

Meridian Public Schools

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Meridian Early College High School Learning Lab – Room 403

July 16, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Michael Bowen, Dennis Cole, Ryan Holzinger, Janice Goodall, Deborah Passmore and Stephen Grubaugh
Absent: Rebecca Hitsman
Staff: Sarah Glann, Dana Weisenberger, Gordon Melchi, 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.

Public Communications

Rebecca Gaumond and Dawn Crawford, MEA co-Presidents, stated that they had worked very diligently the month of June to have a tentative agreement to take to their membership. Rebecca stated that their membership is very happy with the agreement and approved it last week. She also thanked the Board of Education and the rest of the administration for making the negotiation process go so smoothly.

Consent Agenda

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

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

Old Business

None

New Business

MEA 2018-2020 Collective Bargaining Agreement

Sarah Glann, Director of Business Services, stated that enclosed in the Board Packet is the proposed 2-year agreement with the Meridian Education Association from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020, as well as, a list of highlights in this contract. She stated that this agreement is attractive for all sides and she recommends approval of this agreement.

Motion by Ryan Holzinger, supported by Dennis Cole, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the 2 year collective bargaining agreement with the Meridian Education Association effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020."

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

**** Board President Michael Bowen abstained from the above motion due to Conflict of Interest ****

Bond Ratification Resolution

Sarah stated that the Ratification Resolution is for the sale of the 2014 Series B Bond and the 2018 Bond that took place on July 12, 2018 and she stated that proceeds for the sale of the Bonds will be available on August 7, 2018. Sarah stated that the interest rate was actually much lower than estimated which is great news and will allow the district to pay the bonds off earlier than expected.

Motion by Deborah Passmore, supported by Janice Goodall, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the Bond Ratification Resolution as presented."

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

Investment for Bond Proceeds – H.J. Umbaugh and Associates

Sarah introduced Mark Rockford of H.J. Umbaugh and Associates to present information to the Board of Education on the investment of bond proceeds; she stated that he will discuss topics such as state investment statutes, market yields, draw schedule and cash flow needs. Mark began his presentation stating that he first looks at the Revised School Code along with the District's Investment Policies and Bond detail. He then went through a summary of Investments that are permitted by the Michigan Revised School Code, stating that Commercial Paper is a good option for the district right now due to the higher than normal rates which will allow the district to make a little more on their investment. Mark stated that due to the large amount of this project, it is best for the district to invest the Bond funds and draw money as needed, with the district always having liquid funds of 15-20% of the total project available. He then reviewed the draw schedule and stated that he will develop an investment plan for the district and any other customized reports that would be needed by the district and Board of Education. Mark stated that there will be accounts set up with Huntington National Bank once the Bond Closing takes place on August 7th and then after the money becomes available, he should have an estimated draw schedule for Sarah to share with the Board of Education.

Transportation Student/Parent Handbook Approval

Sarah stated that the Transportation Student/Parent Handbook has been updated and includes important information for a safe and orderly transportation system. She stated that the handbook states that the maximum number of stops per student is 2 unless one of the stops is Mustang Daycare, then the maximum per student is 3 stops. The handbook also requires 72 hours advance written notice for any changes which will eliminate last minute changes so the transportation department can account for each student. The Transportation Handbook will be effective the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year and will allow for more efficient bus routes, as well as, hold students accountable for their behavior.

Motion by Dennis Cole, supported by Stephen Grubaugh, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the Transportation Student/Parent Handbook as revised with the change on page 17 to say 'We have *received and reviewed* the Meridian Public School's Pupil Transportation Handbook.'"

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

Sanford Elementary Playground Fence Purchase – 2018 Bond

Sarah stated that the purchase and installation of the fence around the perimeter of the Sanford Elementary Early Childhood Center playground is one of the safety projects to be completed with the 2018 Bond project. She stated that the quote from Sampson Fence Company for 1281 feet of 4' fence is for \$16,820 and will be completed prior to the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year.

Motion by Janice Goodall, supported by Ryan Holzinger, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the installation of the 1281 feet of fence around the perimeter of the Sanford Elementary Early Childhood Center playground for \$16,820.00 with Sampson Fence Company to be completed as part of the 2018 Bond project."

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

Transportation Bus Purchases – Bond

Sarah stated that enclosed in the Board Packet is information from our Director of Operations, Gordon Melchi, for his recommendation of the purchase of six (6) 77-passenger 2017 buses from Capital City International for a total cost of \$402,000 to update our transportation fleet.

Motion by Deborah Passmore, supported by Dennis Cole, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the purchase of six (6) 2017 buses from Capital City International at a cost of \$66,985.00 for each bus plus fees for a total of \$402,000.00 to be purchased with Bond funds."

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

Technology Purchases – Bond

Sarah stated that in the Board Packet is information from our Technology Director, J Cole, on the 3 personal learning devices that are being retired, as well as, detailed recommendations for the replacement devices to keep our 1:1 technology plan moving forward. She stated that J has done his research and is recommending that we go with Lenovo Chromebooks for our 3rd through 8th graders, Dell Latitude Laptops for our 9th and 10th graders, and Apple 13" MacBook Pro's for our Teachers and Administrative staff.

Motion by Stephen Grubaugh, supported by Janice Goodall, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the purchase of 730 Lenovo Chromebooks for a total of \$138,370.00, 263 Dell Latitude Laptops for a total of \$120,717.00, and 93 Apple 13' MacBook Pro's with adaptors for a total cost not to exceed \$117, 087.00, all to be purchased with Bond funds."

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

Maintenance Mower Purchase – Bond

Sarah stated that our Director of Operations, Gordon Melchi, has a recommendation for the purchase of an Exmark zero turn mower from Gene's Truck Sales at a cost of \$10,839.00 to replace our older mower.

Motion by Deborah Passmore, supported by Dennis Cole, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the purchase of an Exmark zero turn mower from Gene's Truck Sales at a cost of \$10,839.00 to be purchased with Bond funds."

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

Maintenance Plow Truck Purchase – General Fund

Sarah stated that our Director of Operations, Gordon Melchi, has a recommendation for the purchase of a new 2018 GMC Plow Truck. She stated that this plow truck purchase has been built into our 2018-2019 budget as part of our vehicle replacement cycle and completes the updating of our entire vehicle fleet. Sarah stated that the purchase price is \$31,392.80, as quoted by Todd Wenzel Buick GMC of Westland and this purchase is made through the approved state bid which saves money.

Motion by Ryan Holzinger, supported by Janice Goodall, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the purchase of a new 2018 GMC Plow Truck from Todd Wenzel Buick GMC of Westland with a purchase price not to exceed \$31,392.80 to be purchased out of General Fund."

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

Transportation Department – Bus Driver Retirement

Sarah stated that we have received a letter of retirement from bus driver Pamela Bowland, who will be retiring as of July 26, 2018, after her summer route is over. Sarah stated that Pamela has driven bus for Meridian Public Schools for over 20 years and will be greatly missed by the students on her route. On behalf of Meridian Public Schools, she wished Pamela the best in her retirement.

Motion by Janice Goodall, supported by Stephen Grubaugh, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education accept the retirement of Pamela Bowland, effective July 26, 2018."

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

Sanford Elementary Early Childhood Center GSRP Teacher – Resignation

Sarah stated that we have received a letter of resignation from Haley Campbell, a Great Start Readiness Program teacher at Sanford Elementary Early Childhood Center, who is resigning her position.

Motion by Ryan Holzinger, supported by Deborah Passmore, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education accept the resignation of Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) Teacher, Haley Campbell, effective immediately."

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

Request for Leave of Absence – Amy Bailey

Sarah stated that we have received a request from Junior High Special Education teacher, Amy Bailey, for a Leave of Absence for the 2018-2019 school year due to her relocating to Philadelphia for the school year to be with her husband.

Motion by Stephen Grubaugh, supported by Dennis Cole, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education accept the Leave of Absence request from Amy Bailey for the 2018-2019 school year."

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

Announcements/Communications from Board Members or Superintendent

Director of Business Services, Sarah Glann, stated that Auxilio, our third party contractor for our Transportation department has been at the district 4 times to talk with staff and administration and the feedback has been very positive overall.

Motion by Ryan Holzinger, supported by Stephen Grubaugh, "I move to Adjourn at 7:52 p.m."

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

Dennis J. Cole,
Secretary, Meridian Board of Education