



May 1, 2012

*From the Desk of Bob Newsum,
Superintendent*

Greetings:

We are rapidly approaching the end of another successful school year and have been blessed with a mild and unseasonably warm winter and early spring. Because of the mild winter, we did not have to miss any days of classes that would require extending the school year beyond the Thursday before Memorial Day. The last school day for senior students will be Thursday, May 17, with graduation and commencement ceremonies held on Sunday, May 20, 2012, in the gymnasium, beginning at 2:00. The school year for all other students will end on Thursday, May 24, with dismissal set for 2:15 on the last day.

The first full week of May is Educator Appreciation Week and is intended as a time to recognize the contributions that our educators make in the lives of our children. During the week of May 7-11, 2012, please take time to thank the teachers who work with your child, as well as all of the other support staff who play an important role in your child's educational experiences. We consider all employees of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District, including teachers, secretaries, paraeducators, child care providers, custodians, food service workers, bus drivers, and administrators to be integral members of our district educational team and we will be honoring them on two occasions during the week of May 7-11. On Tuesday, May 8, we will be serving a breakfast to all district employees, beginning at 7:30 AM, and on Wednesday, May 9, we will be holding an 'ice cream social', beginning at 1:30 PM, to celebrate Educator Appreciation Week.

The 2011-2012 school year has been a particularly successful one for Martensdale-St. Marys students, staff, and the community in the classroom and on the fields, mats, and courts. Your elected board of education members have been significant contributors to these successes. Please join with communities throughout Iowa in honoring our elected school board members during Iowa School Board Recognition Week, May 6-12, 2012. This year's theme-"Sowing the Seeds for Success"-recognizes that Iowa's volunteer school board members are providing leadership, through responsibilities ranging from strong financial stewardship to ensuring high quality curriculum, to make sure all students have a bright, vibrant future ahead of them.

Serving on the Martensdale-St. Marys School Board of Education are:

Nicole Bunch - President
Dave Shutt - Vice President
Dean Furness
Wade Gibson
Amy Harper

These ladies and gentlemen volunteer countless hours of unpaid time to provide the best possible education for our students and we want to recognize that in our communities. As your elected leaders, they represent you in their continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision-making for our public schools. Too often the efforts of school board members go unrecognized and unrewarded. So, this recognition week is an appropriate time to say **Thank You**.

The Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District has relied on the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) for many, many years to provide important 'maintenance' funding to repair roofs, playgrounds, and sidewalks; purchase transportation vehicles like activity buses and vans; purchase musical instruments for our band program; support classroom technology; and more. Well-maintained school buildings, athletic facilities, and grounds are an essential part of our school community and you have been an important member of our school-community. We have listed several Frequently Asked Questions related to the renewal of the district Physical Plant and Equipment Levy vote.

When is the community vote to renew the district Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL)?

On Tuesday, September 11, 2012, you will be asked to vote on a renewal of the district Physical Plant and Equipment Levy.

How much does this levy generate and for how long?

Maximum length of the voter-approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy program is ten years. The current levy expires on June 30, 2013. Our district voter-approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy program provided approximately \$80,000 per year for the past ten years.

Will the passage of the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy raise my property taxes?

Renewal of this levy will **not** increase your property taxes. The district is asking you to continue the voter-approved

Physical Plant and Equipment Levy at the same rate (sixty-seven cents per \$1,000 of assessed property valuation) that has been in place for at least the last ten years.

Because of recent school district budget deficiencies, why hasn't the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy program been used to offset the general fund?

Physical Plant and Equipment Levy revenues **cannot** be used for salaries, textbooks, or new educational programs. The requirements for use of Physical Plant and Equipment Levy funds are very specific and limited to maintenance, technology, and equipment.

What are examples of the types of things the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy revenues can be used for?

Physical Plant and Equipment Levy funds can be used for technology, such as computer purchase and replacement; musical instrument purchase and replacement; roofing repair and replacement; masonry repairs; energy conservation improvements; concrete and asphalt repairs and replacement; school grounds landscaping and improvement; and school transportation vehicle purchase.

What happens if the voter-approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy does not pass?

Some projects and purchases still need to be completed and would have to be funded by other revenue sources, such as the general fund, where approximately 80% is dedicated to salaries. Our district would struggle to meet the maintenance requirements for our facilities and grounds without the voter-approved Physical Plant and Equipment Levy in place.

What is the difference between the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy program and the state one cent sales and services tax program?

For the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District, the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy program is used as maintenance and facilities improvement fund and the state one cent sales and services program is used for major capital improvement projects, such as the new football and track complex.

Where can I learn more about the district Physical Plant and Equipment Levy program?

If you have questions or want to learn more about our Physical Plant and Equipment Levy program, please call Bob Newsum, Superintendent, at school (641-764-2466), on his cell telephone (641-203-8893), by email at bob_newsum@mstm.us or stop into the district main office for a visit.

We have been notified that one of our community members, with serious health issues that require regular dialysis treatments, has been placed on an approved donor list to receive a kidney for transplant. If you are interested in learning more about the potential for donating a kidney for

transplant, please call Bob Newsum, Superintendent, at 641-764-2466, and I'll put you in contact with the family making this request.

From the Desk of Mr. Crozier,
Secondary Principal

Principal's Message

The student council members will be participating in a leadership retreat on May 8th. We will review our policies and the students will discuss issues regarding the policies and procedures in our student handbook. This has been a very productive event the past two years and I am looking forward to hearing the student councils ideas.

Our Track and Field season is off and running. We have had two track meets so far with four ore to go. Our workers are the best. I continue to receive compliment from fans from other schools on the way we run our track meet. This is because of the workers and dedication our community has to our students. Thank you to all our volunteers that have been helping to run the meets. Thanks to Mr. Huegel for his organization of the meets.

The end of the year is approaching fast. Semester tests for seniors will be on May 16th and 17th, semester tests for all other students will be held on May 23th and 24th. Graduation will be on May 20th at 2:00 PM.

If you appreciate the knowledge you have acquired over the years thanks to your teachers, **Teacher Appreciation week** which lasts from the May 7th till the 11th, 2012, this is the week in which you can show your gratitude

Michael Crozier, Secondary Principal
mike_crozier@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us

From the Desk of Mr. Folkerts,
Secondary Counselor

Commonly Asked Questions

Parents and students often ask some of the same questions which I am glad to answer. This article tries to address a lot of commonly asked questions in regard to college planning.

1. When should my student take the ACT?

There is no magic time to take the ACT. My usual response is to take the ACT during the junior year but it can be taken earlier. A good rule of thumb is to take the ACT when a student is enrolled in Algebra II. There is a lot of geometry and algebra on the ACT and sometimes it is helpful to take the ACT while enrolled in Algebra II. For sure, a student who is applying to a four year college/university should take the ACT at least during their junior year so they will have an ACT score to use to apply to four year colleges in the fall of their senior year.

Should a student take the ACT more than once?

ACT reports that 55% of students that take the ACT a second time raise their score. Realize that it obviously benefits ACT monetarily for students to take the test multiple times. But the 55% figure is a reasonable expectation. Students should do some type of preparation prior to taking the test. The most beneficial preparation is just doing practice tests.

3. If a student takes the ACT a second time, does that hurt the students chance of admission to a college?

No. Colleges will take the highest score.

4. What is the score that a student should get on the ACT to be admitted?

A 20 composite score is commonly seen as a major indicator of four year college success. It actually varies college to college. Some colleges have higher admission standards so the ACT score requirement will be higher. Other colleges may have lower admission standards. To be sure, check the college website and click on admissions for the freshman admission requirements. Or call the admissions office and speak to a college admissions representative.

5. How Can I find more information about college and career choices for my son/daughter?

The state of Iowa has provided an excellent resource for all schools called Choices Planner. It is a web based college and career information center that has a great deal of information about colleges and careers. The website is administrated through the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. Go to: www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov Click on "First Time User" to establish a new electronic portfolio or "Returning User" to check and add to your existing portfolio. Choices Planner has an interest inventory, a skills assessment, a values sorter, and many other resources available to help students and parents in the career/college search process.

SUMMER 2012 – What Juniors can do to Prepare for College Planning

1. Attend Iowa Private College Week, August 6-10, 2012 (See article below)
2. Put together a portfolio of information to be ready to fill out college applications. Accumulate information in regards to activities, honors and awards, volunteer and community service accomplishments. This makes it easier to complete scholarship applications and college admission applications.
3. Volunteer in service opportunities and then list them on applications for scholarships.
4. Spend time surfing college web sites to learn about prospective colleges and narrow your list to 3-5 colleges.

Class of 2013: Plan College Visits for Fall, 2012

The fall is a busy time with start of school, fall athletics, fall music and speech activities. Now is a good time to begin to think about scheduling college visits to prospective colleges. It

is best to go in the fall before snow blankets the campus. It is important for parents to arrange time off from work to go on the visit. Check college web sites or call college admission offices for individual and group visit days. The campus visit is the single most important factor in deciding which college to attend. Planning ahead and coordinating school and work schedules can be tricky, but looking ahead can give you a day that will work well for students and parents.

Iowa Private College Week: August 6-10, 2012

For five days, Iowa's private colleges and universities are inviting you and your parents **to explore campuses, visit with professors, meet coaches, hear what current students have to say, and learn about all academic and social opportunities.** Variety is the spice of life, so check out up to ten different colleges during the week, compare notes and decide which college fits you. Tours are schedules twice each day at each campus: 9:00am and 1:30pm **Iowa Private College Week 2012:** August 6-10. Go to www.thinkindependently.com to register for this summer.

From the Desk of Mr. Newbury, Physical Education

The year has gone by so fast with the help of a short winter. The High School PE classes are getting outside after spending most of the year inside. The activities the students have been participating in are flag football, speedball, whiffleball, pickleball, and badminton.

Every day the kids do running activities and lift weights. They have been working hard to get stronger and have been working on their cardio as well. The next big activity is the physical fitness testing, in which they will do 5 different tests. The tests include the shuttle run, sit and reach, pull-ups, sit ups, and the mile run. Usually most of the kids take these seriously and give 100% to reach their goal.

The Health classes have been studying such things as alcohol abuse, stress, self esteem, fitness, and nutrition. The next thing that is on the list is for every student will learn CPR and have a chance to become certified.

From the Desk of Mrs. Clark, Vocal Music Department & Mr. Olson, Instrumental Music Department

Thank you to the Music Boosters, MStM staff, parents, and students for all of your help as we prepared and hosted the Iowa High School Music Association Solo/Small Ensemble Festival on Saturday, April 14! Music teachers from the other schools thanked us for hosting and appreciated the hard work that went into making the day special for all students.

Chorus students from MStM received the following solo ratings: (1)Superior-Josh Butcher, (2)Excellent-Megan Ameigh, Savanah Husted, Dalton Karsjens, Kyle Kisling, Michaela McIlravy, Dallas Newman, Cody Olson, Tayler Schad, and Thad Toole. The following students received

the duet rating of (2) Excellent: Tayler Schad and Taylor Furness, Josh Butcher and Dylan Gibson.

Band students received the following ratings (1) Superior – Abby Wetzler (flute solo), Michaela McIlravy (tenor saxophone solo), Kelsey DePauw (percussion solo), Kaitlyn Belieu (trumpet solo), Megan Ameigh and Katie Schrodt (bass clarinet duet).

Excellent ratings (2) were awarded to Cassidy Phillips (clarinet solo), Cassidy Phillips and Kayla DePauw (mixed instrument duet), Bethany Phillips and Hailey Clark (flute duet), Michaela McIlravy (flute solo), Kayla DePauw (trumpet solo), Dallas Newman and Kaitlyn Belieu (mixed instrument duet), Noah Orta and Dalton Karsjens (percussion duet), Dallas Newman (clarinet solo), Troy and Cory Harding (low brass duet), and Tayler Schad (alto saxophone solo).

Again, thank you to everyone who helped with the honor of hosting IHSMA S/SE Festival! We appreciate your support!

From the Desk of Mrs. Sowder
TAG Instructor

A group of 10 students in grades 7-12 volunteered along with Mrs. Amy Sowder and Mrs. Manda Gibson volunteered their time at the 5K Osprey race at the Annett Nature Center on Saturday, April 21, 2012.

Talented and gifted leadership students Dylan Gibson, Eddy Kraber, Dalton Knickerbocker, Gabe Haults, and Dakota Gibson were also accompanied by Josh Butcher, Josh Belieu, Jake Bakerink, Kallie Gibson, and Alexis Herron. The MStM students served at checkpoints in the race and were thanked by the organizer and competitors for their help.

Missy Smith of the Annett Nature Center said that the race raised around \$1,000 for the Osprey project.

From the Desk of Mrs. Condon
Family Consumer Science

It's that time again! The 5D Diner will be taking reservations for the May 11th meal until Wednesday, May 9th. Lunch will begin at 12:30 in the media center and will last approximately one hour. The cost for a meal is \$5 per person. This will be our last meal of the year!

For reservations or questions, contact Ms. Condon at Alison_condon@mstm.us

We hope to see you there!

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

This is a hectic time of year, with weather getting better, the end of the school year in sight, and the overlap of our spring and summer seasons on the way. We will sprint to the finish!

Then, we will continue with baseball and softball this summer. Schedules are online at www.mstm.us. Please remember to check often, as they are subject to change.

Our track teams are off to a great start, with 7 meet titles, 4 new school records, and one Drake Relays qualifier between our two varsity teams. Congratulations to Cory Harding as he competes in the 100m dash, Friday, April 27th at the Drake Relays. You have some opportunities to see our track teams in action at home on May 1st (conference), May 7th (HS girls) and the state qualifying district/regional track meet on May 10th.

High school softball and baseball practice begin April 30th, and both teams are preparing for another successful season. We wish them the best as they continue to represent Martensdale-St. Marys well!

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

Sportsmanship Reminders

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

Upcoming Fine Arts Events...

Apr 30	JH & HS Band & Choir Concert	HS Gym	7:00
May 4	HS Band & Chorus Large Group Festival(IHSMA)	Oskaloosa	TBA
May 12	JH Band & Chorus Solo/Ensemble Contest	MSTM	8am-Noon
May 15	Fine Arts Awards Night	Elementary Gym	6:30
May 18	4th Recorder/5th - 6th Band Concert	HS Gym	TBA
May 25	JH Large Group Band Festival	Adventureland, Altoona	11/11:30 am

Track HELP!

Our HS boys' invitational was rained out, but we have five meets left. 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

High School Meets I would like to help with:

_____ POI Conference HS Meet, May 1st, 4:00 pm
_____ MStM Girls Invitational, May 7th, 5:00 pm
_____ 1A District/Regional Meet, May 10th, 4:00 pm

Junior High Meets I would like to help with:

_____ 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 Mr. Wood, Elem. Principal
& Mrs. Pribil, PK-6th Counselor**

Eliminating Bullying

The latest research shows that one in three children is directly involved in bullying as a perpetrator, victim, or both. Many of those who are not directly involved witness others being bullied on a regular basis. No child is immune—kids of every race, gender, grade, and socio-economic sector are impacted. But it doesn't have to be this way. Parents, as well as schools,

have the power to help reduce bullying. Here are some tips on how you can help:

Talk with and listen to your kids. Spend a few minutes every day asking open-ended questions about who they spend time with at school and in the neighborhood, what they do in between classes and at recess, who they have lunch with, or what happens on the way to and from school. If your children feel comfortable talking to you about their peers before they're involved in a bullying event, they'll be more likely to get you involved after.

Be an example of kindness and leadership. When you get angry at a sales clerk, another driver on the road, or even your child, you have an opportunity to model effective communication techniques. Any time you speak to another person in a mean or abusive way, you're teaching your child that bullying is OK.

Learn the signs. Most children don't tell anyone that they've been bullied. Learn to recognize possible signs of victimization, such as frequent loss of personal belongings, complaints of stomachaches, avoiding recess or school activities, and getting to school very late or very early. Talk to your child and the teacher about what is going on at school and find ways to observe your child's interactions to determine whether your suspicions might be correct.

Create healthy anti-bullying habits early. Help develop anti-bullying and anti-victimization habits in your child as early as preschool. Coach your child on what not to do—hitting, pushing, teasing, or being mean to others. Help your child to focus on how such actions might feel to the child on the receiving end. Equally important, teach your children what to do—kindness, empathy, fair play, and turn-taking are critical skills for good peer relations. Children also need to learn how to say “no” firmly if they experience or witness bullying behavior. Role play with your child about what to do if other kids are mean—get an adult right away, tell the child who is teasing or bullying to “stop,” ignore the perpetrator and find someone else to play with.

Establish household rules. Make sure your child knows that if he or she is bullied physically, verbally, or socially, it's safe and important to tell you about it—and that you will help. Kids also need to know what bullying is (many children do not know that they are bullying others), and that such behavior is harmful to others and unacceptable.

Teach your child how to be a positive bystander. Although it's never children's responsibility to put themselves in danger, kids can often effectively diffuse a bullying situation by yelling “Stop! You're bullying” or “Hey, that's not cool.” Kids can also help each other by providing support to the victim, not giving extra attention to the bullying behavior, and/or reporting what they witnessed to an adult.

Teach your child about cyber bullying. Cyber bullying includes sending mean, rude, vulgar, or threatening messages or images; posting sensitive, private information about another person; pretending to be someone else in order to make that

person look bad; and intentionally excluding someone from an online group. These acts are as harmful as physical violence. You can teach your children a simple litmus test about online posting: If you wouldn't say it to someone's face or you would not feel comfortable having your parents see it—don't post it (or take it down now).

Efforts to effectively address bullying require the collaboration of school, home, and community. Bullying is a serious problem, but if we all work together, it's one we can impact.

Source: Education.com Bullying Special Edition, copyright 2012.

<http://www.education.com/topic/school-bullying-teasing/>
Guest Editors: Shelley Hymel, Amanda Nickerson, & Susan Swearer

Kindergarten Round-up

We will be holding a round-up day for the upcoming kindergarten students on Friday, May 4th 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 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 round-up! 641-764-2621

“PLAY 2 LEARN” 3 YEAR OLD PRESCHOOL

Classes: Monday/Wednesday/Friday
8:30 – 11:30
Or Tuesday / Thursday
8:30 – 11:30

State registered, 15 years of Early Childhood experience. Call Cheri Minella 515-250-5708

**Preschool Parent Meeting for the
2012-2013 School Year will be May 1, 2012 at 6:00pm
in the HS Media Center**

From the Desk of Mrs. Pelzer, Fourth Grade

4P's Operation Green would like to thank Wiegert Disposal for all they do for our school. We are very grateful for their help in allowing us to recycle. Thanks for picking up our recycling every Friday!

Elementary News Important Dates

May 1 **6:00 Preschool Parent Information Meeting**
May 2 **1:00 Dismissal**
May 4 **Kindergarten Roundup 9:00-2:00**
May 11 **Elem. Fun Run and Field Day**

Fun Run

Mark your calendars! The annual Fun Run will be held on May 11 beginning at 9:30 a.m. More information will be sent home in the near future.

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices such as phones and iPods are allowed at school, although we strongly discourage them from being used during the school day. The school assumes no responsibility for lost, stolen or broken devices.

Summer Daycare

It is time once again to register for summer daycare. The summer daycare session will begin on May 30, 2012 and will end on August 15, 2012. If you would like to register your child for summer daycare (current enrollees included), please contact Sandi Christensen at 641-344-9889 or send an e-mail to sandi_christensen@mstm.us.

Classroom Requests

If you have a teacher request for your child for next school year, please turn it in writing to the elementary office by May 24, 2012. Only those requests with a valid reason will be considered. No requests after May 24, 2012 will be allowed. Please keep in mind that class lists are created using student needs, behavioral and achievement data, teacher observations and personality traits in order to strike a balance. Sometimes it is impossible to meet every request, so please state your reason clearly. Thank you for your continued support; you help make MStM a great school.

FOR SALE:

**International 154 lo-boy
For parts or restoration**

Submit your sealed bid to:

**Martensdale St. Marys CSD
P.O. Box 350
Martensdale, Iowa 50160
Attn: Jill Gavin**

Deadline - May 14 - 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING MARCH 12, 2012

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on March 12, 2012.

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

Members Absent: None

I. Welcome – Board President

Bunch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

II. Consent Items

A. Approval of Minutes Board President

B. Approval of Agenda Board President

C. Approval of Bills and Secretary's Report
Board President

D. Approval of Hot Lunch and Activity Reports
Board President

Mr. Gibson motioned to approve the consent items, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll Call: 5 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Mr. Wood announced to the Board that the DARE Graduation was held on Friday, March 9, 2012. Special Thanks go to Officer Randy Spurr for working with the 6th grade class to guiding them to a drug free life. Special Thanks go to Guide One Foundation for donating the cake, refreshments and D.J. The 2012 essay winners were in second place Keann Williamson and Brady Gavin; in first place Caitlyn Pote and Theo Craig; and the 2012 State Winner was Haley Hart. Her essay will now be sent to compete with other state winners from all across Iowa. Poster winners were second place Caitlyn Pote and Brinley White; first place were Jessica Defenbaugh and Montana Good.

Mr. Crozier announced the final results for our wrestling team. The team qualified for the team duals and placed 8th. Robert and David Walker were State Champions, Kole Stapes and Taylor Hagen placed 7th and David Delong was a state qualifier.

Mr. Newsum celebrated that we made it through the school year with no snow days. We had two late starts.

IV. Public Comments - none

V. Old Business

A. Reports Supt. Newsum

1) MStM Music Booster Minutes – February 13, 2012 minutes were provided.

2) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes – February 8, 2012 minutes were provided.

3) MStM PTO Minutes – February 28, 2012 minutes were provided.

B. Presentations

1) Principal's Report Mr. Wood

Mr. Wood presented to the Board the Character Counts Students who demonstrated Caring.

Preschool: Teegan Dorenkamp and Sydney Bears

Kindergarten: Kaylie Moes and Livia Garland

1st: Greyson Hall and Adam Reynolds

2nd: Anne Briney and Kate Puderbaugh

3rd: Jeriray Croy and Mya Olson

4th: Jensen Archibald and Evan Ballard

5th: Jessica Doster and Myranda Jackson

6th: Sophia Dunahoo and Kay Greif

Mr. Wood informed the Board of a session that he and Mr. Moser attended on February 20 at the Urbandale High School. The presenter was David Lankford and he presented Quality Learning and Continuing Professional Development. He explained that the presentation was about how quality learning works and how it revolves around student center classrooms. Mr. Wood announced that MStM is working on the same ideas and that our district is moving in the right direction. Mr. Wood is putting together a team from the elementary and secondary staff to attend the same presentation over the summer.

Mr. Wood informed the Board that the special education teachers met with Heartland AEA on February 29 and March 7 to discuss how we are delivering special education services and found that there are differences between the elementary and secondary. Heartland provided the teachers information on special education law, IEP writing and also delivery of service.

Mr. Wood updated the Board on the Grandwood situation. Grandwood is a special education school located in the Woodward Granger school district. They recently informed parents and staff that the Grandwood facility will be closing their doors at the end of the 2011-2012 school year due to inappropriate use of funds. Parents and schools are sending emails to the Department of Education supporting keeping the school to stay open. The MStM district currently has a student attending Grandwood and if the school had to close we would not be able to provide the appropriate services to this student. The Department of Education and the

SBRC have now agreed to work with Grandwood to keep their doors open for one more year.

2) Principal's Report Mr. Crozier

Mr. Crozier informed the board that the LCD projector is being installed in the high school gym along with a 9-foot screen just in time for the 2012 Graduation. The screen was donated by a local contractor.

JH/HS Variety Show was successful and brought in quite a bit of money for the music program.

Mr. Crozier introduced Marcy Roff, our Junior High Science Teacher, to present to the Board how she is using the new Smart Board that was installed in her classroom. Mrs. Roff has been through a training session and looks forward to utilizing the Smart Board with her current curriculum. She stated the students are excited about and are jumping in teaching themselves how to use it. The Smart Boards were purchased with donated money from individuals who work for Wellmark and have donated their time to help in our district. We appreciate the donation and look forward to purchasing more Smart Boards in the future.

Mr. Crozier announced the February Students of the Month:

- 7th – Courtney Gehringer
- 8th – Dakota Chavez
- 9th – Bethany Phillips
- 10th – Eddie Kraber
- 11th – Liz Delong
- 12th – Paige Mullins

3) Curriculum Director's Report Mr. Moser

Mr. Moser updated the Board regarding the special education meetings that were held during the last two professional development days. The goal was to help develop common language and common practices within our special education department. He plans on scheduling several more days of special education training for next year.

Mr. Moser expanded more on the David Lankford's presentation at Urbandale High School. He stated several comments that were made during this presentation like how teachers should plan with students and not plan for students.

Mr. Moser has also attended PD Advisory meeting with other administrators with the main focus of what we can do in our district to develop our support staff. It is also important that our support staff members are provided opportunities to grow in their position as well.

Mr. Moser updated the Board on the math program adoption. The teachers are deciding what are their

needs and wants with this program so we do not need to purchase the full set. The staff is very excited about adopting the everyday math program.

Mr. Moser provided an update on the course interest survey completed by the students. Currently 85% of the students have taken the survey. One of the questions was if they would be interested in taking an Industrial Arts class if it were provided and two-thirds of the student body said yes.

The Iowa Assessments have been submitted and the results will be back in mid April.

4) Superintendent's Report Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum informed the Board that the District held the bid opening for the summer construction project to remove the old elementary gym roof, including asbestos material, and install insulation and new roofing material. Several construction contractors had attended the pre-bid session the week prior but only two contractors actually submitted completed bids for the roofing project. The quote from Academy Roofing, for \$111,800, was the lowest bid.

Mr. Newsum reminded the Board of our upcoming conference call board meeting on March 15, 2012 to approve the necessary procedural steps the district will need to complete to refinance the District's general obligation bond.

Mr. Newsum updated the Board on how negotiations are going. The Insurance Committee has met with Susan Matlage-Simms regarding to review information related to a selection of a new health insurance provider that can provide similar coverage and deductibles but with lower premium rates than the current 25.3% increase we have received from Coventry.

VI. New Business

A. Discuss Dave Banks' Bus Driver Proposal
Supt. Newsum

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Banks presented to the Board a request to increase the compensation for the contract of Route #3 that are comparable to the other route drivers. He recently had to purchase a bus and did not expect the unanticipated increased costs for operating a bus. He understands the financial pressures of the school district and appreciated the Board considering his request.

B. Approve Contract for Replacement of 1958 Elementary Gym Roof
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Shutt motioned to approve the bid for the replacement of the 1958 elementary gym roof

from Academy Roofing of \$111,800, seconded by Mr. Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- C. Approve Fiscal Year 2011 Audit
Supt. Newsum

Mrs. Harper motioned to approve the Fiscal Year 2011 audit as it was presented, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- D. Approve Publication of Proposed 2011-2012 Budget Amendment
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Furness motioned to approve the publication of the proposed 2011-2012 Budget Amendment, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- E. Approve Budget Guarantee Resolution for 2012-2013
Supt. Newsum

RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Martensdale St. Marys Community School District, will levy property tax for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa.

Mr. Gibson motioned to approve the Budget Guarantee Resolution for 2012-2013, seconded by Mr. Furness. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- F. Approve Publication of Proposed 2012-2013 Budget
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Newsum reviewed what was discussed at our budget workshop last month. Due to our increase in valuations, the inability to request cash reserves and increasing the debt service levy to the maximum of 4.05, our tax rate for fiscal year 2013 will decrease by \$1.25 from \$18.73 to \$17.48440. This is the amount that will be published in the Indianola Record Herald. Mrs. Harper motioned to approve the publication of the proposed 2012-2013 Budget as presented with a 2013 tax rate of 17.48440, seconded by Mr. Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- G. Approve Iowa Crush Women's Football Contract
Supt. Newsum

Mrs. Harper motioned to approve the Iowa Crush Women's Football contract, seconded by Mr. Furness. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- H. Approve Personnel Recommendation
Supt. Newsum

Mr. Furness motioned to approve Amanda Pelzer as the Junior High Girls Track coach, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- I. Approve Personnel Resignation
Supt. Newsum

Mrs. Harper motioned to approve, with regret, the resignation of Brian Spanhut as the Junior High Baseball coach, seconded by Mr. Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

The Board requested to discuss New Business Item A. The Board discussed several different scenarios on how to proceed with the bus driver contracts. The agreed that further action would take place once negotiations were final.

The Board agreed to cancel the agenda meeting for April due to a lack of a quorum.

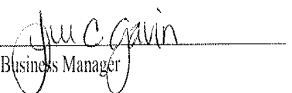
- J. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates
Supt. Newsum

04/04/12 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail
04/05/12 – 5:00 p.m. Board Agenda Meeting
04/09/12 – 6:30 p.m. Budget Public Hearing
04/09/12 – 6:45 p.m. Board Meeting

- VII. Adjournment
Mrs. Harper motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 7:50 p.m.

APPROVED


Board President


Business Manager

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING MARCH 15, 2012

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in special session, pursuant to law, on March 15, 2012.

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

Members Absent: Dean Furness

- I. Welcome – Board President
Bunch called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.
- II. Execute Financial Services Agreement with Piper Jaffray

Mrs. Harper motioned to approve the Financial Services Agreement with Piper Jaffray, seconded by Mr. Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

III. Approve extending Dissemination Agent Agreement with Piper Jaffray

Mrs. Bunch motioned to approve the Dissemination Agent Agreement with Piper Jaffray, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes.

IV. Set March 26, 2012 as date for public sale of Bonds

Mr. Gibson motioned to approve March 26, 2012 as the date for public sale of bonds, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes.

V. Approves Resolution Authorizing Piper to Distribute POS to Prospective Bidders

Mr. Shutt motioned to approve the following resolution, seconded by Mrs. Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes.

RESOLUTION FIXING THE DATE OF SALE OF APPROXIMATELY \$1,994,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION SCHOOL REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2012, APPROVING ELECTRONIC BIDDING PROCEDURES, AND APPROVING THE OFFICIAL STATEMENT

VI. Adjourn

Mr. Shutt motioned to adjourn the special session, seconded by Mr. Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

APPROVED


Board President


Business Manager

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
MARCH 26, 2012**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in special session, pursuant to law, on March 26, 2012.

Members Present: President, Nicole Bunch; Vice President, Dave Shutt; Dean Furness, and Amy Harper; together with Matt Gillespie; Piper Jaffray, Superintendent Bob Newsom and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: Wade Gibson

I. Welcome – Board President
Bunch called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.


II. New Business
A. Approve Bonding

The District received three bids at 10:00 a.m. on March 26, 2012 for the 2003 General Obligation bond. The winning bidder was D.A. Davidson & Co out of Denver, CO. The consideration of the bids was reviewed by the Secretary of the Board and the Financial Consultant. Mrs. Harper motioned to approve the Resolution of directing the sale of the General Obligation bond to D.A. Davidson & Co out of Denver, CO, seconded by Mr. Furness. Roll call: 4 ayes.

VI. Adjourn

Mr. Furness motioned to adjourn the special session, seconded by Mr. Shutt. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time 12:10 p.m.

APPROVED


Board President


Business Manager

It is the policy of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices.

There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's Equity Coordinator.

MStM's Equity Coordinator is Mike Crozier, secondary principal. His address is MStM Community School, 390 Burlington, Martensdale, Iowa 50160. His phone number is 641-764-2686 and his email address is: mike_crozier@mstm.us


The Martensdale-St. Marys District Newsletter is published by the last day 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 Ave.
Martensdale, Iowa 50160
or by email
karen_tomlinson@mstm.us*

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



PLANT SALE
BEVINGTON GARDEN
CLUB

MAY 12TH

TWO
LOCATIONS

906 MAIN ST

NORWALK

AND

8551 Hwy 28

MARTENSDALE

8:30A.M.-2:00P.M.

Please visit the
Bevington Park
1 mile west of Bevington, IA
ENJOY