

Blue Devil Bulletin

Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District

July 2009

From the Desk of Ms. Peterson, Superintendent

Football/Track, Air Conditioning and Technology Projects:

We are making progress with both our Football Field/Track Facility and our Air Conditioning Project. I am sure most everyone has seen the work that is being done at the football field/track in Martensdale. Even with all the rain we have had, they are making good gains there. We are moving right along with our air conditioning project as well. It is our hope that all of the classrooms will be air conditioned by the time school starts in August. The 1985 gym is going to be air conditioned too but that may not be ready until mid September.

We are also making much needed upgrades to the technology in our school facility. We are making improvements to the servers and to our firewall prevention. The building will also have wireless access all throughout it as well.

As we look to work with our students on the 21st Century Living Skills required by the new Iowa Core Curriculum, it is important that all of our teachers are trained on how to incorporate technology into their subject areas. To get a start on this, we will be purchasing laptops for every teacher and we will be providing training throughout the entire school year for them on how to use technology in their classrooms.

The principals and I will be working with our Technology Committee to address what the next steps will be for our Technology Plan. This committee will make recommendations on what technology upgrades we will make for our students to access and use in the future.

This truly is an exciting time for the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District!

Iowa Core Curriculum:

I have been working with teachers this summer to write/update curriculum and ensure that it aligns to the new Iowa Core requirements. I have been working with teachers in the areas of reading/language arts, science, math, and social studies.

Each subject area is aligning its curriculum to the State's Standards and Benchmarks and to the Essential Skills/Concepts of the Iowa Core Curriculum. Teachers are also identifying the instructional strategies to teach each essential skill/concept and assessments to use to measure students' growth on those skills/concepts.

This is a painstaking process for our teachers but they are making great progress. They have also been able to discuss the curriculum with each other to be sure we have good alignment and that there are not any gaps in instruction.

As we get each curricular area completed, these will be posted on our school district's website. This information can be found by clicking the District Information link on our website.

Understanding School Finance:

Property Taxes Matter

Local property taxes account for one-third of the total funds going into schools and represent over half of the overall state property tax funds levied. As was discussed in prior newsletter articles, the state school funding formula largely determines school property tax rates and therefore, the amount each district receives in state aid.

People often ask, "Why don't we just remove property taxes from the formula entirely?" There are several reasons why this isn't a wise move.

- *It would take away roughly \$1.1 billion dollars statewide, leaving lawmakers to decide whether to raise the state sales tax or income taxes to make up that difference.*
- *Property taxes also add stability to the funding of schools. For example, if we operated solely under the sales tax, the amount available for school funding would surely fluctuate depending on consumer spending.*
- *Just as many people found out during the 1990s, too much reliance on a single funding source invites large swings in funding, which isn't good for an entity unable to layoff teaching staff during the year. Diversification is a prudent investing strategy that applies to schools as well.*

Considering the aforementioned reasons and the present political climate, removing property taxes from the school finance formula seems unlikely.

No public official, whether our local school board members and administrators, or the city and county officials, takes the impact of raising taxes lightly. In most cases, public officials exhaust all other options before asking property taxpayers for more funds. However, when the General Assembly cuts short our state aid (as they have done twice in the last five years) and we experience additional unforeseen expenses like increased fuel and energy prices, we really have no alternative except to raise local property taxes. Plus, we are

prohibited from terminating teachers mid-year to cut costs. Cutting field trips and similar expenditure reductions could help, but frankly the scale of dollars is so high there's not enough money in these kinds of activities to make a huge difference. No one likes property taxes, but for the time being at least, they are an essential part of efficiently funding schools.

Once all 362 school districts establish their budgets based on the combination of state aid and local property taxes they receive, there are still many restrictions on where and how that funding can be spent. I will discuss that issue in our next newsletter.



Pay for the 2009-2010 Registration Fees through PaySchools!

Martensdale-St. Marys School District is Now Accepting Electronic Checks and Credit Cards.

Paying your child's school registration fees just got easier with PaySchools, a secure online payment processing system that lets you pay by electronic check or credit card. You can pay your child's school expenses anytime, anywhere. No more lost checks!

Please check out the MStM Website and click on Fall 2009 Registration. Here you can pay for your registrations fees, lunch account, and athletic passes.

You will have the option to directly debit the funds from your bank account (electronic check) by entering your bank's ABA routing number and your personal bank account number, or you can make purchases with their VISA, MasterCard or Discover credit card. After making a purchase, an email receipt will immediately be sent to you confirming your purchase(s). PaySchools does not save or store bank or credit card information to ensure privacy and security for users.

Benefits for Parents:

- Convenience – make purchases 24 hours a day/7 days a week
- Control – eliminate lost checks or cash
- Timely – credits payment to student account instantly
- User friendly – processes both e-checks and credit cards
- Secure – ensures private and secure transmission
- Accessible – view purchases and payment online

PaySchools Instructions & Tips

To get started:

1. Go to the district Web site <http://www.m-stmarys.k12.ia.us/>
2. Log on to Parent Information Access – JMC or click on PaySchools Logo.

3. Once you are logged in click on item you want to purchase.
4. Follow the directions – but here are some tips:
 - The first time you use PaySchools – **you register twice** – once to get logged on and then again to make a payment. You can use the same email address and password both times.
 - You can use your debit card – just select “credit” and then use your debit card number.
 - After making a payment an email receipt will immediately be sent to you confirming the payment.
 - Once you have registered in PaySchools you will also be able to check the balance in your child's meal account through JMC.
 - PaySchools does not save or store bank or credit card information to ensure privacy and security for users – so you will need to enter this information each time.

If you have a problem, please contact Jill Gavin at 641-764-2608 or at jill_gavin@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us



Wanted: Bus Driver

2009-2010 MStM Bus Route Available

Requirements: CDL License and Bus Owner

Contact:

Jill Gavin, Business Manager 641.764.2608

Coming to Martensdale RAGBRAI 2009!

**RAGBRAI will be coming through
Martensdale on Tuesday, July 21, 2009.**

2009 route: RAGBRAI rolls through southern Iowa



**Attention: All Newsletter Recipients
MStM is "Going Green"**

In an effort to save on paper and postage, the MStM Newsletter will be available to read on our website effective July 2009. If you would like to discontinue receiving the newsletter by mail, please email karen_tomlinson@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us or call 641-764-2621.

Our responsibility to the environment is a growing concern for everyone and this effort will help meet the State of Iowa goal of "Going Green."

2009-2010 REGISTRATION

Dates: August 12, 2009 8am-4pm
August 13, 2009 12am-8pm

To locate registration forms, here are your options:

- Stop by the Superintendent's office to pick up the forms, or
- Go to the website @ mstm.us to print the grade appropriate forms

Please return all forms to the appropriate office by August 12, 2009:

- You can mail them
- Drop them off to the appropriate office, or
- Scan them and email to the appropriate office. Email addresses can be found on the website

PaySchools: Registration Fees, Athletic Passes, Lunch Accounts, Preschool Fees, and Day Care Fees can all be made payable by clicking on the PaySchools logo on the website.

If you are a new student, kindergarten or preschool student then your presence is preferred at registration during one of the two days available.

If you need to make alternative arrangements due to conflicts, please contact either Mrs. Tomlinson at the Elementary office @ 641/764-2470 or Mrs. Henderson at the Jr./Sr. High office @ 641/764-2486 after 8/10/09.

Thank you for your cooperation, see you soon!

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP
May 7, 2009

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on Thursday, May 7, 2009.

Members Present: Scott Anderson, Vice-President; John Della Vedova and Nicole Bunch; together with Superintendent Jean Peterson and Business Manager Jill Gavin.


Members Absent: A. Velvet VanHoose, President and Cathy Seymour

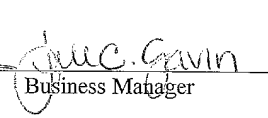
- I. Welcome
Vice President Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. and welcomed all guests. Guests included Jim Lynch, Matt Carlile and Mark Thiessen.
- II. Review Agenda for May 11, 2009 Board Meeting.
Supt. Peterson reviewed the agenda items for the Monday, May 11, 2009 Board Meeting. Matt Carlile updated the Board about the track/football field project and the sub contractor meeting that was held on May 6, 2009 in the library. Mark Thiessen updated the Board on the Bid Opening for the air conditioning project from earlier today, May 7, 2009.
- III. New Business
A. **\$3,755,000 School Infrastructure Sales, Services and Use Tax Revenue bonds, Series 2009**
Approval of Tax Exemption Certificate
Della Vedova motioned to approve the Tax Exemption Certificate seconded by Bunch.
Roll call: Ayes: Bunch, Della Vedova and Anderson.

Approval of Continuing Disclosure Certificate
Bunch motioned to approve the Continuing Disclosure Certificate seconded by Della Vedova.
Roll call: Ayes: Bunch, Della Vedova, Anderson.

Resolution Authorizing the Terms of Issuance and providing for and Securing the Payment of School Infrastructure Sales, Services and use Tax Revenue Bonds.
Bunch motioned to approve the resolution seconded by Della Vedova.
Roll call: Ayes: Bunch, Della Vedova , Anderson.
- V. Adjournment
Bunch motioned to adjourn seconded by Della Vedova. Roll call: 3 ayes. Time: 6:15 p.m.

APPROVED


Board President


Business Manager

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP
May 11, 2009

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on Monday, May 11, 2009.

Members Present: A. Velvet VanHoose, President; John Della Vedova, Nicole Bunch, and Cathy Seymour together with Superintendent Jean Peterson, and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: Scott Anderson

I. Welcome – Board President

VanHoose called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

II. Consent Items

VanHoose requested minor changes to be made to the April 13, 2009 minutes. Bunch motioned to approve the consent items seconded by Seymour. Roll call: 4 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Share the Vision dinner/auction was a huge success and lots of fun. The event raised \$12,000 with a dollar for dollar match from Casey Blake. The Board would like to give a huge thank you to the community for their support and to Casey Blake. MStM Junior/Senior Prom was a success and everyone had a good time. MStM / Interstate-35 Baccalaureate ceremony was held on April 29, 2009 with MStM as the host. There was a nice turn out.

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

V. Old Business

A. Reports

1. Facilities Report. Supt. Peterson reviewed her Facilities Report to the Board. Supt. Peterson updated the Board on the Bid Opening that was held on May 7, 2009. We had seven bidders and they all came in higher than expected. The Board still wants to move forward putting air conditioning in the rest of the facilities and the gymnasium. Supt. Peterson asked Jim Lynch to discuss the Elementary Entrance project and the three bids that were received.

2. MStM Music Booster Minutes – The Board reviewed the minutes from the April 14, 2009 meeting.

3. MStM Athletic Booster Minutes – No minutes.

4. MStM PTO Minutes – No minutes.

B. Presentations

1. Superintendent's Report – Supt. Peterson introduced the Leadership Team to discuss Iowa Core Curriculum. She discussed the Call to Action Legislative Priorities and requested feedback from the Board at the June Board Meeting. She went over the Department of Ed site visit and how the Quality Support Committee finalized the MStM Vision, Mission and Belief Statement.

2. Principal's Report – Cozier introduced P.J. Estell who presented to the Board how the Student Council spent the day working on leadership activities, how to be more involved with the school and community, and how they finalized the Behavior Matrix. Crozier was very excited on the input from the group and how well they showed their leadership skills.

Crozier discussed the EPA Compliance Visit and how well that went. He informed the Board about the School to Work Banquet held on May 4, 2009, the Fine Arts Academic Awards night on May 13, 2009 and the Senior Trip coming up on May 20-21. Graduation will be held May 24 and many faculty members will be in attendance to lead in the graduates. Crozier finished by announcing the Students of the Month and the Teacher of the Month.

Student of Month:

7 th Laura Lacquement	8 th Kyler Larson
9 th Jake Anctil	10 th Rachel Connor
11 th Taylor Johnson	12 Alex Streyffler

Teacher of the Month: Stephanie Jass

Wood announced the Character Counts winners, 3rd quarter Honor Roll and he wanted to congratulate Sara Kuhns for graduating from Drake with her Masters and Leadership Skills.

Crozier and Wood discussed with the Board the ITBS/ITED Scores and introduced Tom Stinard, an Assessment Consultant, to discuss in detail what the scores meant to our school.

Bunch left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

IV. New Business

A. **School Board Recognition Week** – Supt. Peterson. Supt Peterson announced it was School Board Recognition Week with the theme of “Making Strides in Public Education”. She expressed her appreciation to the School Board members, handed them a certificate and a motivational framed picture.

B. **Approve – MStM Vision, Mission and Beliefs Statements** – Supt. Peterson Della Vedova motioned to approve the Vision, Mission and Beliefs Statements seconded by Seymour. Roll Call: 3 ayes.

C. **Approve – 2009 Graduates** – Supt. Peterson. Seymour motioned to approve the 2009 Graduating Class seconded by Della Vedova. Roll Call: 3 ayes.

D. **Approve – Summer Band** – Supt. Peterson. Della Vedova motioned to approve the Summer Band request seconded by Seymour. Roll Call: 3 ayes.

E. **Approve – 2009-2010 Registration Fees** – Supt. Peterson. Seymour motioned to approve the 2009-2010 Registration Fees seconded by Della Vedova. Roll Call: 3 ayes.

F. **Approve – Open Enrollment Request** – Supt. Peterson. Della Vedova motioned to approve the Open Enrollment request seconded by Seymour. Roll Call: 3 ayes.

G. **Approve – Proposal from Nolte, Cornman & Johnson P.C.** – Supt. Peterson. Seymour motioned to approve the 1-year proposal with Nolte Cornman seconded by Della Vedova. Roll Call: 3 ayes.

H. **Approve – Maturing 3-month CD City State Bank** – Jill Gavin. Della Vedova motioned to approve to use the City State Bank CD as the Board sees fit seconded by Seymour. Roll Call: 3 ayes.

I. **Approve – Bid for Elementary Gymnasium Entrance** – Supt. Peterson. Della Vedova motioned to approve Gehring Construction’s bid on the Elementary Entrance seconded by Seymour. Roll Call: 3 ayes.

J. **Approve – Bid for Air Conditioning Project** – Supt. Peterson. Della Vedova motioned to approve Young Mechanical base bid, alternate #1 and alternate #3 seconded by Seymour. Roll Call: 3 ayes.

K. **Approve – 2008-2009 Budget Amendment** – Jill Gavin. Seymour motioned to approve the 2008-2009 Budget Amendment seconded by Della Vedova. Roll Call: 3 ayes.

L. **Approve – 2nd Reading Policy Series – 607.1-704.5** – Supt. Peterson. Della Vedova motioned to approve the Policy Readings 607.1-704.5 seconded by Seymour. Roll Call: 3 ayes.

M. **1st Reading Policy Series –705.1 - 711.9** – Supt. Peterson. Supt. Peterson went over the Policies 705.1-711.9 and will review them at the June Board Meeting.

N. **Closed Session – Superintendent’s Evaluation**
Della Vedova moved to go into a closed session to discuss the Superintendent’s Evaluation, seconded by Seymour. Roll call: 3 ayes. Time 7:20 p.m. Bunch arrived to the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Seymour moved to go out of closed session, seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time 7:47 p.m.


O. **Closed Session – Negotiations**
Seymour moved to go into a closed session to discuss the Negotiations, seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time 7:50 p.m. Della Vedova moved to go out of closed session, seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time 8:00 p.m.

P. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates
6/03/09 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail
6/04/09 – 5:30 p.m. Agenda Meeting
6/08/09 – 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting

VII. Adjournment

Della Vedova moved to adjourn, seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time 8:05 p.m.

APPROVED


A. Velvet VanHoose Board President
Jill C. Gavin Business Manager

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP
May 14, 2009

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in special session, pursuant to law, on Thursday, May 14, 2009.

Members Present: A. Velvet VanHoose, President; Scott Anderson, Vice President; Nicole Bunch, and Cathy Seymour together with Superintendent Jean Peterson, and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: John Della Vedova

I. Welcome
VanHoose called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

II. New Business

A. **Approve – 2009-2010 Teacher Contracts.**
Bunch motioned to approve 2009-2010 Teacher contracts seconded by Seymour. Roll call: 4 Ayes.

B. **Approve – 2009-2010 Classified Contracts.**
Anderson motioned to table the 2009-2010

Classified Contracts seconded by Bunch.
Roll Call: 4 Ayes.

C. **Approve – 2009-2010 Administration Contracts.** Anderson motioned to table the 2009-2010 Administrative Contracts seconded by Bunch. Roll Call: 4 Ayes.

D. **Approve – 2009-2010 Bus Driver Contracts.** Anderson motioned to table the 2009-2010 Bus Driver Contracts seconded by Bunch. Roll Call: 4 Ayes.

E. **Approve – Flood Insurance for 1958 Gymnasium.** Anderson motioned to approve the request of \$200,000 in flood coverage for the whole building seconded by Bunch. Roll Call: 4 Ayes.

F. **Approve – Personnel Resignation(s).** Bunch motioned to approve the resignation of Kristin Patterson seconded by Seymour. Roll Call: 4 Ayes.

G. **Approve – Personnel Recommendation(s).** Crozier recommended to the Board Justin Herrick for open English position. Seymour motioned to approve the recommendation of Justin Herrick for the English position seconded by Anderson. Roll Call: 4 Ayes.

H. **Approve – Extracurricular Coaching Contracts.** Gavin presented a list of coaching contracts for the Fall of 2009. Seymour motioned to approve the extracurricular coaching contracts listed seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 4 Ayes.

III. Adjournment

Bunch motioned to adjourn seconded by Seymour. Roll Call: 4 Ayes. Time 5:33 p.m.

APPROVED


Board President 
Business Manager

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING WORKSHOP
May 20, 2009

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in special session, pursuant to law, on Wednesday, May 20, 2009.

Members Present: A. Velvet VanHoose, President; Scott Anderson, Vice President; Nicole Bunch, and Cathy Seymour together with Superintendent Jean Peterson, and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: John Della Vedova

I. Welcome

VanHoose called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. New Business

A. Approve – 2009-2010 Classified Contracts

Bunch motioned to approve the 2009-2010 Classified Contracts seconded by Anderson. Roll Call: 4 Ayes.

B. Approve – 2009-2010 Administration Contracts

Anderson motioned to approve the 2009-2010 Administrative Contracts of Crozier, Wood and Gavin seconded by Bunch. Roll Call: 4 Ayes.

C. Approve – 2009-2010 Bus Driver Contracts

Anderson motioned to approve a \$500 increase for the 2009-2010 Bus Driver Contracts seconded by Bunch. Roll Call: 4 Ayes.

D. Closed Session – Property Discussion

Anderson motioned to approve to go into closed session seconded by Bunch. Roll Call: 4 Ayes. Time 6:45 p.m. Bunch motioned to approve to go out of closed session seconded by Seymour. Roll Call: 4 Ayes. Time 7:05 p.m.

IV. Adjournment

Bunch motioned to adjourn seconded by Seymour. Roll Call: 4 Ayes. Time 7:05 p.m.

APPROVED


Board President 
Business Manager

The Martensdale-St. Marys District Newsletter
will be mailed out before the fourth
Friday of each month.
Questions or concerns may be addressed
to Mrs. Tomlinson @ 641/764-2621 or
641/764-2470. Thank you!

Martensdale-St.Marys

2nd Semester Honor Roll

4.0 and above

Olivia Hand
Andria Harper
Michaela McIlravy
Hailey Sweet
Taylor Gavin
Mackenzie Morrison
Taylor Johnson
Kelli Sherwood
Noah Franks
Meghan Halverson
Mary Lynch
Alex Streyffeler

A

Joshua Butcher
Dylan Cosner
Morgan Halverson
Paige Mullins
Abigail Paterno
Hannah Shnurman
Tim Snyder
Meagan Streyffeler
Ariel Van Hoose
David Walker
Robert Walker
Sarah Bunch
Katelyn Butcher
Rachel Connor

B

Jacob Anctil
Alice Dembinski
Joshua Eaton
Thomas Foster
Daultan Gibson
Jacob Hines
Ashlyn Manchester
Emma Michels
Zeb Noel
Austin Perry
Elizabeth Rucker
Jacob Swihart
Jamie Swihart
Betsy Anderson
Kyle Bown

Junior High- Straight A

Riley Dunn

A

Paiten Gavin
Elizabeth Gerdes
Philip Hand
Vicki Kordick
Laura Lacquement
Eddy Kraber
Trista Thomas
Danielle Trom
Danielle Broadbent
Kayla DePauw
Kelsey DePauw
Katrina DeVore
Troy Harding
Cody Harvey
Hannah Hill
Carli Kenyon
Garrett Lies
Marshall Lynch
Cassidy Phillips
Katelyn Schrodt
Courtney Scovel
Abby Wetzler

B

Lucas Anctil
Mitchell Brown
Dylan Gibson
Blake Sweet
Anthony Rudich
Treyor Wood
Megan Ameigh
Alex Behounek
Chris Darr
Elizabeth DeLong
Elizabeth Douglas
Taylar Furness
Donnie Gardner
Abby Jones
Madison Kim
Megan Krumme
Alexandrea Mallia
Austin Streyffeler
Trent Verwers
Jordan Williamson

PJ Estell
Joseph Harkin
Brittney Kubik
KateLynn Miller
Sam Norris
Jacob Schrodt
Elijah Shnurman
Shannon Snyder
Megan Brown
Robert Brown
Micheal Deming
Caitlin DePauw
Katilyn Gehringer
Jessica Jacobsen
Gary Kraber
Megan Simms
Hayden Van Hoose
Carrie Wood
Stephen Conner
Kristyn Manley
Laura McIlravy
Selena Miller
Lukas Schrodt
Ali Seymour
Sarah Streyffeler
John Watts
Kelsey Whitson
Kurtis Wiedmann

Devan Donato
Emily Hatcher
Kara Kibbe
Kenneth Thiessen
Cori Williamson
Weston Connor
Frank Cook
Haylee Gehringer
Annika Harper
Emily Hutchison
Hailey Mann
Eric Rinard
Trevor Simpson
Lexie Smith
Zachary Streyffeler
Kyle Wiedmann
Tyler Catron
Andrew Conner
Sam Greene
Andrew Hraha
Jimmi Rowley
Sean Seymour
Ariana Shnurman
Christina Wonderlin