



Meridian Public Schools

"The Hoof Print" ~ Home of the Mustangs

Mission Statement:

Meridian Public Schools will educate all students in a safe, nurturing environment while challenging them to develop their integrity, knowledge, and unique talents to become responsible, productive citizens.

Newsletter

www.meridianmustangs.org

January, 2018

Newsletter-January, 2018

Superintendent

Randy Kort

Welcome 2018

I would like to extend a "Happy Holiday" to everyone. It has been a very fast moving year. The seniors are looking ahead to graduation, which is only 5 months away. This year, due to the way the calendar fell, there are fewer days of holiday break, so everyone please spend as much time as you can with your family and loved ones. Everyone have a great start to their 2018.

Meridian we will be honoring the NSAA Moratorium beginning December 23rd, and concluding on the 28th. Students will be reporting back for class on January 4th. During this time, the basketball and wrestling teams will still be competing. The wrestlers will have a meet in Geneva on December 30th, starting at 9:00 AM. The basketball teams will host Diller-Odell on Thursday, December 28, with the girls JV starting at 4:00 PM. After the holiday break, Meridian will travel to McCool Junction on Thursday, January 5th.

Meridian Community Fitness Center

The Meridian Community Fitness Center needs your continued assistance in keeping the facility organized and clean. Please continue to put weights, dumbbells, and equipment away when your workout is complete. The facility is available to members 24-7, so please keep each other in mind when completing your workout.

School Closing Information

If Meridian Public Schools should decide to delay or close school due to inclement weather, we will utilize our SchoolMessenger Instant Parent Contact program. This program will allow us to

communicate directly to parents, students, and staff via phone and/or email. If you are not receiving messages via SchoolMessenger, we will need to update your contact information. In the event of an early out due to inclement weather, we will also contact the news media as soon as possible. The media outlets we will contact are as follows:

KLKN-TV

Lincoln

KHAS-TV

Hastings

KOLN/KGIN-TV

Lincoln/Grand Island

KUTT/KGMT

99.5 FM / 1310 AM radio

Board of Education

Meridian Public Schools

District 48-0303

Daykin, Nebraska 68338

Monday, December 18, 2017

Regular December 18, 2017 Meeting

7:00 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on Monday, December 18, 2017, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President VanWesten called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented. Members present were Bartels, Vorderstrasse, Sobotka, and VanWesten. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott, Mrs. Hofstetter, Rylee Pieper, Delaney Homolka, and Minette Tomasch of the Fairbury Journal-News.

A motion was made by Sobotka and seconded by Bartels to excuse member Scheer. Vote was taken: Vorderstrasse -aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, and Van Westen-aye. Motion passed 4-0.

A motion was made by Bartels and seconded by Sobotka to excuse member Miller. Vote was taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, and Van Westen-aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Nothing to add to agenda.

No comments from the public.

Miller arrived at 7:05 p.m.

A motion was made by Vorderstrasse and seconded by Sobotka to approve consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of the Monday, November 20, 2017 Regular Meeting
2. District Financial Report
3. Activity Fund Report
4. Hot Lunch Report
5. Bills

Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Superintendent Kort gave the Curriculum Report. The report contained results of a survey that was given to the students in regards to interest in Ag Education/FFA. Over 30 students said they are interested in having this option at Meridian.

The motion was made by Bartels and seconded by Sobotka to add Agricultural Education Curriculum including FFA starting the 2018-2019 school year. Vote was taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion was made by Sobotka and seconded by Bartels to approve MEA as the recognized bargaining agent for the 2019-2020 school year. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion was held on adding a storage building between the new gym and the



current shop to store bleachers, chairs, drama equipment, etc. Mike will begin looking at sizes and costs for a building.

Principal Scott reported:

1. Current student numbers are 116 Elementary and 117 Jr High/High School
2. Winter sports are in full swing. Wrestlers earned the runner up plaque at the Bob Oliver Invite and JV girls won the Meridian JV Basketball Tourney.
3. Bobby Truhe of KSB School Law gave a presentation on digital citizenship and internet safety to 4-12 grade students.
4. The music department had their elementary concert on December 4th, and secondary concert on December 14th. The students did a great job.
5. Meridian might want to look at class size limits to continue to offer small school feel.

Superintendent Kort reported:

1. Discussed Placement of Alumni TV
2. Johnson Controls to be here December 26th, to Update HVAC Controls
3. Starting Work on 2018-2019 School Calendar
4. Discuss Meridian Beef Program - Will be Talking to Diller Locker - Contacting Nebraska Community Foundation
5. Update from NCSA/Legislative
6. Update from CRC and MUDECAS Conferences

Bartels moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to go into executive session at 7:30 p.m. to discuss a teacher's resignation. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Bartels-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

President VanWesten stated that it had been voted to go into executive session to discuss a teacher's resignation.

The Board reentered open session at 7:43 p.m.

A motion was made by Sobotka and seconded by Vorderstrasse to accept the resignation of Brenda Williams effective December 2017. Vote

taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion was held on the Evaluation Report for Superintendent Kort.

The next Regular Meeting was set for Monday, January 15, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

Sobotka moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Jason Bartels,

Secretary Meridian District # 48-0303



Our current student count (as of 12-13 -17):

Pre-Kind	13
Kindergarten	16
1 st Grade	9
2 nd Grade	18
3 rd Grade	14
4 th Grade	17
5 th Grade	15
6 th Grade	14
Total	116 (no change)

7 th Grade	15	-1
8 th Grade	18	
9 th Grade	18	-2
10 th Grade	19	-1
11 th Grade	23	
12 th Grade	24	
Total	117	(-4)
Grand Total	233	

Winter sports are in full swing. The boys' basketball team has a couple of wins on the season and continues to show improvement. The girls' basketball team is undefeated in regular season play. The wrestling team earned the runner-up plaque at the Bob Oliver invitational.

Monday, December 18, Bobby Truhe from KSB School Law was scheduled to talk with 4th through 12th grade students about digital citizenship, appropriate use of technology, and general internet safety.

The music department presented the elementary concert on Monday, December 4. It was well attended and the students did a great job. The secondary concert was scheduled for Thursday, December 14.

In looking at our class sizes and limits, it would be good to look at numbers of students, sizes of rooms, and the ability of teachers to provide the "small school" attention to individual students. With the current limits, it pushed play production and speech into class C2 this year. I would encourage revisiting our class size limits.



Upcoming Dates:

January 10 @ 9:30 a.m. – SCC At Your Service – SCC will help students with scholarships

January 12 – Deadline to register for February 10 ACT Test

Seniors:

* Many seniors are beginning to finalize their college plans. At this point, seniors should be done applying to their top college choices. If they have not done so, they need to complete their college applications as soon as possible! The deadlines for certain scholarship applications are coming due.

* Local scholarship applications will be available at the end of the month. Please note that one of the biggest state scholarships is the Susan Buffett Scholarship (due February 1st). A link to this scholarship and all others are found on the "Counselor" link of the school website.

* Please check my counselor website often for scholarship updates! Seniors, see additional information regarding the FAFSA below!



Juniors:

- * Juniors interested in taking the ACT should sign up to take the February 10th, April 14th, or June 9th test. When making ACT plans, juniors should know that they will also be taking the ACT free of charge at school on April 3rd as a part of state testing. For all ACT tests other than the April 3rd school test, go to www.actstudent.org to register. If you qualify for Free & Reduced meals, you may be able to use a Fee Waiver (please see Ms. Hermsmeier for details).
- * Juniors will also have the option to take the ACCUPLACER test this February 8th (previously known as the COMPASS test). The ACCUPLACER test is similar to the ACT but is used more as a college placement test for many two-year schools. Please sign up with Ms. Hermsmeier if you are interested.
- * Parents... please note that Girls and Boys State applications will be out next month. If your child is interested in attending this weeklong event next summer, make sure they submit their applications.

Campus Visits:

- * Seniors and parents: You are encouraged to make any remaining campus visits in January if possible to schools you are seriously considering attending in the fall of 2018.
- * Juniors and parents: Don't forget that you are allowed two excused absences during your junior year to go on a campus visit! Arrangements should be made through Ms. Hermsmeier for campus visits and student sign out sheets.

Information on Collegebound Nebraska (for the University of Nebraska):

You will pay no tuition as an undergraduate student at the University of Nebraska if you: Are a Nebraska Resident, meet the university's admission requirements, and qualify for the Federal Pell Grant Program. If you file the FAFSA and are told you are not eligible for a Federal Pell Grant, the university will automatically review your FAFSA to determine whether you qualify for Collegebound Nebraska. If

your expected family contribution is \$5,000 or less, you will qualify. (Note: students with expected family contributions above \$5,300 may qualify for grant assistance but for amounts less than full tuition.)

Time to Complete Financial Aid Forms:

Seniors... if you haven't done so already, it's time to complete the FAFSA! The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the application for state, federal and college-specific financial aid. Contact Ms. Hermsmeier for more information if you haven't already filed the FAFSA. Priority filing dates will soon be approaching! For those of you who have already completed the FAFSA, expect financial aid award notifications soon from the colleges you listed on your FAFSA. The notifications will detail the financial aid assistance the colleges are offering (could be a combination of scholarships, grants, work-study, and student loans).

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. Thank you!
Lisa Hermsmeier: PreK-12 Guidance
lhermsmeier@meridianmustangs.org
402-446-7265 ext. 1253

FBLA

FBLA held its annual fruit, cookie dough, and butter braids sale. It turned out to be very successful. Kailyn Paul was the top cookie dough salesperson and received \$5 for her accomplishment. There is leftover cookie dough--chocolate chip, snickerdoodle, and oatmeal raisin. If you are interested in purchasing some, contact Kathy Soukup at the school.

In April, Meridian will be attending the State Leadership Conference in Omaha, Nebraska. At the State Leadership Conference, each FBLA chapter attempts to receive as many ribbons as they can. To receive the different ribbons, the chapter must accomplish a certain amount of criteria that is required.

-Rylee Pieper
FBLA Reporter

STUGO NEWS

Christmas time is upon us and, as always, the Meridian StuCo has been very busy creating new activities to benefit our community. These different activities are the reason that we are such a great organization. For example, the hat and mitten tree is something we do that makes me so proud to both be a Mustang and a Student Council member.

This Christmas, as we do every year, the Student Council put up a Christmas tree in the commons of the school. Now this isn't a regular Christmas tree, it is a tree decorated with the generous donations of the Meridian community. Everyone in our communities gives what they can for someone who may not have warm accessories. The hat and mitten tree is something that has become a staple of our Christmas time celebrations. We use this time of year to give a little bit of cheer and warmth to some of the less fortunate families. They get the gift of beautiful hats and other warm accessories to help keep the cold away during this time of year. I want to thank everyone who took the time to place something on the hat and mitten tree. This donation will make a big difference in someone's Christmas celebrations.

Another activity that has come to be a source of joy for our high school students is the annual Christmas party. I know that this year is going to be an especially fun year. There have been a lot of plans made for the success of this party, which include a multitude of activities that everyone can participate in throughout the day. It will definitely be one of the most fun events that the Meridian Student Council puts together.

Going along with this Christmas theme, we will also be putting on a Christmas Tea in appreciation of the teachers and staff at Meridian. Each StuCo member will be bringing a different treat for the teachers and staff to enjoy throughout the day. Hopefully everyone enjoys something from the selection of food we bring from home.

Just a small reminder that during the basketball games at halftime StuCo will continue to do the free-throw shots for



Make-A-Wish. Be sure to send your kids down to the court during halftime of both the boys' and girls' basketball games to shoot for a bottle of pop. All donations will be sent to the Make-A-Wish foundation. This is a wonderful foundation that sends children who are seriously ill to different places or to meet some of their idols. I encourage everyone to donate a small amount of money to this wonderful cause.

Another wonderful reason that our Meridian students are so great is they take the opportunities to help out within the community when they are needed. A former teacher, and wonderful part of the community, asked if any Meridian students would be willing to help her

move. These students did their part by helping her move a variety of heavy equipment. This type of selflessness is a wonderful aspect of the Mustang spirit. A donation was made in honor of the students who represent Meridian Mustang ideals. These students are Jay Moody, Jaicee Sobotka, Erin Johnson, Tybor Smith, Wyatt Haverluck, Garrett Klipp, and Kolby Schafer. This donation was greatly appreciated by all. Thank you so much to Mrs. Toalson and to all students who helped.

Now as we head into Christmas break, I would like all of you to take time to find a way to help someone else out in the community. It could be as simple as giving a gift to someone, or donating a

small amount of money to any sort of organization that helps the less fortunate. "Sometime it takes only one act of kindness and caring to change a person's life" -Anonymous. Take this wonderful Christmas time to be the change in someone's life.

Wishing you a Joyful January,
Public Relations, Jacqueline Dimas

Thank You!

The Meridian National Honor Society would like to send out a big Thank You to all the families who donated gifts for this year's Mustang Merriment. Thanks to all the donors, this year's mustang merriment was a great success!






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