



MARTENSDALE- ST. MARYS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

April 1, 2011

Message from Dr. Bob Newsum
Superintendent

Greetings:

As we enter the spring season, many families consider relocating to new homes. During my years as a building principal and a superintendent, I've seen a significant increase in the number of parents who have accepted new employment and are considering a move from their current home who 'shop around' to decide where to relocate. Perhaps the single most important consideration for those parents with students still in school is the school district their children will be attending. I'm sure that Mr. Crozier and Mr. Wood will receive several calls between now and the end of the year asking whether the parents and students who are considering a move to the Des Moines metro area can come to our school for a tour and to have their questions answered. You are all ambassadors for the Martensdale St. Marys Community School District and my request to you is that when you hear of parents who are joining your place of business, you suggest that they call Tom Wood, Elementary Principal, (641-764-2621), Mike Crozier, Secondary Principal, (641-764-2486), or Bob Newsum, Superintendent, at my office telephone (641-764-2466) or on my cell phone (641-203-8893). We would enjoy the opportunity to share the many good things associated with our school with those prospective new students and their parents.

I have included an invitation to you to join the District Communications Advisory Committee at the end of the last three newsletter articles and would extend the same request that you join us at our next communications committee meeting, scheduled for Monday, April 18, beginning at 6:00 PM, in the school Media Center. The committee has generated a prioritized list of strategies and methods for us to celebrate and promote the Martensdale St. Marys Community School District and Mr. Dean Furness has recently helped us identify a second focus for our communications committee efforts, which is to create a clear message associated with what we are offering that sets us apart from our neighboring districts. I want to thank Mr. Furness for his contributions and affirm that we are moving in the right direction. We are currently planning to develop a quarterly district newsletter that will be printed and mailed to all district patrons who reside in Warren and Madison Counties. This quarterly newsletter will include some articles from the January, February, and March electronic newsletters, as well as new informational articles that will celebrate and promote the great things that are occurring at your school. Look for this

newsletter to be delivered to your home during the last week of April or first week of May. The second quarterly newsletter will be mailed during the last week of July or first week of August.

Elsewhere in this month's newsletter is an article related to student performance on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills, standardized tests taken annually by students in grades three through eight, and the Iowa Tests of Educational Development, standardized tests taken by students in grades nine through eleven. Our students generally performed so well, this year, that I thought it was worthy of special recognition. For this month's message, I'll focus my comments to those students in the secondary grades (grades seven through eleven). As a refresher for you, the Federal Department of Education established a program known as No Child Left Behind (NCLB) several years ago and required all public school districts throughout the United States to report student performance results in the general areas of reading comprehension, mathematics, and science. The NCLB program also established a minimum level of proficiency for each of the tested areas.

For the 2010-2011 school year, for **reading comprehension** in grade seven, 86% of our students; in grade eight, 81% of our students; in grade nine, 85% of our students; in grade ten, 77% of our students; and in grade eleven, 82% of our students performed at the mandated proficiency level. Performance in **reading comprehension** was improved for students at all grade levels.

For the 2010-2011 school year, for **mathematics** in grade seven, 89% of our students; in grade eight, 84% of our students; in grade nine, 79% of our students; in grade ten, 89% of our students; and in grade eleven, 79% of our students performed at the mandated proficiency level. Performance in **mathematics** was improved for students at all grade levels, except grade eleven, where the rate of proficient performance slipped from 82.5% to 79%.

For the 2010-2011 school year, for **science** in grade seven, 97% of our students; in grade eight, 93% of our students; in grade nine, 79% of our students; in grade ten, 89% of our students; and in grade eleven, 86% of our students performed at the mandated proficiency level. Performance in **science** was improved for students at all grade levels, except grade ten, where the rate of proficiency slipped from 97% to 89%.

At the regular March Board of Education meeting, held on March 14, 2011, the Board of Education members decided to keep the property tax rate of \$18.73 per \$1,000 of assessed

valuation for the Martensdale St. Marys Community School District for the 2011-2012 school year at the same rate as property owners are currently paying.

From the Desk of Mr. Crozier,
Secondary Principal

Congratulations to all the secondary students for their success on the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills and the Iowa Test of Educational Development. As you can see by Mr. Moser's article, we have very high proficiency rates for all of our classes in Reading Comprehension, Math, and Science. As a matter of fact, our classes raised their proficiency rate in 13 of the 15 tests. Some of them raised their rates by 10 percent or more. Look for more information about our test scores in the May newsletter.

Welcome to spring time. Our spring at Martensdale-St. Marys will be very busy. We have many athletic, music, and academic events planned for April and May. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about a few of them.

Let me start off with the Every 15 Minutes Program. This educational event will take place on May 10th and 11th. The Every 15 Minutes Program offers real-life experience without the real-life risks. This emotionally charged program, entitled Every 15 Minutes, is an event designed to dramatically instill teenagers with the potentially dangerous consequences of drinking alcohol or texting while driving. This powerful program will challenge students to think about drinking, texting while driving, personal safety, and the responsibility of making mature decisions when lives are involved. A simulated traffic collision will be viewable at the stadium. Rescue workers will treat injured student participants. This program can be very emotional for participants and spectators. We will have counselors on hand throughout the two days.

The St. Marys and Martensdale Fire and Rescue Departments, Warren County Sheriff's Department, and the Madison County Hospital are just a few organizations that will be involved with the program. If you have any questions or concerns about the program please, call me at the high school office (641)764-2486.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Each year, the Warren County Child Abuse Prevention Council joins with others across the state and country to increase awareness about child abuse and the importance of prevention. The theme of the local campaign is "Protecting Children is Everyone's Business". Banners and signs are displayed throughout the county to proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Blue ribbons have long been associated with child abuse prevention. Ribbons are tied on trees outside of county buildings and area schools to remind people that child abuse can be prevented. Blue pinwheels are also being used across the country as part of the national *Pinwheels for Prevention* campaign. Pinwheels are a reminder of childhood and are symbolic of the change and forward progress in families across America. Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to increase awareness about the importance of prevention, a time

to reduce risk factors for abuse, and to promote protective factors to ensure the well-being of children and families.

The Junior High will be attending an assembly titled "Mad About Money II-Pay Yourself First" on April 14th. The National Theater for Children uses professional live actors that combine high energy sketch comedy with improvisation to teach students educational messages through a fun experience.



Martensdale-St. Mary's High School Students, Parents, Faculty and Staff:

I would like to take a brief moment to introduce myself, and explain my role here at Martensdale-St. Mary's High School. My name is Keith Walton, and I am a Certified Athletic Trainer for Accelerated Rehabilitation Centers. I will be providing free injury screens on a weekly basis at **11:30am in the Martensdale-St. Mary's gymnasium.**

As a Certified Athletic Trainer, I am an allied health care professional trained in the prevention, recognition, immediate care, treatment and rehabilitation of athletic injuries. I am here as a resource for Martensdale-St. Mary's athletes, faculty/staff and community.

Accelerated Rehabilitation Centers is the premier provider of physical rehabilitation services. We are dedicated to our patients' rapid and safe return to work and recreation. Accelerated offers a hands-on, service-oriented approach that our patients value. The closest Accelerated Rehabilitation Centers facility to Martensdale-St. Mary's High School is in Norwalk.

800 Colonial Circle, Suite 100
Norwalk, IA 50211
515-953-1310

Please feel free to contact me with your healthcare questions or concerns. I can be reached at 515-205-5798 or by email, kwatson@acceleratedrehab.com.

From the Desk of Mr. Peterson,
Blue Devils Activities Director

Congratulations to the girls' basketball team on winning the Class 1A State Championships. It was an amazing season and your hard work paid off. Sam Norris made the Class 1A All-Tournament Team and Mackenzie Morrison was named the captain of the All-Tournament Team. Congratulations on these very deserving honors. The postseason honors for our girls are still rolling in at this time. I will try to get a complete list of honors put together for the next newsletter.

The arrival of spring brings the track season. I have included a form for you to use if you would like to help with our track meet. **The form is located at the end of the newsletter.** The help I had last spring was outstanding. If you can help, we can use it.

From the Desk of Mr. Folkerts
Secondary Counselor

Happy Spring to everyone! Here are a couple of things you should be aware of:

-Seniors: By now you should have submitted your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), if you haven't, complete it as soon as possible. You should also check with your college(s) to determine if there are other financial aid applications required. Many colleges have priority deadlines as to when the FAFSA should be submitted.

The last ACT test date is June 11th. May 6th is the regular registration postmark deadline. The late registration deadline is extended to May 20st for this test. You can register online at www.actstudent.org or pick up a registration packet in the guidance office.

I will be working with all 9th -11th grade students on various career exploration and scheduling items this quarter. We will be working on our academic plans associated with college interests.

Students can start registering for Fall DMACC classes starting April 27th for returning students and June 8th for new students. There is no guarantee that you can get into a certain class so the earlier you sign up the better you are. **IMPORTANT:** DMACC's policy states that no students can sign-up for a college class after July 22nd ...No exceptions! So if you want to take a DMACC class you need to register before the deadline. Please contact Mr. Folkerts if you have any questions.

Let's try to make the last quarter of the year our best and most enjoyable!!!

Randy Folkerts, School Counselor

From the Desk of Mrs. Sowder,
English Department

The mock trial is Friday, April 22nd from 9:50-11:50 in the library and is open to community members and parents. Audience members should e-mail Amy Sowder at amy_sowder@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us with a confirmation of attendance, if at all possible. Thank you!

HAT WEEK

Sponsored by the Yearbook Staff April 18-22
\$2.00 per week of \$.50 per day. Pay and get stamped daily in the commons-Grades PK-12

From the Desk of Mrs. Davidson
Art Department

Secondary Art Shows

Junior High Art will be on display during the Junior High Spring Concert on Monday, May 2. 7th and 8th graders will display their 1 Point Perspective Rooms and 2 Point Perspective Cities.

High School Art will be on display during the Fine Arts Awards Night on Monday, May 16th. The Fine Arts Night will acknowledge students who are excelling in drama, writing, music and the visual arts. Artwork from students who took art classes this year will be on display.

From the Desk of Mr. Moser,
Curriculum Director

We have received the results of the 2010-2011 Iowa Tests of Basic Skills (ITBS) and Iowa Tests of Educational Development (ITED). Students in grades 3-8 took their ITBS at the end of January and the first week in February and students in grades 9-12 took their ITED at approximately the same time (elementary students had their tests spread out over a two-week period). The test results are reported to the state and federal Departments of Education for progress monitoring related to our district's No Child Left Behind (NCLB) goals. These annual goals are established by the Quality Support Committee, MStM's version of a state-mandated school improvement advisory committee (SIAC). Comprised of students, parents, teachers, administrators, and Board members, the Quality Support Committee meets twice a year to review testing data, engage in shared decision-making, and establish performance goals for the coming school year.

As a preview of the upcoming Quality Support Committee meeting on April 28th, we are pleased to share our progress and testing results of the 2010-2011 school year. In the charts that follow, the percentages reflect the portion of the students in each grade level that are above the 40th percentile. In other words, they represent the portion of students in that grade who scored at a proficiency level aligned with NCLB standards.

First, students in grades 3-8 complete the ITBS in several content areas, but NCLB only requires us to report the following content areas.

Grade Level	Reading	Math	Science
3 rd	87.00%	94.00%	94.00%
4 th	89.00%	84.00%	87.00%
5 th	77.00%	82.00%	84.00%
6 th	51.00%	65.00%	71.00%
7 th	86.20%	88.89%	97.22%
8 th	81.40%	83.73%	93.02%

High school students complete the ITEDs in a variety of content areas, but like the ITBS tests, our district goals focus on the areas of reading comprehension, mathematics, and science. The 2010-2011 proficiency rates are as follows:

Grade Level	Reading	Math	Science
9 th	84.85%	78.79%	78.79%
10 th	77.28%	88.63%	88.64%
11 th	81.82%	79.28%	86.36%

A more in-depth analysis and explanation of these data will be completed for use next month's Quality Support Committee meeting. If you have questions or are interested in learning more about the ITBS/ITED results, our district NCLB goals, and other information related to district testing and progress monitoring, you are welcome to attend the Quality Support Committee meeting on Thursday, April 28th at 7:00PM in the high school media center.

From the Desk of Mrs. Clark,
Vocal Music Dept.

Music in Motion

Music *and* musicians will be in motion this coming month! On Tuesday, April 5th, our youngest students will present their spring concert, entitled, "All Creatures Great and Small". Students in first grade will present a short musical about going to the zoo, and the kindergarten will help sing the songs. Preschool students will also participate with two songs about bears. Admission to the concert is a free-will donation. Please put this on your calendar and plan on coming to support the young musicians!

Students in high school band and chorus will be participating in the Iowa High School Music Association Solo and Ensemble Festival. We will be traveling to Twin Cedars on Saturday, April 9th to perform before a judge. This opportunity provides for an educational experience in preparing music, performing, and musical assessment.

Some of the students who are preparing music for this IHSMA Solo/Ensemble will also share their songs at the Baccalaureate service here at MStM on Wednesday, April 27th.

The spring concert that was planned for the junior high and high school band and choruses has been changed from Friday, April 29th to Monday, May 2nd. Please make this change on your calendars. This is the concert that we honor our senior musicians.

Late that week on Friday, May 6, high school students will participate in the IHSMA Large Group Festival at Earlham. This time students will be performing before three judges for a rating.

From the Desk of Mr. Wood,
Elementary Principal

Energy Drinks—Too Risky for Kids

The latest dangerous trend affecting children is energy drinks. There are no age restrictions, so young children are routinely purchasing energy drinks at grocery and convenience stores.

What Are Energy Drinks?

Energy drinks:

- Are carbonated beverages claiming to increase alertness and endurance;
- Contain up to 3,000 mg of stimulants per serving (compared with 34.5 mg in a can of Coca-Cola); and
- Common brands include Red Bull, Monster, and Rockstar.

What Are the Risks?

Energy drink companies are marketing these drinks to children through television shows and sports advertisements. Adolescent males are quickly becoming the top consumers of energy drinks in this \$10 billion industry. A recent study titled "Epidemic: Teen Perceptions and Consumption" indicates that by age 12, one in three students had tried energy drinks. By age 14, 80 percent had tried an energy drink and nearly 50 percent consumed the drinks on a routine basis. Energy drinks have large amounts of stimulants, including guarana (one of the most potent sources of caffeine). While companies are required to state caffeine is an ingredient, they are not required to list other stimulants or to include the amounts. Companies are not required to list the potential risks of the beverages.

Known side effects of consuming excessive stimulants in energy drinks include:

- Heart palpitations;
- Caffeine addiction;
- Severe headaches;
- Rapid heartbeat;
- Jolt and crash episodes;
- Jitteriness and nausea;
- Insomnia; and
- Increased propensity for strokes.

The long-term effects of children using energy drinks are unknown. Research indicates that childhood energy drink consumption might be linked to future illicit drug use.

What Can We Do?

Talk to your kids about the risks of energy drinks to prevent first trial. "Our children don't need more drugs (or more stimulants) like the caffeine these drinks contain, not to mention the empty calories provided by these drinks," says Denise Koo of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention **Speak to your pediatrician** if you suspect that your child may be experiencing these symptoms.

Prevent energy drink consumption at schools. Talk to your child's school about your concerns. Limiting students' access to unhealthy foods and beverages is important to their health. Restricting the use of energy drinks on campus, particularly for elementary and middle schools, can send a strong message about the potential harms of these beverages. An important step was taken by the Los Angeles Unified School District, which eliminated energy drinks from vending machines and school stores as part of its ban on sale of sugar-sweetened drinks, notes Steven Teutsch, chief scientist at the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health.

Kindergarten Roundup

Friday, May 6, 2011

9:00 am – 2:00 pm

There will be an informational meeting for the parents that will have a child entering kindergarten in the fall of 2011. The meeting will be at 6:00 PM on Thursday, April 28th in the High School Media Center. We will be sending a packet out to the families who have contacted the office with their mailing information. The packet will include information about the meeting and our upcoming school year.

We will be holding a round-up day for the upcoming kindergarten students on Friday, May 6th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. This will be a day filled with meeting new friends, exploring the kindergarten classrooms, and a chance for the kindergarten teachers and children to meet one another.

Please contact Brenda DePauw at 641-764-2621 in the elementary office if you know of a family that will have a child entering kindergarten next fall! It is important that we spread the word and reach out to any new families in the district so that everyone has the opportunity to take part in these two dates!

Calling All “2011-2012” Pre-School Students

If you have a child that will be 4 years of age by September 15, 2011, then please call Mrs. DePauw at 641-764-2621 in the elementary office to get on the list for the 2011-2012 pre-school roster.

Tell all your friends and neighbors too, as there will be a limited number of spaces available. Thanks for your help!

Martensdale-St. Marys Summer Childcare

With the long winter we have had, it is exciting to be thinking about warm weather plans. It is time once again to sign up for summer daycare. Summer daycare will begin on Monday, May 30, 2011 and will end August 16, 2011 with our hours being 6:30 am to 5:30 pm.

We will provide your child with breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack along with arts and crafts, group games, computer time, reading and education time, and free time to

play. We are planning lots of fun activities including field trips twice a week and swimming.

We are asking that parents interested in summer daycare contact the daycare @ 641-344-9889 or e-mail sandi_christensen@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us to register your child/children (new and current enrollees). We are asking that registration be completed by May 6, 2011.

From the Desk of Mrs. Pelzer & Mrs. Reynolds Fourth Grade News

Thanks to all parents who came to conferences, we appreciate all of your support! Working together has made it for an easy year. As we wrap up the year we want to encourage the kids to continue working hard as they have been throughout the year. We know we get antsy towards the end, but we can do it!

MATH~ We are just finishing up multiplying by 2 & 3 digit numbers, and will end the year with long division and maybe some fractions. Please continue working with your child on his/her facts as they will continue to need to know these as they progress. In Mrs. Pelzer's class the kids finished up their multiplication by having an ice cream party! They earned scoops as they mastered their facts—way to go!!

Language/Reading~ Working on grammar and writing fluent sentences to add detail to our stories we work on. We are still implementing the Daily 5 options and will dive in to more book clubs as the year wraps up. The kids have enjoyed this new avenue to learning to become a better reader using the Daily 5 and CAFÉ strategies. The kids and us as teachers have all worked together to make this a success.



Science/Social Studies~ The kids were so proud to put together their very own PowerPoint over their animal choice. They researched the material, then created their project with enthusiasm, and finally presented to their classmates. To end the year we will finish up by discussing Earth's history and weather. In Social Studies our final region will be the west states and then on to the BIG 50 states final test! If we get enough time we will choose our own state by creating a PowerPoint presentation.



Earlier in the year around Christmas time 4P collected items for the children of Haiti. We also raised money for shipping by making our own accessories and sold them to the community. We were able to raise over \$150 in that project, plus the clothing, baby essentials, hygiene items, etc. that we also sent. They were very grateful in accepting this and we were very thrilled to have been given this opportunity as a class to reach out to those in need. Attached is a picture of our success and some of the kids making their accessories!

Wanted: Bus Driver

2011-2012 MStM Bus Route Available

**Requirements: CDL License and Bus Owner
Deadline for applications June 1, 2011**

**Contact: Supt. Bob Newsum, 641-764-2466
Martensdale-St.Marys CSD / EOE Employer**



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2011

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on Thursday, February 9, 2011.

Members Present: Nicole Bunch, President; Dave Shutt, Vice President, by phone; Amy Harper, Scott Anderson, Wade Gibson together with Superintendent Robert Newsum and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: None

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

Supt. Newsum reviewed the agenda items for the Monday, February 14, 2011 Board Meeting.

Anderson moved to adjourn, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 5:48 p.m.

APPROVED

Nicole Bunch
Board President

Jill C. Gavin
Business Manager

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Provided by the Martensdale Lion Club

***Meet on April 16, 2010 at 11:00am
at the park by the bike trail***

Children will be divided by ages during hunt



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2011

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

Members Present: President, Nicole Bunch; 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: Scott Anderson

- I. Welcome Board President
Bunch 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

Bunch requested the Share the Vision account to be corrected. Harper motioned to approve the consent items seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Mr. Crozier announced that our wrestling team was District Champs on February 12, 2011. We have five wrestlers going to the Wrestling State Tournament starting on February 16, 2011; which include Dylan Gibson, Taylor Hagen, Cole Stapes, David Walker and Robert Walker.

Mr. Crozier announced that our Girls Basketball Team was Conference Champs ending the season 16-0 with a #1 State Ranking.

Mr. Crozier announced that some of our MStM Staff are participating in the Biggest Loser Contest. In the first four weeks 25 staff members have lost a total of 273 pounds. Way to go!

Mr. Wood announced that the Elementary have completed the ITBS, but due to the flu season, 50 students have at least one exam to make up.

Mr. Newsum announced that he will be in Mrs. Davidson's class on February 21st throwing pots on the potting wheel. Mr. Newsum was a past art teacher and is looking forward to presenting to the high school.

IV. Public Comments - none

V. Old Business

A. Reports

1) Facilities Report – No report.

2) MStM Music Booster Minutes – Minutes were provided from the February 9, 2011 meeting.

3) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes – Minutes were provided from the December 15, 2010 meeting.

4) MStM PTO Minutes – Minutes were provided from the January 20, 2011 meeting.

B. Presentations

1) Principal's Report Tom Wood

Character Counts! Caring Students

PK: Aria Volz and Isabella Warner

K: Tyler Higen and Adam Reynolds

1st: Colton Fluharty and Anne Briney

2nd: Derek Kleve and Jacob Curnes

3rd: Elizabeth Devore and Evan Ballard

4th: Zach Hughes and Angel Castro

5th: Chandler Craig and Sophia Dunahoo

6th: Johnnie Croy and Abby Anctil

2) Principal's Report Mike Crozier

Mr. Crozier announced the JH and HS Band and Chorus Pops Concert will be held on March 3, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

He then announced recent accomplishments from our wrestling team and the girls and boys basketball teams.

Wrestling:

2nd Place finish in Sectionals

Advanced to the Regional Dual meet and was the Regional Dual Runner up by 1 point

Sectional Runner Up: Brad Nauman

Sectional Champs: Dylan Gibson, Taylor Hagen, Cole Stapes, Davis DeLong, David Walker, Robert Walker, Dillon Coates

Basketball – The Girls ended the season as **Conference Champs** with a 16-0 record, 19-2 Overall, and a number 1 ranking in the state. The Boy ended the season 8-8 Conference and 10-9 Overall.

January Students of the Month:

7th Anna Wetzler

8th Hailey Clark

9th Eddy Kraber

10th Trent Verwers and Katrina DeVore

11th Daniel DeLong

12th Joe Harkin

3) Curriculum Director's Report

Josh Moser

Mr. Moser will be attending a Professional Development Advisory Committee on February 15, 2011. He updated the Board

about the upcoming Professional Development Day on February 16, 2011 with the MStM Staff. They will be discussing responses from the book *Whatever It Takes*, listening to a guest speaker from the AEA that will discuss mental illness and then they will be watching the movie "Waiting for Superman" that will depict several takes on current education. Mr. Moser provided updated information about the Quest Mini-Grant applications that have been submitted.

4) Superintendent's Report

Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum announced to the board that Jill Gavin and he recently attended a finance workshop, facilitated by Mr. Larry Sigel, Ms. Margaret Buckton, and Mrs. Lisa Oakley, to begin the process of completing the aid and levy procedures to set the Martensdale St. Marys property tax rate for 2011-2012. Mr. Newsum's goal is to maintain the property tax rate at the current \$18.73 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

Amy Harper and Mr. Newsum held an organizational district communications advisory committee meeting with nineteen community members on Monday evening, February 7. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 24. Reactions and feedback from committee members indicated they were pleased with our efforts.

Nicole Bunch, Wade Gibson, and Mr. Newsum will meet with Mr. Crozier, Mr. Peterson, and Mr. Lynch on Wednesday afternoon, February 23, to consider facilities needs. Nicole Bunch, Dave Shutt, Jill Gavin, and Mr. Newsum will meet Wednesday afternoon, February 23, to consider employee relations issues.

Mr. Newsum discussed with the Board that on February 16 we have a full day of professional development along with the first day of the State Wrestling Tournament. It was decided that if staff would like to attend the wrestling tournament they would need to take a personal day or request to be a chaperone on the pep bus. It is possible that our girls' basketball team will play in the first round of the State Tournament on February 28 at 10:00 in the morning and it was decided that we would not cancel school on that day. The Administration is trying to be consistent and fair when it comes to state tournament play during the school day.

Mr. Newsum discussed with the Board the possibility of hosting the next Warren County Board Meeting this year. Possible topics to be discussed at this meeting would be Governor Branstad's budget proposal on setting allowable growth at 0% for the next two fiscal years and the elimination of preschool. Another topic that could be discussed would be from Tom Lane, the Superintendent of Carlisle, on equalizing property taxes in Warren County. The Board discussed hosting the meeting in April.

VI. New Business

A. Personnel Recommendation Supt. Newsum

Gibson motioned to approve Cynthia Wetzler as a part time cook and Jordan Gegner as a volunteer for the 2011 track season, seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes.

B. Personnel Resignation Supt. Newsum

Shutt motioned to Jon Fitzpatrick's resignation as Assistant Baseball Coach and Richard Bown's resignation as bus driver, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

C. MStM Education Association First Proposal

Joe Franey, Jodi Noga

Noga reviewed with the Board their first proposal that included an increase to the base, step increase for all certified employees, an increase to extracurricular contracts, and an increase to health insurance. Proposed changes to the language in the Master Contract were also requested that included language change to paid leave for personal leave, paid leave for jury duty, adding language for maternity and paternity leave. Total package equaled \$165,538, 6.9% increase.

D. MStM School Board First Proposal

Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum reviewed with the Board and the Association the MStM District's first proposal. Because of the current economic climate in Iowa; the decline of twelve students in enrollment this fall with the loss of \$5,883 per student; the projection of 0% allowable growth in new money for the district for 2011-2012; and the increase of 2% in district contribution to the IPERS retirement program, beginning on July 1, 2011, the initial proposal from the district is to 'freeze' all teachers at their current step on the Schedule A salary schedule. The initial district proposal also includes a 0% increase in the generator base rate of pay. The increase in district IPERS contribution will result in a cost of \$19,454 or 0.9% total package increase.

E. Discuss/Approve 2011-2012 Calendar

Supt. Newsum

The Board agreed that they did not want to start the school during the Iowa State Fair. Mr. Newsum and Mr. Crozier provided semester test data and information from the Iowa Code. The Iowa Code 12.5(14) that describes that a unit is a course which meets one of the following criteria: it is taught for at least 200 minutes per week for 36 weeks; it is taught for the equivalent of 120 hours of instruction; or it is an equated requirement as a part of an innovative program filed as prescribed in rule 12.9(256). A fractional unit shall be calculated in a manner consistent with this subrule. Multiple-section courses taught at the same time in a single classroom situation by one teacher do not meet this unit definition for the assignment of a unit of credit. However, the third and fourth years of a foreign language may be taught at the same time by one teacher in a single classroom situation each yielding a unit of credit. Additional discussion was made by the Board that included how many students do not have to take semester students, too much going on before winter break, trying to keep the days 90 for the first semester and 90 for the second semester. It was requested to add Spring Break dates to the Snow Day list on the calendar. Gibson motioned to approve the 2011-2012 Calendar with the additional Spring Break dates added to the Snow Day List, seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes.

F. Discuss Instructional Support Levy Procedures

Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum discussed with the Board to consider the renewal of the Instructional Support Program for the Martensdale St. Marys Community School District. The Instructional Support Program is funded by a combination of property taxes and Iowa income tax surtax. It provides approximately \$229,000 to the general fund for the 2010-2011 school year, and can be used for general fund expenses, including personnel. Mr. Newsum recommended the board adopt a resolution signaling intent to renew the Instructional Support Program at the regular March 14, 2011, board meeting.

G. Tour to see Technology in Action

Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum, Mr. Wood and Mr. Crozier invited the Board to take a tour of a couple of classrooms to see the new updates that have been made in regards to technology. The first visit was with Jodi Noga and Amy DeWaard who presented how the new projectors work and how beneficial they have been with students and IEP meetings. The projectors were donated by the PTO. The next visit was with Josh Moser. He presented to the Board his new website that included his lesson plans and assignments that

students can access from the classroom or at home. Students are able to submit their assignments through the website as well. The Board thanked the teachers for the tour and their presentations.

H. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates

Supt. Newsum

03/09/11 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail
03/10/11 – 5:00 p.m. Board Agenda Meeting
03/14/11 – 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

VII. Adjournment

Shutt motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time: 5:55 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

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

The newsletter is available for pickup in the Superintendent's office, Jiffy station and Roadside Inn. All of which are located in Martensdale. Copies are also available at Kum & Go in Bevington. You may also view it on the <http://mstm.us/> website.

Questions or concerns may be addressed to:

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