



# Meridian Public Schools

## "The Hoof Print" ~ Home of the Mustangs

Newsletter

www.meridianmustangs.org

October, 2014

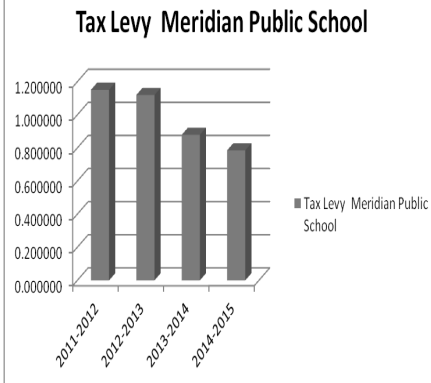
Newsletter-October 2014  
Superintendent  
Randy Kort

As we enter October, please be sure to add a few minutes of travel time and be aware as the farmers are engaged in harvest at this time.

The Meridian Board of Education met on September 15, 2014. The Board approved the 2014-2015 annual budget as presented. The Budget Hearing was held at 7:00 P.M. and the 2014-2015 Tax Request Hearing at 7:15 P.M.

The 2014-2015 General Fund expenditures are set to be \$3,249,724.52 an increase of \$78,521.67 from 2013-2014. The 2014-2015 total requirements for the General Fund, including the cash reserve, are set at \$4,296,100.

The District Assessed Valuation increased 25.25% to a total of \$396,683,832. Based upon this valuation the Board of Education approved tax requests and levy requests of: \$2,187,706 (\$ .551499 per \$100 assessed valuation) for the General Fund; \$552,525.25 (\$ .139286 per \$100 assessed valuation) for the Special Building Fund; \$206,060.60 (\$ .051946 per \$100 assessed valuation) Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund; \$170,587.56 (\$ .043004 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 2014-2015 budget is \$3,116,879.84 (\$ .785735 per \$100 assessed valuation). The levy request amount decreased \$ .093754.



### HOT LUNCH WEEK

October 13<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup> is National Hot Lunch Week. Meridian Public School would like to publicly thank our fabulous Hot Lunch Workers: Head Cook – Elaine Bartels, Cook – Stephanie Dietz, Dishwasher – Shari Bachle, Bookkeepers – Kathy Houser, Judy Grummert and Trish Endorf. Please take the time to thank them for their efforts and great work in serving our students.



### NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK

October 20<sup>th</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup> is National School Bus Safety Week. Meridian would like to thank our great bus drivers: Elizabeth Noel, Janelle Heiserman, Charles Houser, Tonya Griffin and Allen Lintz. 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.

**Board of Education  
Meridian Public Schools  
District – 48-0303  
Daykin, Nebraska, 68338  
Monday September 15, 2014**

### Special Public Hearing – 7:00 P.M. 2014-2015 Budget Hearing and Budget Summary

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on September 15, 2014, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal News.

President Wolfe called the hearing to order at 7:02 p.m. The open meeting law was presented. Members present were VanWesten, Miller, Wolfe, and Jackson. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Mary Houchin, and Natalie Meyer.

A motion was made by Jackson and seconded by Miller to excuse Board Member Frank for the entire meeting. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Jackson-aye, VanWesten-aye, and Wolfe-aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Superintendent Kort provided information concerning the proposed 2014-2015 budget. No public comment was made.

Motion was made by Jackson and seconded by VanWesten to adjourn the



hearing at 7:10. Vote taken: Jackson-aye, Miller-aye, VanWesten-aye, and Wolfe-aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**Special Public Hearing – 7:15 P.M.  
Special Hearing to Set Final Tax  
Request for 2014-2015**

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on September 15, 2014, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal News.

President Wolfe called the hearing to order at 7:15 p.m. The open meeting law was presented. Members present were VanWesten, Miller, Wolfe, and Jackson. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Mary Houchin, and Natalie Meyer.

Superintendent Kort provided information concerning the proposed 2014-2015 Tax request. No public comment was made.

A motion was made by Miller and seconded by VanWesten to adjourn the hearing at 7:25. Vote taken: Jackson -aye, Miller-aye, VanWesten-aye, and Wolfe-aye. Motion carried 4-0.

**Regular September 15, 2014 Meeting  
7:30 P.M.**

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on September 15, 2014, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal News.

President Wolfe called the meeting to order at 7:41 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented. Members present were Miller, Jackson, VanWesten, and Wolfe. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Barry Schweer, Mary Houchin, and Natalie Meyer.

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

1. Minutes of the August 18, 2014 Regular Meeting
2. District Financial Report Activity Fund Report
3. Hot Lunch Report
4. Bills

Vote taken: Miller-aye, Jackson-aye, VanWesten-aye, and Wolfe-aye. Motion carried 4-0.

Barry Schweer of Jefferson County Bank presented information to the board regarding the financial instruments used to insure public funds.

Jackson moved and VanWesten seconded to approve 2014-2015 Budget. Vote taken: VanWesten-aye, Miller-aye, Jackson-aye, and Wolfe-aye. Motion carried 4-0.

VanWesten moved and Jackson seconded to approve the 2014-2015 Tax Request of \$3,116,878. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Jackson-aye, VanWesten-aye, and Wolfe-aye. Motion carried 4-0.

A motion was made by VanWesten and seconded by Miller to excuse Board Member Jackson for the balance of the meeting. Quorum was maintained by majority of current board present. Vote taken: Miller-aye, VanWesten-aye, and Wolfe-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Miller moved and VanWesten seconded to approve the change of December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014, as a teacher work day and a no school day for students, due to District Play Productions at the Meridian Public School. Vote taken: VanWesten-aye, Miller-aye, and Wolfe-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Miller moved and VanWesten seconded to appoint VanWesten to the Americanism Committee. Vote taken: VanWesten-aye, Miller-aye, and Wolfe-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

VanWesten moved and Miller seconded to approve Mierau & Co. P.C. to complete the 2013-2014 School Audit. Vote taken: VanWesten-aye, Miller-aye, and Wolfe-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Miller moved and VanWesten seconded to give Superintendent Kort a directive to purchase a school bus based on the bids presented. Vote taken: VanWesten-aye, Miller-aye, and Wolfe-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

Superintendent Kort presented the board with the current applications for the open board position. The appointment was tabled until the full board was present at the October meeting.

Principal Scott reported:

1. ACT and NESA scores
2. School Improvement Plan
3. NDE Accreditation
4. District Play Production at Meridian
5. Attending MANDT training September 18 & 19

Superintendent Kort reported:

1. Plymouth Electric repair and completed work
2. Negotiations Committee needs to meet before November 1<sup>st</sup>
3. HVAC update
4. Maintenance agreement for HVAC system
5. State NASB Meeting
6. BCBS coverage
7. Principal Scott's contract adjustment for insurance change
8. NASB Workshop on September 3rd

Student Council President, Brandon Jackson, presented the Board with the Student Council Schedule of Projects for the 2014-2015 school year. The Student Council installed an updated water fountain, capable of filling water bottles, as their summer project.

FBLA President, Martin Nunez, updated the board on how the National FBLA Convention went this past summer.

Next Regular Meeting set for Monday, October 13, 2014. – 7:30 p.m.

VanWesten moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Vote taken: Miller-aye, VanWesten-aye, and Wolfe-aye. Motion carried 3-0.

*Jay VanWesten.*

Secretary Meridian District #48-0303





*Mustang MEMO*  
*Mr. Harold Scott*  
*Principal*

Autumn has arrived and activities are in full swing at Meridian Public Schools. We have many sporting events scheduled for October and would encourage you to come out and support your Mustangs. If you are unable to come to a home game, you can watch it on Striv TV, which can be accessed on our school web page. [www.meridianmustangs.org](http://www.meridianmustangs.org) An updated school calendar can also be accessed through the school web page.

Social media provides updated information, scores, and highlights. Follow us on Facebook at Meridian Public School (look for the Mustangs logo). You can also follow us on Twitter at @MeridianMustang (no 's' on the end). You will see score updates during games. We also post pictures and videos of different activities. Our Facebook page will provide you with the most recent information available.

Homecoming activities will be the week of October 6-11, 2014. The Mustangs host a volleyball triangular with Deshler and Friend on Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> with our games at 5:30pm and 7:30pm. The Homecoming football game will be against Lawrence-Nelson on Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. The Homecoming dance will be on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Several other nationally recognized weeks occur in October. October 13-17 is National Hot Lunch Week. School Bus Safety Week is October 20-24. Then October 27-31 is Red Ribbon Week which celebrates staying drug and alcohol free.

Have a great month and GO MUSTANGS!!!



**COUNSELOR'S NOTES**  
 by  
 Kelly Frank

**Upcoming Dates:**

|        |                                       |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| Oct 1  | Career Fair-Freshmen                  |
| Oct 2  | Financial Aid Presentation-Seniors    |
| Oct 3  | Grandparents Day-Elementary           |
| Oct 14 | UNK College Rep                       |
| Oct 15 | PSAT – Juniors                        |
| Oct 16 | COMPASS test–Seniors                  |
| Oct 16 | Cloud County College Rep              |
| Oct 17 | End of Quarter 1                      |
| Oct 20 | SCC College Rep                       |
| Oct 25 | ACT                                   |
| Oct 27 | CCC College Rep                       |
| Oct 30 | Business/IT Career Academy Field Trip |

**Juniors & Seniors**

Testing Notes:

- The ACT test prep course taught by Mrs. Toalson & Mrs. Hofstetter is currently in progress. The district will also be offering the John Baylor Test Prep class (free of charge) to seniors starting the first week in October. Both of these classes should help students take the ACT on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The John Baylor Test Prep class will be offered to the Juniors in January to help them prepare for the February test.
- Juniors interested in taking the PSAT will do so on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Notes will be sent home with students.
- Seniors needing to take the COMPASS test will do so on Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from SCC-Beatrice will come to Meridian to administer the test to our students. This test is used to help place students in level-appropriate classes for many junior colleges. There is no fee to take this test.

Junior-Senior Parents...If I saw you at Parent-Teacher Conferences, hopefully you picked up a "Guidance Newsletter." Newsletters have also been emailed out. If you didn't receive one and have an email address, please let me know what it is or give me a call to ask that one be mailed to you. This newsletter contains important dates, scholarship lists, college events, in addition to other important tips for college.

**Freshmen & Sophomores**

Although college or other post-secondary plans seem miles away, this is a key time to remember the importance of grades and involvement in extra-curricular activities. All of these things will help build your resume, which is needed at the beginning of your senior year. We have begun meetings to start working on resumes and to look at career interests. Meeting dates for each class will be posted in the daily announcements.

**Junior High**

Junior High guidance lessons are taking place every other week during a study hall period. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders have been focusing on the skills necessary to make the transition to middle school successful. We have already discussed the organized binder and using a planner. The 8<sup>th</sup> graders have been taking different assessments to find out how they learn best and how they study. The students have had to reflect on these assessments and determine what they need to do to improve their study skill habits.

**Elementary**

Grades K-6 have been working with a program called *Second Step*. It is a standards-based program that focuses on increasing success in school and decreasing problem behaviors. Social-emotional competence and self-regulation skills are developed through practice and concepts are taught sequentially across all grade levels. Most elementary classes have already gone through the important skills for learning...focusing attention, listening, using self-talk, and being assertive. If you have a K-6 student, ask them about these skills!



**Mentors**

As of this writing, there are 18 mentors paired up with elementary and junior high mentees. Most mentors have started meeting and working with their mentee. If you think your child would benefit from having a mentor...someone to play games with, work on social skills with, or provide homework help to, etc., please let me know.

**Updated Website!**

Please go to [www.meridianmustangs.org](http://www.meridianmustangs.org) and click on the "Counselor" tab at the top of the page and then click on the link to take you to my Google Site. Important information regarding scholarships and counseling resources are among the few things you will find on this site.

If you have questions or concerns, please call or email.

Kelly Frank  
PreK-12 Guidance  
[kfrank@meridianmustangs.org](mailto:kfrank@meridianmustangs.org)  
402-446-7265 ext 1253

**DON'T LET THE FLU RULE!**

GET YOUR FLU VACCINE, ONCE A YEAR EVERY YEAR. Flu season is almost here, Public Health Solutions District Health Department will be offering flu vaccines clinics for students at Meridian Public School. Prior to the start of the clinics, students will be bringing home consent forms and fact sheets (also these will be posted on the website)-these will explain the importance of getting the flu vaccine this year. Parents and/or guardians are encouraged to read all the information carefully, complete and sign the consent form. Send forms back to school with your student.

Public Health Solutions District Health Department will be at Meridian Public School on **OCTOBER 14<sup>TH</sup>**.

*This program is brought to the community by support from United Health Community Plan and Public Health Solutions.*

*For more information, contact Staci Hergott RN, BSN 402-446-7265, or Public Health Solutions at 1-888-310-0565*

**6<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Trip to Homestead National Monument**

On Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, the 6<sup>th</sup> Graders and Juniors attended a movie, "RISE ABOVE", at the Homestead National Monument of America at the Heritage Center near Beatrice. The movie was the story of the **Tuskegee Airmen of World War II**. The film was presented in a climate controlled theatre with a 180-degree screen which provided a multimedia experience the students will not forget. Mr. Pohlmann and Mr. VanderSchaaf sponsored the trip.

**FBLA NEWS**

We kicked off FBLA this year on September 4, 2014, with our first meeting. We had 53 attendees. This was a great turnout! At the meeting, we discussed dates for the first trash pickup, the Fall Leadership Conference for officers, the deadline for dues, and breaking into groups. Our first activity for FBLA was the trash pickup. The trash pickup occurred on September 15. Twenty-four members helped out with the pickup! We finished our two miles during 8<sup>th</sup> period study hall. We got it done quickly thanks to all our dedicated members! The next activity coming up is the Fall Leadership Conference in Kearney for officers on September 23. This is always a fun and informative conference to attend! Our officers learn more about their duties from the Nebraska FBLA state officers. We have started FBLA off with a bang this year! I am looking forward to what the future holds for this year!

-Ann Endorf



Crystal Nuñez (left) and Bridgette Jackson show off the new water fountain StuCo had installed by the Southwest gym doors. The new fountain has the capability to fill water bottles.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Visit Rock Creek Station**

On Friday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class attended "Emigrant Experiences" at **Rock Creek Station State Historical Park** near Fairbury. The students had the opportunity to touch, taste, smell, see, and hear the History of the 1800's. The 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Class along with Mr. Pohlmann, their Social Studies teacher, experienced hands on activities that the emigrant settlers used to survive. **Rock Creek Station Historical Park** provides the beauty and wonder of our areas history.

**MUDECAS VOLLEYBALL**

Congratulations to the 2014 Lady Mustangs for earning the championship trophy in the B Division of the MUDECAS volleyball tournament. Honorable mention certificates were received by Bridgette Jackson and Rylee Pieper. Blair Hofstetter, Erin Johnson, and Allison Klipp were awarded a seat on the All Tournament First Team. Once again, congratulations to the entire team, Head Coach, Bob VanWesten, and Assistant Coach, Alexis Henk.

Between the championship games on Thursday, September 18th, the teams who had won the MUDECAS Volleyball Tournament 25 years ago were honored. The B Division champions of 1989 were the Meridian Mustangs! There to receive certificates were Coach Charlene Marschman, Amy Holtmeier, Wendee Homolka, Heather Kastanek, and Laura VanWesten. Congratulations Lady Mustangs of 1989.



**FALL into Box Tops**

It has been a while since we have brought you up to date on Box Tops. We have some FUN news to bring to our kids in this month's newsletter, so let's get this season started and FALL into Box Tops!

Since we have been a little lax on the Box Tops incentives this past year, we would like to start the year off right and again have our Big Box Top Bear,



"Dollar" move from classroom to classroom. Each month, the class that turns in the most Box Tops for the month prior will get to be the host room for Dollar for the next month. You will be free to dress him up and show him off any way you would like! We will take pictures each month of how you chose to decorate Dollar and will post those on posters that will be going up as incentive as well. So do your part in bringing your school pride into your classroom... whether it's in celebration of that month's holiday or an example of your school pride, use Dollar to show off YOUR class going above and beyond for your school.

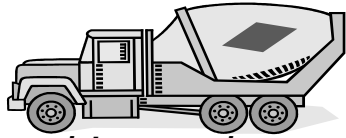
Along with "Dollar", we will also be doing another incentive. The class that turns in the most Box Tops through the month of October will receive a Halloween Cookie party and the student that brings in the most Box Tops will get a BIG Pumpkin for his/her efforts!

Finally, to encourage our kids and to show them that Box Tops can really make a difference in their own education here at Meridian we are starting this challenge. Each month we will be updating a thermometer with the amount of Box Tops turned in. This year's goal is \$500 in Box Tops.

If we reach this goal, we will use the money THEY earned to put up a permanent net on the elementary playground. This will allow the students the ability to play volleyball, badminton and other activities that used to only be accessible to them in the gym, outside!

Box Tops no longer offers the Marketplace online. You can, however, continue to find online activities that earn our school extra money through as well as find out what products participate in this very beneficial program. Let's get 2014 going and FALL into Box Tops!





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Scott Woitalewicz: 402.433.5256 Fax: 402.243.2369

201 State Hwy. 74 AND 113 West Third  
Tobias, NE 68453 Wilber, NE 68465



### Jefferson County Bank

P.O. Box 220, Daykin, Nebraska 68338-0220



PHONE  
402-446-7233

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[paul.bachle@naucountry.com](mailto:paul.bachle@naucountry.com)  
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The Meridian Foundation is proud to sponsor a

# Tailgate Night

At the Meridian School

## Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>

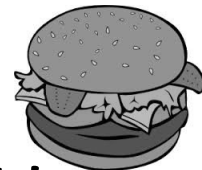
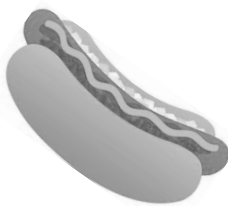
Football Game vs Lawrence-Nelson



Serving from 6:00 p.m. thru Halftime

**\$5.00 Hamburger Meal**

**\$4.00 Hotdog Meal**



Includes Sandwich, Chips, Bar, and Drink

All proceeds will go towards  
Foundation Scholarships and Other Projects.

## Everyone Is Welcome!!