



January 1, 2012

*From the Desk of Bob Newsum,
Superintendent*

Happy New Year:

Congratulations to Ms. Kate Cook, Martensdale-St. Marys High School senior student, for having one of her pieces of artwork selected by the Des Moines Art Center to promote their student program '2011: Nurturing a Student's Vision: Celebrating Students K-12'. Kate's work was one of only four selected from pieces submitted by area high school art students for this promotion and the portrait has been reproduced as a large banner. You can see a copy of the banner hanging in our gymnasium. Kate and Mrs. Angela Davidson, art teacher, deserve our recognition for this honor.

As we end 2011 and approach the end of the first semester of the school year, it is traditional for all of us to make 'New Year's Resolutions'. That is the perfect time for you and your family members to celebrate the successes in the classroom and as a member of our school clubs, teams, and organizations you experienced during the past year and reflect on those instances when things weren't as successful as you expected them to be. There is still time remaining to complete those overdue assignments and projects and review for semester tests.

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.

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

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.

On December 13 and 14, Ms. Keerti Patel, Iowa Department of Education Bureau of Nutrition and Health Services Consultant, conducted a comprehensive inspection and review of the district food service program. During her exit interview with Karen Tomlinson, School Foodservice Administrator, Lorretta Bell, District Food Service Director, and myself, Ms. Patel emphasized the importance of addressing family food service accounts with negative balances and recommended that the district implement the following program to reduce negative account balances. Any secondary student (grades seven through twelve) whose family food service account has a negative balance of \$20.00 or more should be served an alternate lunch meal of a peanut butter sandwich and drink for three days. After the three days of alternate lunch meals, the student should be denied any lunch meal. Elementary students would continue to receive the lunch meals while we work with the family to eliminate the negative family food service account balance. At this time we will not implement this program. It is imperative that we all work together to avoid these changes by keeping meal accounts at a positive balance at all times.

*From the Desk of Mrs. Tomlinson
Furness Family Fundraiser Report*

The Martensdale-St. Marys staff, PTO, Music Boosters and Athletic Boosters held a chili dinner as a fundraiser for the Dean Furness family on Tuesday, December 20th, from 5:00-8:00 p.m. in the school's cafeteria. The fundraiser was held



before and during the JV/V basketball games of MStM vs. the Falcons of Wayne CSD.

On December 14, Dean was involved in a serious farm accident and was air lifted to Methodist Hospital in Des Moines where he is receiving on-going treatment. Dean is not only an active MStM community member, father of three daughters who attend

MStM, but also serves on the MStM School Board.

The chili supper was held as a free will donation and all of the donations went to the Furness family. Along with the chili dinner, there were many items to be raffled and also items for the silent auction. An account has been opened at City State Bank in Martensdale for any additional donations.

The support that was received for the Furness family at the chili supper was amazing! Not only did we have enough food donated to feed a small country, but our MStM community, friends, families and guests helped to raise \$6,220. Your generosity was so amazing! A special thank you goes to the Wayne CSD Falcons and their community members for their participation and support of the fundraiser.

We were especially glad that Deonne Furness, along with her extended family, was in attendance and that we were able to lend words of encouragement, hugs and support for them during this trying time. Please continue to support them in your thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations go to the entire MStM community for going above and beyond and for your continued support! Isn't it great to be an *MStM Blue Devil*?

From the Desk of Mr. Crozier,
Secondary Principal

The end of the first semester is here. We will end our first semester on January 11th, weather permitting. Semester tests will be held on January 10th and 11th (as long as there are no snow days). If your child meets the requirements for opting out of semester tests (9-12 students), remember to sign their permission slips to be gone during the testing times that they have qualified to opt out of. The semester test policy can be found in the student handbook that is posted on our website <http://mstm.us/>.

Once again this year, the entire MStM staff has been participating in our Christmas fundraising project during the month of December. The staff was allowed to wear jeans every day for \$5.00 per week. Over the past four weeks we raised over \$1,130.00, which will be given to families in our community to help make their holiday season brighter. Congratulations to our staff for doing a good deed for our community.

Student Safety:

The Martensdale-St. Marys staff takes every effort to make sure your children are safe at school. I would like to remind you that the following items are not allowed at school; pepper spray and electronic shock devices. These items, while carried for protection, can cause harm to others if not properly taken care of. If you carry these items for safety outside of school, please leave them in your vehicle during the school day.

Helpful Hint:

One factor that influences the success of a student is their attendance. Being late to school will significantly impact a student's learning. Please try to schedule appointments for after school, if possible. When a child is absent, they are responsible for the missed work. Parents can call the school to request work for their child if they know they will be out several days. Have a relaxing and safe holiday break!

It has been a great year. Congratulations to the wrestling team and coaches for bringing home the Pride of Iowa Conference Championship. I am looking forward to many more good things in 2012.

From the Desk of Mr. Folkerts,
Secondary Counselor

FAFSA

The FAFSA (Free Applications for Federal Student Aid) can now be filled out! It is strongly recommended that you apply for financial aid, even if you don't think you will qualify for financial assistance this year or in years to come. If you are uncomfortable filling out the FAFSA forms, I highly encourage you to setup an appointment with the people at ICAN (Iowa College Access Network) also known as the College Planning Center. They are located across from Jordan Creek Mall in West Des Moines. They will fill out all forms for FREE... You just need to provide the information!

ACT Testing

There are three more ACT test dates scheduled for the remainder of this school year, February 11th, April 14th and June 9th, 2012. ACT Registration packets and practice tests can be picked up in my office. You can also register online at www.actstudent.org

Scholarships

Begin to research scholarships. Keep an ongoing file of scholarships and financial aid information (i.e., criteria, amounts, contact persons, and deadlines). Check out www.collegeplanning.org for free scholarship searches. Don't forget to check out our web site for available scholarships. We keep a hard copy of all the scholarship on the web site in the guidance office. Stop by and look through the scholarship book to see if there is anything of interest to you.

Did you know

Students with a 3.75 GPA or higher can qualify for a full tuition scholarship at AIB College of Business. They offer both Applied Science Degrees (the typical 2 year degree) and Bachelor of Science Degrees (the typical 4 year degree).

Iowa Assessments

Iowa Assessments, the new name given to the ITBS/ITED tests, will be given the week of January 30th - February 3rd. The tests won't look any different. Students will still need a No. 2 pencil to fill in the bubble. The content, though, has changed. The last time the program had a new version was the 2001-02 school year — a lag that is longer than normal, but made sense as the state was developing what is now the Iowa Core. One change is students will be able to obtain an

indicator in the four areas ACT, the college testing group, has established for college benchmarks — English, reading, math and science — and know if they are on track for the ACT exam in high school.

Please see the attached list of Boys State Track Qualifiers from MStM. If we are missing information or you can provide more information, please contact Coach Folkerts at (641-764-2486). We are updating our records and do not want to leave anyone out. Thanks!

From the Desk of Mrs. Clark,
Vocal Music Department

Where Is He?

Please help the 5/6 grade students find the Snowman when they perform the musical “The Runaway Snowman” on Thursday, January 12, 2012 in the high school gym. This performance will take place immediately after the 5/6 bands play.

High school students are preparing for the Variety Show. It is a little earlier this year, so please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. The show is scheduled for Friday, February 24, 2012 at 7:00pm.

Elementary students have been auditioning for the Iowa Choral Director’s Association Honor Choir. They will practice on Mondays after school from 3:15-4:15 to prepare for the concert on Monday, April 2 at Norwalk high school. At this honor choir, students will come from many schools to rehearse and perform that evening.

Looking ahead, parents of PK-K-1st grade students, please mark your calendars for the spring concert on Thursday, April 5th, at 7:00pm. What a fun way to welcome spring, with children singing!

From the Desk of Mrs. Sowder,
Yearbook

SENIORS and YEARBOOKS

All senior portraits and childhood photos were due into the yearbook staff on December 21. If you have not turned in your photos for the senior section, the final deadline is January 11, 2012, for inclusion in the 2012 yearbook. See Mrs. Sowder with issues related to meeting the deadline ASAP.

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

Have a happy and safe holiday season! Our winter teams are working hard during the break to improve for the stretch run into January and February. Please be sure to double check our website for game schedules, as they have and will continue to change with weather.

The Pride of Iowa Conference wrestling meet was held on Dec. 17th. I am proud to say that our wrestling team won the conference championship. Thanks to Manda Gibson for the information and team picture.

Individual place winners are as follows:

Champions: Dylan Gibson, Taylor Hagen, Kole Stapes, David Walker & Robert Walker

2nd Place: Brad Nauman

3rd Place: David DeLong and Jake Anctil

5th Place: Daultan Gibson

6th Place: Tanner Foster, Dylan Cosner & Russell Lester

A SPECIAL note: David Walker is the 4th wrestler in the entire Pride of Iowa Conference history to be crowned Conference Champion all 4 years!



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.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=15000>

Sportsmanship Reminders

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

Upcoming Fine Arts Events

Jan.12, 2012 – 5th & 6th grade band & chorus concert held in the high school gym at 7pm.

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

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 19th, 5:00 pm
_____ POI Conference HS Meet, May 1, 4:00 pm
_____ MStM Girls Invitational, May 7th, 5:00 pm

Junior High Meets I would like to help with:

_____ MStM Junior High Track Meet, April 23rd, 4:00 pm
_____ POI Conference JH Meet, April 27th, 4:00 pm
_____ MStM JH Invitational, May 3rd, 4:15 p.m.

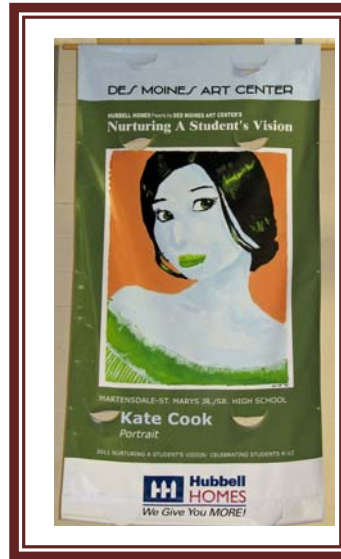
If you have a preference of jobs, please list them:

1st Choice: _____
2nd Choice: _____
3rd Choice: _____
Concession Stand: _____

With Blue Devil Pride,
Craig Huegel, A.D.
Twitter: @MSTM_BlueDevils

From the Desk of Mrs. Davidson, Art Department

In the spring, Mrs. Davidson, chose 4 pieces of art from elementary students and 4 pieces of art from secondary students. The art was on display at the Des Moines Art



Festival's Nurturing Student Vision Exhibit.

The June 2011 Art Festival had 350 pieces of art from 88 schools. The Des Moines Art Center chose Kate Cook's painting to be used for 1 of the 5 banners that were on display at the DMAF student exhibit. The banner went on to be displayed at the Des Moines Art Center and then was shipped to our school. It is currently on display in our school gym.

We are so proud of Kate and this special honor of her art representing Martensdale-St. Marys!

From the Desk of Mrs. Sowder, Tag News

The Giving Tree charity drive wrapped up on December 15 with nearly 1,000 items being donated to the Youth



Emergency Shelter Services of Des Moines. Ten of the junior high and high school seminars took up collections in December for this event. The \$145 collected was spent at Dollar General on more items. TAG students Dakota Gibson and Gabe Haptops, who helped sponsor this event, delivered the goods with Mrs. Sowder. The YESS staff was blown away by the school and community's generosity. Thanks for your support, everyone!

The high school Pride of Iowa Academic Bowl team will be traveling to Creston on January 25 to complete and are currently ranked 4th. If any parents or students would like to go along as their cheerleaders, please let Mrs. Sowder know when we return from break on January 3.

From the Desk of Mr. Wood, Elementary Principal

Flu Season is Here

Because of the flu shot shortage, health experts are asking everyone who is healthy and between the ages of 2 and 64 years old to forego the vaccination this year. Here is some important information to help you deal with this year's flu season.

The Vaccine

Young toddlers should be vaccinated.

Children between 6 months and 23 months—healthy or not—should still receive a flu vaccine, as should older adults (ages 65 and older), pregnant women, and healthcare workers.

Some school-age children still need the vaccine.

Children with chronic health problems still need to get a flu shot.

Follow your nose.

The intranasal vaccine (inhaled through the nose) may be available for children and adults, ages 5 to 49, who want protection from the flu but are not considered high risk. Pregnant women should not use this vaccine.

Prevention

Spread the word about spreading germs.

Because germs are invisible, it's difficult for children to understand how dangerous a cough or sneeze can be. Be sure to stress to them the importance of washing their hands, using lots of soap and water, and scrubbing until there are bubbles—before meals and snacks and after coughing, sneezing, or using a tissue. Many brands of liquid hand soap come in fun designs, scents, or colors, and letting children pick their own can be a fun way to encourage hand washing.

Sing the birthday song.

Teach your child to wash their hands for as long as it takes to sing the entire "Happy Birthday" song.

There's a place to cough.

Certainly, children need to learn to always cover their mouths when they cough, but one way to prevent the spread of germs is to have them cough into their sleeves, not their hands.

Keep hands away from eyes, nose, and mouth.

Children sometimes absentmindedly put their fingers in their mouth or nose, or rub their eyes. Help your kids keep their hands away from "germy" areas—eyes, nose, and face.

Tissue talk.

"Used" tissues are full of germs. Teach your children to immediately put used tissues in the trash and then wash their hands.

Too Sick to Be in School?

Extreme fatigue or muscle aches.

Children who can't keep their eyes open, even after having a normal night's sleep, may be coming down with something. Add an "achy" feeling and loss of appetite, and it's likely that

the flu is on the way. If your child is feeling too ill to stay awake in class, consider having him or her stay home. At the very least, alert the teacher and make sure someone is available in case he or she needs to come home. Before returning to school, your child needs to have gone without a fever or vomiting for at least 24 hours.

Get the school's help with make-up work.

Talk to the teacher to find out the best way for your child to make up missed work. Often, a child not quite well enough to return to class can complete assignments at home, making the workload a lot easier to manage once he or she is back in school. Children who are feverish, nauseated, or bone-tired can't learn well and can spread their illness to others, so keep them home. Be sure that if they do miss school, it is for a good reason, and have them make up the work as soon as possible.

From the Desk of Mrs. Pribil, **Elementary Counselor**

Counselor's Corner



I hope everyone had a great winter break! Now, back to reality. ☺ We will be administering the Iowa Assessments (formerly known as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills) to all students in grades 3-6 January 30th-February 10th. The elementary students take these tests over a 2 week period to space them out so they are only testing an hour a day at the most.

Because standardized tests can cause anxiety for some children, it's always a good idea to talk with your child about it to ease their worries. Explain to your child that standardized state tests are yardsticks that teachers, schools, school districts and states use to measure what and how they teach and how well students are learning. Teach your child the following, calling it the A-B-C-D Rules for Test Taking:

- **A**-lways read the directions twice.
- **B**-reathe in and out 5 times to relax.
- **C**-arefully read the questions and answer the easy ones first.
- **D**-on't hand in the test until you have double-checked your work

Our next Character Counts assembly will be held on Friday, January 13 at 8:40 in the small gym. We will be awarding the most responsible student from each classroom.

From the Desk of Ms. Burns & Mrs. Pollock
MStM Pre-School

In October, we attended training on Creative Curriculum, which closely aligns with the Iowa Early Learning Standards. We have been implementing many ideas from that training into our classrooms. We have added pictures from around our community to the block center, which the kids have enjoyed making buildings that they are familiar with.

We are also giving students the opportunity for literacy and writing in each center in our rooms. Giving them this opportunity increases their development in pre-reading skills and fine motor skills. During the month of December, we have been learning about holidays from around the world. While we were learning about Las Posadas, we added a poinsettia to our discovery center. Students enjoyed looking at the leaves with magnifying glasses, watering the plant, and recording their observations on paper. Come check out our Blue Devils Space to see what else the preschoolers have been up to!

-Ms. Burns and Mrs. Pollock



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 10, 2011

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

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

Members Absent: Nicole Bunch, President

The Vice President called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Mrs. Gavin reviewed the agenda items for the November 14, 2011 Board Meeting.

Gibson moved to adjourn, seconded by Furness. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time: 5:40 p.m.

APPROVED


Board President


Business Manager

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 14, 2011

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on November 14, 2011.

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

Members Absent: Vice President, Dave Shutt

I. Welcome Board President

Bunch called the meeting to order at 4:05 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 asked about the annual fund balance and Gavin informed her that is the yearbook account. Harper asked about the revenue for the month in the Elementary Student Council fund. It was discovered that the amount was taken out of the account by mistake and then was put back in. Mr. Gibson motioned to approve the consent items, seconded by Mr. Furness. Roll call: 4 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Mr. Wood congratulated Dakota Gibson for winning the essay contest last year as a 6th grader and he recently found out that Dakota was selected Honorable Mention out of the whole state of Iowa. Congratulations Dakota!

Mr. Wood announced to the Board that he had 99% parent teacher conference attendance on November 1st and 3rd. Conferences went really well.

Mr. Crozier announced that the High School performed the Fall Play on November 11-12 and that it was a huge success. He was proud of all of the students and even those students that worked behind the scenes did a great job.

IV. Public Comments – None

V. Old Business

A. Reports

Supt. Newsum

- 1) MStM Music Booster Minutes - minutes from the October 10, November 7 meetings and the treasurer's report were provided. Mr. Furness mentioned that they did some fundraising during the Fall Play.
- 2) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes – minutes from the September 15 and the October 12 meetings were provided.
- 3) MStM PTO Minutes – minutes from the October 10 and November 8 meetings were provided.

B. Presentations

1) Facilities Report

Mr. Gibson went over the 5-year Facilities Report and noted that the two big ticket items that needed to be discussed were replacing the elementary gym roof and replacing the baseball lights at the baseball field. Three quotes were provided to the Board for the gym roof. The gym roof has been a concern for several years showing signs of breaking down in areas due to tar content being dry and brittle. Another concern of the roof is the asbestos in the roof. Mr. Newsum mentioned that because of the scope of the project we found out that we do not have to take the membrane off and deal with the asbestos. After much discussion that included: getting in writing from an inspector that we do not need to worry about the asbestos, hiring an architect to get the job done right, and do we remove the whole roof or just put another layer over it. The Board requested to hire an architect, have an inspector put in writing about the asbestos and update the 5-year spreadsheet to show what year the money is coming out of.

The Board also decided to put a hold on the baseball lights. They felt it was more important to concentrate on the gym project right now. If the lights go out we can find a contingent plan for playing games. The Board did request more information about needing a new transformer to hold not only lights but a new scoreboard.

The Board also discussed putting new cabinets in the Family Consumer Science classroom and will wait to see what that quote will be. They talked about putting a concrete parking lot at the football field and

do it in phases. They asked what kind of funding that would take. The Facilities Committee will meet again before the December board meeting.

2) Nutrition and Healthy Kids

Mr. Crozier informed the board about the Nutrition and Healthy Kids meeting that was held on November 10, 2011.

Parents, students and staff members were invited to the meeting. They discussed why the district needs to raise prices for elementary and secondary lunches to meet federal guidelines, they discussed new options for breakfast and lunch, they went over the Healthy Kids Act, and reviewed briefly the board policy. The policy was revised two years ago and this committee will discuss the policy again at the next meeting. Mr. Crozier discussed how the staff did a Biggest Loser contest last year and there are staff members working out after school and in the mornings. Mr. Crozier is now working on allowing each secondary class to pick a meal once a month.

3) Principal's Report Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood provided the list of students selected for Character Counts who demonstrate trustworthiness.

- Pre K – Ava DiCesare
Emily Hughes
- Kdg – Valerie Septer
Autumn Ackerson
- 1st – Eric Schmidt
McKenzie Keeney
- 2nd – Kaylynn Fisk
Dixie Bradford
- 3rd – Brooks Trom
Maggie Girardi
- 4th – Jose Gonzalez
Brynn Olson
- 5th – Katelyn Amfahr
Jena Wenck
- 6th – Connor Boehler
Tim Hornback

Mr. Wood presented the 1st Quarter Gold and Blue Honor Roll. He reviewed with the Board the equity audit data that covers gender and the free and reduced population. The data will help identify problems and look into solutions.

4) Principal's Report Mr. Crozier

Mr. Crozier presented the 1st Quarter Discipline Report. Detentions are continuing to decline and contributed to calling home for every detention, the advisor/advisee program, creating relationships between students and staff members and having the staff correct the students on the little things. Suspensions are also declining.

Mr. Crozier had 47% participation at our parent teacher conferences. This is normal in the secondary level. The staff communicates with the parents all the time and the parents know their grades throughout the quarter with the access of JMC.

Mr. Crozier presented the 1st Quarter Honor Roll. He went over the power point presentation that was used at the Parent Advisory Committee meeting on November 3rd. The purpose of the meeting was to provide ideas, suggestions and guidance as the administrators consider educational improvements. They discussed the 1:1 computing program, the Valedictorian selection, the school web site and what programs should be added when funding becomes available.

Mr. Crozier stated that the play went very well but the attendance was not great and they will try to get the word out more. The Board talked about the Variety Show in the Spring and how to present it differently this year.

Mr. Crozier announced the October Students of the Month.

- 7th – Tom Warden
- 8th – Josh Belieu
- 9th – Zach DeLong
- 10th – Vicki DeLong
- 11th – Katrina Devore
- 12th – Tayler Schad

4) Curriculum Director's Report
Mr. Moser

Mr. Moser updated the Board about the last Professional Development meeting. The staff is reading three articles from Education of Leadership. They are to read, discuss and send him a summary of their notes and questions. Mr. Moser discussed the elementary math adoption program. Currently the elementary staff is reviewing

materials from two different companies and looking at ways to expand assessment practices. The Quality Support Committee met in October and discussed technology use, food services and courses students are taking through DMACC. He informed the Board that he is available to anytime to meet with the Curriculum Subcommittee

5) Superintendent's Report
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum asked the Board to consider holding our board meetings at 4:00 in December, January and February. This will allow teachers and students to attend the board meetings and allow our staff and board members to attend activities in the evenings. The Board agreed and will review the board policy at the December board meeting.

Mr. Newsum informed the board about the events leading up to the decision of the Senior Class Motto and Class Song. The original motto was inappropriate and the class song referenced alcohol. The class has since voted on a new motto and song.

Mr. Newsum asked the Board when they would like to have a budget workshop to discuss FY13. The Board agreed to discuss a date in January at the December board meeting.

Mr. Newsum and Mr. Crozier attended a meeting with the President of DMACC and other Warren County schools to discuss the new Career Academy that will be located at the old Southridge Mall location. Mr. Newsum would like the Board to take a tour of one of the facilities to get an idea of how the new facility would look like.

Mr. Newsum will be sending out the fall quarterly newsletter in November. He will be promoting the information gathered from the recent survey.

Mr. Newsum informed the Board that the administration will be meeting with Woodward Academy about a student who will be released from detention. The student's mother has recently moved to the Martensdale St. Marys school district and it will be our responsibility to educate this student. Mr. Newsum will be contacting the school attorney to discuss what our rights are as a district and what the student's rights will be.

VI. New Business

- A. Approve 1st Reading Board Policy 407.6:
Licensed Employee Early Retirement
Supt. Newsum

The Board would like to know where we are financially before approval of offering of early retirement.

- B. Approve Certified Enrollment Report for 2011-2012
Supt. Newsum

The Martensdale St. Marys certified count on October 1, 2011 increased by 20.68 for a total of 533.16. This will increase our state funding for fiscal year 2013. Mr. Furness motioned to approve the certified enrollment of 533.16, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes.

- C. Approve Personnel Recommendations
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Furness motioned to approve Denise Wolff as a part-time cook, Brent Parrott as JH Boys Basketball Coach, Melissa Jensen and Don Hatcher as volunteer basketball coaches, Tom Vodraska, Sean Lash, and Trevor Gehringer as volunteer wrestling coaches, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes.

- D. Discuss/Approve Facilities 5-Year Plan
Supt. Newsum

The Board agreed to table approving any projects for FY12 or FY13 until we get further details on the gym roofing project.

- E. Approve SBRC Application for Increasing Enrollment/OE Out
Supt. Newsum

Harper motioned to approve the SBRC Application for Increasing Enrollment, Open Enrollment Out, and LEP Instruction beyond 4 years, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

- F. Approve Early Graduation Requests
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Crozier informed the Board that we have two students who have met the required credits for graduation and have requested early graduation. Harper motioned to approve the early graduation request of two Seniors, seconded by Furness. Roll call: 4 ayes.

- G. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates
Supt. Newsum

12/07/11 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail
12/08/11 – Agenda Meeting

12/12/10 – 4:00 p.m. Board Meeting

It was agreed to move the Technology Committee Meeting to December 1, 2011 at 4:00 p.m. Gavin will update the website to show 4:00 board meetings for December, January, and February.

VII. Adjournment

Harper motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Furness. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time: 5:35 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@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

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