



Meridian Public Schools

"The Hoof Print" ~ Home of the Mustangs

Newsletter

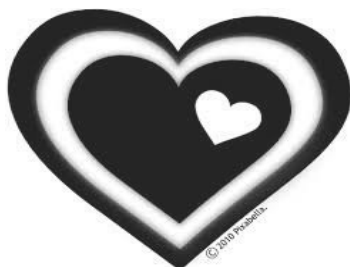
www.meridianmustangs.org

February, 2015

Newsletter-February, 2015
Superintendent
Randy Kort

Greetings!

Once again it was time for me to look at the calendar and just shake my head in disbelief as we are concluding January and preparing for February. It has been a great year, and I am sure the following four months will go just as quickly as the first semester. While looking at the calendar, I am reminded of how many events and activities our students are involved in, and how this time of year all of these events seem to run together. Please continue to be involved with your son or daughter and make time to have conversations about time management and how they are feeling. Events taking place in February are conference, district and state wrestling. Please wish the wrestlers good luck as they finish a great season that has given some personal records. Basketball players will be finishing up conference play and preparing for sub-district and district games. This is an interesting year as the boys will be playing in D-1 while the girls are in D-2. Speech meets and contests will be going strong throughout the month. Music honor choirs and bands will be holding events for several of our students. Other events students will be involved in will be Quiz Bowls, Spelling Bee, and Reading Classics. We wish the best of luck to all the teams and individuals throughout this stretch. Please come to the events and positively support our students.



Other events during February include our Parent-Teachers Conference which will be held on February 9th and 11th. Those times are 4:00-8:30 each night. Of course we cannot forget February 14th as our Speech invite is that day with contestants participating throughout the day at Meridian. Oh, and a Happy Valentine's Day to everyone.

Special Recognition

I would like to extend a special thank you to Dwayne Wolf, Brian Jackson and Gary Mussman for their years of service on the School Board. Many will never know the time and effort required by that duty. Your dedication and services have truly been appreciated.

New Members and Officers

The Meridian School Board would like to extend a warm welcome to Rene' Scheer, who assumed her role a few months ago, and to Scott Sobotka and Todd Voderstrasse who were sworn in Monday, January 19, 2015.

The officers for the 2015 year are:

Jay VanWesten – President
Chad Frank – Vice President
Scott Sobotka – Secretary
Larry Miller – Treasurer

Option Enrollment

Help spread the news that Meridian is a great school to attend. Present parental enthusiasm is the best advertising tool Meridian utilizes to attract option students. Please feel free to brag about Meridian Public School and encourage others to check us out.

This is a reminder to parents and students who wish to option into Meridian Public Schools for the 2015-2016 school year. Parents must fill out Form NDE 25-010 and submit it to the Option School District by March 15, of the prior school year. After March 15, Section 2 of the application must be completed by the resident school district.

Meridian Public Schools has much to offer students in the areas of academics,

fine arts, and extracurricular activities. We have an excellent student to teacher ratio and offer a great variety of learning experiences for every student. We have laptops for all students in grades 7-12. We provide Distance Learning classes, Career Academy classes, and K-12 Enrichment opportunity along with our in-house academic curriculum. College credit courses are also available to Meridian students. Parents interested in optioning their child into the district are encouraged and welcome to contact our offices and arrange a visit to the school.

Board of Education
Meridian Public Schools
District – 48-0303
Daykin, Nebraska, 68338
Monday January 19, 2015

Regular January 19, 2015 Meeting -
7:30 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on January 19, 2015, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented. Members present were Miller, Scheer, Frank, VanWesten, and Wolfe. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott, new Board Members Scott Sobotka and Todd Vorderstrasse, and guests Erin VanderSchaaf, Shelby Homolka and Crystal Nuñez.

Scheer moved and Miller seconded to appoint current Secretary VanWesten to preside over the meeting. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Newly elected member, Scott Sobotka, recited the oath of office.

Newly elected member, Todd Vorderstrasse, recited the oath of office.

Frank moved and Miller seconded to approve Superintendent Kort to preside over the process to elect a president.



Vote taken: Miller-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Miller moved and Sobotka seconded to nominate VanWesten as Board President.

Miller moved and Frank seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, and VanWesten-aye. VanWesten was elected as Board President 6-0.

Scheer moved and Miller seconded to approve newly elected President VanWesten to preside over the meeting. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Sobotka moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to nominate Frank as Board Vice-President.

Miller moved and Scheer seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Frank was elected as Board Vice-President 6-0.

Frank moved and Miller seconded to nominate Sobotka as Board Secretary.

Scheer moved and Miller seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Sobotka was elected as Board Secretary 6-0.

Miller moved and Sobotka seconded to nominate Miller as Board Treasurer.

Frank moved and Scheer seconded to cease nominations. Vote taken: Sobotka-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Miller was elected as Board Treasurer 6-0.

Miller moved and Frank seconded to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of the December 15, 2014 Regular Meeting
2. District Financial Report
3. Activity Fund Report

4. Hot Lunch Report
5. Bills

Vote taken: Miller-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Students, Shelby Homolka and Crystal Nuñez, informed the Board of the District Student Council Meeting at Crete. They also informed the board of the Student Council's possible project of upgrading the marquee.

Miller moved and Frank seconded to approve the maintenance agreement bid with Rome Service Inc. in the amount of \$7,250. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, and VanWesten -aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Miller moved Scheer seconded to approve the roofing bid from Weathercraft Inc. in the amount of \$241,760. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Frank-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Superintendent Kort discussed some options for the 2015-2016 school year calendar.

Superintendent Kort discussed the use of Option Enrollment advertisement.

Principal Scott and Superintendent Kort reviewed the current curriculum cycle.

Superintendent Kort informed the Board what steps have been taken, and the direction the District is moving, to improve the School's technology.

Superintendent Kort informed the Board this is the last year Columbia will be insuring schools. He will be getting quotes from other companies that provide coverage for schools.

Principal Scott reported:

1. Junior High Attended ESU 5 Science Day
2. Elementary/High School Christmas Programs
3. Student Council Provided a Christmas Tea for the Staff
4. First Semester Ended on December 19th

5. Ida, Our German Exchange Student, Finished Her Time at Meridian
6. NDE did a Pre-K Follow Up on Their Initial Visit
7. National Honor Society Sponsored a Red Cross Blood Drive
8. Lupe Dimas Reached 100 Wins at the Tri-County Wrestling Meet
9. Parent Teacher Conferences Will be Held on February 9th and 11th
10. State Writing Tests are the Week of January 26th

Superintendent Kort reported:

1. CRC Meeting and Discussion of Jr. High Sports and the Future of the York Auditorium
2. CRC Discussion on Number of Teams and How to Schedule Events
3. Band Uniform Update
4. Girls' Shower Update has been Completed
5. Student Numbers
6. Updated CRC Administrative Salaries
7. M-Pie Applied for Norris Round-up Grant
8. Combining Show Choir and Band Activity Accounts
9. Law Firm Changes

Superintendent Kort provided the board with a summary of his evaluation that was completed in December.

Discussion was held on the possibility of a Board Retreat. Possible times will be presented at the February meeting.

Next Regular Meeting was set for Wednesday, February 11, 2015 – 7:30 p.m. due to a conflict on the third Monday.

Scheer moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Scheer-aye, Frank-aye, Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, and VanWesten -aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Jay VanWesten,

Acting Secretary
Meridian District #48-0303





Mustang MEMO
Mr. Harold Scott
Principal

Five JH students were able to attend the ESU 5 Science Day on December 17th. Students participated in projects connected to Newton's Second Law. One of the projects was to construct a race car that would run down an incline without breaking an egg passenger. The students who attended from Meridian were some of our quieter students. Following the Science Day, they talked non-stop on the trip home about the day's activities. It was time well spent.

Student Council provided a Christmas Tea for the school staff. Thank you to these students for a wonderful spread.

The JH/HS holiday concert was held December 18th. Congratulations to Mrs. V. and the students for a great program to get us in the mood for the season. It was great fun to get to conduct a piece with the high school band!

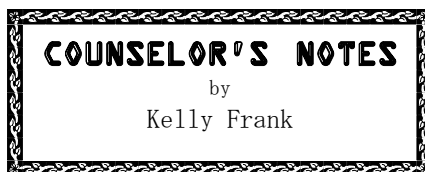
First semester ended on Friday, December 19th. Ida, our exchange student from Germany, finished her time at Meridian. The high school students gave her a group hug as a Mustang send off. We wish Ida well as she returns home. We hope she has fond memories of her time at Meridian!

The Nebraska Department of Education did their Pre-K follow up to their first semester visit on January 5th. Several areas were recognized as having had great improvement from last year. There are other areas we will be working on to better meet some of the suggested improvements.

The first Red Cross blood drive held January 8th, at the school, sponsored by the National Honor Society, was a huge success. Approximately 45 people donated blood, including several first time donors. We look forward to making this an annual event, perhaps hosting twice a year.

Congratulations to Lupe D. on his 100th wrestling win at Tri-County on January 9th. He did it with style, pinning his opponent.

Parent teacher conferences will be held Monday, February 9th and Wednesday, February 11th from 4:00-8:30pm each day. We want to remind parents that if they have students in both the elementary and the secondary that they sign in at both areas.



COUNSELOR'S NOTES
by
Kelly Frank

Seniors & Parents:

Scholarship time is here! The list of local scholarships is posted on my website under the "Counselor" tab. 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 turned into me. Please notice due dates and requirements for each scholarship. Do not wait until the last minute to start these!

It's also FAFSA time! If you're a college-bound senior, you must complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) to apply for state, federal and college-based financial aid. Submit the form before your college's FAFSA priority date as some financial aid is awarded first-come, first-served. Priority dates usually fall between March 1 and April 1. To learn your college's priority date, check the financial aid section of their website or contact their financial aid office. Go to <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> to apply.

Juniors & Parents:

All Juniors have started the John Baylor ACT Test Prep program in preparation for a spring ACT test. If you missed the registration deadline for this test, please note that the next test is April 18th. To register, go online to www.actstudent.org.

Boys & Girls State will be held May 31-June 6 this year. If you are a junior or have a junior student, please know that the opportunity to attend this leadership program is available. Area legion posts choose their representatives. If you have questions, please contact me.

Freshmen & Sophomores:

A college visit day is tentatively scheduled for all 9th & 10th graders on Thursday, February 26th. We plan to visit the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and SCC-Milford. I will be sending out a more detailed letter to parents once plans are set in place.

Parent-Teacher Conferences:

I encourage all parents to attend our spring conferences this year. This is a great time to touch base with the teachers and to discuss student strengths and areas of concern. I will also be available at conferences and would welcome a visit from you!

March 15th Option Deadline:

If you, or someone you know, is interested in attending Meridian School next year and live outside the district, please note the Option Enrollment Deadline is March 15th. Please contact the school for the correct paperwork or to learn more about this process.

Thank you,
Kelly Frank
PreK-12 Guidance
kfrank@meridianmustangs.org
402-446-7265 ext. 1253

15-16 Kindergarten Parent Meeting

On March 2, 2015, parents of Kindergarten students who will begin school in August, 2015, are invited to attend an informational meeting. We will attempt to inform these parents of the regulations regarding Option Enrollment, immunization, and physicals. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Kindergarten room.



MUSICAL NOTES

It is time for a Singing Valentine! The high school choir is busy creating new lyrics to some classic songs just in time to sing them to your Valentine! The students can deliver valentines to anyone at school, and new this year, to anyone in Daykin! Please see the order form in the newsletter for more information and check with any choir student in February for the list of possible song options.

January and February also bring honor choirs and bands. Students are finishing up auditions for the CRC Honor Band and anxiously awaiting results from Class D All-State and our junior high honor clinic that we hold here at school. The elementary band students are busily preparing for Bruning-Davenport Music Contest, held in Davenport on February 21 (note date change from the red book). A group of 10 high school choir students will also be singing for Legion members at their meeting on February 1st.

The last important date to keep in mind is May 26-29 when high school music students will be traveling to Chicago. Thank you for all of your support as these students have been saving and fundraising for 4 years for this awesome experience!

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society will be holding its annual "Pennies for Patients" coin drive the month of February. The goal of this fundraiser is to raise money for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Individual donation boxes 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. So lift up those couch cushions and find that spare change. Any little bit you can contribute will make a difference!

A huge **THANK YOU** to those who were able to support our first-ever Red Cross Blood Drive. Forty-five people were able to donate that day! What a great way to help others and support a great community organization.

NHS applications for new members will be handed out soon. More information in next month's newsletter on new members.

PARENTS' NIGHT

February 3, 2015, is basketball and cheerleader Parents' Night at Meridian. Kathy Houser will mail coupons for free admittance and free food at the concession stand for parents of Seniors. Please look for the letters to arrive sometime during the week of January 26th, 2015. If you do not receive an envelope by February 1st, please let us know, and we will make sure you receive one the night of the games.

Recognition of parents will be between the girls and boys varsity games. To ensure presentations are not delayed, we are asking all parents to be in attendance by 7:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact the school before February 3rd, 2015.

STUCO NEWS

As the second semester begins with the New Year, the Student Council is proud to say we have survived half a year and we are ready to take on the second half. In the month of January StuCo had plenty on the agenda.

To begin with, the Hat, Mitten, and Scarf Tree came down and all donations were sent to Blue Valley Community Action in Fairbury. Thank you to everyone who donated. Although the holiday decorations were joyful and exciting to look at, they too had to come down. StuCo was in charge of setting up the decorations, therefore, they were in charge of putting them away nicely where they belong.

As the Council continues to raise money for Make-A-Wish, StuCo would like to remind you that the free throw shot is still being held during the varsity basketball home games. We have made a couple of small changes this year. It was brought up to the council that the young kids were at a disadvantage since they were smaller. Thanks to that feedback, StuCo members now bring out a smaller hoop

for the young kids and a much smaller ball. We are also offering Powerade as a prize for anyone would rather have that instead of pop.

Moving on, here is what you can expect from the council for the following month. The members have narrowed their school improvement projects ideas that they would like to do. The council will choose the final project soon so it can be started as soon as possible. The members have held open floor discussions to get everyone's input.

The Student Council is also planning their annual Winter Activity. We have decided to host another school dance. Around this time StuCo is usually expected to have a school dance. So clearly, we wouldn't want to disappoint students by not letting them get their groove on. The members will begin the canned food drive shortly. The reason StuCo has this fundraiser later in the year is due to shortages at Blue Valley after Christmas. Therefore, StuCo believes it is a great idea to fundraise when there is the most need. In the past years, the council used the dance as a kick-starter for the fundraiser. Instead of charging students money to get in, the only fee is to bring a can of food, simple. Right? If you have any questions or concerns please let a member know...and don't forget to smile there isn't enough time in the world to be sad:)

The One and Only Fabulous,
Crystal Nuñez
Public Relations

Happy Valentines Day!





Singing Valentines Order Form

The Meridian High School Choir will be selling singing Valentines from February 3rd-February 11th. Valentines will be delivered on February 12th. Along with the singing valentine, the recipient will also receive a few Hershey's kisses. Song options will be available the week of February 3rd. Order forms should be turned into Mrs. VanderSchaaf, or you can email or call evander@meridianmustangs.org, 402-446-7265.

Receiver of Valentine: _____

Purchased by: _____

Send Anonymously? YES or NO

\$2.00 each or 3/\$5.00 (If you are ordering for an entire class, please add \$3-each student will receive 1 Hershey's Kiss)

Daykin Community! We can deliver in Daykin on the morning of February 12th! Location _____

Community Orders will be delivered in the morning, we will try to accommodate specific time requests.

Elementary Grade _____

Elementary Orders will be delivered at a time convenient for the classroom teacher.

JH/HS Grade _____

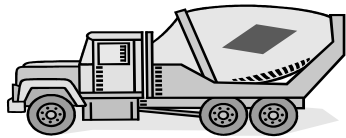
Secondary Orders-requests for specific classes or times will be honored when possible.

Please indicate your preferred time and place of delivery.

_____Anytime _____READ Period _____Study Hall

_____Lunch (Mark A or B)





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M-PIE SOUP SUPPER

(Meridian Partners In Education)

Tuesday, February 3

Meridian School Commons

During the Meridian vs. B-D-S Basketball Games

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