



October 26, 2009, Issue No. 10

**From the Desk of Ms. Peterson, Superintendent**

**The 10% Across the Board Cut for School District Budgets**

As you have already heard, Governor Culver did announce that there is now in effect a 10% Across-the-Board Cut for School District Budgets. That 10% cut amounts to \$248,479 for the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District. Last year school districts were cut 1.5% which totaled \$33,590 for the MStM School District. The Phase I dollars of the Education Excellence Fund were also cut late last year for school districts and this amounted to \$71,000 for MStM. So, the cuts for our school district total \$353,069.

Governor Culver has urged schools to spend down their Cash Reserves to offset this latest round of cuts. In the MStM School District, we have \$250,000 in Cash Reserve, but not all of this is available to offset the cut. That is why the Governor's comments are misleading.

The Cash Reserve Levy is a levy for the general fund of a school district. It allows the Board on its own motion to replace property tax revenue or state aid not received to eliminate severe cash flow problems or to avoid the expense of borrowing to meet cash flow purposes. The amount of the fund is determined by Board action annually. The Cash Reserve Levy is used to fund spending authority, but does not increase spending authority. There are two components of the Cash Reserve Levy: the regular cash reserve levy and the SBRC (School Budget Review Committee) Cash Reserve levy. The Regular Cash Reserve Levy is the method of replenishing the district's bank balance, for whatever reason the Board determines. The SBRC Cash Reserve Levy is used to fund the spending authority granted by the SBRC for whatever reason (most often a Special Education Deficit).

The MStM School District is using its Cash Reserve levy to offset the 1.5 percent cut from last school year, to offset the \$71,000 cut to the Phase I dollars, to fund our At Risk Program, and to offset our Special Education deficit. Because the per pupil funding for Special Education students has gone down in the past few years, many schools are now facing a Special Education deficit.

The MStM Board of Education has always tried to make sure that we have had cash balances to account for these types of things. We knew a cut from the State was coming but we never envisioned in our wildest dreams that it would be a 10%

cut. I will be working with our Board Members and our staff to develop a plan to address this cut to our budget. We are going to have to look at everything and make some decisions on how we are going to manage this year's budget and going forward as well. We will be discussing things we can do in the short term and then develop a plan for the next two to three years.

**2008-2009 Annual Progress Report to the Community**

According to Iowa Code, the Board of Education, with input from its School Improvement Advisory Committee (which is our Quality Support Committee), will adopt annual student improvement goals based on data from at least one district wide assessment. These goals are to describe desired annual increases in the curriculum areas of mathematics, reading and science for all students.

The MStM Annual Progress Report to the Community addresses these goals for our school district. A copy of this report is on our school's website. There are also hard copies available in my office or if you would like one sent to you, please give us a call at 641-764-2466 and we will make sure a copy is mailed to you.

**Thank you everyone for helping me celebrate my retirement.**

**A special thank you goes to Jill Gavin, Barb Winter, Karen Tomlinson and Manda Gibson for organizing such a nice celebration.**

**Your presence, gifts, cards, emails, calls and stopping by the office to wish me a final farewell were truly appreciated. I am going to miss you all, but I'm truly enjoying my new job as Grandma Sandy!**

**Again, many thanks.  
Sandy Rudolf**

**From the Desk of Mr. Crozier**

I want to congratulate the entire secondary student body for their positive behavior this year. Office referrals are at a minimal and teachers are noticing positive behaviors from our students. A testament to this is that 67 students were nominated for the student of the month program in September. That is over 25% of our student body. The September Students of the Month are listed below. Students, teachers do notice when you do good things. I have also noticed how

well-behaved our students are and have made comments on this to many people in the community.

- 7<sup>th</sup> Bethany Phillips
- 8<sup>th</sup> Laura Lacquement
- 9<sup>th</sup> Kayla DePauw
- 10<sup>th</sup> Beth Rucker
- 11<sup>th</sup> James Phillips
- 12<sup>th</sup> Eric Rinard

Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Monday, November 2, from 4:00 pm–8:00 pm and Thursday, November 5, from 3:30 pm–7:30 pm. Again this year, we will be holding the conferences in the teachers' rooms. We feel that this makes a much more private and confidential atmosphere for the teacher, parent and student. You will need to pick up your student's report card in the Jr/Sr high office from Christy. All report cards that are not picked up will be sent home with students on Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Below I have listed some questions you may want to ask during conferences.

- How is my child doing in school? In Reading? Math? Science? Social Studies?
- What subjects are his/her strongest? Weakest?
- How are my child's work habits? Does he/she complete work on time?
- Is homework turned in on time?
- Does my child need extra help in a particular subject?
- What is my child's ability level? Does he/she comfortably work at that level?
- Is my student in different classes or groups for different subjects? Which ones? How are the groups determined?
- How is my child's behavior?
- Does he/she get along well with classmates?
- Does my child participate in class activities?
- Does my child show leadership abilities?
- What kinds of tests do you give? What do the tests show about my student's progress? How does my student handle taking tests?
- How does my child behave around adults? Is he/she polite and respectful?
- What do you consider my child's best strengths and interests?
- How can I help?
- If I need to reach you, what is the best way? (E-mail, phone, note.)



Where: Recycle bins are located at the Martensdale-St.Marys school at the west side of the parking lot. There is one also located in St. Mary's by the gym double doors.

Why: The Post Prom Committee has provided recycle bins and all money will be used for the Junior/Senior "After Prom" celebration.

Thank you for your support!

### **From the Desk of Mrs. Kirvin, PK-12 Nurse**

We are seeing a lot of absence in both the Elementary and the Jr/Sr High School. Symptoms have been widely varied, but most report a headache, sore throat, body aches, fever, and stomach aches. A lot of the students report feeling ill for several days, and then feeling better, only to get to school and feel sick again. We understand that it is hard to distinguish when it is the right time to send your children back to school.

Please do keep your student home if they have had a fever of greater than 100 degrees in the last 24 hours. If you have to use Tylenol or Ibuprofen to keep their temperature down they are not ready to come back.

Please continue to encourage your children to wash their hands frequently with soap and water or hand sanitizers, and to cover their coughs and sneezes.

In an attempt to keep doctor's offices and emergency rooms and their phone lines clear for necessary patients, we will be suspending the requirement for a doctor's note with extended illness. If you have a regularly scheduled dentist or doctor appointment, please continue to obtain notes for your child's absence.

Warren County Public Health has a phone line dedicated solely to providing information about the availability and eligibility requirements for H1N1 and seasonal flu vaccinations. The number is 515-961-1135. There were some problems with this phone number initially, but hopefully those issues have all been resolved.

Please feel free to call me at school for any questions or concerns you may have during school hours.

Alene Kirvin, R.N.

### **From the Desk of Ms. Skellenger, Media Specialist**

The school year in the library has been great so far. In the high school, we have the new 2009-2010 Iowa High School Book

Award nominees as well as the Iowa Teen Award nominees. That's over 25 new books! In the elementary, we have received the 2009-2010 Iowa Children's Choice Award nominees which include over 20 new titles. In addition to those, the PTO has once again been amazingly kind and purchased new Scholastic Children's Dictionaries and Thesauruses for the elementary library. So I'd like to take this opportunity to give a big **THANK YOU** to the PTO!

**From the Desk of Mr. Moser**  
**High School English Language Arts Instructor**

I am excited to begin my 10<sup>th</sup> year as an instructor in the Martensdale-St. Marys School District. This year I will be teaching a total of five courses: English II, American Ideas, Composition, and Creative Writing in the fall and Film Studies in the spring.

English II is a predominantly sophomore level class focusing on public speaking. Throughout the fall semester, students will deliver a total of seven speeches to their peers. Each speech assignment is designed to foster an understanding of a specific style of delivery (i.e. manuscript, extemporaneous, and impromptu), but students have a choice in the content of their speech. Their study of public speaking is accompanied by literary analysis and essential writing concepts throughout the year.

Students in American Ideas cover close to 300 years of American literature, spanning from the Puritans in the 1620s to the Moderns in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Using a variety of print and non-print texts, students explore the history, transformation, and important concepts of the American identity as seen through the prominent authors of each time period.

Composition is a college-track writing course created with the high school senior in mind. While the content focuses primarily on the technical aspects of academic writing (thesis statements, essay structure, citations, etc.), students also explore elements of academia that affect and complement their writing (i.e. digital information literacy, public speaking, and critical text analysis). While it is not a required course, Composition is recommended for any student who plans on pursuing post-secondary education.

The fall semester rounds out with Creative Writing, a course designed with the aspiring writer in mind. During the first quarter, students learn the basic elements of writing fiction from developing the main character to publishing the final draft. Depending on the depth of their study of fiction, students also learn various elements of poetry and poetic structure. The second quarter of the course is devoted to a single student project of considerable depth and length. For this assignment students design and execute a major work throughout the course of the quarter. In the past, these projects have ranged from novellas to poetry collections to full-length screenplays.

I welcome visitors to my classroom for any course on any day, and am looking forward to another great year at MStM!

**MARTENSDALE ST. MARYS**  
**MUSIC BOOSTERS SPONSOR**

The Martensdale St. Marys Music Boosters would like you to become a sponsor! Your donations will help support the Pre-K -12 music programs at our school. Music Boosters help to cover costs not otherwise covered by school funds. Music Boosters donations have helped to purchase music stands for the elementary music room, music folders for high school chorus, props for the elementary musical, and some percussion instruments for the band. But we would like to do much more. With your help we hope to be able to work toward these goals:

- Rhythm Sticks & other supplies for Elementary Music Students
- Percussion instruments for the High School Band
- Color Guard flags and uniform parts
- Other Music Program extras

If you would like to become a Music Boosters Sponsor, please fill in the information below and send your contribution of \$20.00 or more to:

Martensdale-St. Marys Music Boosters  
PO Box 350  
Martensdale, IA 50160

Donation Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$20 or more to have your name appear on the concert program)

Please print your name as you would like it to appear on the music concert programs:

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(Name)

**“Students who participate in music receive more academic honors and awards than non-music students. Even more impressive, music participants make for a higher percentage of A and B students than their non-music counterparts.”** From: *“NELS:88 First Follow-up,”* 1990, National Center for Education Statistics, Washington DC.

**From the Desk of Mrs. Gabbert-Clark,**  
**Music Department**

Elementary music students have been learning about the history of the MStM School Song. The tune is “*On Wisconsin*” and was written in 1909, one hundred years ago. It is believed that the late Betty Anthony, the former music teacher, wrote the words to our school song. If you have evidence of someone else writing the words, please contact Mrs. Clark.

Elementary students in grades 2, 3, and 4 are busy working on their Fall Concert in November. Students are learning the musical “Choices Count!” The songs in this musical are about the six pillars of Character Counts! Their concert is on Tuesday, November 17, in the MStM high school gym at

7:00pm. Please mark this on your calendars and bring the family. It will be a joy to hear our young students perform!

Spotlight! has begun rehearsals on Monday afternoons in the elementary music room. We have snacks, sing, and play games until 4:15. This is a non-auditioned chorus for 5th and 6th grade students, both boys and girls. Come and join us!

Junior High chorus students are preparing for the Norwalk Festival on Monday, October 19. The 8th grade students will be joining with singers from many other schools to perform a concert at 7pm that evening in the Norwalk high school gym. Junior high singers are also having fun learning "Rockin' Robin" and will be performing it at our Fall Concert here at school on Tuesday, November 3, 2009, 7pm.

High School chorus singers are preparing for the fall concert as well. Students in this class are working on solfege to improve pitch and to sight read, vocal independence, and blending. One of the songs we are having fun singing is "I Could Have Danced All Night." The Fall concert has a "wing" theme to it, so it has been fun choosing songs to go along with this theme!

The Fall concert is on Tuesday, November 3, 2009, here in the MStM gym at 7:00pm. Three choruses will perform separately, and at the end of the concert, all singers will form one large chorus to perform a combined piece entitled, "On the Wings of Song." Admission to the concert is free, but there will be a donation basket at the front table. Donated funds help students to attend music activities outside of the classroom.

Freshman Taylar Furness recently auditioned for the role of an orphan for the musical *Annie* at the Des Moines Playhouse. We are awaiting the results of her audition at press time.

Several of our high school singers will be auditioning for the All-State Chorus on Saturday, October 24 at the Indianola High School. Good luck to all of you!

The following dates and times are for music events:

October 19-8<sup>th</sup> grade chorus sings at the Norwalk Festival, concert @ 7pm

November 3-Fall Concert @ 7pm for Spotlight, JH Chorus, and HS Chorus here at MStM

October 24-All-State Auditions @ Indianola High School

November 10-Pride of Iowa (POI) Honor Choir to Mt. Ayr, concert @ 7pm

November 17-Fall Concert for grades 2-3-4@ 7pm

Thank you for supporting the music program and the students at MStM! Mrs. Clark

### **From the Desk of Mrs. Sondag, Instrumental Music Department**

Fifth grade band students are moving right along with their progress. We are now playing "Rolling Along" and "Hot Cross Buns". The sixth grade band students have switched from marching music to concert band music. We are learning our scales, basic rhythms, and playing a chorale as a warm up each rehearsal. They're working on music for a concert in January. The current favorite tune they like to play is the rock and roll hit "Barbara Ann".

Three seventh band students have been selected for the SCIBA honor band on November 3rd in Johnston. They are Emma Johansen, Baylee Holt both on clarinet and Hailey Clark on flute. The Junior High participated with the 6th grade students in the Log Cabin Days Parade in September and are now working on their concert band music as well. We have a piece called "Prehistoric Suite". It is about different dinosaurs and the music that would match each one. It will be a good opportunity to do some cross curricular study on these dinosaurs to better understand how our music fits them. They are also studying music of different American patriotic songs and an example of three old French carols from the 1600s.

The high school band is finishing up their work on marching and pep band tunes. We are starting to break out the Jazz Band and Concert Band literature. The Junior High and High School Bands will have their first concert on December 17th.

### **From the Desk of Mrs. Sowder, English Department / Yearbook Advisor / Secondary Gifted & Talented Coordinator**

Junior High students will be meeting with me and Mrs. Pribil on October 29 for their first group counseling session. They will be allowed to discuss the difficulties and benefits of being talented and gifted, and they will participate in team building. The goal is to develop a support group that will carry them through the high school years.

Eight graders Anthony Rudich and Eddy Kraber are working together on their National History Day Contest project with the broad theme of innovation and change. They recently chose their own project theme called "World War II: The First Major Air War." The boys will be conducting interviews and scholarly research over the next four months in order to meet stringent criteria.

Sophomore Kate Cook is showing elementary TAG students the art of Japanese origami and freshman Alexandria Mallia will be teaching some basic Japanese words and showing the children haiku in combination with ink blowing.

### **From the Desk of Mr. Folkerts, H.S. Counselor**

We are near the end of the first quarter. As report cards come out, please take time to sit down with your child and see what areas may need additional attention and effort. Likewise, don't forget to compliment your child's efforts in areas where they have proven to be successful. I would like to think of this

quarter report as a tool to prevent our students from slipping too far behind in the classes they are struggling in. Remember, there is plenty of time remaining in the semester to improve areas where they may have gotten off to a slow or deficient start!

Many college and military representatives have been visiting my office. NOW is the time our seniors should be filling out applications to the colleges, universities, trade schools, and military forces in which they are interested in attending. There are many advantages to starting the application process early such as: reduction of stress, awareness of scholarship opportunities to a particular school, and the knowing of what school you have been accepted to.

**College Representatives coming to M-St. M:**

Friday, October 23, Simpson College @ 11:00

Thursday, October 22, DMACC @ 11:15

Thursday, October 29, Missouri Western @ 11:30

Thursday, October 29, Indian Hills @ 1:30

Wednesday, November 4, Southwest Community College @ 8:30

Wednesday, November 4, Kirkwood @ 1:45

Thursday, November 5, Drake University @ 9:30

Thursday, November 19, LaJames College (Mason City) @ 1:00

**ACT**

**Seniors-** If you are planning on going to college next year, and you have not taken the ACT, you need to do so immediately. The next available test date is Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>. The postmark date deadline is November 6<sup>th</sup>. You can pick-up applications in the guidance office or register online at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) More test information is available on our website and in the daily bulletin.

**PLAN Test**

**Sophomores-** The PLAN test will be given on November 11<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am-11:30am in the media center. The PLAN test helps you prepare for the ACT test. It covers the same subjects and gives an estimated ACT score. It also helps students find careers that match their interests. If you are interested in taking this test, please sign-up in the guidance office. Please contact Mr. Folkerts with questions.

**From the Desk of Mr. Peterson, Athletic Director**

It has been an exciting fall at MStM Community Schools. The new athletic facility is operating but not finished. The work will continue and with any luck will be done before the real winter weather hits. It is an outstanding facility and I have heard nothing except positive comments. It is a thrill for everyone in our department to play in such an awesome complex.

The volleyball team is having an outstanding season. The Blue Devils will host two regional events. The first event is on Wednesday, October 21st at 7:00 p.m. hosting Grandview Park Baptist and the second event on October 27nd at 7:00 p.m. with the teams to be announced.

Speaking of volleyball, the eighth grade girls' team went undefeated with a record of 9-0 for the year. Congratulations to Coach Hales and the young ladies. The seventh grade girls had an outstanding season as well compiling a 6-3 overall record. Way to Go!

The junior high football team experienced success this season with the eighth grader compiling a 3 wins and 2 losses campaign. The seventh graders did very well but several of the opposing teams didn't have enough to play seventh grade game and the guys had to play 2 quarters against teams made up of seventh and eighth graders. Good job guys!!

**Spectator Conduct Policy**

I really hate discussing spectator conduct policy at our events. However, due to several incidents this fall, I want to reinforce that this school district is serious about the behavior of individuals at school events and won't tolerate the harassment of students, officials, or coaches. The following are several examples that are considered misbehavior warranting an individual's temporary or permanent removal from school activities.

- Abusive, verbal or physical conduct of spectators directed at participants, officials or sponsors of activities or at other spectators will not be tolerated.
- Verbal or physical conduct of spectators that interferes with the performance of students, officials or sponsors of activities will not be tolerated.
- The use of vulgar, obscene or demeaning expression directed at students, officials or sponsors participating in an extracurricular activity or at other spectators will not be tolerated.

If the individual/s either ignores the warning or the offense is so egregious to warrant immediate removal, the school district representative has the right to remove the individual for the premises at that point.

Please remember what high school athletics are all about. School sponsored or approved activities are an important part of the school program and offer students the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities not offered during the regular school day. Students sponsored or approved activities are provided for the enjoyment and opportunity for involvement they afford the students.

Spectators are permitted to attend school sponsored or approved activities only as guests of the school district, and, accordingly as a condition of such permission, they must comply with the school district's rules and policies. Spectators, like the students participants, are expected to display mature behavior and sportsmanship

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

**Undesirable Behavior**

Disrespectful, disruptive behavior that begins as early as kindergarten has become a very serious problem in many classrooms across the country. Schoolchildren who once

uttered “yes ma’am” are now openly challenging and defying teachers, “acting out” in class, and turning important instructional time into a battle for control. In a time when school districts are facing teacher shortages, bad behavior among children is driving teachers away from the classroom. While principals and teachers have roles to play in teaching proper behavior, parents should lead the way. Children learn what is and is not acceptable from their parents. It’s not an easy task, but without parental and home support, classroom disruptions will continue to increase.

**Respect begins at home.**

Make sure your children are raised to respect all adults. It may sound old-fashioned, but children need to know their “place.” As much as they would like to be, they are not the equals of their parents, teachers, or other adults.

**Do not allow rudeness and disrespect.**

Most children try to challenge the authority of adults. The ones who get away with it are the ones who become the most disruptive in school. Parents need to be firm and consistent from the very beginning. When a child is defiant or rude, he or she needs to face consequences, such as a “time out” or a loss of privileges.

**“You can’t make me.”**

We *never* advocate violent punishment like spanking or slapping. However, children need to know that parents and teachers do have authority that they must respect. Don’t allow your children to get into the “you can’t make me” mindset. Let them know what nonviolent punishments they will receive if they disobey you or their teachers. And follow through with the punishments every time they disobey, or they will soon realize you are not serious.

**“Stop or I’ll sue.”**

Some parents turn a deaf ear to the teacher’s point of view. Children and parents use the threat of a lawsuit as a weapon against teachers who are doing nothing more than trying to maintain or restore order in their classrooms. It is important that all children learn in a peaceful environment.

**Communicate with the teacher.**

Parents should set up a method of communicating with their children’s teachers. Send an e-mail or note to the teacher once a month, asking about your child’s academic strength or weaknesses, as well as about his or her social skills and behavior. If anything troubles you, set up a meeting as soon as possible.

**Schedule a meeting.**

If what the teacher is telling you about your child’s behavior differs a lot from what your child says, the best thing to do is to set up a meeting with all of you so that everyone gets the story straight. If there are serious problems, include the counselor and principal or assistant principal. The key is to do your best to keep your emotions and temper under control—getting angry at your child in front of the teacher or at the teacher in front of your child is no way to resolve the situation. By teaching your children to respect teachers and behave in

the classroom, you’ll be helping to create a better learning environment for your children and all of their classmates.

**Preschool News-Ms. Burns & Ms. Dykstra**

Ms. Burns’ and Ms. Dykstra’s class visited the Fire Station this month. Before we went to the fire station we talked about what to do if a fire starts, practicing STOP, DROP, and ROLL. We also learned what fire fighters do and about all of the gear that they wear and use.

When we got to the fire station, each student got to spray the hose! We learned about the “jaws of life” and we got to look at the inside of an ambulance. The preschoolers enjoyed reading books about fire safety and fire fighters and being able to see what they learned firsthand.



**From the Desk of Mrs. Pribil,- Counselor’s Corner**



MStM celebrated Red Ribbon Week October 26-30. To get everyone in the spirit, each day we had a different theme to dress up. They were:

- Monday: "Be Proud to be Drug-Free" (Wear red)
- Tuesday: "Don't Let Drugs Turn You" (Wear clothes inside-out)
- Wednesday: "Living Drug-Free is No Sweat" (Wear sweats)
- Thursday: "Team Up Against Drugs" (Wear favorite sports team jersey)
- Friday: "Say BOO to Drugs" (Wear Halloween costumes)

Each student received a red ribbon to wear during the week to support drug awareness and prevention. Also, the elementary had a door decorating contest. The judging took place Friday, October 30 and the first place winner received a pizza party!



**From the Desk of Ms. Condon,**  
**Consumer Science Department**

**"SEEKING DONATIONS"**

**Ms. Condon is looking for donations for the Family and Consumer Sciences program! Specifically, she is looking for donations of cotton and cotton blend fabric for sewing class and sets of dishes (4 place settings) for foods classes. If you are interested in getting rid of either of these items and would like to donate to the MStM FCS Program, please contact her at [alison\\_condon@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us](mailto:alison_condon@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us). Thank you for your support!"**

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2009**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on Thursday, September 10, 2009.

Members Present: A. Velvet VanHoose, President; Scott Anderson, Vice-President; and Nicole Bunch; together with Superintendent Jean Peterson and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: John Della Vedova and Cathy Seymour

The President called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Supt. Peterson reviewed the agenda items for the Monday, September 14, 2009 Board Meeting.

Anderson moved to adjourn, seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 3 ayes; 5:55 p.m.

APPROVED

  
Board President      Business Manager

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2009**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on September 14, 2009.

Members Present: A. Velvet VanHoose, President; Scott Anderson, Vice-President; Cathy Seymour, and Nicole Bunch, together with Superintendent Jean Peterson, and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: John Della Vedova

I. Welcome

VanHoose called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

II. Consent Items

- A. Approval of the Minutes. Bunch requested an amendment to the August 10, 2009 minutes VI(D) to state that Bunch only approved Verwers' resignation for Jr. High football and not for him volunteering for the varsity football team.
- B. Approval of Agenda. VanHoose requested to move VI(M) to VI(B) so it could be discussed by the old Board before the new board was called to order.
- C. Approval of Bills and Secretary's Report. Bunch questioned the Pinnacle bill whether it included the change orders and Gavin informed the board that the bill that included the change orders was not suppose to be included and will be voided and a new check will be issued.
- D. Approval of Hot Lunch and Activity Reports. Bunch questioned the expense in the activity fund under the Share the Vision account. The administrative was uncertain of what the expense was and would update the board.

Bunch motioned to approve the move of the New Business item VI(M) to VI(B) prior to the old board adjourning seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

Bunch motioned to approve the remaining consent items with exception of the change of the August 10, 2009 minutes, the modification of the Pinnacle bill and the expense in the Share the Vision account seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Supt. Peterson wanted to publicly thank the Principals, administration, teachers, associates, custodians, cooks, and bus drivers for a smooth start of the school year. We had an excellent turnout for the Open House and the retirement party for Jim Seymour. We had a great turnout for the School Board election on Tuesday, September 8. Gavin shared with the Board that David Shutt won District #1, Wade Gibson won District #2, and Amy Harper won District #4. Supt. Peterson reminded the board of the retirement party for Sandy Rudolf on September 23 from 3-6:00 p.m. Homecoming is the week of September 21<sup>st</sup> with a theme of "Caution – Devils at Work". We will have a tailgate party at the new football field Thursday night; September 24<sup>th</sup> with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony and the parade route will start at the field and end at the school. Other activities are listed on the MStM website. The Athletic Boosters have requested the new board members to help with serving food at the tailgate party. Crozier announced the All-State Teams, Pride of Iowa Teams and Indianola Record Herald Teams for Softball and Baseball and congratulated the teams for great seasons. Supt. Peterson announced that Sara Kuhns received her Masters degree over the summer. Matt Carlile from Confluence requested to announce another celebration to the Board. He wanted to

recognize Jim Lynch for all his help on the new football/track project. He explained that Jim was always available when necessary and was willing to help in all areas and was a huge lifesaver throughout the project.

IV. Public Comments – None.

V. Old Business

A. Reports

1) Facilities Report – Supt. Peterson informed the board that the work on the Elementary Gym Entrance has been completed. The HVAC Retrofitting Project is complete except for the High School Gym’s condensing units. This is projected to be completed the week of September 21<sup>st</sup>. She is looking forward to meeting with the new Facilities Committee to discuss a new long range plan for improving our facilities. Supt. Peterson introduced Matt Carlile for an update on the football/track project. Carlile provided minutes from all of the construction meetings to the Board. The field is projected to be completed, tested and ready to be practiced on by Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. A lot of progress has been done on the buildings, they will begin laying sod and seeding the practice fields this week. Fences are being installed. The siding of the concession stand will not be complete for Homecoming. Carlile went over the most recent change orders with the Board. Bunch asked if the work that Jim Lynch has done on the project would be under warranty. Carlile explained that what he has inputted into the job will improve the warranty. Anderson asked Carlile about the days that will be reimbursed to the District. Carlile explained that the project is substantially complete. The clock will stop for football to begin and will start again October 5 to complete the track when the team has two away games.

2) MStM Music Booster Minutes – Supt. Peterson presented the minutes of the Music Boosters from August 25 and September 8<sup>th</sup>.

3) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes – Supt. Peterson – No minutes.

4) MStM PTO Minutes – Supt. Peterson – No minutes.

B. Presentations

1) Superintendent’s Report – Supt. Peterson discussed the Iowa Department of Education’s Site Visit to be scheduled for February 9-11, 2010. She discussed the steps that the school is taking to keep students and staff safe from the H1N1 flu. She informed the Board that she and the Principals will be attending a workshop to discuss the book The Global Achievement

Gap by Tony Wagner and the future plans that she will be discussing with the Board.

2) Principal’s Report –Tom Wood updated the Board on the technology project. The teachers are adjusting to their new laptops and have come up with some exciting ways of utilizing new tools like multimedia projectors, video conferencing, GoogleDocs and Google Earth. Tom concluded his presentation with the Special Education Action Steps for 2009-2010. Crozier informed the Board of the good turnout of participates for the fall activities. He announced the members of the new Leadership Team that include Angela Davidson, Steve Goodale, Josh Moser, and Justin Herrick. Crozier provided a list of track purchases he proposed to the Board to purchase with the Share the Vision funds. He reviewed the Annual Progress Report and the letter from the IHSAA that informed the MStM School District was one of 220 schools who had no athletes or coaches ejected during the 2008-09 school year. Crozier informed the Board that the Girls Basketball Team is been given an opportunity to play Fort Madison at the Wells Fargo Arena before an Iowa Energy game on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

VI. New Business

A. 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading – Policy 903.2, 905.1, 905.1E1  
Supt. Peterson  
Bunch approved policies 903.2, 905.1, 905.1E1 seconded by Seymour. Roll call: 4 ayes.

B. Approve Bus Driver Substitute  
Supt. Peterson  
Bunch motioned to table the bus driver substitute request due to not receiving a letter of request seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

C. Adjourn Old Board / Call New Board to Order  
Jill Gavin  
Seymour motioned to adjourn the old board seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 4 ayes. Supt. Peterson and the Board thanked VanHoose and Seymour for their support to her and to the district and the time they put into their position. Seymour left the meeting. Supt. Peterson presented VanHoose and Seymour with a plaque and a lifetime athletic pass.  
Gavin called the New Board to Order. Anderson motioned to approve seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes.

D. Review Canvas of Election  
Jill Gavin  
Gavin reviewed the canvas of election from the Warren County Auditor’s office.



- E. Administer Oath of Office to New Members  
Jill Gavin  
Gavin administered the oath of office to David Shutt, Wade Gibson and Amy Harper. Supt. Peterson congratulated Shutt, Gibson and Harper and presented them with certificates.
- F. Elect Officers  
Jill Gavin  
Bunch nominated Scott Anderson as President seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.  
Gibson nominated Nicole Bunch as Vice President seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.
- G. Administer Oath of Office to Officers  
Jill Gavin  
Gavin administered the oath of office to Nicole Bunch and Scott Anderson.
- H. Set Standing Committees
- |                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
|                             | Board President |
| Employee Relations          | Anderson/Bunch  |
| Facilities                  | Anderson/Bunch  |
| Transportation              | Shutt           |
| Healthy Kids/Nutrition      | Gibson/Shutt    |
| Curriculum/Public Relations | Harper/Bunch    |
| IASB Delegate               | Harper          |
| Warren County Conf Board    | Gibson          |
| Madison County Conf Board   | Bunch           |
| Quality Support Committee   | Harper/Gibson   |
- I. Appoint Member to IASB Delegate Assemble  
Supt. Peterson  
IASB by-laws give each member school district a delegate who casts the district's vote on issues before the Delegate Assembly. The Annual Meeting will be held November 18, 2009. Harper volunteered to be appointed the new member of IASB Delegate Assemble. Gavin will notify them.
- J. IASB School Board Officers Workshop  
Supt. Peterson  
IASB is offering a workshop through ICN sites for school board members October 27, 2009.
- K. IASB Convention 2009  
Supt. Peterson  
Supt. Peterson invited the school board members to the IASB Convention November 18-19, 2009.
- L. Delegate Signatures on Checks for Activity and Hot Lunch  
Supt. Peterson  
Board requested that Supt. Peterson and Gavin continue to be authorized delegates to sign checks for Activity and Hot Lunches. Bunch motioned to approve Supt. Peterson and Gavin to authorized delegates to sign checks for Activity and Hot Lunches seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- M. Approve 2009-2010 Personnel Recommendations  
Supt. Peterson  
Harper motioned to approve Shannon Matlage as Assistant Volleyball Coach seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.  
Gibson motioned to approve overload for Caleb Hales for JR Volleyball seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes.  
Harper motioned to approve Karen Tomlinson as Supt. Secretary starting Oct. 1, seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.  
Gibson motioned to approve Brenda DePauw as Elem. Secretary starting Oct. 1 seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes.
- N. Approve Annual Progress Report  
Supt. Peterson  
Bunch motioned to approve the Annual Progress Report seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.
- O. Discuss/Approve Retirement Compensation Pay  
Supt. Peterson  
Bunch motioned to approve the payment of sick days for Sandy Rudolf seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.
- P. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates  
10/07/09 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail  
10/08/09 – 5:30 p.m. Agenda Meeting / Larry Sigel – School Finance Workshop  
10/12/09 – 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting
- VII. Adjournment  
Bunch motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 7:50 p.m.

APPROVED

  
Board President      Business Manager

*The Martensdale-St.Marys District Newsletter is processed by the last Friday of the month.*

*Questions or concerns may be addressed to:*

*Mrs. Tomlinson  
Martensdale-St.Marys  
Superintendent's Office  
390 Burlington  
Martensdale, Iowa  
641/764-2466*

Regional Volleyball – Go Lady Blue Devils!



CONGRATULATION to our 2009-2010 Volleyball & Football teams on a wonderful year!



*2009-2010 Blue Devil Football Team*

**“Pink Out” Night**

*Blue Devils vs. Earlham Cardinals  
Honoring Breast Cancer Awareness*



*Both teams wore pink socks to honor survivors!*



*Veronica Knickerbocker was our honorary Blue Devil team caption, while Penny Marsh was the honorary Cardinal team caption for Earlham.*



*After the coin toss, Veronica Knickerbocker and Penny Marsh share a quiet moment celebrating their mutual bond of breast cancer survival.*

*The MStM Blue Devils went on to win their final game this season against the Earlham Cardinals with a score of 35 to 28!*

*Good job Blue Devils!*





# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23RD : MSTM VS. EARLHAM PINK OUT



In honor of Breast Cancer Awareness month, the communities of MstM and Earlham came together to raise money for breast cancer research. Our evening was filled with many exciting events. We started off with the introduction of our seniors and their parents.

## MSTM SENIORS - Class of 2010



Taylor & Emily sang the National Anthem

Nearly everyone has been affected by breast cancer in one way or another. If detected early, the five-year survival rate for breast cancer exceeds 96%.

As soon as the National Anthem was over, the fans of Earlham and Martensdale let off pink balloons to honor those who are fighting, those who have survived, and those who have lost their battle with breast cancer.



Our boys took the field...

Each school selected an honorary captain, a breast cancer survivor from their community.



After a very exciting game our boys brought home the victory with the final score being 35 - 28!



Congrats boys on a great game!



Our fans wore pink and cheered all night long!



Our pep band played..





## Saturday, November 21st

Our annual wrestling tournament is being held this year on Saturday, November 21st. We are looking for individuals to volunteer to help wherever needed. We are also in need of donations of hamburger meat and baked goods. We also accept cash donations to help cut down on our food cost.

If you can help out any of these ways, please contact Emily Cassady at 515-981-0326 or e-mail at [dcasady1975@msn.com](mailto:dcasady1975@msn.com). This is the Athletic Boosters biggest fundraiser of the year, and any help that you could lend would be greatly appreciated.

**\*SPONSORED BY THE MSTM ATHLETIC BOOSTERS\***



# MARTENSDALE-ST. MARYS WRESTLING TOURNAMENT 25th ANNUAL

Martensdale-St. Marys High School Saturday, November 21st, 2009  
WALK-INS WELCOME

## STAGGERED WEIGH-IN TIMES:

Seniors 7:00-7:30 a.m.  
Pre-Kind. & Bantam 8:30-9:00 a.m.  
Cadet & Juniors 11:00-11:30 a.m.

## WRESTLING STARTS:

8:30 a.m.  
10:30 a.m.  
1:00 p.m.

## DIVISIONS:

### Pre-Kindergarten

Pre-K/Kindergarten

### Bantam

Grades 1-2

### Cadet

Grades 3-4

### Junior

Grades 5-6

### Senior

Grades 7-8

Round Robin format.

**Entry Fee:** \$15 pre-registered or \$15 at the door (pre-reg. preferred)  
Make checks payable to MstM Athletic Boosters (**no refunds**)

**Mail to:** Martensdale-St. Marys Athletic Boosters  
PO Box 132, Martensdale, IA 50160

**Questions:** Call Dan or Emily Cassady @ 515-981-0326 email [dcasady1975@msn.com](mailto:dcasady1975@msn.com)

**Gate Admission:** Adults \$4.00 Students \$2.00 \*Doors open @ 6:45\*

**Awards:** 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Place Olympic Size Medals

**Concessions:** A concession area will be available serving breakfast & lunch

**Sponsored by Martensdale-St. Marys Athletic Boosters**

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**Entry Blank Must Be Completed In Full**

In consideration of my accepting this entry, I hereby, for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, waive and release any and all rights and claims for damages I may have against the Martensdale-St. Marys Athletic Booster Club or the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School, its sub-committees, agents, representatives, and assigns, for any and all injuries suffered by me at said tournament.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ School or Mat Club \_\_\_\_\_

Years Experience \_\_\_\_\_ Actual Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Last Year's Record Win \_\_\_\_\_ Loss \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian