



# MARTENSDALE- ST. MARYS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

August 1, 2011

*From the Desk of Bob Newsum,  
Superintendent*

Greetings and think 'cool'!

If you haven't already done so, I hope you and your family take the opportunity to have a vacation together, before the new school year begins for students on Wednesday, August 24. I know families that included players on our softball and baseball teams haven't had time, as there have been games nearly every day, since we ended the last school year in May. Those special family times are so important, as they are the 'stuff' of memories that your kids remember as they grow up and leave home!

As you and your children prepare for the 2011-2012 school year, add these dates to your family calendar:

**Wednesday, August 10, 2011**      **8:00 AM to 4:00 PM**  
Registration for 2011-2012

**Thursday, August 11, 2011**      **12:00 AM to 8:00 PM**  
Registration for 2011-2012

**Thursday, August 11, 2011**      **6:00 PM to 7:00 PM**  
Seventh grade orientation

**Tuesday, August 23, 2011**      **6:30 PM to 7:30 PM**  
PK-12 Open House

**Wednesday, August 24, 2011**      **8:15 AM to 2:15 PM**  
First day of school

**\*\*\* Note: Classes will be dismissed at 2:15 the first three days of the school year.**

The Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District custodial staff has been busy over the summer months making improvements to our building and our facilities and I'm sure you'll be pleased with the improvements they've made. Many of our student lockers have been re-conditioned and repainted; the varsity gym floor has been completely re-sanded, resurfaced, and repainted, including the lower walls of the gym; many feet of old sidewalks have been removed and replaced with new concrete; the west ICN entrance to the building has been upgraded and is now handicap accessible; the internal wireless communications system has been upgraded to allow for improved internet connection; the broken and rough hard-surfaced main entrance to the junior high/high school and main office has been replaced with new

in the kindergarten classrooms have been removed and replaced with new handicap accessible doors; and several classrooms have been reassigned and repainted. When you see Jim Lynch, Cory Fast, Trent Christensen, Jim Callison, Zach Wood, Carrie Wood, and Brandon Robinson, please thank them for all they've done to improve our school and facilities!

As you know, several of our faculty members have accepted new positions in other Iowa school districts and we wish them well in their new districts. Ms. Beth Lund was previously teaching high school language arts at Oskaloosa High School and she has been hired to replace Mr. Justin Herrick, who accepted a teaching position at Waukee High School; Ms. Marcy Roff was previously teaching in Nebraska and she has been hired as a science teacher to replace Mr. Caleb Hales, who accepted an elementary teaching position at Madrid; Mr. Adam Hansen was previously teaching high school mathematics in Lone Tree and he has been hired to replace Mr. Jed Alexander, who accepted a math teaching and varsity basketball coaching position in Van Meter; and Mr. Craig Huegel was previously teaching in North Polk and he has been hired as district at-risk coordinator and activities director to replace Mr. Ron Peterson, who has accepted a social studies teaching and varsity wrestling position at Knoxville High School.

The summer 2011 varsity sport season was an unbelievable experience for players on our Martensdale-St. Marys softball and baseball teams, coaches, family members, and other community supporters for our teams. Our softball team completed an undefeated regular season as Pride of Iowa Conference champions and ultimately finished the season as one of the third place teams at the Iowa High School Girls' Athletic Union Softball Tournament, held in Fort Dodge. While the all-state softball team members have not been identified, our coach, Todd Verwers, has been named South Central District Class 1A 2011 Softball Coach of the Year. This is an outstanding honor and reflects very highly on Coach Verwers, our players, our communities, and the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District. Baseball coach Justin Dehmer and girls' basketball coach Tim Baker are Iowa Class 1A Coaches of the Year. That is indeed an amazing achievement. The Martensdale-St. Marys Blue Devil Baseball Team completed its second straight undefeated season as Pride of Iowa Conference champion and closed the season as Iowa Class 1A champion, with its win over Lansing Kee in the finals of the Iowa High School Athletic Association Summer Baseball Tournament, at Principal Park, in Des Moines. For any of you who don't know, our Martensdale-St. Marys varsity baseball team has now won 87 games in a row and has

set a national record for most high school baseball games won in a row. The Blue Devils surpassed the Portsmouth, New Hampshire, high school baseball team for most consecutive wins.

During the spring semester last year, a district communications committee, comprised of board members, administrators, teachers, students, and community members, was organized and has been active. Several communications projects are currently in the works and will be launched early this fall. One of the important projects is the creation of a 'welcome packet' for realtors to share with families that are considering relocation in the Des Moines area. Another of the important projects the communications committee has created is a brief survey to determine the frequency and quality of sharing school-district related information with students, families, and community members. It is the intent of the communications committee to utilize several methods to provide this survey to you. Within the next week you will be able to access and complete the communications survey as a **link** on the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District website [www.mstm.us](http://www.mstm.us). The survey will also be included in the summer quarterly newsletter, scheduled for distribution next week. Your completed survey would be returned to the administrative offices. Surveys will also be available at registration and at early fall school activities, such as football and volleyball games. Thank you, in advance, for supporting your school district and completing your survey.

**REGISTRATION**

**August 10 - 8am-4pm**

**August 11 - 12pm-8pm**

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

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

*Summer Cheerleading Schedule*

**Here are the times and dates:**

<b>7:00-8:45am</b>	<b>August 9th, 10th, 11th, 15th, and 16th</b>
<b>6:00-7:15am</b>	<b>August 23<sup>rd</sup></b>
<b>6:30-8:00am</b>	<b>August 25<sup>th</sup></b>

**Come join us at "OPEN HOUSE!"**  
**August 23, 2011**



**"Open House"**  
**6:30pm to 7:30pm**

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

**See you there!**

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**Just a Reminder:**

**School starts on August 24<sup>th</sup> with a 2:15pm dismissal. Also, there will be a 2:15pm dismissal on August 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>.**

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**West Des Moines**  
**Back to School Fair!**

**Who:** Any child with limited health care resources.

**When:** August 13, 2010  
 9am-2pm

**Where:** Eddie Davis Community Center  
 1312 Maple Street  
 West Des Moines, IA 50265

Children who come will have access to:

- \* Free school physicals
- \* Free Dental Checks
- \* Free Eye Exams
- \* Free Immunizations
- \* Goodies to be provided!

**Come Join the Fun!**  
**Hope to see you there!**

## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING JUNE 13, 2011

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on June 13, 2011.

Members Present: Vice President, Dave Shutt; Wade Gibson, and Amy Harper; together with Mike Crozier, Tom Wood, Josh Moser, Superintendent Bob Newsum and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: President, Nicole Bunch and Scott Anderson

### I. Welcome Board President

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

### II. Consent Items

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

Harper motioned to approve the consent items, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 3 ayes.

### III. Celebrations

Mr. Crozier announced that the baseball team is now 16-0 and ranked #1. They are on their way to breaking the game winning streak for the State of Iowa for all classes. Good luck boys! The softball team is now 14-0 and is ranked #2. Good luck girls!

### IV. Public Comments

Tina Gehringer-Minor, St. Marys, IA - Expressed concern about one of the elementary teachers. The Board thanked Ms. Gehringer-Minor for her comments, but took no further action.

### V. Old Business

#### A. Reports

1) Facilities Report – Mr. Gibson requested that we have monthly Facility Meetings going forward.

2) MStM Music Booster Minutes – The last meeting was cancelled due to the Every 15 Minute program.

3) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes – Minutes were provided from the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Gibson stated the change in the conference requiring the varsity conference games to be played first and then the junior varsity is hurting gate and concession stand revenue. It was requested that Mr. Crozier voice his concern, on behalf of the Board, at the next conference meeting and hopefully other schools feel the same.

4) MStM PTO Minutes – Minutes were provided from the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### B. Presentations

#### 1) Principal's Report Tom Wood

Mr. Wood presented the Character Counts winners for students demonstrating citizenship and the Teacher of the Year.

PK: Ted Townsend and Averi Schad  
K: Kadyn Morrow and Casey Briney  
1<sup>st</sup>: Emma Snowden and Grant Ballard  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Maggie Girardi and Mya Olson  
3<sup>rd</sup>: Noah Briney and Kaitlin Christensen  
4<sup>th</sup>: Jessica Doster and Sophia Gibson  
5<sup>th</sup>: Josie Coates and Maddy Brommel  
6<sup>th</sup>: Johnny Croy and Jake Bakerink

Elementary Teacher of the Year –  
Tish O'Mara

Mr. Wood presented the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Honor Roll. He reviewed the changes for the 2011-2012 Elementary Handbook, Preschool Handbook, and Staff Handbook.

Mr. Wood and the Board discussed the Preschool situation. The House just amended and passed HF 697, Omnibus Budget. The bill now goes to the Senate, where its future is suspect. It includes changes in preschool funding weighting from 0.6 to 0.3. This would be \$1,764 per child instead of \$3,529. Mr. Wood recommended we operate like we did this past year and keep an eye on the budget. Contracts have already been approved for the two teachers and two associates that we are required to have in the classroom.

Mr. Wood also informed the Board that we had agreed to maintain what we have in regards to technology and he just received information that the cost of expanding the wireless to the rest of the elementary building would cost \$13,880. More information will be brought to the July board meeting.

#### 2) Principal's Report Mike Crozier

Mr. Crozier reviewed the changes for the 2011-2012 Secondary Handbook, Faculty Handbook, and Coaches Handbook. He presented the 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Honor Roll. Graduation went well. Suggestions for graduation were made to get a huge screen to show the seniors video instead of up on the wall, to recognize the NHS students, and not pass out flowers to parents or limit the number of flowers. Another suggestion was giving each student six tickets for the seats on the floor to guarantee the parents and family members have reserved seats.

Mr. Crozier presented the Students of the Year and the Teacher of the Year.

7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Jack Murphy  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Emily Murphy  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade – Riley Dunn  
10<sup>th</sup> Grade – Carli Kenyon  
11<sup>th</sup> Grade – Josh Butcher  
12<sup>th</sup> Grade – Brittney Kubik

Secondary Teacher of the Year –  
Mike McAlexander

3) Curriculum Director's Report  
Josh Moser

Mr. Moser provided a draft of the 2011-2012 Professional Development Calendar. He provided an update from a presentation on May 17 stating that ITBS and ITED are now called Iowa Assessments with additional basic information and that the content of all items on the test are aligned with the Iowa Core/Common Core. He will be attending the Iowa Core leadership meeting on June 16. He introduced general information on e2020; a virtual classroom curriculum overview. He compared it to our current software of Odysseyware and compared costs. The Board agreed to pursue the new e2020. The Administration team will be attending the Education Summit on July 26-27.

4) Superintendent's Report  
Supt. Newsum

Dr. Newsum introduced Amy Harper who provided an update from the Communications Committee. A goal of the committee was to create a page on the website that provided approved fonts, colors, logos for all activities, letterhead, and apparel; which would allow vendors and coaches and the community to know exactly what is allowed and not allowed. Gibson requested to give the community an opportunity to vote for which devil logo they liked. Copyright concerns were discussed. The committee would like to create a media kit for realtors for new families moving to our district, educate local business owners, and have student ambassadors for the school. A survey is being created to determine who is and who is not reading the newsletter on the website. The next meeting for the Communications Committee will be Monday, June 20 at 6:00 p.m.

Dr. Newsum informed the Board that once every ten years the District needs to review their director districts to make sure each district has about the same enrollment. More information will be provided in upcoming board meetings.

VI. New Business

A. Approve Personnel Recommendations

Supt. Newsum

Mr. Crozier, Mr. Moser, and a committee of secondary teachers and coaches have been busy interviewing prospective teachers and coaches. I would recommend that the Board approve a contract for Mr. Craig Huegel, as the District At-Risk Coordinator and Activities Director. Craig has been serving as part-time teacher and Activities Director for the North Polk Community School District. I would recommend that the Board approve a contract for Ms. Beth Lund, as secondary English and Language Arts Teacher. Ms. Lund has been teaching high school English and

language arts for the past five years at Oskaloosa High School. I would recommend that the Board approve a supplemental contract for Mr. Randy Olsen as National Honor Society sponsor for 2011-2012. I would recommend that the Board approve a contract for Mr. Josh Hart, as Junior Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach for 2011-2012. I would recommend that the Board approve a contract for Mr. Brian Spanhut, as Junior High Girls' Track Coach for 2011-2012. I would recommend that the Board approve a contract for Ray Gavin as the new bus driver for Richard Bown's route #1.

Gibson motioned to approve Mr. Craig Huegel, as the District At-Risk Coordinator and Activities Director; Ms. Beth Lund, as secondary English and Language Arts Teacher; Mr. Randy Olsen as National Honor Society sponsor; Mr. Josh Hart as Junior Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach; Mr. Brian Spanhut, as Junior High Girls' Track Coach; Ray Gavin as the new bus route driver, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 3 ayes.

B. Discuss/Approve Open Enrollment Requests

Supt. Newsum

The District received an open enrollment request for Benjamin McGee to open enroll into the MStM District from Norwalk. Gibson motioned to approve the open enrollment request pending approval from Norwalk and funding will follow, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 3 ayes.

C. Discuss/Approve Textbooks/Materials

Supt. Newsum

Mr. Moser provided costing information for purchase of secondary English and Language Arts textbooks with a total cost of \$8,531. Gibson motioned to approve the purchase of secondary English and Language Art textbooks, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 3 ayes.

D. Discuss/Approve Secondary and Elementary Handbook  
Supt. Newsum

Harper motioned to approve the Secondary and Elementary Handbooks with the approved changes, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 3 ayes.

E. Approve 2012 Legislative Action Priorities

Supt. Newsum

The board reviewed the legislative priorities for 2011-2012 at the regular May board meeting. The priorities included taxes, finance, student achievement and student equity, unfunded mandates, and local control. Harper motioned to approve the legislative priorities for 2011-2012, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 3 ayes.

F. Approve Cooperative Food Purchasing Agreement 2011-2012  
Supt. Newsum

Gibson motioned to approve the Cooperative Food Purchasing Agreement for 2011-2012, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 3 ayes.

G. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading GASB 54 Supt. Newsum

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) Statement No. 54, Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions, was issued to improve financial reporting by establishing fund balance classifications that are easier to understand and apply. Fund balance refers to the difference between assets and liabilities in the governmental funds balance sheet. In essence, it establishes a hierarchy that is based on “the extent to which the government is bound to honor constraints on the specific purposes for which amounts in those funds can be spent.”

All government bodies must comply with the GASB standards. This *Policy Primer* includes a new, optional policy boards may consider. If the board chooses not to adopt a policy addressing the order of spending the default approach will be used, which is to reduce committed – then assigned – then unassigned fund balances. If boards choose to adopt GASB 54 policy, the new policy should be adopted by completion of the FY 2011 audit.

Historically, the fund balance for governmental funds has used two main categorizations – reserved and unreserved. Unreserved fund balance could also be further sub-classified as “designated” or “undesignated.” All of these classifications focused on fund balance from the perspective of its availability for appropriation. In other words, fund balance classifications represented the appropriable or non-appropriable nature of the fund’s financial equity.

Under GASB Statement No. 54, the classifications of governmental fund balance will now be from the perspective of the underlying resources within fund balance. Simply put, these new components of fund balance will identify constraints on how resources can be spent and the sources of those constraints. The new components of fund balance will be nonspendable, restricted, committed, assigned and unassigned. Each of these components has very specific definitions and there is little, if any, direct link between the “old” components of fund balance and the new ones.

The second reading and approval of the policy will be done at the July board meeting.

H. 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Board Policy Series 100 – School District Supt. Newsum

The board reviewed Series 100 and will have the second reading and approval at the July board meeting.

I. Discuss/Approve 2011-2012 Preschool Fees Supt. Newsum

No further discussion or action was made.

J. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates Supt. Newsum

07/06/11 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail  
07/07/11 – No Board Agenda Meeting  
07/11/11 – 5:00 p.m. Board Meeting

VII. Adjournment

Gibson motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 3 ayes. Time: 7:10 p.m.

APPROVED

  
Board President

  
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](mailto: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 and the Jiffy station located, Both are located in Martensdale.*

*You may also view it on the [mstm.us](http://mstm.us) website. Questions or concerns may be addressed to:*

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