



December 1, 2011

*From the Desk of Bob Newsum,*

Season's Greetings:

By the time you read your December newsletter there may be snow on the ground, but as of the day my message to you was written, the weather has been unseasonably warm. The weather forecasters are predicting record high temperatures into the upper 60's on Thanksgiving Day. While that is great news for those of us who have to make school-related delay and cancellation decisions, a little bit of snow certainly helps get us in the holiday spirit.

**If you are currently transporting your children to and from school each day, you can help the district bus drivers and assist in protecting our students from accidental injury by dropping your students off at the main school entrance by the superintendent's office.** From approximately 8:00 to 8:20 each weekday morning and again from about 3:10 to 3:30 each weekday afternoon, Burlington Avenue essentially becomes a one-way westbound street. When drivers attempt to navigate the street around the parked buses during those times, students run the risk of being injured by a moving car or bus. Taking an alternate route that bypasses Burlington Avenue in front of the elementary portion of the school would help a great deal.

One of the goals your board of education members and I have focused on for the past year are the various methods for communicating the great educational things that are happening in and around Martensdale-St. Marys. Since the district communications advisory committee began work in January 2011, we have made the following communications improvements.

- (1) The district website has been redesigned and we believe it is much easier to navigate and much more efficient.
- (2) We have been addressing the complex issue of 'branding' and ensuring that the logos and images attached to our school district have not been copied or plagiarized from another organization.
- (3) We have completed a comprehensive communications survey and will be sharing our findings with you early next year.
- (4) In addition to the monthly district newsletter that is posted on-line, we have begun publishing a quarterly copy of the

district newsletter and have distributed to all district box holders. You should look for the next hard copy newsletter right before the holiday vacation.

(5) We are currently planning for an open house to showcase our school and programs for area realtors and current team and organization sponsors and supporters. The open house is tentatively scheduled for late January or early February.

(6) In addition to the open house, a communications subcommittee is developing a promotional packet for area realtors to share with prospective families who might be considering relocation in central Iowa.

The next meeting of the district communications advisory committee is scheduled for Monday, January 23, 2012, beginning at 7:00 PM. Please mark your calendar and plan to join us!

On July 13, 2011, we received an official notification from Ms. Patti Harding, Administrative Consultant, with the Iowa Department of Education Bureau of Nutrition, Health, and Transportation Services regarding federally mandated hot lunch price increases. According to the calculator we were required to use, the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District is below the minimum federally mandated nutrition fee level. Unless the district increases our hot lunch food prices for elementary and secondary students by five cents per meal, we will lose the reimbursement we receive for the free and reduced-price meals we serve.

**Beginning on Thursday, January 12, 2012, the first day of the second semester, the price for an elementary student lunch will be \$1.65 and the price for a secondary student lunch will be \$1.85.** We do appreciate your understanding with this mandated lunch meal increase, but the district cannot afford the potential loss of free and reduced-priced lunch federal reimbursement.

We hope you and your family have a healthy, happy, and safe holiday vacation and encourage you to enjoy as much quality time as you can celebrating with family and friends. The time together really is more important than the 'stuff' we might receive under the tree!



**From the Desk of Mr. Crozier,**  
**Secondary Principal**

It is hard to believe, but we are nearing the completion of the 13th week of our 18 week semester. With the semester over halfway through, I would encourage you to check in with your son or daughter to review their academic progress to date. While you will be receiving a second progress report in the next few weeks, I believe now would be a good time to set some personal and academic goals with your child which can be measured at the completion of the semester on January 11th.

Grades are our benchmark of a student's academic progress but they do not tell the whole story about their ability and work habits. Be sure to acknowledge your child's strengths, identify areas for additional support, and encourage them to utilize the resources provided by the school to ensure that their efforts to meet these goals will have a greater chance for success.

Congratulations to the following students who participated in the Pride of Iowa Honor Choir at Bedford on November 8<sup>th</sup>: Josh Butcher, Cody Olson, Thad Toole, Megan Ameigh and Liz DeLong. Congratulations to Mrs. Schad, the cast and stage crew for the fall play "Homefront". They did an outstanding job. I would also like to recognize the following students who placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the POI Fall Academic Bowl; Tim Snyder, Ben Spick, Anthony Rudich, Alice Dembinski, Carli Kenyon, Kyle Kisling, Emily Murphy, and Connor Dunn.

With the holiday season upon us, I would like to wish all of our school patrons a happy and healthy next few months. Our staff will be participating in the fifth annual charity fundraising event for our community for the holidays. Participants are allowed to wear jeans from Thanksgiving to Christmas for a donation to the event. Last year the Martensdale-St. Marys staff (PK-12) raised over \$1000.00, which was dispersed to families in our community and helped buy winter clothing items for our students.

**From the Desk of Mr. Olson,**  
**Band Department**

December 15-Please join the Junior High and Senior High Band and Choir for their winter concert at 7pm.

Band students will need to dress in formal attire (black and white). Band students will need to be in the music room by 6:30 pm for warm-up.

**From the Desk of Mrs. Clark,**  
**Vocal Music Department**

Five students represented MStM in the Pride of Iowa Honor choir on Tuesday, November 8 at Bedford. Those singers were Josh Butcher, Megan Ameigh, Cody Olson, Thaddeus Toole, and Liz DeLong. Literature sung ranged from classical to spiritual, text in English and Latin, and tempos fast to slow. It was a fun day and a great concert!

Thank you to all parents and community members that attended the fall concert for grades 2, 3, and 4. Our theme this year was patriotic music and the students learned not only what patriotic music is, but also more of the history about their own country. Thank you also to Mary Jo Press for the suggestion and donation of the song "Thank You, Soldiers". It was a very emotional moment to hear over 100 students sing thank you to our soldiers for all they do to keep us free.

Looking ahead is the winter concert for the junior high and high school students on Thursday, December 15 here in the high school gym at 7:00pm. Junior high and high school bands and choruses will perform. Come and enjoy our fine students performing!

Also in the near future is the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade concert on Thursday, January 12 at 7:00pm. If you have attended MStM in your elementary years, you might have been in a production of "The Runaway Snowman" by Jill Gallina. Well, mark this date on your calendar because the 5<sup>th</sup>/<sub>6</sub> graders are doing it again this school year! Come and sing along with the songs you learned and enjoy a fun musical!

**From the Desk of Mr. Huegel,**  
**Athletic Director / At-Risk**

As I write, we have started our high school winter seasons. Basketball is underway, and wrestling gets started on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> at Southeast Warren. Please be sure to double check our website for game schedules, as they have and will continue to change with weather.

I want to make you aware of some changes this year. In wrestling, the weight classes have been redistributed. Wrestlers will now compete in the following weight classes: 106, 113, 120, 126, 132, 138, 145, 152, 160, 170, 182, 195, 220, and 285. This change was made to increase the ability of wrestling squads to fill all of the weight classes. Coach Sweet has 20+ wrestlers in the room, so this should work well for us. No major changes in basketball. Both Coach Baker and Franey have 20+ athletes on their rosters, and should be very competitive this year. Please come out and support them!!

A major point of emphasis this year in athletics has been concussion recognition and treatment. It is important to know that concussions and any kind of head injury can happen at any time, and in any sport, not just football. If you suspect your son/daughter may have suffered a concussion, please inform your coach. We have an athletic trainer who can help us diagnose and treat these kinds of injuries. Also, below are some resources:

[http://www.iahsaa.org/Sports\\_Medicine\\_Wellness/Concussions/concussions.html](http://www.iahsaa.org/Sports_Medicine_Wellness/Concussions/concussions.html)

<http://www.nfhslern.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=15000>

We have some fall athletes to recognize and celebrate. As you know, our football team had a successful season. The following athletes received all-state recognition

from the Iowa Newspaper Association, the Iowa Sports Connection, and the Des Moines Register:

Brad Nauman, 1<sup>st</sup> Team DL, DMR, 2<sup>nd</sup> Team ISC  
Trent Verwers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Team QB, ISC  
Jake Anctil, 3<sup>rd</sup> Team OL, INA

Congrats to these young men, Coach Parrott and our coaching staff, and the **TEAM!**

**Sportsmanship Reminders**

1. Be Loud!
2. Be Positive!!
3. Cheer **for your team** only... (not at officials, opponents, etc.).

**Upcoming Fine Arts Events**

Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>, JH/HS Band/Choir Concert, 7pm, HS gym

**Track HELP!**

I know this is early, but track season will be here soon. Right now, we are hosting six meets, including both the JH and HS conference meets, with a possible district/regional track meet. MStM is known for running a quality, efficient track meet. That is because of you! If you are interested in helping, please contact me. Below are the meet dates and the help we need:

**Timers:** Time each race with a stop watch (watches are furnished). Each timer times one runner. 8 people needed.

**Pickers:** Each timer is assigned a picker whose job is to keep track of which runner was timed. 8 people needed.

**Field Event Judges:** Measure and record each throw or jump. Four people per event. (High jump, long jump, Discus, and Shot Putt) 16 people needed

**Inspectors/Curve Judges:** Check to see that runners do not violate lane or exchange zone regulations. 4 people needed

**Concession Stand:** We need volunteers for all home meets. Each of the above jobs as well as several not listed can use assistants and relief help. As you can see, many workers are required to put on a track meet.

Please contact me if interested, phone (641-764-2385) or email at [craig\\_huegel@mstm.us](mailto:craig_huegel@mstm.us)

I would like to volunteer to help with the track meets  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

**High School Meets I would like to help with:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ MStM Boys Invitational, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 pm
- \_\_\_\_\_ POI Conference HS Meet, May 1, 4:00 pm
- \_\_\_\_\_ MStM Girls Invitational, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 pm

**Junior High Meets I would like to help with:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ MStM Junior High Track Meet, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00 pm
- \_\_\_\_\_ POI Conference JH Meet, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 4:00 pm
- \_\_\_\_\_ MStM JH Invitational, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4:15 p.m.

If you have a preference of jobs, please list them:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Choice: \_\_\_\_\_
- Concession Stand: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thanks...**

Recently, a visitors sign appeared at the FB field/track. A big thank you to Jeff Knickerbocker and Rob Gehringer for making and painting the sign! Looks great, and was needed!!



**Twitter**

I will be tweeting live from home contests/events at MStM\_BlueDevils. Of course, we want you at the game, but, this is a great way to stay informed if you cannot make it. Thanks, and let's support the Blue Devils!

With Blue Devil Pride,  
Craig Huegel, A.D.

**From the Desk of Mrs. Sherwood,**  
**Work Place Basics**

My work place basics class is required to job shadow each semester. The experiences of the job shadow can help guide the students into jobs or careers they find enjoyable. For some students it gives them an idea to post high school education. Some of the placing were, computers, police officer, teachers, K-12, guidance counselor, engineer positions, maintenance, retail manager, medical field, construction. I was excited about some of their experiences. I appreciate the great response from parents with the placing of students in the career areas that are of interest to the students.



Other topics that are included in this semester were how to find a job, where to look for a job, how to write a resume, cover letter etc.

The school-to-work students are enjoying the flexibility to have a job and attend school at the same time. Our students are learning life experiences in the working world. We currently have eighteen students in this program, with the addition of possibly two more in the second semester. The reviews from employers are raving about how good our students are in the working world. Congratulations school-to-work students.

[jayne\\_sherwood@mstm.us](mailto:jayne_sherwood@mstm.us). I appreciate all the help from parents.

Mrs. Sherwood  
Physical education and business instructor

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

**Tips on Gift-Giving and Receiving**

With the major holidays approaching, parents face two challenges: first, how to find the perfect presents for their children—the gifts that will be loved for years, not just hours—and perhaps more importantly, how to make sure their children are kind and grateful recipients, no matter what they get. Here are some ideas to try.

**Teach them what they're thanking people for.**

What your children need to learn is that the thanks they give isn't necessarily for what is in the box—it's for the effort and caring that went into it. Their thanks needs to show that they recognize that someone cared enough to select a present just for them, pay for it, wrap it, and bring it to them.

**Understand that disappointment is part of life.**

It's a guarantee that at some point your child is going to receive something he or she doesn't like or want. Explain this to your child ahead of time. Laugh about some gifts you've gotten that were unusual.

**When to write thanks, when to say thanks.**

Let your children know that if a relative is in the room when they open their present, that a sincere face-to-face thank you (and a hug) is great. For everyone else, a thank you note is an absolute must.

**Appeal to their desire for "more."**

Sometimes children need to think of things from their own, slightly selfish, perspectives. Tell them that people may be less inclined to give them a nice gift if they don't seem grateful for the gifts they've received in the past.

**When they're the "giver."**

One of the best ways to help children realize the significance of giving is to make sure they spend time finding and wrapping the gifts they give to others. Give them odd jobs to help them earn the money to buy gifts. Help them get excited about choosing just the right gift for each person.

**Give to others.**

Help your children help those less fortunate. Save money for charity bell-ringers, adopt a less-fortunate child through anonymous giving programs, or work in a food kitchen. Show your children that giving is more rewarding than receiving.

**Give gifts that expand their interests.**

Among the best gifts for children are things that introduce them to new activities: origami, tie dying, model planes or cars, scrapbooking, photography, cooking, or basic woodworking.

**Look for presents that help them stay active.**

Any kind of sports equipment helps kids have fun and get exercise. Either give the child something you know he or she wants and needs (a new glove), or introduce him or her to a brand new sport (tennis racket and balls).

**Practical gifts can be fun, too.**

A sleeping bag for overnights, or a small overnight bag or suitcase can be wonderful presents. Look for designs that will appeal to the child for years to come.

**Spin the wheel, roll the dice, and deal the cards.**

Card and board games are classics for a reason—they have been fun to play for decades. Look for games that children can play with just one or two others, as well as those that are for family-sized groups.

**Open up to books.**

When you give a child a book, you're giving both of you a present. Younger children will enjoy the time they get to spend reading it with you. Older kids will be quietly building their reading skills and vocabulary, as well as their imaginations.

If you're really stumped about gift-giving, talk to friends or relatives who have children slightly older than yours. Ask what gifts their children really played with—gifts that lasted in appeal long after the "newness" wore off.

**From the Desk of Mrs. Franey and Mrs. Scrivner,**  
**Second Grade**

Second Graders Celebrate Polar Express Day!

In 2011 the second grade holiday tradition will continue. On Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup> the second grade classes will be treated to a day revolving around the popular children's book The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg. Activities that the students will share include: wearing their pajamas to school, word games and puzzles, handmade ornaments, games, and enjoying treats and hot cocoa while watching "The Polar Express" movie. The students will be able to practice their compare and contrast skills using both the book and the movie.

A great time is sure to be had by all!

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 10, 2011**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on October 10, 2011.

Members Present: President, Nicole Bunch; Vice President, Dave Shutt, Wade Gibson, Amy Harper, and Dean Furness; together with Superintendent, Bob Newsum and Business Manager, Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: None

I. Welcome Board President

Bunch called the meeting to order at 5:30 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: 5 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Mr. Wood announced that the Elementary classes participated in the Start Somewhere Walk on Friday, October 7, 2011. The weather was great and everyone had a good time. The Secondary participated in the walk as well.

Mr. Crozier received many nice comments about the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, JH and HS marching band performance during last Friday night's football game. Mrs. Harper received compliments about how well things were going in the parking lot and the extended parking lot area for football games. Mr. Crozier thanked the National Honor Society for volunteering their time to help with the parking and thanked the teachers that helped as well.

Mr. Newsum announced that Martensdale St. Marys was picked 6<sup>th</sup> out of ten in Class 1A for the Bank Iowa Traveling Challenge Cup. This is a highly coveted award recognizing Iowa high school students for academic excellence and outstanding achievement during state competitions on the field and on stage. Congratulations Blue Devils!!

Mr. Newsum recognized our student athletes for how well they have conducted themselves with honor and

sportsmanship during some close losses for football and volleyball. The kids are doing a great job!

IV. Public Comments – None

V. Old Business

A. Reports Supt. Newsum

- 1) MStM Music Booster Minutes - minutes from the September 16, 2011 were provided.
- 2) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes – no minutes were provided.
- 3) MStM PTO Minutes – minutes from the September 13, 2011 were provided.

B. Presentations

1) Principal's Report Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood informed the Board about the Reading Curriculum Implementation and Alignment that he has been working on along with Mr. Moser. He provided the Board with a survey that he will be presenting to the teachers regarding curriculum. He updated the Board on upcoming projects that the PTO is working on this year. The PTO would like to provide document cameras in each elementary classroom. Mr. Wood has met with a vendor and looks forward to the opportunities that it will give the teachers and the students. Mr. Wood informed the Board about the Elementary Special Education program. He was excited to state that in the past two years at MStM, six students have been staffed into Special Education and five students have been staffed out. He was very excited about this and wanted to thank Amy DeWaard and Jodi Noga for the excellent job they have been doing in our Special Education program.

2) Principal's Report Mr. Crozier

Mr. Crozier discussed the upcoming ITEC Conference that covers technology and education. Mrs. Skellenger will be attending the conference with four of her students. It will give them a chance to see what other schools are doing with technology. Mr. Crozier announced that each student now has a gmail account with the school. This will allow them to have better access to shared documents from the teachers. He announced that MStM will be hosting the

volleyball Regional tournament on October 19<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. He announced that parent teacher conferences will be November 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> and will follow the traditional format and possibly look at student led conferences in the Spring. He announced the September Students of the Month.

- 7<sup>th</sup> Grade – Andrew Shutt
- 8<sup>th</sup> Grade – Grace Swihart
- 9<sup>th</sup> Grade – Janlynn Croy
- 10<sup>th</sup> Grade – Laura Lacquement
- 11<sup>th</sup> Grade – Cassidy Phillips
- 12<sup>th</sup> Grade – Hailey Sweet

3) Curriculum Director's Report  
Mr. Moser

Mr. Moser presented information about Instructional Strategies and Assessment Methods. He demonstrated to the Board how E2020 works in the classroom and with the teachers and how this tool has been very effective with the students. He will be attending a curriculum network meeting and hopes to meet with vendors to get information for an upcoming elementary math textbook adoption.

Mrs. Harper was dismissed at 6:00 p.m.

4) Superintendent's Report  
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum provided the Board with the Board Action Plan that was implemented for 2009-2011. It now needs to be updated and the Board will be having a workshop on October 24, 2011 at 6:00 to update their goals for the next five years. They will also look at their Vision, Mission and Beliefs for the district. The Communications Survey deadline is today, October 10, 2011. There were approximately 100 surveys done online and approximately 50 hard copies. The National Honor Society will be assisting in inputting the hard copy data into the electronic system.

VI. New Business

- A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy 702.10 Local and State Transportation Regulations Supt. Newsum

Shutt motioned to approve Policy 702.10 Local and State Transportation Regulations, seconded by Furness. Roll call: 4 ayes.

- B. Receive Preliminary Certified Enrollment Report for 2011-2012 Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum presented the preliminary enrollment figures for the 2011-2012 school year. The official 'count day' for all Iowa public school districts is October 1, but public schools have until October 15 to verify their enrollment. The board will take formal action to approve the certified enrollment at the November board meeting.

- C. Approve Level I Investigators and Alternate Level I Investigators for Identifying and Reporting Child Abuse Supt. Newsum

Gibson motioned to approved Mike Crozier and Tom Wood as the Level I Investigators, Jen Pribil and Randy Folkerts as Alternate Level I Investigators and the Warren County Sheriff Department Deputies as Level Two Investigators for alleged instances of abuse of students and district personnel for 2011-2012, seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes.

- D. Approve 2011-2012 Quality Support Committee Membership and Approve October 27, 2011 Meeting Date Supt. Newsum

Furness motioned to approve the 2011-2012 Quality Support Committee membership list and the October 27, 2011 meeting date, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes. Bunch requested that Mr. Moser discuss with the committee the facilities projects that have been done over the summer, including the parking lot at the football field, the road behind the school and cutting down the trees.

- E. Approve Personnel Resignation Supt. Newsum

Shutt motioned to approve Cynthia Wetzler's resignation request, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

- F. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates Supt. Newsum

- 11/9/11 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail
- 11/10/11 – Agenda Meeting
- 11/14/10 – 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

VII. Adjournment

Shutt motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Gibson. Roll Call: 4 Ayes. Time 6:15 p.m.

## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 24, 2011

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in special session, pursuant to law, on October 24, 2011.

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

Members Absent: None

### I. Call Work Session to Order Board President

Mrs. Bunch called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

### II. Review District Beliefs, Vision and Mission Statements

Mrs. Bunch started the conversation with the background on how the statements were developed by the Quality Support Committee several years ago. The Board started with the Belief Statement. They requested to remove Quality Support Committee from the top of the page since the Board was now going to make changes. Mr. Furness requested adding the word "learning" to "in a safe and positive learning environment".

The Board reviewed the Mission Statement and made no changes. The Board then reviewed the Vision Statement and made no changes at this time.

### III. Review Board Long-Range Goals and Plans of Action

#### A. Celebrate and Promote the District

Mrs. Bunch reviewed the history of the Board Action Plan and why it was created. In the past, the Board saw the need to reestablish the pride in the district, improve communications, eliminate incidents at events, determine what to do about declining enrollment and turnover of teachers, and what a role of a board member should be. The first goal, "Celebrate and Promote the MStM School District" was discussed and Mr. Newsum and Mrs. Bunch will work together to update the steps and action.

#### B. Improve Facilities

The next goal, "Continue to Improve Facilities" will be updated by Mr. Newsum and the Facilities Committee. The Board saw this goal as very important as our facilities are what gives a new family or a neighboring school its first impression. They reviewed the five-year long range plan that was developed and decided that the long range plan

would continue to be discussed by the Facilities Committee and those decisions would then be brought to the board for approval.

#### C. Improve Student Academic Performance

The next goal, "Engage and Motivate Students to Learn" was agreed to be a continuing goal. The Board discussed college level courses, the advisor/advisee program, how to get students motivated beyond graduation, how to help students decide on a career path, how to meet the needs of families that are struggling, how to convince teachers to advise our students to look big, ideas about a career fair, providing guidance on what courses to take, ask business owners to visit the students, have motivational speakers, and prepare the students to succeed and not fail.

#### D. Implement Iowa Core Curriculum

The next goal, "Implement Iowa Core Curriculum", was decided by the Board that this goal will continue to change by the State of Iowa. It was suggested to roll this into the "Engage and Motivate Students to Learn" goal.

#### E. Implement Technology Improvement Plan

The final goal, "Create a Long Range Technology Plan" was discussed. Mr. Wood provided a five-year Technology Cycle for 2012-2017 that included replacing the high school lab, replacing one class of 40 student laptops every year, replacing the teacher laptops, updating the elementary lab, increasing bandwidth, updating software, and replacing the server. It was suggested to create a survey for the parents and one for the students on the 1:1 initiative program. The Board discussed that there have been more concerns from parents this year about the laptops and it could be because they have now invested in a computer fee and they are expecting no problems from them. There have been connectivity problems in the school and at home. There are now more devices than expected in the building with laptops, iphones and projectors. Mr. Wood expressed his struggles this year with issues that are beyond him and he has to rely more on our technology person who comes to the district once or twice a week. The 1:1 initiative will continue to cost the district a lot of money each year. If the District follows the cycle provided by Mr. Wood, it would cost the District over \$100,000 or more in the next five years.

Mr. Newsum informed the Board that our route buses and activity buses went through inspections last week, and it was discovered that one of our activity buses will need a lot of repair to it. The Transportation Committee will need to meet to determine if the District can afford a new or used bus or not replace it at all.

IV. Develop Board Long-Range Goals and Plans-of-Action for 2011-2016

Mrs. Bunch asked the Board if there are additional goals that should be added. Mr. Shutt recommended a financial goal and how the District needs to be fiscally responsible with their decisions. The Board discussed how to reach members of the District that do not have children in school but want to volunteer for activities or in the classroom.

V. Consider Future District Staffing Needs

A. Administration

Mr. Newsum discussed staffing issues that the District is facing. He requested the Board to start thinking about what they are going to do next year for a superintendent. Mr. Newsum is willing to return next year but we have three administrators who are currently working toward their superintendent's license. He asked the Board to start thinking about combining positions, for example, part-time superintendent/principal. Mrs. Bunch agrees that we need a plan and suggested we set up another workshop to discuss the budget for next year.

B. Teaching Staff

Mrs. Bunch discussed that it is also important to bring back teaching positions like industrial arts, discuss the music program, or hire another advanced math teacher.

C. Classified Staff

Mr. Newsum also advised the Board that we need to be thinking about our custodial staff. Our facilities have grown but the staff has not. They do not have the man power to get everything done.

VI. Consider Future Meeting Dates

Mr. Newsum recommended that the Standing Committees set formal dates to meet monthly or every other month.

VII. Adjourn

Furness motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Harper. Roll Call: 5 Ayes. Time 8:05 p.m.

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@mstm.us](mailto:mike_crozier@mstm.us)

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

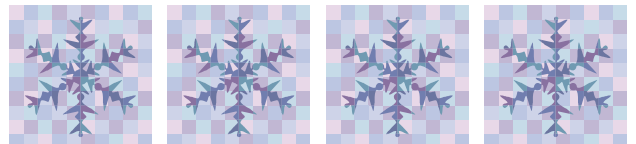
*The newsletter is available for pickup in the Superintendent's office and the Jiffy station, both are located in Martensdale.*

*You may also view it on the <http://www.mstm.us> website. Questions or concerns may be addressed to:*

*Mrs. Tomlinson  
Martensdale-St.Marys  
Superintendent's Office  
390 Burlington  
Martensdale, Iowa 50160  
[karen\\_tomlinson@mstm.us](mailto:karen_tomlinson@mstm.us)*

*Office: 641/764-2466  
Fax: 641-764-2100*

*Enjoy the Holidays!  
Have a Safe & Happy  
New Year!*



*School resumes on  
January 3, 2012*







In memory of those we've lost,  
 In celebration of those who've won  
 and in honor of those still fighting...

Veronica Krickerbocker  
 BREAST CANCER

Helen Butcher  
 BREAST CANCER

Richard Ackerman  
 LYMPHOMA

Gale Kindred  
 PANCREATIC CANCER

Chester Garver  
 LUNG CANCER

Tanner Small  
 NEUROBLASTOMA  
 CHILDHOOD CANCER

Jennifer Tomes  
 BRAIN CANCER

Butch Christensen  
 COLON CANCER

**I'm Gonna Love You Through It**

performed by Martina McBride

She dropped the phone and burst into tears  
 The doctor just confirmed her fears  
 Her husband held it in and held her tight  
 Cancer don't discriminate or care if you're just 38  
 With three kids who need you in their lives  
 He said, "I know that you're afraid and I am too  
 But you'll never be alone, I promise you"

Lori Jordan  
 BREAST CANCER

Irene Keller  
 BREAST CANCER

Ronald Araney  
 COLON CANCER

Chorus:  
 When you're weak, I'll be strong  
 When you let go, I'll hold on  
 When you need to cry, I swear that I'll be there to dry your eyes  
 When you feel lost and scared to death,  
 Like you can't take one more step  
 Just take my hand, together we can do it  
 I'm gonna love you through it.

Suzie Spock  
 Iversen  
 LUNG CANCER

Sandy Pickering Kordick  
 BREAST CANCER

Karen Araney  
 BREAST CANCER

She made it through the surgery fine  
 They said they caught it just in time  
 But they had to take more than they planned  
 Now it's forced smiles and baggy shirts  
 To hide what the cancer took from her  
 But she just wants to feel like a woman again  
 She said, "I don't think I can do this anymore"  
 He took her in his arms and said "that's what my love is for"

JoAnn Shean  
 BREAST CANCER

Papa  
 Paul Gaffey  
 BRAIN CANCER

(Chorus):  
 And when the road gets too long  
 I'll be the rock you lean on  
 Just take my hand, together we can do it  
 I'm gonna love you through it  
 I'm gonna love you through it

Delores Harris  
 OVARIAN CANCER

Caroline Davitt  
 BREAST CANCER

Janice Ellis  
 BREAST CANCER

Uncle Bobby  
 COLON CANCER

Jo Ann Nauman  
 CERVICAL CANCER

Joy Finch  
 LEUKEMIA

Catherine Noga  
 PANCREATIC CANCER

Jolene Gehringer  
 BREAST CANCER

Marilyn Noel  
 LUNG CANCER

Nana  
 Sandy Gaffey  
 BREAST CANCER

Brandi Herman  
 BREAST CANCER

Delma Jean Endres  
 PANCREATIC CANCER

Betty Jean Carver  
 COLON CANCER

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