

Meridian Public Schools
Regular Board of Education Meeting
Meridian High School Learning Lab – Room 403
7:00 p.m.
Minutes for May 23, 2016

Present: Sue LaBonville, Mike Bowen, Dennis Cole, Janice Goodall, Debbie Passmore, and Becky Hitsman at 7:32 p.m.
Absent: Ryan Holzinger
Staff: Craig Carmoney, Sarah Glann, Dana Weisenberger, Josh Hook, Henry Mashue, and Patrick Malley at 7:28 p.m. after the Early College 5th year meeting

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

Superintendent Carmoney stated that there will be an additional item on the agenda for tonight, #7 under New Business, is a Coaching Recommendation for the Varsity Girls' Basketball Coaching position.

Public Communication

A parent of a high school student who is under the age of 17 stated that her child was questioned by a police officer about an incident and she was upset that she was not notified by the school. Superintendent Carmoney stated that because the child was not a suspect, but questioned because he was a witness, the police department has the right to question without a parent being present. Board President Sue LaBonville stated that the proper chain of command is for the parent to discuss this issue with the High School Principal first, before coming to the Board of Education, after the parent stated that she had not spoken with Principal Malley yet.

Crystal Kurchak, who was in attendance at the meeting on behalf of her son, Cole Kurchak, wanted to inform the Board of Education that he is doing very well at the Juvenile Care Center. Her son is getting decent grades and is already on level 3 of his Day Treatment which is further along than expected.

Consent Agenda

Motion by Debbie Passmore, 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

MHSAA Membership Resolution for 2016-2017

Superintendent Carmoney stated that included in everyone's packet was the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Resolution for the 2016-2017 school year and he is recommending adoption of the resolution as presented to include both the Junior High and the High School as members of the MHSAA. Superintendent Carmoney stated that due to our numbers holding steady and other districts losing students, we will be moving to a small "Class B" size school next school year.

Motion by Dennis Cole, supported by Janice Goodall, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education adopt the Membership Resolution to participate in the Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) for the 2016-2017 school year."

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

Staffing Recommendations for the 2016-2017 school year

Superintendent Carmoney stated that per contract language in the current Master Agreement with the Meridian Education Association and the Meridian Board of Education, the Board of Education has the final decision regarding all teaching assignments for the 2016-2017 school year. He stated that the tentative teaching assignments that were included in the Board packet are very similar to last year, with the exception of music being offered at the Elementary level for next school year, instead of iPad math.

Motion by Debbie Passmore, supported by Dennis Cole, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the 2016-2017 teaching assignments as presented."

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

First Reading of Updated Board Policies – Policy 6220 – Strategic Plan

Superintendent Carmoney stated that the recommended new policies from Neola, Inc. were sent to all the Board Members in a separate email. He stated that this is the first reading of the policies and his recommendation is for the Board members to approve the first reading and then go through the policies, especially the Bylaws, which are the operations of the Board of Education, and send any updates or changes to the Policy committee. The Policy committee will then meet to make any updates or changes before the second reading. Superintendent Carmoney stated that the goal should be to be live with the updated policies when the new website is up and running later this summer. He stated that Policy 6220 deals with the increase in Fund Balance as per the Strategic Plan which states that the Fund Balance must be above 7%. Superintendent Carmoney stated that he and a policy representative from Neola went through the 200 pages of policy, and cross-walked our old policies with the new policies. He then shared that these policies are a template for us to approve and we can tweak them to fit our specific district. Superintendent Carmoney also stated that Neola will provide us with guidelines to update our policies two times a year due to changes in legislation as part of the agreement.

Motion by Debbie Passmore, supported by Mike Bowen, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the First Reading of Policies 0000s-9000s, amended by listing Patrick Malley and Kent Boxey as Compliance Officers in all policies."

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

Out of State Travel – May 2017 8th grade trip to Washington D.C.

Superintendent Carmoney stated that the tentative itinerary for the May 2017 8th grade trip to Washington D.C. was included in the Board Packets. He stated that Junior High Teachers Kim Dudinetz and Rhonda Kastl are requesting permission for this upcoming school year's 8th graders to travel to Washington D.C. in May of 2017, but they are currently looking at other companies to go through in order to keep the cost of this trip down for the students and their families. Superintendent Carmoney stated that this is the 5th year of this amazing trip and he recommends approval.

Motion by Janice Goodall, supported by Dennis Cole, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the 8th grade Washington D.C. trip to take place May of 2017 at no cost to the district."

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

New Tech Network Continuation Contract

Superintendent Carmoney stated that included in everyone's packet was a two-year continuation contract which includes continued support, professional development, and coaching, access to NTN sponsored events and ECHO for students in grades 5-12. He stated that the cost of this two-year continuation contract is \$95,000 and is broken into 2 payments of \$47,500 for each of the two years and we can use At-Risk funding to pay for the professional development piece.

Motion by Debbie Passmore, supported by Mike Bowen, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the New Tech Network Continuation Contract as presented."

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

New Tech Annual Conference

Superintendent Carmoney stated that he, the building principals, and ten teachers will once again attend the New Tech Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida in July. The group of teachers includes teachers who have been asked to present at the conference, new hires from the end of last summer, expected new hires for this upcoming school year and instructional coaches.

Motion by Debbie Passmore, supported by Janice Goodall, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve participation at the New Tech Annual Conference as presented."

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

Coaching Recommendation – Varsity Girls’ Basketball Coach

Superintendent Carmoney stated that Athletic Director Mitch Bohn has recommended Eric Stockford for the position of Varsity Girls’ Basketball Coach. He stated that Eric has coached the J.V. girls for the past 3 years and has helped run the girls summer basketball camp.

Motion by Janice Goodall, supported by Becky Hitsman, “I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the hire of Eric Stockford as the new Varsity Girls’ Basketball Coach for the upcoming 2016 fall season.”

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

Announcements from Principals

Elementary Principal Josh Hook stated that the Elementary is wrapping up its school year and that a committee which consists of 9 teachers plus him has been looking at various data to determine curriculum needs at the Elementary school for next school year.

High School Principal Patrick Malley stated that he just came from the Early College 5th year meeting and there are close to 80 students showing interest in the 5th year program, that is roughly 65% of the current senior class. He also stated that the SAT data recently came back for the class of 2017 and there are promising signs which he will share at an upcoming Board meeting.

Announcements/Communications from Board Members or Superintendent

Superintendent Carmoney reminded everyone that the Graduation Ceremony will be Thursday, June 2nd at 7:00 p.m. He also stated that he shared an email document with the Board of Education members regarding his evaluation and the two different Superintendent Evaluation tools, the School Advance Evaluation tool and the MASB Evaluation tool and asked which one the Board of Education prefers to use this year. After a short discussion, the Board members decided to use the MASB Evaluation tool. Board President Sue LaBonville stated that she would like the Board Members to send her their Superintendent Evaluations no later than June 10, 2016, so that she can compile the data before the June 27th Board meeting.

Motion by Mike Bowen, supported by Becky Hitsman, “I move to adjourn at 8:15 p.m.”

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

Dennis J. Cole,
Meridian Board of Education Secretary