

**Board of Education
Meridian Public Schools
District – 48-0303
Daykin, Nebraska, 68338
Monday, November 20, 2023**

Regular November 20, 2023 Meeting

Meridian Public School Board of Education met on November 20, 2023, as per notice in the Fairbury Journal-News.

President Bartels called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The open meeting law information was presented.

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

Sobotka moved and Niederklein seconded to excuse Scheer from the meeting. Vote taken: Rut – aye, Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Nothing new was added to the agenda.

Comments were heard from the public regarding the upcoming NSAA football classification for the next two school years.

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

- A. Minutes of the Sunday, October 15, 2023 Regular Meeting
- B. District Financial Report
- C. Activity Fund Report
- D. Hot Lunch Fund Report
- E. Bills

Vote taken: Rut – aye, Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Principal Drees presented the Curriculum Report to the Board.

President Bartels explained that enrollment numbers would classify Meridian for 8-man football for the 2024 and 2025 seasons. Meridian does have the option to use a 2-year exemption and remain eligible for playoffs in 6-man football if the vote is to stay 6-man for two more years. Sobotka moved and Rut seconded to elect to use the 2-year exemption and remain 6-man for the 2024 and 2025 football season. Vote taken: Rut – aye, Barton – nay, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – nay, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 3-2.

Superintendent Kort explained that there has been a change and Meridian will now be hosting the CRC Quiz Bowl instead of CRC Speech, and therefore the teacher work day will need to change from February 21, 2024 to February 14, 2024. Niederklein moved and Barton seconded to move the teacher work day from February 21, 2024 to February 14, 2024. Vote taken: Rut – aye, Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

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 Wednesday, December 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Sobotka moved and Barton seconded to go into closed session to discuss teacher negotiations for the 2024-2025 school year.

Bartels stated that it was moved and seconded to go into closed session at 6:43 p.m. to discuss teacher negotiations for the 2024-2025 school year. Vote taken: Rut – aye, Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

The Board came out of closed session at 6:49 p.m.

Rut moved and Niederklein seconded to approve the teachers' negotiations for the 2024-2025 school year pending the approval by the Meridian Education Association (MEA). The total negotiated package is approximately a 2.66% increase from 2023-2024. Vote taken: Rut – aye, Barton – aye, Niederklein – aye, Sobotka – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Sobotka moved and Barton seconded to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. Vote taken: Sobotka – aye, Niederklein – aye, Barton – aye, Rut – aye, and Bartels – aye. Motion passed 5-0.

Jamie Niederklein, Secretary Meridian District #48-0303