



# 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](http://www.meridianmustangs.org)

February, 2019

Newsletter-February, 2019  
Superintendent  
Randy Kort

**Board of Education**  
**Meridian Public Schools**  
**District – 48-0303**  
**Daykin, Nebraska, 68338**  
**Sunday, January 20, 2019**

### Regular January 20, 2019 Meeting 11:30 A.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on Sunday, January 20, 2019, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President VanWesten called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. The open meeting law information was presented. Members present were Vorderstrasse, Sobotka, Bartels, Scheer, and VanWesten. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott, Chris Placek, Timothy Linscott, and a student and parent.

Superintendent Kort was appointed to preside over the process to elect a President.

Bartels moved and Scheer seconded to nominate VanWesten as Board President.

Scheer moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Superintendent Kort turned the meeting over to newly elected President VanWesten.

Sobotka moved and Scheer seconded to nominate Vorderstrasse as Board Vice-President.

Sobotka moved and Scheer seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0. Vorderstrasse was elected Vice-President.

Scheer moved and Sobotka seconded to nominate Bartels as Board Secretary.

Sobotka moved and Scheer seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0. Bartels was elected as Board Secretary.

Scheer moved and Bartels seconded to nominate Sobotka as Board Treasurer.

Bartels moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0. Sobotka was elected as Board Treasurer.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

Roll call was taken: Vorderstrasse-present, Miller-absent, Sobotka-present, Bartels-present, Scheer-present, and VanWesten-present.

A student addressed the Board in regards to computer privileges.

Vorderstrasse moved and Sobotka seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of the Sunday, December 16, 2018 Regular Meeting
2. District Financial Report
3. Activity Fund Report
4. Hot Lunch Report
5. Bills

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

Superintendent Kort presented the curriculum report. The FFA Program continues to grow and the number of students involved is great for a school of our size. The ACT Test for Juniors will be April 2nd.

Sobotka moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the resignation of Mrs Backstrom with regrets. The Board would like to thank her for serving the Meridian District for the last 14 years. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Looking at the calendar, it is hard to believe we are just over three months away from graduation. It is 101 days from February 1<sup>st</sup>. The students are completing their 4<sup>th</sup> week of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and I would like to remind parents to please log onto PowerSchool to check your child's grades. It is a very busy time of year, so please help your children continue to focus on their academic goals.

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on February 4<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>, starting at 4:00 pm and concluding at 8:00 pm.

The weather has been feeling like a typical Nebraska winter - cold. Please continue to monitor and stay tuned to the following stations for updated school closing when bad weather is in our area:

KLKN – TV: Lincoln

KHAS – TV: Hastings

KOLN/KGIN TV: Lincoln/Grand Island

Please continue to support the winter sports as their seasons are coming to an end. Wrestlers will be at districts February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, at Amherst, NE. State Wrestling will be in Omaha on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>. Girls sub-district basketball will be held in Geneva the week of February 11<sup>th</sup>. Boys basketball will also play sub-districts in Geneva the week of February 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Junior High Girls' team will be playing in their last tournament of the year at Sterling on February 4<sup>th</sup>. The first game is at 1:00 pm. This is a different timeframe than the past years.





Discussion was held on the 2019-2020 Calendar which is still being finalized.

After discussion, Bartels moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve Standing Committees as follows:

**Americanism:**

Scheer, Vanwesten, Bartels

**Building & Grounds:** Miller.

Vorderstrasse, Scheer

**Transportation:**

Miller, Vorderstrasse, Sobotka

**Curriculum & Instruction:**

Bartels, Vanwesten

**Negotiations:**

Vanwesten, Bartels, Sobotka

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

Scheer moved and Sobotka seconded to approve Heartland Bank (formally known as Jefferson County Bank) as the official District depository. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Sobotka moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve The Fairbury Journal-News as the District newspaper. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Discussion was held on Policy 4000's. No changes are needed and a vote will be taken next month.

Sobotka moved and Bartels seconded to approve Policy 5006 with the addition of employees' children having the ability to option in without the concern of the class size cap. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Principal Scott reported:

1. Student Numbers are 233 Total: 123 Elementary and 110 Secondary
2. Welcome New School Resource Officer, Kruz Shoenrock
3. Students performed well on state testing last year. Juniors took the ACT and were rated "Good", Elementary took NSCAS state test and received a "Great" rating, and the Junior High were rated "Excellent" on their NSCAS test results. Congrats to the students, teachers, and staff for all of their hard work.

4. Speech Season Started - Students Doing Very Well
5. Meridian will be conducting the five-year accreditation on Tuesday, March 19th. A team representing the Nebraska Department of Education will help with this.
6. CRC Tournament Started - Girls Play Tuesday

Superintendent Kort reported:

1. Legislative Update
2. CRC/NSAA Updates - Girls Wrestling
3. Update on the Meridian Foundation and School projects. Ms. Wollenburg is gathering information on the cost of a greenhouse.
4. Board Retreat
5. Will Receive New Pickup This Week

Next Regular Meeting was set for Monday, February 18, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.

Vorderstrasse moved and Sobotka seconded to adjourn at 12:15 p.m. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

*Jason Bartels,*

Secretary Meridian District #48-0303



Student count for 2018-2019

	As of 1-7-19		
PreK	10	7 <sup>th</sup>	12
Kindergarten	23	8 <sup>th</sup>	19
1 <sup>st</sup>	15	9 <sup>th</sup>	19 -2
2 <sup>nd</sup>	11	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 -1
3 <sup>rd</sup>	19	11 <sup>th</sup>	19
4 <sup>th</sup>	12	12 <sup>th</sup>	24 -1
5 <sup>th</sup>	17		
6 <sup>th</sup>	16		
	123		110 -4
<b>Grand Total = 233 (-4 from December)</b>			

Meridian students performed well on state testing last year. Juniors all took the ACT and rated as GOOD. Elementary took the NSCAS state test and scored as GREAT. The junior high

also took the NSCAS and scored as EXCELLENT! Congratulations to our students and teachers for their hard work.

Meridian will be conducting the five year accreditation visit on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. We will host a team working on behalf of the Nebraska Department of Education. Administrators and teachers from around the area will help with that visit. We will be asking members of the Board of Education to meet with that team to answer any questions they may have.

Social media count: Facebook total is 836, up from 828, and Twitter is at 216, an increase from 211.



**Seniors & Parents:** Scholarship time is here! Most scholarships are based on academics, but others are based on community service, school involvement, or talent. Some are based on financial need as determined by the results of your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Here's where you can find scholarships:

- **ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org** features over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. After you create a profile, you'll be matched with scholarships that fit your criteria.
- **Your school counselor's office website.** Our list of local scholarships is posted on the school website under the "Administration" tab and then click "Counselor." Click on the link that says "go here to my website." From there, find the Scholarship tab and they will all be listed. Make sure you 'download' the documents and save them to your computer so they stay formatted correctly. I have included a local checklist on my page to help you keep track of each scholarship and the requirements. This document is only for your benefit and does not need to be turned into me. Please notice due dates and requirements for each scholarship. Do not wait until the last minute to start these! If you need letters of



recommendation, make sure you give your recommenders plenty of time to write a letter (a minimum two week notification is ideal)!

- **The college you plan to attend.** Contact the school for a list of scholarships they provide and application procedures.
- **Other resources** could include your coach, clubs and organizations, and your parents' employers and civic organizations.

**Juniors & Parents:** All juniors will be taking the ACT test at school on April 2nd as part of state testing (free of charge). If you want to take an additional ACT test this spring, you must register by March 8 for the April 13th test or by May 3rd for the June 8th test. To register, go online to [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). If you would like to request a fee waiver, contact Ms. Hermsmeier. All Meridian students have FREE access to the On To College (formerly John Baylor ACT Test Prep program). Contact Ms. Hermsmeier if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity for the spring tests! Note that all juniors will be preparing for the April 2nd test using a form of ACT prep.

**Juniors:** It's time to find the right fit for college! Schedule a campus visit. All juniors may have two excused absences to take a college visit! Schedule your visit through the counseling office to ensure your absence is excused. In addition to your two excused days of school, your upcoming spring break is also a good time to visit schools that interest you.

### PRE-K AND KINDERGARTEN

If your child has turned four by July 31, 2019, they are eligible for Pre-K. Please contact Judy Grummert or Mrs. Paul at Meridian School (402-446-7265 extension 4) to let us know you are interested in registering your child. If your child is 5 by July 31, 2019, please contact Judy Grummert or Mrs. Meyer (telephone number above) to register your child for Kindergarten. Parents' meetings for each class will be set at a later date.

### BUS SCHEDULING

Meridian Public Schools feels the safety of your children is a top priority. Since we have FIVE buses picking up and delivering our students to so many different locations and activities, we need

to have clear communications regarding your children's schedules. When there is a change in *your student's* schedule, PLEASE make sure to send a note or call the school to let us know where they are to be picked up or delivered. Thank you for your assistance.



### WELCOME TO OUR NEW SRO

We wish to welcome Kruz Shoenrock as our new School Resource Officer starting 2<sup>nd</sup> semester. Officer Shoenrock will be working with Meridian and another district through the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. He has been with the Fairbury Police Department and Jefferson County Sheriff's Department the past several years. The SRO program is new and we have already benefitted from having him present in the school.

### ELEMENTARY PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Those students in elementary who achieved Perfect Attendance in the first semester are as follows:

#### Kindergarten:

Preston Filipi, Jarrett Jones, Adelia Paul, Breckyn Rut, Easton Specht

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade:

Bryant Haake, Dream Johnson, Kyler Niederklein

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:

Jennifer Nunez

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade:

Kenzie Kumpf, Lani Lutjemeyer, Grady Schwisow

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Rylee Woods

#### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Alyssa Naiman, Dawson Specht

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

Darrian Eyer, Anthony Specht

### GRANDPARENTS' DAY

On March 1, 2019, Meridian would like to invite the grandparents of all elementary students to join them in celebrating Grandparents' Day. The program would begin at 1:45 p.m. and conclude before the end of the school day. We look forward to celebrating this special day with you.

### NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

The National Honor Society will be holding its annual "Pennies for Patients" coin drive the month of February. The goal of this fundraiser is to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Individual donation boxes will be sent home with each elementary student and group boxes will be available for grades 7-12. A community donation box will also be available in the district office. Lift up those couch cushions and find that spare change.... Any little bit you can contribute will make a difference!

National Honor Society is hosting a Redcross Blood Drive on Tuesday, March 5, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please contact a National Honor Society member or call the school office at 402-446-7265 to schedule an appointment. Walk-Ins Welcome!



### STUCO NEWS

January has been full of student-centered activities. The Student Council kicked off the Annual Canned Food Drive on the 14th. Students can bring cans or nonperishable food to school through the 31<sup>st</sup>. For each 250 lbs of food the elementary brings in, they will be able to throw a pie in the face of a teacher. The high school has decided to make a competition of the drive. The grades who win from 7th-9th and 10th-12th both get first in line for lunch for two weeks. The overall winner gets to have a pizza party. All donations will go to Blue Valley in Fairbury.

On January 26th, Stu-Co hosted a casual winter dance for 7th-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. The Student Council is also continuing the halftime free throw contest at home basketball games.



With Valentine's Day fast approaching, the Student Council is planning on selling carnations again. You will have three color options: red for love, pink for friend, and white for secret admirer. Keep an eye out for more information in the coming weeks.

Happy February and Valentine's Day!  
Public Relations, Brynn Holtmeier

**THANK YOU**

MPIE (Meridian Partners in Education) would like to thank everyone who supported our basket raffle last month. We appreciate everyone who bought raffle tickets and the businesses and families who generously donated a basket to make this all possible. A total of \$685.00 was made during this

fundraiser, and it will go towards paying for the special entertainment, "Chinese Acrobats", at the all school assembly on February 22.

**Basket Donors:**

- The Image
- Farmers' Cooperative
- Pacha Soap Company
- Bonham Theatre
- Larry & Gina Schafer
- Dave Panko Ag Services
- LandMark Implement
- Milligan Insurance Agency
- The Haverluck Family
- Jefferson Community Health & Life
- Mike & Chris Haake
- Scott & Wendee Sobotka
- Pat & Patty Johnson

- Derrick & Megan Haake
- Eric & Jamie Niederklein
- Craig & Stacy Lutjemeyer
- Matt & Deb Schwisow
- Jimmy & Anne Simms

**SFS BASEBALL**

Anyone interested in being a head coach for SFS Baseball needs to have their name submitted no later than February 10th. Please contact either Toby Sones or Jason Bartels to get your name added to the ballot.



**Valentine's Carnation Order**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

**RED (love)**                      How many? \_\_\_\_\_                      at \$2.00 per flower = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

for

whom \_\_\_\_\_

**PINK (friend)**                      How many? \_\_\_\_\_                      at \$2.00 per flower = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

for

whom \_\_\_\_\_

**WHITE (secret admirer)**                      How many? \_\_\_\_\_                      at \$2.00 per flower = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

for

whom \_\_\_\_\_

**Total number of carnations** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Owed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Orders and money are due to Mr. V or Mr. Baber (in the high school) or

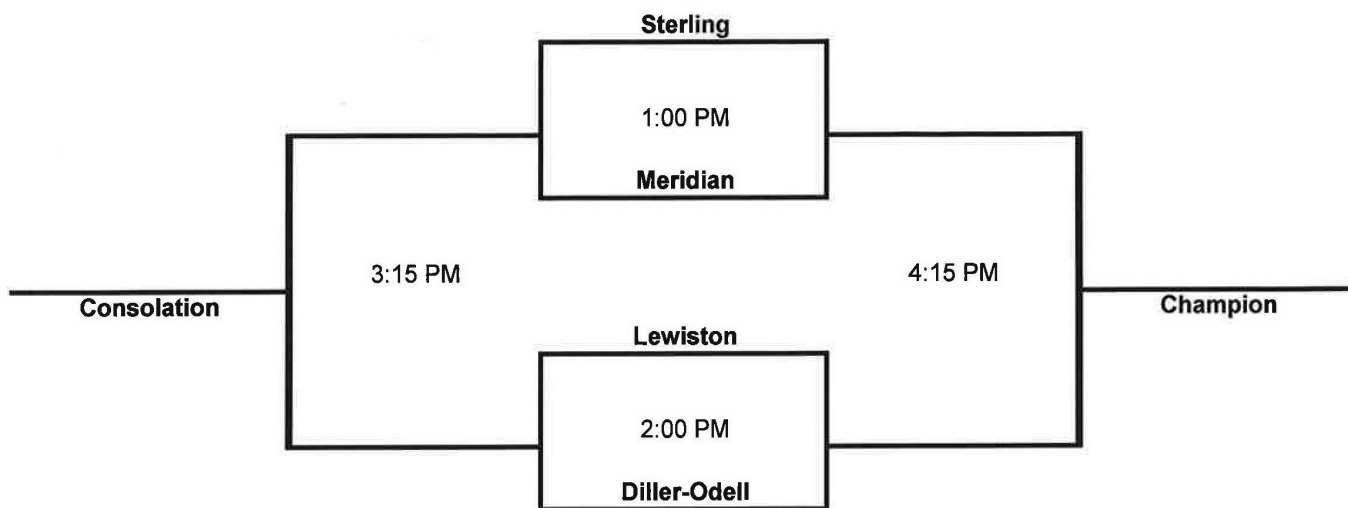
Judy (in the elementary) by Thursday, February 7th.



# Junior High Girls Basketball Tournament Monday, February 4, 2019 @ Sterling

<b>Time:</b>	1:00 PM	Sterling vs. Meridian
	2:00 PM	Lewiston vs. Diller-Odell
	3:15 PM	Consolation Game (3 <sup>rd</sup> Place)
	4:15 PM	Championship Game (1 <sup>st</sup> Place)

### Sterling JH GBB Tournament February 4, 2019



Teams on the top of the bracket will wear light colored uniforms and be the home team on the scoreboard.  
Teams on the bottom of the bracket will wear dark colored uniforms and be the visiting team on the scoreboard.

Home team will be the official book.



### Daykin Lumber Co.

DAYKIN, NE 68338

READY MIXED CONCRETE · BUILDING MATERIALS  
ASTRO BUILDINGS · PRATT & LAMBERT PAINT  
CONCRETE FEED BUNKS

PH. 402-446-7305  
800-637-9711

daykinlumber@windstream.net

# The Daykin Pub

705 Francis  
Daykin, NE  
68338

402-446-7477



### FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES

Insurance • Investments

Doug Francis: 402.243.3003 Phone: 402.821.2157

Scott Woitalewicz: 402.433.5256 Fax: 402.821.2366

scott.woitalewicz@fbfs.com

113 West Third

Wilber, NE 68465



## Heartland Bank

### Daykin Branch

PO Box 220 | 402-446-7233

MyHeartland.Bank | Member FDIC



YOUR KEY TO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING SINCE 1979

402-656-4505 · 800-759-4950

PLYMOUTH, NE 68424

www.plymouthelectric.com



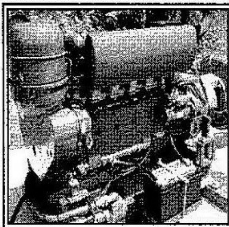
## BANK NEBRASKA

15 LOCATIONS IN: Beatrice-Cortland-DeWitt-Dorchester-Filley-Firth-Hallam  
Hickman-Lincoln-Pickrell-Waverly-Western-Wilber-Yutan  
www.1fsb.com Member FDIC 877.303.9737

## Craig's Automotive

Sales & Service  
Of All Makes & Models  
Irrigation Engines

AUTO & AG  
EQUIPMENT REPAIR



CRAIG BURKHART • 402-446-7435 • DAYKIN

## Sims Florist & Gifts

420 Fourth Street  
Fairbury, NE 68352

402-729-5125

## Western Oil

Western, NE 68464

402-433-4156

402-300-1178



JOHN DEERE



www.landmarkimp.com

Beatrice, NE  
402-228-3478

Hebron, NE  
402-768-6077

## Diode TECHNOLOGIES

- Home Automation
- Business Telephone Systems
- Surveillance
- Security
- Access Control
- Audio/Video

DIODETECH.NET

(402) 793-5124



NAU COUNTRY

Paul Bachle

Claims Supervisor

NAU Country Insurance Company

305 Tullis Ave

Daykin, NE 68338

Phone: 402.446.7243

Mobile: 402.223.7742

Fax: 402.446.7312

paul.bachle@naucountry.com