



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

February, 2024

Newsletter - February, 2024
Superintendent
Randy Kort

Board of Education Meridian Public Schools District - 48-0303 Daykin, Nebraska, 68338 Monday, January 15, 2024

Regular January 15, 2024 Meeting

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on January 15, 2024, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

Roll call was taken: Barton - present, Niederklein - present, Sobotka - present, Rut - present, Scheer - present, and Bartels - present. Also present was Superintendent Kort. Principal Drees and Principal Hull.

Superintendent Kort was appointed to preside over the process to elect a president.

Rut nominated and Scheer seconded to elect Bartels as president.

Scheer moved and Barton seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - abstain. Motion passed 5-0. Bartels was elected president.

Superintendent Kort turned the meeting over to President Bartels.

Scheer nominated and Rut seconded to elect Sobotka as vice president.

Niederklein moved and Scheer seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - abstain, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0. Sobotka was elected vice president.

Sobotka nominated and Scheer seconded to elect Niederklein as secretary.

Barton moved and Scheer seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - abstain, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0. Niederklein elected as secretary.

Scheer moved and Niederklein seconded to elect Rut as treasurer.

Barton moved and Sobotka seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - abstain, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 5-0. Rut elected as treasurer.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

No comments were heard from the public.

Niederklein moved and Rut seconded to approve the consent agenda as presented.

- A. Minutes of the Wednesday, December 13, 2023 Regular Meeting
- B. District Financial Report
- C. Activity Fund Report
- D. Hot Lunch Fund Report
- E. Bills

Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Superintendent Kort presented the Curriculum Report to the Board.

Scheer moved and Barton seconded to retain the current committee assignments. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye, Rut - aye, Scheer - aye, and Bartels - aye. Motion passed 6-0.

- Americanism: Bartels, Rut, Scheer
- Building & Grounds: Niederklein, Sobotka, Barton
- Transportation: Niederklein, Scheer, Barton
- Curriculum & Instruction: Bartels, Rut, Barton
- Negotiations: Bartels, Niederklein, Sobotka

Sobotka moved and Rut seconded to approve Heartland Bank as the Official District Depository. Vote taken: Barton - aye, Niederklein - aye, Sobotka - aye,

Welcome 2024,
We have had a very snowy start to the 2024 year. It has been a long time since we have had this much snow around. I want everyone to know our decisions for late starts and canceled school come with thought and doing what is best for our students. The highways around here are so packed with snow and we are looking forward to some warmer weather to help melt them down.

We are almost half way through the third quarter. Please stay informed on your students grades as we are in a busy time with all the activities winding down or starting up.

We did have the early-out on January 24, scheduled as our school is preparing for our 5-year visit from the state.

Parent Teacher Conferences are February 8, starting at 4:00 pm and concluding at 8:00 pm. The second day of PTC is February 14 starting at 3:00 pm and concluding at 6:00 pm. These dates are not back to back like normal because of activity conflicts.

We have recently had weather conditions that resulted in school starting late or canceled. Please stay tuned to the following stations for updated school closing when inclement weather is in our area:

KLKN - TV: Lincoln
KHAS - TV: Hastings
KOLN/KGIN TV: Lincoln/Grand Island

We also use School Messenger that does an all-call to parents, students and staff. If you have not received any of the calls, please contact Trish to get that corrected.





Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Sobotka moved and Rut seconded to approve the Fairbury Journal-News as the District Newspaper. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Superintendent Kort provided a copy of the draft of the 2024-2025 calendar for discussion.

Principal Drees and Principal Hull presented the Principals’ Reports to the Board.

Superintendent Kort presented the Superintendent’s Report to the Board.

The next regular meeting was set for Monday, February 19, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Scheer moved and Barton seconded to adjourn at 6:56 p.m. Vote taken: Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, Rut – aye, Scheer – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 6-0.

Jamie Niederklein,

Secretary Meridian District #48-0303

**“The Dish”
with Drees**

The first thing that comes to mind is snow, but who wants to hear more about snow?! It’s cold. It’s white. It’s everywhere! Our second semester has gotten off to an interesting start because of it, too. I guess you could say the snow days helped us ease our way back into the school routine. January seemed to fly by before we knew it. We are hoping for a calm February because we love having students in the building. And speaking of love, February will bring some extra love as we spread some cheer at our Valentine’s Day parties. Our elementary students are also making valentines for veterans again this year. A couple more things to note on the February calendar are parent-teacher conferences. We look forward to seeing you on the 8th or 14th. We will also be celebrating Read Across America Week at the end of the month and beginning of March. Please watch for more details on all of these events.

I want to close with a thank you. Our elementary students and staff want to give a big thank you to MPIE for the books we received for Christmas. Each student was gifted a book that was picked out by their teacher. Students got to open their books in January. It was so fun to see the excitement on the teachers’ and students’ faces as they received their books. It was a wonderful gift. And because of your support through our book fair, this was made possible. Thank you for making a difference for our students!

**PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING
WITH MR. HULL**

Weather has certainly made January an interesting month. Hopefully February will bring better weather so that we can really get back into a routine. February also brings district and state wrestling, district basketball, and speech and quiz bowl contests. Good luck to those teams!

We will also be having Parent-Teacher conferences in February: Thursday, February 8 from 4:00pm-8:00pm and Wednesday, February 14 from 3:00pm-6:00pm. This is a great opportunity for us to work together to best support your student.

February 26th will be the start of Spring practices. If your child plans to participate in junior high or high school track and did not participate in Fall or Winter sports, please make sure that he/she has a physical and NSAA consent form on file with our district office. Students cannot participate in practice until a physical is on file.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mike Hofstetter and our custodial staff. This winter has been especially difficult, but our parking lot has been cleared and our school continues to look great! Thank you to Mike and his staff!



COUNSELOR’S CONNECTION
by
Lisa Hermsmeier

Seniors & Parents...make sure you complete the FAFSA process

Getting financial aid for college involves more than completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Complete each step of the process so that you don’t miss out on money for college.

- If you haven’t already, complete your 2024-2025 FAFSA** at FAFSA.gov using 2022 income tax data. Before you start, you and a parent must each get an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov as you’ll need them to access and sign your FAFSA.
- Expect a Student Aid Report (SAR) via an email link.** The SAR acknowledges that your FAFSA was received and lets you know if you need to take further action before the form can be processed. New this year, per state law, Meridian Public School needs to show proof that all students have completed the FAFSA.
- You might receive a verification notice** from the college(s) you listed on your FAFSA requesting documents to verify your FAFSA information. The college will not process your financial aid until you provide required documents.
- Watch for financial aid award notifications.** Once you’re accepted for admission to the colleges you listed on your FAFSA, they will notify you of the types and amounts of financial aid they’re offering. Watch your email and student portal carefully for important details about admission and financial aid.

What you need to know about scholarships...Scholarship time is here! Most scholarships are based on academics, but others are based on community service, school involvement, or talent. Some are based on financial need as determined by the results of your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

Here’s where you can find scholarships:
• **ScholarshipQuest** at **EducationQuest.org** features over 2,000 Nebraska-based scholarships. After you create a profile, you’ll be



matched with scholarships that fit your criteria. You'll also find links to national sites that EducationQuest recommends.

- **Your school counselor's office website.** Our list of local scholarships will be posted mid-February on the school website under the "School" tab and then click "Counselor." Click on the link that says "go here to my website." From there, find the Scholarship tab and they will all be listed. Make sure you 'download' the documents and save them to your computer so they stay formatted correctly. I have included a local checklist on my page to help you keep track of each scholarship and the requirements. This document is only for your benefit and does not need to be turned into me. Please notice due dates and requirements for each scholarship. Do not wait until the last minute to start these! If you need letters of recommendation, make sure you give your recommenders plenty of time to write a letter (a minimum two week notification is ideal)!
- **The college you plan to attend.** Contact the school or check the school's website for a list of scholarships they provide and application procedures.
- **National search sites such as collegeboard.org,**
www.petersons.com/scholarship-search.aspx, chegg.com/scholarships

Other resources could include your coach, clubs and organizations, and your parents' employers and civic organizations.

Juniors & Parents: All juniors will be taking the ACT test at school on March 26 as part of state testing (free of charge). If you want to take an additional ACT test this spring, you must register by March 8 for the April 13 test or by May 3 for the June 8 test. To register, go online to www.actstudent.org. If you qualify and would like to request a fee waiver, contact Ms. Hermsmeier. All Meridian students have FREE access to the On To College (formerly John Baylor ACT Test Prep program). Contact Ms. Hermsmeier if you would like to take advantage of this opportunity for the spring tests! Note that all juniors will be preparing for the March 26 test using a form of ACT prep.

Juniors: it's time to find the right fit for college! Schedule a campus visit. All juniors may have two excused absences to take a college visit! Schedule your visit through the counseling office to ensure your absence is excused. In addition to your two excused days of school, your upcoming spring break is also a good time to visit schools that interest you.

National Honor Society is Hosting "Coins for CASA"

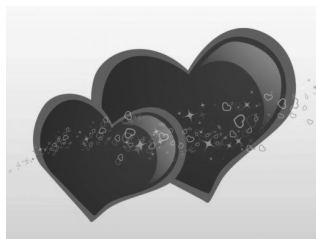
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society is no longer doing the "Pennies for Patients" fundraising drive, so the National Honor Society has decided to go a different route. We are going to still fundraise for children, but we plan to keep our funds local and support the Southeast Nebraska CASA. This donation will help foster students in southeast Nebraska have an advocate in the court system. It also helps the child find a safe, loving, and permanent home.

The National Honor Society will be holding "Coins for CASA" in the month of February. The goal of this fundraiser is to raise money for CASA. In our past Pennies for Patients drives, we have raised over \$1,000 each year. Let's keep that up and help our local youth!

For the elementary, we are giving away prizes. Individual donation envelopes will be sent home with each elementary student and group boxes will be available for grades 7-12. A community donation box will also be available in the district office. Lift up those couch cushions and find that spare change.... Any little bit you can contribute will make a difference!

SFS BASEBALL

If anyone is interested in coaching an SFS baseball team, please contact Lonnie Schafer (402-520-1916) or Toby Sones (402-300-0681) by February 29, 2024. Thank you.



THANK YOU

MPIE (Meridian Partners in Education) sincerely apologizes for accidentally omitting First State Bank Nebraska at Western from the list of businesses and individuals who donated items for the MPIE raffle. We truly appreciate all of you who supported us by donating items and/or participating in the raffle. All money raised will go towards activities and projects throughout the year for the students and staff and scholarships for the class of 2024.

Families & Businesses:

- AKRS
- The Image
- Craig & Stacy Lutjemeyer
- Amy Rains
- Neal & Tami Filipi
- Heartland Bank
- Eric & Jamie Niederklein
- Milligan Insurance Agency
- Scott & Wendee Sobotka
- Paula Simms
- Farmers Cooperative
- Mike & Chris Haake
- Scott & Joy Wolfe
- Jack & Jean Sobotka
- Larry Schafer, Channel Seeds
- Bear-N-T's
- Derrick & Megan Haake
- LandMark Implement
- Jimmy & Anne Simms
- Have's Place
- Road Runner Bar & Grill
- Double B Bar & Grill
- First State Bank Nebraska at Western



February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Breakfast is also served with fruit, juice and milk. Cereal is a substitute for any breakfast entrée.				1 Pancakes Soft Shell Taco Lettuce/Salsa Refried Beans Churro	2 Blue Berry Muffin Pulled Pork Sandwich Hash Brown Patty Cole Slaw	3 Menu is subject to Change without notice.
4 Fresh fruit & Vegetable bar offered each day.	5 Breakfast Pizza Cheesy Bread Marinara Sauce Carrots Cookie	6 Sausage Egg Tornado Chicken Fajita Lettuce/Salsa Spanish Rice Corn	7 Ham Egg Bar Spaghetti Green Beans Cheesy Breadstick	8 Fruit & Yogurt Parfait Creamed Turkey Mashed Potatoes Peas/Roll	9 Breakfast Sandwich Hamburger Chips Baked Beans Apple Crisp	10
11 Choice of 1% white & Chocolate milk is offered each day. PK get 1% White milk only	12 Omelet/Toast Chicken Fried Steak Mashed Potatoes Corn/Roll	13 Apple Frudel Walking Taco Lettuce/Salsa Corn Pudding Cup	14 Valentine's Day NO SCHOOL	15 Pancakes Corn Dog Baked Beans Chips	16 NO SCHOOL	17
18	19 Presidents' Day French Toast Sticks Chicken Cheese Crispito Refried Beans Cookie	20 Breakfast Burrito Mac & Cheese Little Smokies Corn/Roll	21 Blueberry Muffin Tater Tot Casserole Green Beans Roll	22 Ham Egg Bar Hotdog Sauerkraut Baked Beans	23 Poptart Soft Shell Taco Lettuce/Salsa Refried Beans Churro	24
25	26 Ham Egg Bar Fiestada Pizza Corn Pudding Cup	27 French Toast Breaded Chicken Sandwich Scalloped Potatoes Peas	28 Breakfast Pizza BBQ Sandwich Hashbrown Patty Corn	29 Omelet & Hash Brown Salisbury Steak Mashed Potatoes Gravy/Corn Roll		This institution is an equal opportunity employer



M-PIE SOUP SUPPER

(Meridian Partners In Education)

Friday, February 9

Meridian School Commons

During the Meridian vs. Silver Lake
Basketball Games

Serving from 5:00-8:00 p.m.



\$6.00 Meal Deal

Choice of Chili, Chicken Noodle or Potato Soup
Ham & Cheese Sandwich, Dessert, Drink

Items Also Sold Separately

Soup-\$3.00, Sandwich-\$1.50, Dessert-\$1.50, Drink-\$.50



OHIOWA RESCUE EQUIPMENT FUNDRAISER

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024

OHIOWA RURAL FIRE & RESCUE

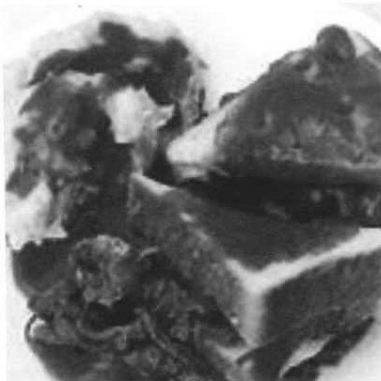
COMMUNITY ROOM

HOT ROAST BEEF SANDWICH MEAL

SERVING 11 AM TO 1 PM

FREE-WILL DONATION

RAISING FUNDS FOR NEW ELECTRIC GURNEY AND
LUCAS (MECHANICAL CPR)



**The volunteers of Ohio
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support.**




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