

**Board of Education
Meridian Public Schools
District – 48-0303
Daykin, Nebraska, 68338
Monday, December 21, 2020**

Regular December 21, 2020 Meeting – 6:00 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on December 21, 2020, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

Roll call was taken: Scheer-present, Sobotka-present, VanWesten-present, Niederklein-present-virtually, and Bartels-present. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott, Brian Rut, Lane Barton, and Brayden Rut.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

VanWesten moved and Scheer seconded to excuse Vorderstrasse from the meeting. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Scheer-aye, Niederklein-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion passed 5-0.

No comments were heard from the public.

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

- A: Minutes of Monday, November 16, 2020 Regular Meeting
- B: District Financial Report
- C: Activity Fund Report
- D: Hot Lunch Fund Report
- G: Bills

Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Scheer-aye, Niederklein-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Teachers' in-service in January will focus on Math and setting five year goals. Ms. Ruiz certificate has been approved and hopefully the immigration process will now proceed.

The yearly review of the District's English Language program has been completed. The District, with the help of ESU, started a mental health program last year. The program has been successful with an individual coming once a week to talk with students and staff.

Sobotka moved and VanWesten seconded to approve Policy 7000 series. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Scheer-aye, Niederklein-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Michael Heidemann requested that the District enter an access easement to farm ground across the District's south property line. The Heidemann family is selling the farmstead and they don't want to maintain an access easement across their property to the existing farm ground. The matter was tabled and it was stated that Superintendent Kort and Board member Sobotka will further investigate. The Board will continue this discussion at the January Board Meeting.

Principal's Report:

1. Student Count as of December 15, 2020: 106 Elementary Students; 96 Junior High and High School Students
2. Students earned another no school day on December 14, as an incentive for wearing their masks and the continuation of in-person learning.
3. Some students are doing virtual learning through Zoom and Google classroom. This is available for families who are required to quarantine. Mr. Kort has been making home deliveries of materials that are not available over the internet.

4. JH basketball teams (and younger) are having success starting off the season with tournament wins. JH boys won the Lewiston tournament. JH girls won the Dorchester tournament. 5th-6th grade boys won the Fairbury tournament.
5. JV girls and boys basketball teams both won the Meridian JV Tournament.
6. Wrestlers are having individual successes on the mat.
7. High school basketball and wrestling continues over break. Keep watching for updates to visitor guidelines and media broadcasts.
8. Elementary and JH/HS concerts were presented virtually online – pre-recorded.
9. School will dismiss for break on Tuesday, December 22 at 1:30 p.m. Teachers will be back on Monday, January 4, for in-service work on curriculum and school improvement. Students return on Tuesday, January 5.
10. Speech season begins in January. Currently, meets will be held synchronously and asynchronously. (Either performing at Meridian and zooming to a site, or sending in a pre-recorded speech. Either way, judges are critiquing from home.)
11. NSAA moratorium is December 23-27. No practice or competition.

Superintendent Kort reported:

- Start working on 2021-2022 calendar – This year implemented 2 Fridays off in March.
- Meridian Beef – Receiving another beef in January. FFA will work this summer to establish facilities to possibly raise a couple feeder cattle.
- Update from NCSA / Legislative
- Update NSAA – Current and Ever-Changing Restriction for Attendance
- Update from CRC / Mudecas- Back up plans for basketball and protocol. Looking at alternative sites in case of a shut down.
- Wrestling Meet – Meridian had no fans and showed it on Striv and YouTube. YouTube had some technical difficulty with all the students login to the wireless.
- Green House – Plymouth Electric Wired this Month.

Sobotka moved and VanWesten seconded to approve the teachers negotiations for the 2021-2022 school year. The total negotiated package is an approximately 3 percent increase from 2020-2021. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Scheer-aye, Niederklein-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Evaluation forms for Superintendent Kort were reviewed. The Board felt that Superintendent Kort meets or exceeds expectations in all four performance objectives that include budget, communication, positive school culture, and instructional leadership.

Jay VanWesten was thanked for his 15 years of dedicated service as a Board member representing both Jefferson and Saline Counties.

Next Regular Meeting was set for Monday, January 18, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

VanWesten moved and Scheer seconded to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Scheer-aye, Niederklein-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Jamie Niederklein, Secretary Meridian District #48-030