



# 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](http://www.meridianmustangs.org)

September, 2015

Newsletter-September, 2015  
Superintendent  
Randy Kort

Welcome Back!!

The Meridian staff is excited to start the 2015-2016 school year. We currently have a full week behind us, and it has been nothing short of a great start. It is great to see the students in the hallways, hear volleyball and football practice going on after school, and the start of magazine sales; all those little things just confirm our school year is off and going. I am aware that the drama group met the other day, and soon we will have participants working in the morning and afterschool to prepare for the One-Act performance. Being involved in numerous activities is the strength Meridian Public School offers our students. We not only have the opportunities, but in order to have the variety of activities, it takes everyone to be involved. This activities help with a well-rounded education for our students.

### New Sights at Meridian:

This is the new marquee that will catch the attention of friends, family and guests to the Meridian Public School.



### Board:

The Board of Education has scheduled the Annual Budget Hearing on Monday September 21, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 113. The Annual Tax Request Hearing has been scheduled for 7:15 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2015, in Conference Room 113. The regular monthly meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m. If you have any questions about the school or school budget please feel free to contact Mr. Kort at the school 402-446-7265.



### Bus Routes:

Our bus routes are continuing to change and adapt to best serve our students. Please be flexible over the next two weeks as those changes are made.

Throughout the school year, please notify your bus driver by 6:30 a.m. if your child will not be riding the bus. When you have advanced knowledge your child will NOT be riding the bus, contact the school and leave a message for the driver.

#### Alexandria Area Route

Janelle Heiserman  
402-749-4450 or 402-300-1704

#### Fairbury Area Route

Tonya Griffin  
402-300-0252 or 402-300-1722

#### Ohiova/Tobias Area Route

Elizabeth Noel  
402-243-2292 or 402-300-1705

#### Western/Daykin Area Route

Charles Houser  
402-446-7407 or 402-300-1707  
Substitute Driver: Allen Lintz

### Activity Passes:

Activity passes are available this year at the following prices: Adults = \$40; K-12 = \$30; Golden Passes (over 65) = Free. Please contact Trish Endorf at

the school for your pass, 402-446-7265.  
\*\* Gate prices will be \$5 for adults and \$4 for students.

### Activity Calendar Change:

We will NOT have a JV Football game on the 31<sup>st</sup> against Friend. We will NOT have a JV Football game against Exeter-Milligan that was scheduled on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Board of Education**  
**Meridian Public Schools**  
**District 48-0303**  
**Daykin, Nebraska 68338**  
**Monday, August 17, 2015**

### Regular August 17, 2015 Meeting 7:30 P.M.

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on August 17, 2015, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President VanWesten called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented. Members present were Sobotka, Miller, Scheer, Vorderstrasse, and VanWesten. Also present were Superintendent Kort, Principal Scott, Mrs. Swan, Ryan Paul, Jason Bartels, Bridgette Jackson, and Baxter Beals.

Vorderstrasse moved and Miller seconded to approve consent agenda as follows:

1. Minutes of the Monday, July 20, 2015 Regular Meeting
2. District Financial Report
3. Activity Fund Report
4. Hot Lunch Report
5. Bills

Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Baxter Beals, Student Council President, stated all Student Council members must read to the Elementary at least two times throughout the year. Members must wear his/her Student Council T-shirt



twice monthly and must attend all Student Council meetings and Student Council activities. Baxter also reviewed the tentative Student Council activity schedules for the 2015–2016 school year.

Superintendent Kort stated that he had received three applications for the open Meridian Public Schools Board of Education position. Applications from Jason Bartels, Ryan Paul and Peggy Tilgner were handed out for review.

Scheer moved and Miller seconded to enter into closed session for the protection of the public interest or the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual at 7:47. Vote taken: Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Vorderstrasse-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

President VanWesten stated it has been voted to go to executive session to for the protection of the public interest or the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual.

The Board reentered open session at 7:55 p.m.

Miller moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to appoint Jason Bartels to the Meridian Board of Education. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 5-0.

Jason Bartels read the Oath of Office and was sworn in.

Sobotka moved and Miller seconded to appoint Jason Bartels to the Americanism, and Curriculum & Instruction Committees. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Scheer moved and Miller seconded to nominate Vorderstrasse to the open Vice-President position. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, Scheer-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Miller moved and Scheer seconded to approve ALICAP for the Workers Comp Insurance for the 2015-2016 school year.

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

Superintendent Kort stated he had received a letter from the School's Accounting Firm, Mierau and Company, informing Meridian they would no longer be working with schools. Superintendent Kort will recommend a firm at the September Board meeting.

Sobotka moved and Vorderstrasse seconded to approve the second reading of policy 3000's. The policies in 3000 will remain the same with the exception of the change in 3130 and 3540 with the change in state law requiring projects to require the bidding process if estimated cost is \$100,000.00 instead of \$40,000.00. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Superintendent Kort updated the Board on the Annual Regional Meeting for School Board members that will be held in York on September 9<sup>th</sup>, and the state meeting which is set for November 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>, in Omaha. The new board member training meeting is scheduled every two years.

Superintendent Kort stated the second round of meetings to update the School's Hazard Mitigation Plan will be held at the Fairgrounds in Fairbury on Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. Sobotka updated the Board on the status of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation application to install a generator to replace the existing battery backup. The application is due August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Scheer moved and Bartels seconded to approve a donation of \$900 to the Cheerleaders who qualified for the National Competition. As members of the competition they will be allowed to participate in the halftime show of the Citrus Bowl.

Sobotka moved and Miller seconded to approve the transfer of 2015 budget funds into the Depreciation Account.

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

Miller moved and Scheer seconded to approve the transfer of 2015 budget fund into the Activity Account. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Miller moved and Scheer seconded to approve the updated Language Arts Standards from the Nebraska Department of Education. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

Principal Scott reported:

1. Student Enrollment: 225 Students compared to 216 last year  
-Pre-Kind to 6<sup>th</sup>: 110 Students  
-7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>: 115 Students
2. Teachers in-service was held August 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>
3. New bell tone

Superintendent Kort reported:

1. Kitchen improvements
2. New marquee
3. Maintenance and summer projects
4. Lockers
5. Projected ideas for the Foundation
6. Purchase of a 2014 Van
7. Installation of a light pole in the South football parking lot

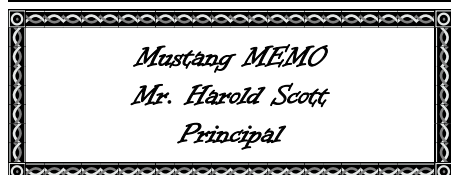
The next Regular Meeting is set for Monday, September 21, 2015–7:30 p.m.

Scheer moved and Miller seconded to adjourn at 9:02 p.m. Vote taken: Vorderstrasse-aye, Miller-aye, Scheer-aye, Sobotka-aye, Bartels-aye, and VanWesten-aye. Motion carried 6-0.

*J. Scott Sobotka,*

Secretary Meridian District # 48-0303





Mustang MEMO  
Mr. Harold Scott  
Principal

The school year is off to a great start! We had a wonderful first day on Friday, August 14th, with a 1:30pm dismissal. We have 27 new students PreK-6th grade, and 14 new students in 7th-12th grades, for a total of 41 new students for Meridian Public School!

	Girls	Boys	Total
Pre-Kind	4	4	8
Kindergarten	8	7	15
1st Grade	4	9	13
2nd Grade	7	9	16
3rd Grade	8	6	14
4th Grade	7	2	9
5th Grade	9	9	18
6th Grade	10	7	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>110</b>
7th Grade	12	8	20
8th Grade	7	12	19
9th Grade	12	13	25
10th Grade	10	8	18
11th Grade	6	8	14
12th Grade	15	4	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>225</b>

Teachers were involved in three days of in-service August 11-13. Lots of various trainings were provided including suicide prevention, CPR/first aid training, English Language Arts workshop, tech training, and school improvement discussion. Goals for this year include improving student math, reading and writing skills, with an emphasis on writing across the curriculum.

We have new passing bells this year! No more whoop, whoop, whoop! The new bells are a series of three tones. Someone has said it sounds like they are getting off or on an elevator. Well, better than a submarine diving!

The high school band will be traveling to Grand Island on Thursday, September 3rd for the State Fair parade.



COUNSELOR'S CORNER  
by  
Gina Kroon

Thank you to everyone who attended the Open House on August 13th! We had a wonderful turnout! New and returning students had the opportunity to stop by the school and visit with teachers before the first day of school. A special thanks goes out to M-PIE and the Meridian Foundation for sponsoring and serving the hot dog meal. A drawing was held and many students won door prizes for attending Open House!

**Important dates:**

- September 2 ASVAB test for juniors
- September 8 24-NWEA MAP testing grades 3-11
- September 12 ACT test date
- September 18 ACT registration deadline for October 24th test
- September 23-24 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- September 29 SCC College Fair for juniors and seniors

**Senior students and parents...start preparing for college admission!** Admission deadlines will start hitting later this fall. Follow these steps to stay on track:

1. Contact your top colleges NOW and ask about application deadlines for admission, college-based scholarships and financial aid.
2. Visit with college representatives at college fairs, educational planning programs, during campus visits, and when they visit your high school.
3. Apply to your top 3-4 colleges before the deadline. Along with your application, the colleges will require your high school transcript, class rank, GPA and ACT/SAT score. They may also request a list of your extracurricular activities, letters of recommendation, an essay, and an interview.

**INTRODUCING.....**

Dear Parents and Patrons,  
With the school year underway, I would like to take the time to welcome you to the Meridian High School Art Department and introduce myself. My name is Mr. Chris Placek, I am a first year teacher, but I have been in the Meridian School District for 12 years. I teach junior high and high school art classes, also I am the Enrichment Coordinator. I am also the head wrestling coach and assistant boys and girls track coach. I completed my undergraduate work at Peru State College, receiving my bachelor of science with endorsements in K-12 Art Education and Coaching.

I am very interested in making this a successful and enjoyable school year for you and your child. To ensure this success, we must keep the lines of communication open. I respect the fact that you know your child very well; when either you or your child feel worried or concerned, please feel free to contact me, I am available at school from 8 am until 3:44 pm each day. Please do not call after 3:44 pm because I tend to be at practice, but you are welcome to call me after 6 pm. I will discuss any concerns you may have at that time. Be sure to read the monthly newsletter and check out our school web page throughout the year for projects, upcoming events, excellent artwork that our students are creating and to address any problems that may arise.

**Mustang Football**

The Meridian Football team has been working hard this year in order to prepare themselves for the upcoming season. We currently have 16 players on the team: **Seniors**-Cesar Nuñez, Corey Taylor, and Jakub VanWesten; **Juniors**-Baxter Beals, Jacob Durlfingler, Rasclyn Griffin, and Waylynn Scheets; **Sophomores**-Carlos Dimas, Miguel Dimas, Emmitt Miller, and Seth Noel; **Freshman**-Steven Disney, Garrett Klipp, Jay Moody, Micah Noel, and Daylin Woods.

We have a tough schedule again this season, with 6 of the 8 teams having qualified for the playoffs in 2014. Hopefully, we can avoid injuries this





year and again qualify for the state playoffs. The Mustangs begin the 2015 football season Friday August 28th at Osceola beginning at 7:00pm. Please come and support our school and our kids. The players appreciate your positive support.

Clint Jones-Head Football Coach

*Thank You*

Bobbe Schwisow and family would like to express our sincere thanks for the kindness shown to our family at the time of Lonnie's death. We will always remember the friends that we made during his time with the Meridian Public School system.

**M-PIE**

Meridian Partners-In-Education had their first meeting August 18th, 2015. For those of you unfamiliar with M-PIE, here are a few fun and helpful facts...

M-PIE was organized over 20 years ago with purposes of supporting our school's needs and on-going programs, providing an additional avenue for parents to take an active role in their children's education, and enhancing parent-teacher relationships. We meet about 4-5 times throughout the school year and sponsor several fun and educational events for the children, teachers, and staff of Meridian Public School. We are always looking for new members and new ideas; so please, feel free to join us for our next meeting, which is November 5th at 7:00 PM. It takes a community effort to keep our school vibrant and thriving!

Those attending the first meeting were President Megan Haake, Vice-President Jamie Niederklein, Secretary Tami Filipi, and Treasurer Deb Schwisow. Others present were Becky Bartels, Anne Simms, Wendee Sobotka, Lisa Paul, Patty Johnson, and teachers/staff Mr. Kort and Mrs. Meyer.

Current M-PIE projects/sponsorships include the little red activity calendars you have probably seen at local businesses. Don't forget to pick one up! We are also working on new ideas for this year's collection of Box Tops in the elementary. Last year the children met their goal of \$500 and received a new

playground net and several new activity balls. We will again have a goal of \$500. Keep clipping those Box Tops because there will be a lot of fun rewards! We also recently held our Open House prior to the start of school. Thank you to all who attended. We hope it was a great opportunity to meet your teachers and get situated. We are also currently taking T-shirt orders. An order form should have come home with your child by now. Next order deadline is August 28th.

Future M-PIE projects/sponsorships include the sports buttons, which you will soon see parents and patrons proudly wearing. We are also planning a book fair to again be held at Parent/Teacher Conferences on September 23rd-24th. Proceeds will go to the purchase of new books for our children! Don't forget to stop by and check it out. In addition to books, there will also be a few other fun items at the book fair which will all make great gifts! During P/T Conferences, we also sponsor a yummy meal for our hard-working teachers. "Game On" activities are being planned for a few home sporting events. Watch for details as these are fun and FREE events for children. Each child will also receive a prize for participating.

Again, our next meeting is planned for November 5th at 7:00 PM in the Meridian School Commons. Mark your calendars and hope to see you then!

Tami Filipi, Secretary

*Thank You*

The Lonnie Schwisow family would like to thank the classes of 1970 through 2015 for the memorial gifts. It was so thoughtful of you and meant so much to us. He always enjoyed visiting with his former students and hearing what you were doing now. He was always interested in seeing where "life has taken you".

**HELP WANTED**

Meridian Public School is looking for help in the kitchen. Hours are not regular as you would be called when needed. Please call Mr. Kort or Elaine Bartels at 402-446-7265.

**MERIDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL FOUNDATION MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, August 12, 2015**

Officers: Pat Johnson - President, Megan Haake - Vice President, Trish Endorf - Secretary, Patty Johnson - Treasurer

President Pat Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Meridian School Commons. Others in attendance were Rachel Johnson, Megan Haake, Larry Miller, Patty Johnson, and Trish Endorf. Minutes of the May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 meeting were read and approved as read. The financial report was given showing a Balance on Hand of \$12,561.87. This amount includes \$5,000 from the Gary Johnson Scholarship which will now be awarded through the Foundation, beginning in the spring of 2016.

Thank you notes were read from scholarship winners Martin "Ricky" Nuñez, Liam Noel, Mikayla Schafer, Blair Hofstetter, and Lupe Dimas.

The Business Agenda was called.

- ◆ Discussion was held on the Open House scheduled for August 13, 2015. Megan stated M-PIE was going to provide a hotdog meal again and would need help with serving. The meal will be served from 5:00-6:30 p.m.
- ◆ The Tailgate has been set for September 18, 2015 (Homecoming) from 6:00 p.m. until half time. The consensus was numbers will probably be down since we play Lewiston that night, and they do not have a large following. Discussion was held regarding the menu and quantity we would need. Hamburgers (200) will be bought from Bruning Grocery; Hotdogs (80) and all of the buns will be ordered from Sysco; Paper plates and napkins will be donated by Farmers Coop; Condiments will be purchased as will chips and bottled water; Members will supply 2 dozen bars or cookies.

No new business was called.

Our next meeting will be set by President Pat Johnson. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



The Meridian Foundation is proud to sponsor a



# Tailgate Night



Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>

Night of the Homecoming Football Game

At Jim Durlinger Field  
Behind the Bleachers on the Home Side

Serving from 6:00 p.m. thru Halftime

\$5.00 Hamburger Meal Deal

\$4.00 Hotdog Meal Deal

Includes Hamburger or Hotdog, Chips,  
Bar/Cookie, and Drink

Individual Hamburgers are \$3.00

Individual Hotdogs are \$1.50



All Community Members are Welcome!!

Proceeds will go towards Meridian Foundation projects



# 2 PERSON SCRAMBLE

*September 20, 2015*

*Hidden Hills Country Club, Geneva, Nebraska*

*\$40.00 per person; 18 holes, golf cart (if available); continental breakfast and lunch included. Golf carts are limited; if you bring your own cart, price will be reduced.*

**REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30 A.M. WITH TEE TIME AT 9:00A.M.**

*RSVP is required to ensure cart. RSVP to Deanna Brakhage (402-418-0120)*

**✓ Pay out and pin prizes**

- \* *Mulligans available*
- \* *Golf Course will be open to the public so students can play golf but NOT in the tournament*
- \* *If enough participants, we will have 2 divisions: 2 person scramble and couples*

## **6th Annual Cheer Classic Meridian Cheerleaders**

**McKehna Bartels, Brianna Barton, Jordan Daniels, Shelby Homolka, Bridgette Jackson,  
Shianne Mattson, Breanna Miller, Crystal Nuñez**



All PreK-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Students  
are invited to participate in

# “GAME ON!”



FREE Activities



Friday, September 4  
(during half-time of football game)  
and

Tuesday, September 22  
(after JV volleyball game)

Get a chance to practice your football  
throwing skills and your volleyball serving  
skills.

All students who participate will receive a  
treat!

**\*All students must pay admission to game\***  
Sponsored by M-PIE




**Daykin Lumber Co.**  
 DAYKIN, NE 68338  
 READY MIXED CONCRETE · BUILDING MATERIALS  
 ASTRO BUILDINGS · MARTIN SENOUR PAINTS  
 CONCRETE FEED BUNKS

PH. 402-446-7305    daykinlumber@windstream.net  
 800-637-9711

The **DRUNKIN PUD**



705 Francis  
 Daykin, NE  
 68338

402-446-7477



**FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES**  
*Insurance • Investments*

Doug Francis: 402.243.2233    [www.agentdougfrancis.com](http://www.agentdougfrancis.com)  
 Damara Woitalewicz: 402.433.5300    Toll Free: 800.239.5823  
 Scott Woitalewicz: 402.433.5256    Fax: 402.243.2369

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

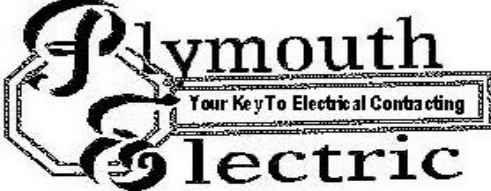


**Jefferson County Bank**  
 P.O. Box 220, Daykin, Nebraska 68338-0220



*Hometown Banking*  
 WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS

PHONE    FDIC    FAX  
 402-446-7233    402-446-7234



**Plymouth Electric**  
 Your Key To Electrical Contracting

Plymouth, NE 68424  
 402.656.4505    800.759.4950  
[www.plymouthelectric.com](http://www.plymouthelectric.com)



**First State BANK NEBRASKA**

Beatrice-Cortland-DeWitt-Dorchester-Filley-Firth-Hallam-Hickman  
 Lincoln-Pickrell-Valley-Waverly-Western-Wilber-Yutan  
[www.1fsb.com](http://www.1fsb.com)    Member FDIC    877.303.9737

**Craig's Automotive**

*Sales & Service  
 Of All Makes & Models  
 Irrigation Engines  
 AUTO & AG  
 EQUIPMENT REPAIR*



**CRAIG BURKHART • 402-446-7435 • DAYKIN**

Magical Memories Photography  
 ~AND~  
 Lily's Flowers & Gifts  
 412 E St. Fairbury, Ne

flowers and gifts    **402-729-5305**    *Magical Memories*



**Western Oil**

Western, NE 68464  
 402-433-4156  
 402-300-1178




**MAMA D's**  
 Western, NE 68464  
 402-433-4151  
 Daily Dining Specials

*Let's get fired up!*  
*We are fired up!!*



**NAU COUNTRY**

Paul Bachle  
 Claims Supervisor  
 NAU Country Insurance Company  
 305 Tullis Ave  
 Daykin, NE 68338  
 Phone: 402.446.7243  
 Mobile: 402.223.7742  
 Fax: 402.446.7312  
[paul.bachle@naucountry.com](mailto:paul.bachle@naucountry.com)

**GO MUSTANGS!!**

