



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

February, 2023

Newsletter - February, 2023
Superintendent
Randy Kort

Wow, January is over. Looking at my calendar it just keeps moving faster and faster. Our seniors have 4 months left and they will be graduating. There will be lots of paperwork, resumes, applications, and college applications happening. All of our students have been busy with activities; cheer, basketball, wrestling, FFA, band, and choir. Speech and quiz bowl are starting up. Please continue to support our students as many of these activities start to conclude at the end of February and early March. As all of these events continue, please be having conversations with your students about staying aware of assignments, projects and due dates.

Parent Teacher Conferences are February 13, starting at 4:00 pm and concluding at 8:00 pm, the second day of PTC is February 15. Students will be dismissed at 1:30 on February 15th for Parent Teacher Conferences to begin at 2:00 pm and conclude at 6:00 pm.

There was a nice soft snow we received towards the end of January and we welcome the moisture. Please continue to check on your child's vehicles and make sure they are prepared for any cold weather emergency.

We have recently had weather conditions that resulted in school starting late or canceled. Please stay tuned to the following stations for updated school closing when weather is in our area: KLKN - TV: Lincoln KHAS - TV: Hastings KOLN/KGIN TV: Lincoln/Grand Island. We also use School Messenger that does an all call to parents, students and staff. If you have not received any of the calls, please contact Trish to get that corrected.

Board of Education Meridian Public Schools District - 48-0303 Daykin, Nebraska, 68338 Monday, January 19, 2023

Regular January 19, 2023 Meeting
Meridian Public School Board of Education met on January 19, 2023, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

Roll call was taken: Niederklein - present, Sobotka - present, Rut - present, and Bartels - present. Also present were Superintendent Kort and Ms. Drees.

Newly elected board member, Barton, took the oath of office.

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

Sobotka nominated and Barton seconded to elect Bartels as Board President.

Niederklein moved and Rut seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, and Bartels - abstain. Motion passed 4-0. Bartels was elected President.

Superintendent Kort turned the meeting over to President Bartels.

Rut nominated and Niederklein seconded to elect Sobotka as Board Vice President.

Niederklein moved and Rut seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - abstain, Rut - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 4-0. Sobotka was elected Board Vice President.

Sobotka nominated and Barton seconded to elect Niederklein as Board Secretary.

Sobotka moved and Rut seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - abstain, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 4-0. Niederklein was elected Board Secretary.

Sobotka nominated and Barton seconded to elect Rut Board Treasurer.

Niederklein moved and Sobotka seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - abstain, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 4-0. Rut was elected Board Treasurer.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

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

Comments were heard from the public.

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

- A. Minutes of the Monday, December 19, 2022 Regular Meeting
- B. District Financial Report
- C. Activity Fund Report
- D. Hot Lunch Fund Report
- E. Bills

Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Superintendent Kort presented the Curriculum Report to the Board.

Rut moved and Niederklein seconded to retain the current committee assignments with Barton replacing Vorderstrasse.

- Americanism: Bartels, Rut, Scheer
- Building & Grounds: Niederklein, Sobotka, Barton
- Transportation: Niederklein, Scheer, Barton
- Curriculum & Instruction: Bartels, Rut, Barton



• Negotiations: Bartels, Niederklein, Sobotka
Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Sobotka moved and Barton seconded to approve Heartland Bank as the Official District Depository. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Sobotka moved and Rut seconded to approve the Fairbury Journal-News as the District Newspaper. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Discussion was held on the proposed calendar for the 2023-2024 school year.

Niederklein moved and Barton seconded to approve the correction to the October 2022 Board Meeting Minutes recognizing the negotiation team for the 2024-2025 school year. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Rut moved and Barton seconded to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Shana Rickstrew. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Sobotka moved and Niederklein seconded to accept, with regrets, the resignation of Jane Zabokrtsky. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Ms. Drees presented the Principal's Report to the Board.

Superintendent Kort presented the Superintendent's Report to the Board.

Next Meeting was set for Sunday, February 19, 2023, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Rut moved and Niederklein seconded to adjourn at 6:42 p.m. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Jamie Niederklein,

Secretary Meridian District #48-030

"The Dish" with Drees

I ran across something the other day that said January and February are just one long Monday, and it made me chuckle. It certainly has some truth to it, don't you think? But if I am honest, once Monday is here, I welcome the routine, the fresh start, and the chance to make the new week even better than the last. I'd like to encourage us not to let the winter or Monday blues get us down but to look at this time as our fresh start. It is our time to get back into our routine and finish this second semester stronger than last.

Things look slightly different around the halls as some of us are in new roles this semester. I am excited to serve the Meridian family in this new capacity as the part-time principal with the help of Mr. Kort and Ms. Hermsmeier. I have enjoyed walking through the halls, visiting classrooms, and working with teachers and students from this new perspective. I am thankful for all the staff at Meridian who have helped make this transition smooth.

I am also thankful for our students! I am constantly amazed at their involvement in our academic, athletic, and fine arts programs. Students, make sure you stay on top of everything and maybe even work ahead. We know spring will be a hectic time. Use your study hall time wisely.

We will have parent-teacher conferences on February 13 and 15. Please visit us! Teachers look forward to this time to connect with you. Also, keep following our Facebook page for announcements and news. Ms. Hermsmeier is doing a great job sharing out information.

COUNSELOR'S CONNECTION
by
Lisa Hermsmeier

Seniors & Parents...make sure you complete the FAFSA process
Getting financial aid for college involves more than completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Complete each step of the

process so that you don't miss out on money for college.

1. **If you haven't already, complete your 2023-2024 FAFSA** at FAFSA.gov using 2021 income tax data. Before you start, you and a parent must each get an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov as you'll need them to access and sign your FAFSA.
2. **Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR) via an email link.** The SAR acknowledges that your FAFSA was received and lets you know if you need to take further action before the form can be processed.
3. **You might receive a verification notice** from the college(s) you listed on your FAFSA requesting documents to verify your FAFSA information. The college will not process your financial aid until you provide required documents.
4. **Watch for financial aid award notifications.** Once you're accepted for admission to the colleges you listed on your FAFSA, they will notify you of the types and amounts of financial aid they're offering.

Watch your email and student portal carefully for important details about admission and financial aid.

What you need to know about scholarships...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. You'll also find links to national sites that EducationQuest recommends.

- **Your school counselor's office website.** Our list of local scholarships will be posted mid-February on the school website under the "School" 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 or check the school's website for a list of scholarships they provide and application procedures.
- **National search sites such as collegeboard.org, www.petersons.com/scholarship-search.aspx, chegg.com/scholarships**

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 March 21 as part of state testing (free of charge). If you want to take an additional ACT test this spring, you must register by March 10 for the April 15 test or by May 5 for the June 10 test. To register, go online to 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 March 21 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.

NHS is Hosting "Coins for CASA"
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is no longer doing the "Pennies for Patients" fundraising drive, so the National Honor Society has decided to go a different route. We are going to still fundraise for children, but we plan to keep our funds local and support the Southeast Nebraska CASA. This donation will help foster

students in southeast Nebraska have an advocate in the court system. It also helps the child find a safe, loving, and permanent home.

The National Honor Society will be holding "Coins for CASA" in the month of February. The goal of this fundraiser is to raise money for CASA. In our past Pennies for Patients drives, we have raised over \$1,000 each year. Let's keep that up and help our local youth!

We are planning to do a "Stuck for a Buck" day where students can buy a piece of duct tape for a \$1 and tape a teacher to a pole. We also have planned a "Pie Your Favorite Teacher" in the face day - \$1 a pie.

For the elementary, we are giving away prizes. Individual donation envelopes 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!

Just a From the Music Department

We are off and running into a great new year! Our students are busy preparing for an event-filled second-semester and we couldn't be more excited to showcase their many talents for you very soon!

On January 8 & 9, Evelyn Woitalewicz represented Meridian at the Doane Vocal Festival held at the Doane University Campus. This two-day event culminated in a concert for the public and was directed by Doane Choral Director, Dr. Kurt Runestad. Congratulations, Evelyn!

Special shoutouts also go out to Kailyn Paul & Lana Santacroce for auditioning and being selected for the State FFA Choir!

Parents please remember to come visit us at Parent Teacher Conferences on February 13 from 4-8 and February 15 from 2-6. We would love to visit with you about how amazing your child is doing in our ensembles.

As always, thank you for supporting the arts in our school!

SPRING PLANT SALES

Spring is right around the corner and so is the Meridian Annual Plant Sales! This year FFA will also be selling their own homegrown variety of plants. The Janet's Jungle Seed and Plant Sale will begin on March 1st with delivery date of April 19th. More information will be in next month's newsletter.

THANK YOU

MPIE (Meridian Partners in Education) would like to thank everyone who supported our basket raffle. We appreciate everyone who bought raffle tickets and the businesses and families who generously donated a basket or made a monetary donation. All money raised will go towards activities and projects throughout the year for the students and staff and scholarships for the class of 2023.

Families & Businesses:

- AKRS
- The Image
- Craig & Stacy Lutjemeyer
- JoJo's Childcare
- Neal & Tami Filipi
- Heartland Bank
- Eric & Jamie Niederklein
- Milligan Insurance Agency
- Matt & Deb Schwisow
- Scott & Wendee Sobotka
- Farmers Cooperative
- Mike & Chris Haake
- Scott & Joy Wolfe
- Jack & Jean Sobotka
- Larry & Gina Schafer
- Cameron & Jenny Kumpf
- Derrick & Megan Haake
- LandMark Implement
- Jimmy & Anne Simms
- Jay & Staci VanWesten

HEAD COOK

Meridian Public Schools is searching for applicants to fill the head cook position. This position offers .75 health insurance and retirement benefits. Duties include ordering and planning school meals to meet state and federal requirements, daily cooking and delivery. The head position will begin in late summer 2023. This person would have a training opportunity starting this spring. Please visit the District Office to pick up an application or email Mr. Kort at rkort@meridianmustangs.org. Meridian Public Schools is accepting applications until the position is filled. This position is subject to a veteran's preference/EOE.



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GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO INVEST IN MERIDIAN STUDENTS

Thanks to our generous patrons, the Meridian Foundation has been able to benefit the present and future students at Meridian. Projects that the Foundation has been able to support include the Green House, Community Fitness Center, Fitness Center upgrades, and most recently an updated lighting and sound system for the stage and gym. The new state of the art lighting and sound system will benefit the music, drama, and athletic departments. The Foundation also awards scholarships to Seniors to help facilitate their college education. We are asking for your help to invest in our Mustang community and students. Please consider donating to the Meridian Foundation.

Thank You for your continued support!

Jason Bartels
Meridian Foundation President



Meridian Foundation
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Monetary or Grain Donations Accepted!

I would like to donate: _____


Please Email bartels.jason@meridianmustangs.org or call 402-446-2005 with questions.




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