

Meridian Public Schools

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Meridian Early College High School Learning Lab – Room 403

August 20, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Michael Bowen, Dennis Cole, Rebecca Hitsman, Ryan Holzinger, Janice Goodall, Deborah Passmore and Stephen Grubaugh

Absent: None

Staff: Craig Carmoney, Sarah Glann, Dana Weisenberger, Kent Boxey, Josh Hook, Jared Goff, and Krystal Hoernlein

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

None

Consent Agenda

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

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

Old Business

None

New Business

Truth in Taxation – 2018 Tax Rate Request (Form L-4029)

Superintendent Carmoney stated that each year the district must determine its debt levy necessary to meet the district's debt payment obligations. He stated that the L-4029 form needs to be completed and submitted to the County Board of Commissioners, the County Equalization Department, and the County Clerks and it is an annual requirement where we submit the fund balances and taxable values to our financial advisors, PFM, and they calculate the necessary mills that will be needed to generate the appropriate amount.

Motion by Ryan Holzinger, supported by Stephen Grubaugh, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the request for the Meridian Public Schools Debt Levy of 7.0 mills for the 2018 tax year."

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

Employee Purchase Card Approval – District Policy 6423

Superintendent Carmoney stated that District Policy 6423 calls for the Board of Education to approve employees with purchase cards on an annual basis and included in the Board Packet is a listing of those employees with purchase cards and their limit amounts. Director of Business Services, Sarah Glann, stated that there are only a couple of changes from last year; she added Jared Goff to the list as the new Elementary Assistant Principal and due to the outsourcing of our Transportation Department, she increased the purchase card limit for Shirley Gingery as the Administrative Assistant to the Director of Operations, who will now be able to purchase bus parts and equipment for the transportation department and the mechanic.

Motion by Janice Goodall, supported by Deborah Passmore, “I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the employee purchase card list as presented.”

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

Wage Provisions for 2018-2019

Superintendent Carmoney stated that included in each Board Packet is a proposed wage schedule which has been updated to show a proposed wage increase for our Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) staff for the upcoming school year. Sarah stated that most of our substitute positions, except for the retirees that still sub for us, have been taken off the list because they are now contracted through EDUStaff. It was discussed that we need to add an afternoon/evening Receptionist position at \$11.00 per hour to this list for the Early Childhood Center as this position will soon be posted.

Motion by Rebecca Hitsman, supported by Stephen Grubaugh, “I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the updated Wage Provisions Schedule for the 2018-2019 school year as amended with the addition of the Early Childhood Center afternoon/evening Receptionist position.”

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

Transportation Department – Retirements

Superintendent Carmoney stated that we have received 3 letters of retirement from Patricia Baringer, Peggie Brown, and David Loomis who have all retired from Meridian Public Schools this past summer. We wish them all the best in their retirement.

Motion by Ryan Holzinger, supported by Janice Goodall, “I move that the Meridian Board of Education accept the retirements of Patricia Baringer, Peggie Brown, and David Loomis, effective immediately.”

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

Student Handbook Approval

Superintendent Carmoney stated that included in each Board Packet are updated versions of each of the school building’s student handbooks which are reviewed every year. He stated that one of the major changes in the high school student handbook is the information added regarding weighted grades. Board Member Passmore stated that all 3 handbooks still have information in them regarding transportation department guidelines and only the Elementary Handbook specifically references the Transportation Handbook. Board Member Passmore stated that all 3 of the handbooks should refer to the new Transportation Handbook and that the guidelines in it must be adhered to. She also stated the

inconsistency on page 47 of the definition of ECD. Superintendent Carmoney stated that all the handbooks can all be updated to include the reference to the new Transportation Handbook that must be adhered to and then the updated handbooks can be put up on the website.

Motion by Stephen Grubaugh, supported by Ryan Holzinger, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the Student Handbooks as amended with the reference to the new Transportation Handbook."

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

Fall Coaching Renewal Recommendations

Superintendent Carmoney stated that we have received the coaching recommendations from Athletic Director, Mitch Bohn, for the coaches that are up for renewal for the 2018-2019 fall season and he recommends approval.

Motion by Rebecca Hitsman, supported by Janice Goodall, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education approve the Fall Coaching renewal recommendations as presented for the 2018-2019 school year."

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

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

Maintenance Equipment Purchase – 2014 Bond-Phase 2

Superintendent Carmoney stated that we have a recommendation from our Director of Operations, Gordon Melchi, to purchase four (4) Advance model 1500sc auto scrubber floor machines from Arnold Sales for \$6,790.00 each, including training and delivery. He stated that this is the same price as MiDeal, and Arnold Sales is a local business that has provided the district with many years of great service.

Motion by Ryan Holzinger, supported by Stephen Grubaugh, "I move that the Board of Education approve the purchase of four (4) Advance model 1500sc auto scrubber floor machines from Arnold Sales at a cost of \$6,790.00 per machine, for a total of \$27,160.00 to be purchased with 2014 Bond funds."

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

County Proposal for School Resource Officers

Superintendent Carmoney stated that the Midland County Board of Commissioners approved a special millage for School Resource Officers for each school district in the county, which includes Bullock Creek, Coleman, Meridian, and Midland schools. He stated that this millage will be put before the voters in November and if approved, would provide Meridian with a full-time School Resource Officer to cover our entire main campus, which includes our 3 main school buildings, as well as, the Early Childhood Center for four years. Superintendent Carmoney stated that he has attended several meetings on this topic with the Board of Commissioners, the Finance Committee and the other Midland County Superintendents and the Midland County of Commissioners has asked that each School Board take formal action to show their support of this proposal.

Motion by Rebecca Hitsman, supported by Stephen Grubaugh, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education support the proposed millage and ballot language for School Resource Officers as proposed by the Midland County Board of Commissioners."

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

Closed Executive Session – Superintendent Evaluation

Superintendent Carmoney stated that the Board of Education will enter into Closed Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the evaluation of the Superintendent.

Motion by Ryan Holzinger, supported by Rebecca Hitsman, "I move that the Meridian Board of Education enter into Closed Executive Session to discuss the evaluation of the Superintendent at 7:34 p.m."

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

Returned to Open Session at 7:49 p.m.

Announcements/Communications from Board Members or Superintendent

Superintendent Carmoney informed the Board that because we passed the Bond this year it is very hard to borrow money in the same year to cover for the months that we do not receive State Aid payments. He stated that the cost of borrowing is very expensive and the requirements for borrowing are very cumbersome. Sarah stated that because we have a very healthy fund balance, our Auditors and our Financial Advisors have stated that we do not need to borrow money this year to cover our operating costs for the couple of months before State Aid payments start again; she stated that we are in good shape.

Sarah then introduced Krystal Hoernlein, our new Chartwells Food Service Director who will cover our district along with Coleman.

Board Member Debbie Passmore stated that she is going to attend the MASB Fall Conference in early November and would love it if other Board Members joined her this year.

Motion by Ryan Holzinger, supported by Rebecca Hitsman, "I move to Adjourn at 7:55 p.m."

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

Dennis J. Cole,
Secretary, Meridian Board of Education