



Meridian Public Schools

"The Hoof Print" ~ Home of the Mustangs

Mission Statement:

Meridian Public Schools will educate all students in a safe, nurturing environment while challenging them to develop their integrity, knowledge, and unique talents to become responsible, productive citizens.

Newsletter

www.meridianmustangs.org

October, 2020

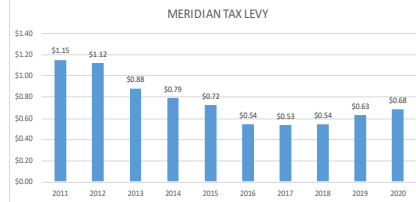
Newsletter - September, 2020
Superintendent
Randy Kort

Since harvest has begun we ask that everyone take a little extra time in their travels to and from school and other activities. Especially when behind a combine, tractor, or truck please be careful before passing. This time of year, the sun begins to play a large factor in your visibility. BE SAFE!

It is also the time of year when our fall activities are half way through their seasons. The volleyball team won the Meridian Quad, placed 5th at the Friend tournament, and had a strong showing at Mudecas A Division. The football team is learning more and more about 6-man football. They earned a win against St. Edward last Friday. Please come out and support our fall sport teams.

The Meridian Board of Education met on September 16, 2020, the Board approved the 2020-2021 annual budget as presented. The Budget Hearing was held at 6:30 P.M. and the 2020-2021 Tax Request Hearing at 6:45 P.M.

The District Assessed Valuation decreased 3% to a total of \$419,867,746. Based upon this evaluation the Board of Education approved tax requests and levy requests of: \$2,853,535 (\$0.679627 per \$100 assessed valuation) for the General Fund; \$20,202 (\$0.004812 per \$100 assessed valuation) for Special Building Fund; \$0 (\$.0 per \$100 assessed valuation) Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund; \$0 (\$.0 per \$100 assessed valuation) for the Technology Bond Fund. Each of the amounts includes the County Treasurer's one percent commission. The total tax request for the 2020-2021 budget is \$2,873,737 (\$.684439 per \$100 assessed valuation). A majority of this increase came from the loss of \$108,000 in state aid, option money.



NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK

October 19th through the 23rd is National School Bus Safety Week. Meridian would like to thank our great bus drivers: Elizabeth Noel, Janelle Heiserman, Charles Houser, Tonya Griffin, and Wendy McKenzie. These individuals safely transport our students to and from school during daily routes, field trips and school activities. Safety is their number one priority. Please thank them when you have an opportunity. Please encourage your child/children to obey these School Bus Safety Rules:

1. Be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes early.
2. Always use bus handrails when entering or exiting the bus.
3. Take your seat promptly.
4. Keep aisles clear at all times.
5. Stay seated until the bus stops or as directed by the driver.
6. Be quiet to avoid accidents – there must be absolute QUIET at a railroad crossing stop.
7. Keep your head and arms inside the bus at all times.
8. Cross street/roads only when it is safe.
9. Obey the bus driver.

If you are interested in learning more about being a substitute bus driver, please contact Mr. Kort for further information.



**Board of Education
Meridian Public Schools
District – 48-0303
Daykin, Nebraska, 68338
Wednesday, September 16, 2020**

SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING 6:30 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on September 16, 2020, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the hearing to order at 6:32 p.m. The open meeting law was presented. Members present were Sobotka, Vorderstrasse, Scheer, VanWesten, and Bartels. Also present was Superintendent Kort.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

VanWesten moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to excuse Niederklein from the meeting. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Scheer-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion Passed 5-0.

Superintendent Kort provided information concerning the proposed 2020-2021 Budget.

No comments were heard from the public.

Scheer moved and VanWesten seconded to close the Special Budget Hearing at 6:43 p.m. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Scheer-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion Passed 5-0.

SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING 6:45 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on September 16, 2020, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the hearing to order at 6:45 p.m. The open meeting law was presented. Members present were Sobotka, Vorderstrasse, Scheer, VanWesten, and Bartels. Also present was Superintendent Kort.



Nothing new was added to the agenda.

VanWesten moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to excuse Niederklein from the meeting. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Scheer-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion Passed 5-0.

Superintendent Kort provided information concerning the proposed 2020-2021 Tax Request which will be .684439. The levy is up 4.7855 cents. The district valuation decreased by almost 12 million dollars and the school lost \$108,000.00 in state option aid.

No comments were heard from the public.

Scheer moved and VanWesten seconded to close the Special Tax Hearing at 6:51 p.m. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Scheer-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion Passed 5-0.

Regular September 16, 2020 Meeting 7:00 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on September 16, 2020, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:52 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

Roll Call was taken: Vorderstrasse-present, Sobotka-present, Scheer-present, VanWesten-present, and Bartels-present. Also present was Superintendent Kort

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

VanWesten moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to excuse Niederklein from the meeting. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Scheer-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion Passed 5-0.

No comments were heard from the public.

Scheer moved and VanWesten seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- A. Minutes of the Monday, August 17, 2020 Regular meeting
 - B. District Financial Report
 - C. Activity Fund Report
 - D. Hot Lunch Fund Report
 - E. Bills
- Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-

aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Scheer-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion Passed 5-0.

There was no Student Council Report as members were at the homecoming parade.

VanWesten moved and Scheer seconded to approve the 2020-2021 Tax Request Resolution. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Scheer-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion Passed 5-0.

VanWesten moved and Scheer seconded to approve 2020-2021 Annual Budget. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Scheer-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion Passed 5-0.

Negotiations with MEA (Meridian Education Association) will begin next month.

Sobotka moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to use North Star negotiation software for the 2021-2022 teacher negotiations.

The Board discussed the request for a perpetual easement on the south side of the school property to access farm ground. Current access to the property is through the existing farmstead. The Board would prefer an access easement to the property be maintained through the existing route.

Superintendent Kort gave the Principal's Report.

- Student Numbers: 112 in Pre-K-6th, 97 in 7-12; Total = 209 Students
- Homecoming Football - September 18, versus St. Edward
- MUDECAS Volleyball Began September 14, 2020
- ACT Make Up on September 22, 2020
- PT Conferences: Wednesday, September 23, 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.; Thursday, September 24, 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Picture Retakes September 30, 2020
- Continue Work on PBIS - "The Mustang Way"

Superintendent Kort reported:

1. The Nebraska Association of School Boards (NASB) annual state meeting in Omaha will be limited to 500 participants this year. Jason and Superintendent Kort plan to attend.

2. Meridian will Receive \$23,000 from the Rural Education Achievement Program (REAP)
3. Board Members Can Participate in NASB Virtual Workshop September 30th - October 14th
4. Administration and staff continue to discuss with the class of 2020 how to utilize funds remaining in their account due to cancellation of senior activities. The class would like to establish a scholarship fund.
5. Safety Measures and Use of Masks was Discussed
6. Homecoming Activities Include a Parade in Daykin
7. Parent Teacher Conferences Held Next Week

Next Regular Meeting was set for Monday, October 12, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. with a Negotiations Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Sobotka moved and Scheer seconded to adjourn at 7:12 p.m. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, VanWesten-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Scheer-aye, Bartels-aye. Motion Passed 5-0.

J. Scott Sobotka,

Vice President
Meridian District #48-0303

Student count for 2020-2021

	As of 9-10-20		
PreK	12	7 th	19 -1
Kindergarten	15	8 th	18
1 st	10	9 th	12
2 nd	18 -2	10 th	19 -1
3 rd	16 -1	11 th	17
4 th	13 -1	12 th	<u>12</u>
5 th	15 -2		
6 th	<u>13</u>		
	112 -6		97 -2
Grand Total	209 -8		(change from August)

The homecoming football game vs. St. Edward was held on Friday, September 18. The Foundation had a tailgate from 6pm until halftime of the game. The dance was held on Saturday, September 19.

MUDECAS volleyball tournament began on Monday, September 14. Games were not played in Beatrice this year. Host sites are Diller-Odell and Freeman for A Division, and JCC and Tri County for B Division. Meridian began the tournament in the A Division ranked as #8.



ACT make up for this year’s seniors was on Tuesday, September 22. This is being provided due to COVID-19 causing last spring’s test to be cancelled.

Parent Teacher Conferences were held Wednesday, September 23, from 4-8pm and Thursday, September 24, from 2-6pm. There was a 1:30pm early release for students on Thursday, the 24th, with no school on Friday, September 25.

Picture retakes are scheduled for Wednesday, September 30.

We continue to work on our Positive Behavior Intervention Supports. The focus is “The Mustang Way”, with umbrella expectations of “be safe, be responsible, and be respectful.” The process continues to develop through small group and large group staff discussions. We are working with Dr. Regina Oliver Stiehm from ESU5.

Testing:

•The On To College Prep (formerly John Baylor ACT Prep) is an investment provided by our school to assist your student in preparing for the ACT. All students have access to this test prep. All seniors are more than welcome to take it this semester, and all juniors will take it next semester before the required state ACT test. For more information, talk to Ms. Hermsmeier.

Seniors:

It is time to start the admission process! College may still seem far off, but admission deadlines will hit as early as December. Follow these steps to stay on track:

Contact your top colleges NOW and ask:

- About application deadlines for admission, college-based scholarships, and financial aid.
- If you need a separate application for scholarships.
- If you should apply online or submit a hardcopy application.
- About application fees.

Much of this information can be found by visiting their website and visiting the college rep when they come to Meridian.

Follow these tips to increase your chances of earning scholarships:

- Don’t pay for scholarship services! Free resources include ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org, your school

counselor’s office, and EducationQuest offices in Omaha, Lincoln, and Kearney.

- Focus on college-based and local scholarships. You’re more likely to earn them over large national awards.
- Keep an updated list of activities, honors, and volunteer or paid jobs
- Earn the best possible ACT/SAT scores by taking the exams in the spring of your junior year and again in the fall of your senior year. Use the On To College Prep to help study.
- Use quality references such as a teacher, coach or counselor. Give them advance notice (at least 2 weeks), a specific deadline, and a copy of your Activities Resume.
- Ask at least two people to proofread your college or scholarship application.

Senior “To Do” List:

- Create an FSA ID for you and one for a parent. You’ll need them for FAFSA. You can also do this at the EducationQuest Financial Meeting on October 9.
- Complete the FAFSA on or after October 1.
- Complete college applications.

EducationQuest Website a Useful Tool

EducationQuest provides a FREE service to students, parents, and schools in Nebraska for:

- Nebraska-based scholarship search
- Nebraska college search and links to Nebraska college websites
- College Funding Estimator (estimates students’ eligibility for financial aid)
- Countdown to College – students may sign up for monthly college planning tips by email (grades 9-12)
- College preparation and financial aid information
- Student loan calculations

The website for EducationQuest is: www.educadtionquest.org or you can contact them for free personal help and make an appointment: Omaha – 888.357.6300, Lincoln – 800.303.3745, Kearney – 800.666.3721.

Virtual College Fair is September 27-30!

Attend a college fair from the comfort of your couch! The EducationQuest Virtual College Fair is September 27-30. To register and to find details, visit eqf.org/collegefair.

During the four-day fair, you can visit college booths, chat with college reps, and watch live or recorded sessions on topics such as college admission, paying for college, and finding scholarships.

The college fair will be “open” the following days and times, but college booths and recorded sessions will remain available until Dec. 1.

- Sept. 27 – 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. CT
- Sept. 28 – 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. CT
- Sept. 29 – 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. CT
- Sept. 30 – 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. CT

Resources for Students with Disabilities

If you have a disability that may require accommodations in college, ask Mrs. Hermsmeier for a copy of College Planning for Students with Disabilities. In addition, visit Educational Opportunities Beyond High School at: <http://www.unl.edu/ssd/content/accommodations>.

COVID LUNCH PROGRAM

Meridian Public Schools qualifies for a Federal Lunch program through the Nebraska Department of Education. This program authorizes participating schools to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to ANY student. Adult meals and our afternoon milks DO NOT QUALIFY. This program is valid from August 19, 2020, until December 31, 2020.

If you have paid for lunches or have a positive balance which carried over, it will remain in your student’s account until our second semester. For those students who have been charged for their meals, Meridian has issued a credit for ALL MEALS taken from their accounts. Pre-K through 2nd Grade students will still be accountable for the afternoon milk.

STUCO NEWS

School has been in session for over one month, and the Meridian Student Council has been very busy. Due to COVID, all of the Student Council members from last year are on it again this year. Seniors are: Lane Barton, Lindsey Brant, Kezia Connealy, Delaney Homolka, and Ashley Hummer. Juniors are: Brynn Holtmeier, Ally Kort, Brayden Rut, Kim Schropfer, and Erika Schwisow. Sophomores are: Bailey Holtmeier and Kaylee Pribyl. Freshman representative



is Kymber Schwisow, and eighth grade representative is Samuel Thomas. Other Junior High representatives and officers were elected the first two weeks of school. Congrats Justin Bartels for being elected seventh grade representative and Taelyn Filipi for being elected as the other eighth grade representative. Congratulations to the 2020-2021 officers: President Kezia Connealy, Vice President Delaney Homolka, Secretary Erika Schwisow, Treasurer Kim Schropfer, Historians Ashley Hummer and Ally Kort, and Public Relations Brynn Holtmeier.

Homecoming was September 18th and 19th. The Homecoming Royal Court included Lane Barton, Kezia Connealy, Delaney Homolka, Erin Kujath, and Corin Paul. Congrats to Lane and Erin, our 2020 King and Queen. Thank you to Mr. Asche, the sophomores, and the sophomores' parents for providing the meal. Also thank you to the parents who made the Homecoming Breakfast which was served on Friday, September 18.

The Student Council would like to thank the school and community for the amazing turnout at the First Annual Homecoming Parade. Thank you to Trimm Photo for taking pictures of the night. We hope to expand on it next year and to make it a tradition here at Meridian.

Magazine sales kickoff will be September 30th. Some of the profit from these sales goes back to the classes and to Stu-Co. Seventh through twelfth graders will be out selling these next few weeks. There is also a website to order from. Thank you to everyone who supports these sales.

Wishing you a Spooktacular October! Public Relations, Brynn Holtmeier

FFA

The Meridian FFA Chapter has been off to a great start this year! We held our first chapter meeting on September 10th. At the meeting, we discussed FFA dues which are due on September 24th for all members. We also talked about the Connecting Chapters Program which promotes ag literacy in youth. A virtual training will be held on Friday, October 2nd from 2-4pm. A new community service project is also being offered. The Prairie Legacy Greenhouse

by Western is needing extra help every Sunday from 2-4 P.M. until mid October. Last of all we handed out awards from the previous year to our members to recognize their hard work since we were not able to hold our annual banquet last Spring. Land judging practices have also begun. They will be held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings at 7:15am in Mrs. Hebda's room. After the Land Judging contest on October 7th, these morning practices will switch to livestock judging. Sign up sheets for all of our events are located on the bulletin boards outside of Mrs. Hebda's room. Our chapter food sales fundraiser will begin on October 13th and run through November 3rd. We will be selling fruit, meat & cheese, and candies & snacks. FFA members will have flyers, but there is also the option to purchase online. Please feel free to reach out to Mrs. Hebda or any member with any questions.

Upcoming Dates:

- Connecting Chapters Training: October 2nd from 1-3 P.M at School
- Land Judging: October 7th in Nemaha County
- FFA Concessions: October 8th
- Trash Pickup: October 11th at 2 P.M
- Chapter Meeting: October 13th at 7:15 a.m.
- Food Sales: October 13th- November 3rd

Sincerely,
Chase Bartels
Meridian FFA Reporter

MERIDIAN ONE ACT

2020

“A WRINKLE IN TIME”

Adapted for the stage by Morgan Gould from the book by Madeleine L'Engle

The drama department of Meridian Public Schools has chosen to perform *A Wrinkle in Time* for the One Act Play this year. The following were selected as the cast and crew:

Cast

Character

Lindsay Brant	Mrs. Which
Delaney Homolka	Mother
Ashley Hummer	Mrs. Whatsit
Mo'Nae Moody	Mrs. Who
Kayla Most	Red-Eyed Man
Brynn Holtmeier	Meg
Nylah Moody	Camazotz Mother
Erika Schwisow	Ensemble

	Leader Narrator
	Understudy:
	all men
Wyatt Scheets	Calvin
Alyssa Haake	Ensemble
	Dennys
	Understudy:
	Red Eyed Man
Kailyn Paul	Ensemble
	Teacher
	Understudy:
	Mrs. Whatsit
Schyler Schwisow	Ensemble
	Skeptic
	Understudy:
	Mrs. Who
Amber Vinsonhaler	Ensemble
	Sandy
	Understudy:
	Mother
	Camazotz Mother
Jesus Nuñez	Father
Andon Sales	Charles Wallace
Tyleiah Gooding	Ensemble
	Postal Worker
	Understudy:
	Mrs. Which
Evelyn Woitalewicz	Ensemble
	Bully
	Understudy:
	Meg

Crew

Jenik Green	Ally Kort
Kim Schropfer	Angelo Herrera
Ashauna Davis	Peyton Norine

Director

Mr. Harold Scott

The cast and crew will compete in several competitions and have a public performance at Meridian. We will update you on the times and locations of the performances in our next newsletter.

*Produced in cooperation with Stage Partners
www.yourstagepartners.com*

THANK YOU'S

Meridian Public Schools would like to thank Heartland Bank and M-PIE (Meridian Partners in Education) for once again purchasing the red pocket calendars for the community. There are still some of these calendars available. If you need one, please stop by Heartland Bank in Daykin or our offices. We truly appreciate your continued support.

Meridian concession stand would like to thank Farm Bureau and Jason Bartels for donating the popcorn bags. We truly could not be successful without the support of our wonderful community. Thank you!!



Meridian FFA

Pork Raffle

Together, with Livingston Enterprise, the Meridian FFA Chapter wants to do their best honor National Pork Month, October. As a fundraiser, we will be selling raffle tickets for one lucky winner to win an entire, processed hog, with meat cuts of their choice! Winner will be responsible for picking up their meat on their own from the Diller Locker, in Diller, NE.

Tickets will be sold at all home games through October 23rd.

Pricing:

\$10 per raffle ticket or 3 for \$20

A winner will be drawn at half time of the Sterling vs. Meridian football game on October 23rd

If unable to attend a game, please feel free to contact Mrs. Hebda or any FFA officer with what you would like to purchase at shebda@meridianmustangs.org or 402-446-7265.




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