



August 1, 2010

From the Desk of Jim Verlengia,
Interim Superintendent

The beginning of each school year is an exciting time for everyone. Students are anxious to see friends, start classes, and participate in the many extra-curricular activities available here at Martensdale-St. Marys Schools; principals and district administrators have been diligently planning and preparing over the summer for the return of students and staff; and teachers are excited to try great, new ideas in their classrooms. Everyone is ready for new challenges and new experiences.

It is a pleasure for me to be a part of the excitement of the start of a new school year. As you know, former superintendent Jean Peterson has taken a new position in Independence. I have been asked by the MStM school board to serve as the interim superintendent this summer while the Board searches for an individual to begin in the fall to serve as an interim superintendent during the 2010-2011 school year. It is the Board's hope to hire a full-time superintendent next spring when the pool of candidates will be larger.

I currently work for Heartland Area Education Agency (AEA) in Johnston, which provides a wide variety of services to districts in central Iowa. Heartland AEA is part of a statewide system of nine AEAs that provide services to Iowa's children, families, schools, and communities. The Agency serves over 133,000 students and works in partnership with 54 public and 29 accredited non-public schools in 11 counties to provide educational programs, services, and resources to improve achievement for all students.

Heartland AEA employs 700 full- and part-time employees who aid student achievement in many ways. For example, speech-language pathologists help kindergartners understand oral language to improve their beginning reading skills, audiologists test babies' hearing for possible abnormalities, instructional technology consultants assist teachers in implementing technology tools in their classrooms, physical therapists go to toddlers' homes to assist parents in teaching their children to walk, and school social workers provide crisis counseling to high school students following the death of a teacher.

This year the AEAs are celebrating their 35th anniversary of providing quality services to our state. Heartland AEA is proud to provide these services to MStM Schools.

Prior to coming to Heartland, I served as superintendent of the Lewis Central Schools in Council Bluffs. I always looked forward to the start of a new year. There is no other line of work that allows a brand new start filled with opportunity each and every year. As a community we have a tremendous opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the students we support.

Because Heartland AEA works with MStM on a regular basis, I know that the district's success is directly connected to a dedicated and talented staff, active and strong parental involvement, and a supportive and generous community. I've learned that you are a school district with a tradition of excellence in education. It's obvious that the MStM Schools value a system of continuous improvement that permeates every aspect of its work in order to become a center of educational excellence. I've also observed that as a school community you are committed to providing a challenging curriculum, skilled instruction, and a learning environment that responds to individual student academic needs. Having recognized that, I believe that our work is guided by research and the belief that every student is capable of attaining high levels of achievement in preparation for meeting the rigorous demands of the 21st century.

I am fortunate to be part of a professional community that approaches its work with optimism and a tremendous sense of possibility. I believe that we are bound only by the limits of our talent and our creativity. For this short time, I believe that I lead a team of dedicated administrators, talented teachers, and committed support staff, involved families and supportive community members, working in partnership to strengthen educational excellence.

As we look to the future, we need to set clearly defined goals and measure how well we are meeting these goals. Great organizations have clarity of purpose, common goals, shared commitment, and are results-oriented. I look forward to working with each of you and the interim superintendent in providing the best educational experiences for our youth.

In the words of John Bartlett, "The secret of success is constancy of purpose. I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for the Martensdale-St. Marys Schools!"

Sincerely,

Jim Verlengia, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent

From the Desk of Mr. Crozier

Principal's Message

The start of the school year is just around the corner and will be here before we know it. We have been very busy preparing for the new school year. There will be many changes at Martensdale-St. Marys this year. Our students will experience a new way of learning with the new laptops and the opportunities with technology.

We will have a new high powered wireless internet system installed before the beginning of the school year. This will allow uninterrupted access for students and teacher at all times. We have not yet set a date for the laptop roll out for the high school students. When this date and time is set all students' parents will receive an e-mail and it will be posted on our website. We will have sessions for parents and students to inform you of the policies and procedures for the 1:1 program. Be looking for this information in August.

There are some things that parents and students can do to prepare for the upcoming year. I encourage parents to sit down with your children and set goals for the upcoming year. Take some time to set academic goals, social goals and goals for being involved in activities. This will help get your child off to a good start for the new school year.

The following article may help guide you and your child in preparing for the upcoming year.

Back to School: Tips and Strategies for the High School Years

The final countdown to the college years begins at high school. These are the last formative years before the launch from the nest. Whether you're ready or not, it's time to realize that your teen is flying toward the opportunity to begin life on his or her own.

Information, Please

Every teen headed for high school wants to do well, fit in and have a good time. One of the best ways to help them succeed is to make sure they have enough information about the new world that's opening up to them.

Encourage your teen to create a "Top 10" list of things every freshman (or sophomore, or junior, or senior) should know. Suggest that they ask older siblings, friends and relatives for advice that they wish they had when they were your student's age. Your teen may also find it helpful to ask these contacts about the worst thing that ever happened to them in high school. Students can learn from these experiences and prepare themselves to avoid a variety of scenarios—before they find themselves in the midst of their very own "worst day ever." Talk about all of this newly-gathered information with your daughter or

son. You can provide some additional perspective that will be valuable in the days and months ahead.

The Future and Now

This is an important time to point out to high school students that the decisions they make today can have a big effect on their future for many years to come. Encourage teens to see their high school experience as a springboard toward adult life; help them focus on finding positive ways to make the most of their school days. Discuss with your teens what they'd like to accomplish in life and when they'd like to accomplish it. Keep in mind that they may talk as if they know how to do everything but, in reality; they don't have the experience and information to chart an accurate and direct path to their future plans. Listen to what they tell you and then help them find the best way to get the information they need to reach their goals.

Talk about personal choices—including the things that may seem like fun now—and the way those choices might lead to regrets in the future. Ask questions like "What do you see yourself doing 10 years from now?" "What can you do today to help yourself get to that goal?" "What do you see your friends doing 10 years from now?" "What do you think their lives will be like in the future?"

Exploring Careers

These days, a variety of tools are available to help teens explore career choices. Software programs, online quizzes, school-sponsored programs and more can help students make choices regarding their future studies and professional ambitions that take advantage of their personalities, skills, interests and abilities. An entry-level part-time job related to a student's intended career path is another excellent way to explore job options. The employment experience and the chance to learn to save money for the future are added bonuses.

Listen, Hear, Help

As you talk with your teen, make sure you're listening to what they're saying. Don't just hear what you'd like to hear. Remember that this is a stressful and sometimes confusing time for young adults. They want to grow up to be on their own, but they still want parental approval—and they still very much want to be a part of their family.

-- Kathie Felix

Kathie Felix writes about education for a variety of national news media outlets.

Let's get prepared for a great year.
Michael Crozier, Secondary Principal
mike_crozier@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us



Pay for the 2010-2011 Registration Fees through PaySchools!

Martensdale-St. Marys School District is Accepting Electronic Checks and Credit Cards.

Paying your child's school registration fees just got easier with PaySchools, a secure online payment processing system that lets you pay by electronic check or credit card. You can pay your child's school expenses anytime, anywhere. No more lost checks!

Please check out the MStM Website and click on Fall 2010 Registration. Here you can pay for your registrations fees, lunch account, and athletic passes.

You will have the option to directly debit the funds from your bank account (electronic check) by entering your bank's ABA routing number and your personal bank account number, or you can make purchases with their VISA, MasterCard or Discover credit card. After making a purchase, an email receipt will immediately be sent to you confirming your purchase(s). PaySchools does not save or store bank or credit card information to ensure privacy and security for users.

Benefits for Parents:

- Convenience – make purchases 24 hours a day/7 days a week
- Control – eliminate lost checks or cash
- Timely – credits payment to student account instantly
- User friendly – processes both e-checks and credit cards
- Secure – ensures private and secure transmission
- Accessible – view purchases and payment online

PaySchools Instructions & Tips

To get started:

1. Go to the district Web site <http://www.mstm.us/>
2. Log on to Parent Information Access – JMC or click on PaySchools Logo.
3. Once you are logged in click on item you want to purchase.
4. Follow the directions – but here are some tips:
 - The first time you use PaySchools – **you register twice** – once to get logged on and then again to make a payment. You can use the same email address and password both times.
 - You can use your debit card – just select “credit” and then use your debit card number.
 - After making a payment an email receipt will immediately be sent to you confirming the payment.

- Once you have registered in PaySchools you will also be able to check the balance in your child's meal account through JMC.
- PaySchools does not save or store bank or credit card information to ensure privacy and security for users – so you will need to enter this information each time.

If you have a problem, please contact Jill Gavin at 641-764-2608 or at jill_gavin@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us

Happy Retirement Dick Wadle Bus Driver for 27 Years

Be sure to congratulate him when you see him in between his well deserved vacations!

Enjoy Retirement!

*From the Desk of Mr. Wood,
Elementary Principal*

How to Succeed with School Personnel

No child sails through his or her entire school life without at least a few rough waters. Sometimes it's a classmate who's causing problems. Sometimes it's an issue of how the teacher handles the class or treats a child. Sometimes it's a big misunderstanding. And, yes, sometimes the problem is even with your child. No matter what the issue, there are some tried-and-true ways to make dealing with problems at school much smoother.

Start with the teacher.

The best first step is to call your child's teacher and set up a phone conference to discuss the problem. Often, the next step is a face-to-face meeting at the school, either with or without your child. Only if the problem is still unresolved should you take it to the next level—a meeting with the principal.

Don't be afraid.

Many of us feel like children again when we have to meet with the teacher or principal. While these educators are in positions of authority, they're also adults just like you who are interested in your child's education and eager to make the situation better. Don't worry that raising issues with them will "hurt" your child in the classroom. Leaving problems unresolved can be more problematic.

Think positively.

In preparation for a meeting with school personnel, envision that everything will work out for the best. A positive attitude

makes it easier for everyone to calmly discuss the issues and find solutions.

Get the facts—from both sides.

Sit down with your child and write down his or her version of the situation. If it's a problem with grading or schoolwork, bring along examples of papers that illustrate your points. Then go through the issues with the teacher and listen to his or her perspective.

Take off the rose-colored glasses.

It's hard to hear a teacher say that your child is having issues in class, but the situation won't improve unless you understand the teacher's side of things as well.

Use some psychology.

No matter how frustrated you are, you can make the situation better if you offer positive comments. For example, if you're meeting with your child's teacher think of the good things you've heard about the class. Teachers need to know that you see their good efforts as well.

Be respectful.

Even if the teacher is "to blame," it's important that you and your child behave respectfully. Children learn what they live and should observe you treating others with respect at all times.

Decide on a solution—together.

Work with your child's teacher to come up with a written list of how to resolve the situation. There should be items for you and your child to address and items for the teacher to address. Have the teacher make a copy of the list for both of you, and then schedule a follow-up appointment to see what progress has been made.

Follow-up on your end.

If a teacher has asked you to work on some issues with your child at home, it's important that you do so. You certainly expect the teacher to follow-through with what he or she has promised, and it's only fair that you do the same.

Be realistic.

Not every school year will be perfect. Sometimes, children and teachers just don't "click." But by dealing with situations calmly and by focusing on the solutions—not the problems—you'll be making the best of the year for you and your child.

**7th Grade Orientation
August 12, 2010
6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Media Center**

**We look forward to seeing
you there!**

Come join us at "OPEN HOUSE!"

August 19, 2010



***We will then start "Open House" at
6:30pm and will end at 7:30pm.***

***We encourage the children to meet their
teachers and leave their supplies in their
new classrooms that evening.***

See you there!

WANTED:

Elementary staff is looking for MP3 players that anyone would like to donate.

Also, they are in need of "Books on Tape" series. They must have matching books to go with them.

Please contact Mrs. O'Mara, Mrs. Scrivner, Mrs. Reynolds or Mrs. Franey

Thanks for your help!

Just a Reminder:

School starts on August 23rd with a 2:15pm dismissal. Also, there will be a 2:15pm dismissal on August 24th.

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
JUNE 14, 2010**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on June 14, 2010.

Members Present: Scott Anderson, President; Nicole Bunch, Vice-President; Wade Gibson, Amy Harper and Dave Shutt; together with Superintendent Jean Peterson, and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: None

I. Welcome

Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

- II. Consent Items
A. Approval of Minutes.
B. Approval of Agenda
C. Approval of Bills and Secretary's Report
D. Approval of Hot Lunch and Activity Reports

Harper requested grammar corrections to be made to the May 10th and May 25th minutes. Harper motioned to approve the consent items with the corrections to the minutes, seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Tom Wood wanted to publicly thank and recognize Jean Peterson for her guidance in the right direction and being a mentor for Tom and Mike for the past three years.

Mike Crozier congratulated the Boys' and Girls' Track Teams for a great season. We had a huge showing at the State Track Meet in May for both the boys and girls. Congratulations to the Junior High Girls' Track team for winning at the Junior High State Track Meet. The future of our track team looks great!

The Varsity Baseball team is now 11-0. The Varsity Softball team is now 8-1. Good Luck!

IV. Public Comments – None

V. Old Business

A. Reports

1) Facilities Report – Supt. Peterson
Supt. Peterson asked the Board if they would like to continue the Iowa Thunder's contract to use our football facility next year. She had not heard any complaints and heard they did a nice job cleaning up. The District received \$400 per game and a percentage of the concessions; of which we have not received that information as of yet. Shutt mentioned that he heard there were beer cans in the parking lot after their practices. Supt. Peterson will address that issue. Bunch had no problem with continuing with the contract for next year. This will be added to the July meeting.

Supt. Peterson informed the Board that Danielle Handfield, our lawyer from Ahlers & Cooney Law Firm, is here tonight to discuss the liquidated damages issue in regard to the football/track facility.

2) MStM Music Booster Minutes – Minutes were reviewed from May 18th. Harper asked for financials. Supt. Peterson will ask the group again.

3) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes – none

4) MStM PTO Minutes – Minutes were reviewed from May 11, 2010.

B. Presentations

1) Superintendent's Report – Supt. Peterson
Supt. Peterson informed the Board that the Iowa Association of School Boards asks that each local school board determine their top five legislative priorities for 2010-2011. Her recommendation was to adopt resolutions 1, 2, 3, 11, 13, or 28. The Board discussed and asked questions regarding other resolutions. The decision needs to be made by August 1, 2010.

Supt. Peterson informed the Board about the teachers continuing their efforts to align our curriculum with the Iowa Core Essential Skills and Concepts. They have also been determining which objectives align with the 21st Century Living Skills. During the 2010-2011 school year, all teachers will receive training on how to incorporate technology into their content areas.

2) Principal's Report – Tom Wood and Mike Crozier

Wood announced the 4th Quarter Honor Roll for Grades 4-6. He also announced the Character Counts! Students Demonstrating Citizenship.

PK – Jaysee Ameigh and Rylan Schad

K – Elliot Haupts and Colton Fluharty

1 – Jacob Curnes and Madeline Myer

2 – Nick Murphy and Grace Hart

3 – Jacob Dunn and Sophia Gibson

4 – Christopher Douglas and Elizabeth Townsend

5 – Jacob Bakerink and Abby Antcil

6 – Savannah Good and Jamie Jordan

Wood informed the Board that we will receive the Universal Preschool Grant for the 2010-2011 school year. The State awarded the grant to every school who applied. This will help reduce our fee of the program for parents from \$110 to \$65. The grant did not fully fund our program and will be affected if there are future across the board cuts. There are 31 students signed up for Preschool this fall compared to 25 students for the 2009-2010 school year.

Wood reviewed the Handbooks for the Elementary, Staff and Preschool. The technology portion has been added to the handbooks. The Preschool start time for

students has been changed from 7:30 to 8:00.

Crozier reviewed the Student and Staff Handbook revisions. Harper asked to include National Honor Society and Student of Month recognitions, MStM Mission Statement and add an Index. He reviewed the results from the Wellness Committee Meeting held on May 18th that included the Hot Lunch Program, Wellness Policy Update and the Staff Wellness Initiatives.

Crozier informed the Board that Summer School is in session in the afternoon to help those students with credit recovery. Graduation went very well and it was a nice service. There is someone interested in the Dance Team position and the recommendation will be given to the Board at the next meeting. Crozier congratulated the Students of the Year that were voted by the teachers.

2009-2010 Students of the Year

- 7 – Bethany Phillips
- 8 – Laura Lacquement
- 9 – Katrina DeVore
- 10 – Josh Butcher
- 11 – Joe Harkin
- 12 – Carrie Wood

Supt. Peterson introduced Jon Seefeld of Jester Insurance Services to present to the Board School Equipment Breakdown Insurance. This issue was brought up due to the 1:1 laptop initiative. The insurance policy would be paid out of the Management Fund instead of the General Fund. It pays for the repairs of our district's electrical and electronic equipment. The Board thanked Jon for his presentation.

Anderson requested a break. Time 6:10 p.m. Anderson re-adjourned the meeting. Time 6:15 p.m.

VI. New Business

A. Closed Session: Pending or Threatening Litigation

Bunch motioned to go into closed session to discuss pending or threatening litigation, seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 6:15 p.m.

Gibson motioned to go out of closed session, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 7:05 p.m.

B. Discuss/Approve School Equipment Breakdown Insurance
Jill Gavin

The Board requested of Gavin to get a bid/proposal, what the impact will be, possible costs and what our savings would be. Shutt motioned to table the approval of the School Equipment Breakdown Insurance until the July Board Meeting, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.

C. Discuss/Approve 1:1 Laptop Rollout/Wireless System
Supt. Peterson

Tom Wood introduced Don Millage, the District's technology contact from EdNet, to provide additional information to the Board about the wireless system. Tom and Don have received two out of the three quotes from companies. The Board asked many questions about the two quotes, usage, future growth, access points in the building, and the advantages that were recommended by the AEA; which were coverage, capacity for number of users in any given area, and adding grades in the future with no additional changes. The Board requested background information about each company. Bunch recommended tabling this to our next special board meeting to allow the necessary time for Tom to order the laptops. Crozier went over the rollout plan with the board. An announcement will be sent out to the parents introducing the 1:1 laptop program. FAQ will be added to the website where questions will be added to the list when necessary. Information will be added to the newsletter and mailed to those families that do not have internet access. Crozier recommended splitting up the grades and having two informational nights for parents and students; which at that time they would receive their laptops.

Bunch motioned to approve the communication and the rollout strategy and the additional policies and guidelines so they can be amended into the student and teacher handbooks seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes. Bunch motioned to table the proposal for the wireless strategy until we have background information on the companies, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.

D. Discuss/Approve Dance Team Position
Supt. Peterson

It was discussed by the Board that when they took the resignation of the Dance Team position they were just requesting inquiry of the interest in the sport. Supt. Peterson informed the Board that there will be a recommendation for the Dance Team position on the July Board Meeting.

E. Discuss/Approve Wellness Policy Revision
Mike Crozier

Bunch motioned to approve the Wellness Policy as written, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

F. Discuss/Approve 2010-2011 Lunch Program Fees
Supt. Peterson

Discussion was made by the Board regarding the Healthy Kids Act which is requiring more fruits and vegetables; which are more expensive. All schools are raising their prices because of this. Kids are also requesting more food. The new prices are still the lowest in our area. Bunch motioned to approve the recommended lunch increases, seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.

	Current	New
MStM K-12 Breakfast	\$1.00	\$1.15
MStM K-6 Lunch	\$1.45	\$1.60
MStM 7-12 Lunch	\$1.55	\$1.80
Adult Breakfast	\$1.00	\$1.15
Adult Lunch	\$2.20	\$2.45
Additional Milk	\$0.25	\$0.25

G. Discuss/Approve 2010-2011 Activity Passes
Mike Crozier

Crozier informed the board that gate prices went up 20% in the 2009-2010 school year.

Gate Prices

2008-09	Adult \$4	Student \$3
2009-10	Adult \$5	Student \$3

Number of Passes Sold

2008-09	Adult 14 - Student 21 - Family 31
2009-10	Adult 11 - Student 17 - Family 39

Activity Pass Prices

2009-10 Adult \$75 - Student \$50 - Family \$200

Activity Pass Price Recommendation

2010-11 Adult \$90 - Student \$60 - Family \$220

Shutt motioned to approve the increase of the 2010-2011 Activity Passes to Adult \$90, Student \$60, Family \$220 with the amendment to include college age students in the Family Pass, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

H. Discuss/Approve Purchase of Special Education Bus
Jill Gavin

Shutt is on the Transportation Committee and recommended to the Board to accept the offer from Missy Perry to purchase the Special Education Bus for the 2010-2011 school year. The bus would be purchased out of the PPEL fund. The bus could also be used for other events and activities. Gibson motioned to approve the purchase of the Special Education

Bus out of PPEL after July 1, 2010, seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes.

I. Discuss/Approve Special Education Driver
Jill Gavin

Gavin recommended to the Board to offer the position as Special Education Drive to Susan Nickum. Nickum is a current employee with the District as an Associate. Gavin proposed what the transportation schedule would be for two of our wheel chair accessible students, licensing requirements, and proposed rate. Gavin informed the Board that Missy Perry and Dick Wadle offered to be backup drivers for Susan. Gibson motioned to approve Susan Nickum as the Special Education Driver for the 2010-2011 school year, to pay for the necessary classes, and offer \$20 per day, seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes.

J. Discuss/Approve Joe Gavin's Purchasing Bus Request
Supt. Peterson

Joe Gavin submitted a letter to the Board requesting for an extension in the purchase of a replacement bus for the 2010-2011 school year. Currently his bus is 15 years old and per the School Board Policy the bus cannot be older than 15 years even though the State does not care how old the bus is as long as it passes inspection. It was stated that buses are hard to find right now. He intends to purchase one as soon as possible but does not want to be rushed into it. Bunch motioned to approve the extension request of Joe Gavin's to one year, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

K. Discuss/Approve Personnel Recommendations –
Supt. Peterson Supt. Peterson

Ron Peterson submitted a recommendation for Melissa Schad for the position of Speech/Drama Coach for the 2010-2011 school year. Schad is currently the 1st grade teacher. The Board discussed experience, the time commitment, asking whether Josh Moser could to be a mentor for Schad, asking for volunteer help from Simpson students to help Schad. Gibson motioned to approve Melissa Schad for the position of Speech/Drama Coach for the 2010-2011 school year, seconded by Shutt. Roll call: Aye: Anderson, Bunch, Gibson, Shutt. Nay: Harper.

L. Discuss/Approve Open Enrollment Requests –
Supt. Peterson Supt. Peterson

Bunch motioned to approve the open enrollment in request for Kaylee Laire subject to approval from Norwalk, seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.

Harper motioned to approve the open enrollment in request for Hope Hamilton subject to approval from Winterset, seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes.

Gibson motioned to approve the open enrollment out request for Kalli, Curtis, Cameron, Kirsten Day, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- M. Discuss/Approve Early Start Calendar Waiver Request
Supt. Peterson

Bunch motioned to approve the 2010-2011 Early Start Calendar Waiver Request, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- N. Discuss/Approve Secondary and Elementary Handbook
Wood/Crozier

Gibson motioned to approve the Secondary Handbook with the addition of National Honor Society, Student of the Month, Mission Statement and an Index and Elementary Handbook, seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- O. Discuss/Approve 2010-2011 Legislative Action Priorities
Supt. Peterson

Bunch motioned to approve to adopt the resolutions #1, #2, #3, #11, #13, and #28 for the 2010-2010 Legislative Action, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- P. Discuss/Approve GASB 51 Policy 808
Supt. Peterson

Bunch motioned to approve GASB 51 Intangible Assets with the dollar amount of \$25, 000, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- Q. Approve 2010-2011 Classified Contracts
Supt. Peterson

The Board discussed that historically the classified staff would receive the same pay increase as the certified staff. Negotiations with the teachers are now heading toward arbitration. Harper motioned to freeze salaries for all classified contracts due to recent cuts and to stay within the budget seconded, by Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- R. Approve 2010-2011 Administrative Contracts
Supt. Peterson

Gibson motioned to freeze salaries for all administration staff and renew the secondary and elementary administrators' contracts for the next two years, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- S. Approve Personnel Resignations
Supt. Peterson

Harper motioned to approve the resignation of Jim Callison, custodian, seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes.

Gibson motioned to approve the resignation of Jean Peterson, Superintendent, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.

The Board thanked Jean for her service for the past three years to the District and wishes her the best.

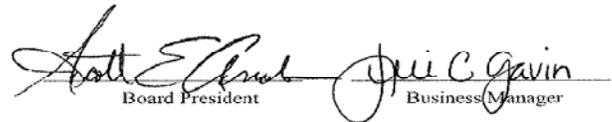
- T. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates
Supt. Peterson

The Board set June 16, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. for a special board meeting to discuss a Superintendent search and other items. The Board asked to move July's board meeting to July 6, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

07/01/10 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail
07/06/10 – 5:00 p.m. Board Meeting

- VII. Adjournment
Harper motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes.

APPROVED


Board President Business Manager

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING JUNE 16, 2010

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in special session, pursuant to law, on June 16, 2010.

Members Present: Scott Anderson, President; Nicole Bunch, Vice-President; Amy Harper, Wade Gibson, and Dave Shutt; together with Superintendent Jean Peterson, and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: None

- I. Welcome
Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

- II. Public Comments – None

Shutt motioned to approve to go into exempt session regarding negotiations with Drew Bracken, seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 4:33 p.m.

Bunch motioned to approve to go out of exempt session regarding negotiations, seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 4:45p.m.

III. Old Business

- A. Consent Items – Approve Invoices
Bunch approved Pinnacle’s invoice for \$61,661.69 seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

IV. New Business

- A. Presentations from Recruiting Firms
Jill Gavin
Presentations were provided by McPherson & Jacobson, G. Tryon and Associates and John Della Vedova and Earl Bridgewater to discuss the Board’s options and fee for a recruiting agency for the Superintendent search.

- B. Presentation from AEA on Interim Superintendent Options
Jill Gavin
Gavin informed the Board that she contacted the AEA in regards to a short term interim for the Superintendent. The Board agreed to accept the services that the AEA could provide us for 60 days by attending board meetings and filling in when requested, at no cost but to pay mileage. Gibson motioned to approve requested services from the Heartland AEA for 60 days, seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 4 ayes.

- C. Discuss/Approve Personnel Recommendations
Mike Crozier
Crozier recommended Dave Henderson for the assistant varsity girls’ basketball coach for the 2010-2011 basketball season. Henderson has an extensive background in coaching girls’ basketball. Crozier also recommended Laura McIlravy for the dance coach position for the 2010-2011 school year. Laura has already shown leadership as a member of the dance team when she attended MStM and helped initiate the start of this program here at MStM. Crozier stated that she did not need to be certified.

Harper motioned to approve Dave Henderson as the assistant varsity girls’ basketball coach for the 2010-2011 basketball season, seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 4 ayes.

Bunch motioned to approved Laura McIlravy as the dance coach for the 2010-2011 school year, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

- D. Discuss/Approve Wireless Purchase Installation
Tom Wood
Tom Wood presented background information, experience and a recommendation from the Prairie Lakes AEA regarding Xirrus. There have been no complaints and nothing was found under the Better Business Bureau. Bunch motioned to approve Xirrus as the new company to install our

wireless system in the school for the 1:1 laptop initiative, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes.

- E. Approve Alternate for Signatures on Checks – Activities and Hot Lunch
Jill Gavin
Bunch motioned to approve Mike Crozier to sign off on Hot Lunch checks and Tom Wood to sign off on Activity checks starting July 1, 2010 until we find an interim for the Superintendent, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

- F. Closed Session: Pending or Threatening Litigation
Jill Gavin

Shutt motioned to go into closed session regarding pending or threatening litigation, seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time 5:47 p.m.

Bunch motioned to go out of closed session regarding pending or threatening litigation, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time 6:03 p.m.

Dave Shutt dismissed himself from the meeting. Time 6:05 p.m.

- G. Discuss/Approve Pinnacle Pending Litigation
Jill Gavin
Discussion was made by the Board about submitting payment for the most recent Pinnacle payment. The Board returned to Old Business to approve the invoice.

- H. Discuss Options to Hire Superintendent
Scott Anderson
The Board discussed in length many options to look at in regards to the Superintendent position. Options included: finding an interim first due to the time crunch, having an interim for a year before making a decision on the position, not rushing into making a decision, having the AEA provide us service for 60 days, positive impact on the budget, having strong leadership in place, negotiate the hours of the interim, having Mike and Tom available throughout the summer to sign checks and other duties, what needs to be accomplished during July and August, asking Jean Peterson for her duties that need to be addressed in July and August, hiring a Curriculum Director separate of the superintendent, asking Josh Moser to be the interim for the Curriculum Director.

- I. Discuss/Approve Position Requirements
Scott Anderson
The Board discussed what the Superintendent and Curriculum Director requirements were for the months of July and August.

J. Discuss/Approve
Advertisement Scott Anderson
The Board discussed the costs of advertising and other avenues for posting the position.

K. Discuss/Approve Interim
Replacement Scott Anderson
The Board discussed the advantages and disadvantages of hiring an interim part time and full time, what their duties would be and the short time frame of hiring one before school starts.

L. Discuss/Approve Recruiting
Firm Scott Anderson
Gibson motioned to hire John Della Vedova and Earl Bridgewater for our recruiting firm to search for an interim because of his district connections and budget concerns, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes.

M. Discuss Interview
Process Scott Anderson
The Board discussed that the interview process will be discussed with the new recruiting agency.

VII. Adjournment
Harper motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time: 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED

Scott Anderson Board President
Jill C. Gavin Business Manager

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING JUNE 28, 2010

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in special session, pursuant to law, on June 28, 2010.

Members Present: Scott Anderson, President (by phone); Nicole Bunch, Vice-President; and Dave Shutt; together with Superintendent Jean Peterson, and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: Wade Gibson and Amy Harper

I. Welcome – Board President
Bunch called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m. Danielle Hainfield from Ahlers & Cooney joined the meeting by phone.

II. Public Comments -None

III. New Business

A. Closed Session: Pending or Threatening
Litigation Supt. Peterson
Shutt motioned to go into to closed session for pending or threatening litigation, seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 3 ayes. Time: 5:10 p.m.

Anderson motioned to go out of closed session for pending or threatening litigation, seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 3 ayes. Time 5:15 p.m.

Shutt motioned to approve the Pinnacle offer given the district for the athletic complex of \$27,000 and not performing work on the scoreboard, seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 3 ayes.

VII. Adjournment
Bunch motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 3 ayes. Time: 5:17 p.m.

APPROVED

Scott Anderson Board President
Jill C. Gavin Business Manager

It is the policy of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices.

There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's Equity Coordinator.

MStM's Equity Coordinator is Mike Crozier, secondary principal. His address is MStM Community School, 390 Burlington, Martensdale, Iowa 50160. His phone number is 641-764-2686 and his email address is: mike_crozier@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us

The Martensdale-St. Marys District Newsletter is published by the end of the preceding month.

The newsletter is available for pickup in the Superintendent's office, Jiffy station and Roadside Inn. All of which are located in Martensdale.

You may also view it on the mstm.us website. Questions or concerns may be addressed to:

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