

MERIDIAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 349
MERIDIAN, TEXAS 76665
254-435-2081

Board Minutes
February 14, 2002

The Meridian I.S.D. Board Meeting was held in the boardroom located in the administration building at 204 2nd Street, Meridian, Texas.

Members in Attendance:

Barbara Domel
Nancy Williamson
Tracy Hardcastle
Marie Garland

Members Absent:

Patti Wagner
Steve Madson
Danny Allen

Others in Attendance:

Kenneth Bateman	Bill Henderson
Frank Middleton	Damon Patterson
Mary Massingill	Nansy Reiss
Joyce Phelps	Gay Allen

I. Call to Order

The President called the meeting to order at 8:15 p.m.

The meeting was originally scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. Due to a lack of a quorum at that time the meeting was postponed until 8:15 p.m.

II. Invocation

Barbara Domel gave the invocation.

III. Pledge

Barbara Domel led the pledge to the American Flag.

IV. Welcome

The President welcomed those in attendance.

V. Public Comment

Nansy Reiss, a first grade teacher at Meridian Elementary, requested permission to address the Board about Mr. Middleton's resignation. Mr. Middleton had announced to his staff, at the end of the day, about the fact that he had tendered his resignation. Ms. Reiss said this was a total surprise to the staff. She also said that many of the staff felt this action was taken due to the administration and board hearing from a few staff members and she wanted to voice the concern of the majority. She said that

most of the staff felt that Mr. Middleton was an excellent principal and was upset about his leaving. Ms. Reiss made it clear that she was not asking that the decision be changed but only expressing her and other teachers' support for Mr. Middleton.

VI. Board Minutes

The minutes of the January 3, 2002 and January 8, 2002 Board meetings were approved as read.

VII. Business

a. Review and Payment of Expenditures and Amend Budget as Needed

Tracy Hardcastle made the motion to approve expenditures and amend budget as needed. Nancy Williamson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Accept Financial Statement

Mr. Bateman presented the financial statement and informed the trustees that, since February 1, 2002 the District has received \$ 257,361.93 in local tax collections.

While reviewing the Comparison of Revenue to Budget Board Report, Barbara Domel had a question about the figures shown under funds 411 and 413 for function 13. Mr. Bateman could not answer the question but assured the Board that he would consult with Tracine Anderson and provide the answer at the next board meeting.

Tracy Hardcastle made the motion to accept the financial statement as presented. Marie Garland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. See attachment

c. Consider Resolution in Support of Meridian Masonic Lodge No. 268 Tax Exemption Status

Due to a recent change in law, organizations such as the Masons can qualify for exemption from Ad Valorem taxation. Because of its many charitable works and public service, the Meridian Masonic Lodge No. 268 is asking for the Meridian ISD to pass a resolution stating its support for the Lodge's application for this exemption.

Tracy Hardcastle made the motion to pass the resolution. Marie Garland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. See attachment

d. Approve High School Academic Handbook

Mr. Bateman reminded the Board that Mr. Henderson and Mrs. Massingill had given them a first draft copy of the handbook during the January 8th meeting. They were asked to study the contents and suggest any changes. Then Mrs Massingill submitted several changes she wanted to make to the first draft.

Mr. Henderson stated that the handbook would be a "living" document and would require updating on a regular basis.

The board complimented the handbook and suggested that the information be given to the students and their parents as they entered the ninth grade and again in the eleventh grade. Mr. Henderson said it would also be given to parents

during Open House each year and that all new students would be given a copy as they enrolled in Meridian High School.

It was also mentioned that when this type of information is given to students it often does not get to the parents. The suggestion was made that an incentive might be given if proof is available that the parent has received it.

Marie Garland made the motion to approve the High School Academic Handbook. Nancy Williamson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. *See attachment*

e. Approve Elementary Campus Plan Update Addressing Accelerated Reading

The state has made the Regional Education Service Centers responsible for making sure the school districts are held accountable for the way they spend the Reading Initiative Funds. Therefore, the Region 12 ESC has asked the elementary campus to show in its Campus Improvement Plan how the money is spent. Mr. Middleton and his Site-Based Committee have update their plan to show that these funds are used to pay a portion of Mrs. McGovock's salary for her instructing primary students who are behind in reading development.

Nancy Williamson made the motion to approve the update to the Meridian Elementary Campus Plan. Tracy Hardcastle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. *See attachment*

f. Consider Increasing the Number of Varsity Cheerleader Squad to Ten

Mr. Henderson and Mrs. Allen requested that the number of varsity cheerleaders be increased from the current eight to ten. Many of the routines taught during the summer cheerleader camps require ten members. Mrs. Allen said that a total of twenty-three students tried out for cheerleader last year and she expects a large number again this year. Increasing the number by two will give more students a chance to win a spot.

Nancy Williamson made the motion to approve the increase of two varsity cheerleaders. Marie Garland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

g. Consider Contract to Stripe Track

Mr. Bateman presented a proposal from T-Striping Inc. to restripe the track for the amount of \$2,900. Tracy Hardcastle said that through his job he has been working with Track Masters and has personally observed their striping jobs and has been pleased with their work. He asked if it would be all right for him to get a competitive bid from them? The trustees agreed that it would be a good idea.

Tracy Hardcastle made the motion to approve spending a maximum of \$2,900 for the restriping and allow him to check with Track Masters. Nancy Williamson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. *See attachment*

h. Call School Board Election for May 4, 2002

Marie Garland made the motion to officially call for the board of trustee election to be held on May 4, 2002. Nancy Williamson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

i. Appoint Election Judges and Clerks

The Superintendent's office has checked with the people who have helped with the elections in the past and Mr. Bateman recommended the following:

- Gwen Fowler – Judge
- Dorothy Crockett – Clerk
- Jean Kibler – Alternate Judge/Clerk
- Sharon Buck – Early Voting Judge

Nancy Williamson made the motion to make the appointments as recommended. Tracy Hardcastle seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

j. Approve Student Transfers

The administration recommended the approval of the following transfers:

- Issac Herrera from Morgan – 7th grade
- Jake Herrera from Morgan – 6th grade

Tracy Hardcastle made the motion to approve the transfers as recommended. Marie Garland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

k. Set Date for March Board Meeting

Since the regular date for the March meeting falls on the Tuesday during Spring Break, Mr. Bateman recommended that the meeting be moved to Thursday, March 7, 2002 at 6:30 p.m. All members agreed to the change.

At 9:13 p.m. the president announced that the board would convene in closed session in accordance with Texas Open Meetings Act Section 551.074 to consider resignations and principal and athletic director contracts.

The board reconvened in open session at 9:47 p.m.

l. Consider Contracts

Mr. Bateman recommended that the board accept the following resignations to be effective at the end of the current school year:

- Jane Creech – retirement
- Frank Middleton – to relocate

Tracy Hardcastle made the motion to accept the resignations. Marie Garland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

m. Consider Principal and Athletic Director Contracts

Mr. Bateman recommended that the board extend the following contracts:

- Bill Henderson, High School Principal – Two-year contract to end June 30, 2004
- Damon Patterson, Athletic Director – Two-year contract to end June 30, 2004

Marie Garland made the motion to extend two-year contracts to Bill Henderson and Damon Patterson. Nancy Williamson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Reports

- a. The goal of \$25,000 has been reached for the Emma Gibbon's Endowment. This amount has been invested in a certificate of deposit at 4% interest. The interest earned each year will be used to give a \$1,000 scholarship to a deserving graduate who will attend Stephen F. Austin University or Texas A&M University. Also an additional \$1,000 has been received which will be used for a scholarship this year.
- b. The principals gave information about upcoming events at their campuses.
- c. Calendars of upcoming athletic activities were handed out to board members and others present.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

President

Secretary