

**Board of Education
Meridian Public Schools
District - 48-0303
Daykin, Nebraska, 68338
Monday, October 12, 2020**

Regular October 12, 2020 Meeting - 7:00 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on October 12, 2020, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

Roll call was taken: Vorderstrasse-present, Sobotka-present, VanWesten-present, and Bartels-present. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Ms. Hermsmeier, Kezia Connealy, and Delaney Homolka.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

VanWesten moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to excuse Niederklein from the meeting. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Vorderstrasse moved and VanWesten seconded to excuse Scheer from the meeting. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion passed 4-0.

No comments were heard from the public.

VanWesten moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

A: Minutes of the Special Budget Hearing Wednesday, September 16, 2020

B: Minutes of the Special Tax Hearing Wednesday, September 16, 2020

C: Minutes of Wednesday, September 16, 2020 Regular meeting

D: District Financial Report

E: Activity Fund Report

F: Hot Lunch Fund Report

G: Bills

Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion passed 4-0.

The senior class took the ACT in September. An Americanism committee meeting will be scheduled on November 16, 2020, at 6:30pm.

Superintendent Kort reported that the District's insurance company completed an inspection of the school property and reported a clean and safe work environment. Meridian Public Schools receives a 21 percent reduction in insurance cost from ALICAP as it ranks in the top tier of their safety ratings. The school has not had an incident in nine years and just purchased a lift which improves employees' safety.

Superintendent Kort updated the Board on the Technology Committee's plan and needs for the upcoming year. Jason Statsny is the new ESU tech service provider for the school. It was recommended that junior high students could take their Chromebook home to allow them to complete class work and participate in class. The students would have to enter into the same agreement as the high school students and participate in the insurance program we already have in place.

Superintendent Kort updated the Board on the verbal audit report received from Dana Cole.

The Nebraska Department of Education, The Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors, and our local health department, Public Health Solutions, have all changed their stance on who will have to quarantine in the event that a school student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19. Previously, a person wearing a mask would not have to quarantine after coming into close contact with an unmasked, infected person. Now, a person wearing a mask still must quarantine for 10-14 days after coming into close contact with an unmasked, infected person. Before, as long as a person was wearing a mask, they were protected from having to quarantine. Now, even if a person is wearing a mask, they will be sent home if they come into close contact with an unmasked person who tests positive for COVID-19. This change forces a change to the school's policy on face coverings. As a result, starting Monday, October 12, masks will be required for all K-12 students and staff in the school district. All students will now need to wear a face covering when social distancing is not possible or when requested to do so by a staff member. At the beginning of the school year, Meridian Public Schools provided masks for all students. The School will provide an additional mask for all K-12 students. Students are permitted to bring their own face covering as well.

Ms. Hermsmeier stated the Junior class is selling masks and gaitors with the mustang logo on them. Orders will be placed every Monday and the masks should be available at the end of the week.

VanWesten moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve Policy 1210 with the updated Title IX law which will replace the Districts current policy. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Sobotka moved and VanWesten seconded to approve MEA (Meridian Education Association) as Negotiators for the 2022-2023 school year. Negotiations Committee meeting dates and times were set in November and December.

Superintendent Kort gave the Principal's Report.

1. Student count as of October 18, 2020: 111 Elementary Students; 95 Junior High and High School Students
2. Congratulations to the varsity football team on their Homecoming win over St. Edward.
3. September 16, the first homecoming parade was held in downtown Daykin. The event was well attended.
4. Congratulations to the JH football team for their win over Sterling.
5. Teacher observations began on Monday, September 28, and continue the next few weeks.

6. Parent Teacher Conference Attendance: High school – 68% (up from 66% last year); Elementary 94%
7. Set Me Free project spoke to Meridian students on September 29, about human trafficking and safety.
8. Congratulations to Samuel Thomas for winning the Jefferson County Spelling Bee 7th/8th grade division. Samuel moves on to the next level of competition.
9. The JH/HS fall concert was presented virtually with social distancing. The link was posted on the school website, Facebook and Twitter.
10. October 12-16 is National Hot Lunch Week. We thank our kitchen staff for the great meals they prepare.
11. October 16 is the end of the first quarter.
12. October 19-23 is School Bus Safety Week. We thank our bus drivers for transporting our students safely to and from school and activities.
13. No school on Friday, October 23 - Fall Break.
14. The Crossroads Conference Volleyball tournament begins Saturday, October 17, against Osceola @ 12:30pm @ York High School Main Gym. Subdistricts will begin on Monday, October 26.
15. October 26-30 is Red Ribbon Week. We have several guest speakers and activities planned.
16. October 30, will be a teacher in-service day at Meridian. CPR/first aid training, PBiS workshop, and Safety committee will be occurring that day. No school for students.

Superintendent Kort reported:

- * Kort and Bartels Will Attend the NASB Meeting in Omaha
- * The District is Reapplying for NDE Funds to Update a Bus
- * Greenhouse Update: The Roof is Close to Completion
- * Administration Looking into Safety Spray Along with Vape Detectors

Next Regular Meeting was set for Monday, November 16, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

VanWesten moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion passed 4-0.

J. Scott Sobotka, Vice President Meridian District #48-0303