky Hitsman, "I move to adjourn at 7:34 p.m."
Vote: 5 – yes, 0 – no. Motion Carried.

Dennis Cole
Secretary, Meridian Board of Education