



April 1, 2010

From the Desk of Ms. Peterson, Superintendent

Iowa Department of Education Site Visit Report:

The Department of Education conducted their Site Visit of our school this past February 9th-11th. Their written report is complete and has been sent to us. This report is based upon interviews conducted with district administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, students, community partners, advisory committee members and board members, as well as a review of district documents.

The DE Site Visit was designed to assess progress with the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan, provide a general assessment of educational practices within the district, make recommendations for improvement, and determine compliance with accreditation standards and federal program requirements.

Based on their findings from this comprehensive site visit, the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School does maintain State of Iowa Accreditation upon resolution of any non-compliance issues. The district must complete corrective actions in regard to non-compliance issues and turn those into the Department of Education according to the timeline listed.

Overall, we were very pleased with the findings in this Site Visit Report. There were many strengths for our school district listed. There were also some recommendations for improvement indicated as well. We will be working with our teachers to come up with an action plan to address all of these recommendations.

A copy of the complete report will be posted on our school's website. There will also be hard copies available in the Superintendent's Office. You may stop in and pick one up or if you would like one mailed to you, please call the Superintendent's Office at 641-764-2466.

State of the MStM School Budget:

As I have written in the past, the Governor's Across the Board Cut this year amounted to \$248,479 for our school. Last year, we were also cut 1.5% which totaled \$33,590 (that was not funded this year as well) and the Phase I dollars (this is the money that was to bring all teachers up to the state minimum salary) were cut too which totaled \$71,000. The total cuts for

our school district amounts to \$353,069. That total, as you can imagine, is a lot of money for our small school district.

As you are aware, we did make some cuts to support staff this past December. Bob Sondag, our Industrial Technology teacher, also decided to take early retirement at the end of first semester. Bob's early retirement and the cuts to the support staff amounted to \$75,372. This will be a savings of approximately \$150,744 for a full year.

At this time, we do not intend to fill Bob's position for next year. We have enough vocational courses to fulfill the state accreditation standards. As money becomes available, we do plan to replace this position at some point in the future. We will also look to share this industrial technology program with other area schools for next year.

Depending on what the legislature decides this spring and how teacher negotiations go, we will probably have to make some more cuts to staff – approximately one to two teaching positions and some cuts to Schedule B positions (extra-curricular contracts) too. The Governor has issued a press release calling for 2% allowable growth, including his budget plan to use \$100 million out of the state's cash reserves, and \$40 million in remaining federal stimulus money (as of right now, this stimulus money will not be there after next year) to pay for it. Although this sounds promising, please be aware that this still short funds our allowable growth by approximately \$300 per enrolled student.

We will not know what the legislature is going to do until their session is over which is scheduled for March 31st. We will also have to see how our teacher negotiations go. I will be working with our Board of Education to make sure we are ready for any scenario so that we can keep being a fiscally sound school district.

From the Desk of Mr. Crozier

Spring has sprung and it is time to get out and enjoy it. We have been very busy at Martensdale-St. Marys over the past snowy winter months.

I would like to tell you about the Healthy Kids Act that the Iowa legislature passed last year. This legislation has had and will continue to have an effect on schools. The act consists of three concepts of health: physical activity, diet, and CPR.

Healthy Kids Act Impacts Iowa Schools

In May of 2008, the Iowa Healthy Kids Act was signed into law by Governor Culver. This law will affect Iowa's K-12 schools in the following ways:

- Established nutritional content standards for food and beverages sold or provided on school grounds during the school day. *Effective July 1, 2010.*
- Requires school districts and accredited non-public schools to ensure every student in grades K-5 has 30 minutes per day of physical activity and every student in grades 6-12 has 120 minutes per week of physical activity. *Effective July 1, 2009.*
- Requires every student to complete a course that leads to certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) by the end of grade 12. *Effective for the class of 2011-2012.*
- Requires Iowa's Area Education Agencies (AEAs), or a consortium of two or more AEAs, to contract with a licensed dietitian. *Effective July 1, 2009.*

The Healthy Kids Act was designed to help children develop healthy eating habits, to promote active lifestyles, and to provide students with a solid foundation for a better future. For more information on this law, please visit the Iowa Department of Education's Healthy Kids Act web site at: www.tinyurl.com/Iowa-HKA.

Healthy Kids Act Nutritional Content Standards Take Effect

You and your students may notice changes in the foods being sold during the school day this year. As of July 1, 2010, the Healthy Kids Act Nutritional Content Standards will become effective in Iowa Schools. The standards will apply to vending, a la carte, and regulated fundraising (any foods/beverages sold to students between the first and last bell) items sold to students during the school day.

Regulated food categories include:

- Calories
- Sodium
- Total Fat
- Saturated Fat
- Trans Fat
- Sugar
- Dietary Fiber/Whole Grain

Regulated beverage categories include:

- Milk
- 100% Juice
- Water
- Sports Drinks/Flavored Water
- Caffeinated Beverages
- Sodas/Carbonated Beverages

To see the comprehensive list of Healthy Kids Act Nutritional Content Standards as they apply to each of these categories, visit www.tinyurl.com/Iowa-HKA.

The school district has a standing wellness committee that will monitor our compliance with the Healthy Kids Act. This committee is made up of K-12 teachers, board members, administrators, parents and students.

Congratulations to Mr. Moser and the cast of

The Crucible



with their performances on

March 26 and 27. They were outstanding!

I look forward to spring and the activities it will bring to Martensdale-St. Marys. I am excited about hosting track meets at our new facility.

We are hosting a total of 6 track meets this year:

- April 22 (HS Boys @ 5:00)
- April 26 (JH B/G @ 4:00)
- April 29 (JH Conference Meet @ 4:00)
- May 7 (JH B/G @ 4:15)
- May 11 (HS Girls @ 5:00)
- May 14 (Regional HS Meet @ 4:00)

Come out and support these athletes as they compete at our new facility.

Michael Crozier, Secondary Principal
mike_crozier@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us

Home of the Blue Devils

From the Desk of Mrs. Henderson

The junior/senior high is going green and will no longer be printing off report cards and mailing them home. Parents may access report cards through the JMC program on our website. If you do not currently have a password set up for JMC access, you can contact Christy Henderson at christy_henderson@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us or call 641-764-2486. Parents without Internet access can call and request that a copy of the report card be sent home with their student.

The second semester is off and running. It was nice to have the holiday break but it is also nice to get back into a regular routine.

From the Desk of Mr. Folkerts

Happy Spring to everyone! Here are a couple of things you should be aware of:

-Seniors: By now you should have submitted your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) If you haven't, complete it as soon as possible. You should also check with your college(s) to determine if there are other financial aid applications required. Many colleges have priority deadlines as to when the FAFSA should be submitted.

The last ACT test date is June 12th. May 7th is the regular registration postmark deadline. The late registration deadline is extended to May 21st for this test. You can register online at www.actstudent.org or pick up a registration packet in the guidance office.

Students can start registering for Fall DMACC classes starting April 28th. There is no guarantee that you can get into a certain class so the earlier you sign up the better you are. **NEW THIS YEAR:** DMACC has a new policy for next year that states no students can sign-up for a college class after June 14th...No exceptions! So if you want to take a DMACC class you need to register before the deadline. Please contact Mr. Folkerts if you have any questions.

Let's try to make the last quarter of the year our best and most enjoyable!!!

From the Desk of Mrs. Gabbert-Clark, Music Department

Vocal Music News April 2010

The excitement of music is around every corner this time of year!

The month of March has been a preparation month for what's ahead as the high school chorus and friends prepare for the Variety Show on Saturday, April 10. The show is at 7:00pm that evening in the elementary gym. There will be singers, dancers, the jazz band, and "celebrities"! The theme is "Hollywood" and we will entertain you. The admission price is \$5.00 for all tickets. This is a fund-raising event, so passes will not be honored.

The following week after the Variety Show, the high school singers will take to the road and participate in the Iowa High School Solo/Ensemble Festival at Melcher-Dallas on Saturday, April 17.

The high school chorus will present their spring concert on Friday, April 30 as we prepare for Large Group Festival and honor our graduating seniors. The chorus this spring has seven seniors! They are Kelsie Brawdy, Allen Brown, Emily Hutchison, Jessica Jacobsen, Natasha Llewellyn, Dustin Loyd, and Brianne Minard. Thank you for your leadership! The following Friday, on May 7, the chorus will participate in the

Large Group Festival. Location for this event is yet to be determined.

The MStM junior high chorus has been learning about folk songs. They have written their own verses to an old American favorite, "Old Joe Clark". We also have been working on matching movement to sound for two songs that will be performed at the Spring Concert on Friday, April 23, at 7:00pm. Admission is a donation. In May, the Junior High chorus will entertain at Adventureland on Friday, May 21.

Our youngest elementary students are busy putting the finishing touches on their program "A Farmer's Life". This concert presented by the preschool, kindergarten, and first grade classes is Tuesday, April 6 at 7:00pm. There will be a brief reception for the performers after the concert sponsored by the MStM Music Boosters. Parents, please bring a plate of cookies or bars to share.

At the end of the year, the 5th and 6th grade students will present their talent on Thursday, May 20, from 2-3pm. Younger students may share their talents with their classmates in their music class.

Music is everywhere this time of year!

From the Desk of Mrs. Sowder, English Department / Yearbook Advisor

Cell Phones for Soldiers:

Mrs. Sowder's seminar group is sponsoring Cell Phones for Soldiers for their community service project this spring, which provides free minutes to our troops overseas.

Dig out those old, outdated cell phones with or without the charger and drop them off in the high school or elementary office donation box until April 19. You get to recycle and the soldiers get to reconnect with family.

From the Desk of Mrs. Sondag Instrumental Music Department

Our band program would not function without all those who volunteer, donate and fundraise for us. I want to dedicate this paragraph to everyone who has been a supporter of our program. Thank you to the music boosters and parents who donate their time and efforts. Because of the booster club, we have been able to recently purchase a gong, new bass drum pedal, and temple blocks for the percussion section of the band. Thank you to Brenda DePauw and Charlene Craig who have been providing their skills as accompanists this year. Students could not play solos and get that valuable experience without your help. Thank you to Veronica Knickerbocker on her recent donation of a flute and a \$500 donation to the band activity account by her employer in reward of her volunteer work.

Thank you to everyone who purchased fundraiser items, donated cookies and treats for booster activities, and who have donated instruments this year. Thank you to the school who sponsored the high school pep band's performance at the Wells Fargo state basketball tournament. It was a great

experience for the students to be able to participate in this event.

The junior high band students have recently competed in the SCIBA solo/ensemble contest in Norwalk on March 6th. There were 3 II(Good) ratings , 16 I(Excellent) ratings and 1 I+(Superior) rating earned at the contest by our students. The I+ rating was earned by the 8th grade mixed trio of Kaitlyn Belieu, Sheniya Craig and Dallas Newman. The following are the remaining students who participated in the contest this year: Bethany Phillips, Hailey Clark, Joselyn Miller, Jessica Castro, Baylee Holt, Kylea Pote, Jake Herrera, Chenoa Burton, Emma Johanson, Justine McKeever, Dalton Knickerbocker, Alex Craig, Phillip Hand, and Chris Allen.

The month of April will be a very busy month. The Variety Show will be on April 10th at 7pm. Come listen to the high school jazz band and many other acts perform. The junior high band students will be going on a field trip on April 12th to the Civic Center to watch the San Jose Taiko drum show. This is in connection with a Japanese trilogy we are working on in class. On April 17th, the high school students will be attending the solo/ensemble state music competition at Melcher-Dallas. We have 13 soloists scheduled to perform. On April 20th, the Simpson College junior high honor band will be made up from the former postponed date in January.

The spring concert season is also coming up. The junior high concert is on Friday, April 23rd and high school concert is on Friday, the 30th. Both start at 7pm. Just around the corner, the high school band will be performing at the State Large Group Music Festival. This event is on May 7th. We have a very active band program. Many 1A schools do not attend these state events. We are fortunate to have a high number of ambitious students involved in the band program. Fees for these events are paid for by your donations at concerts and through fundraisers.

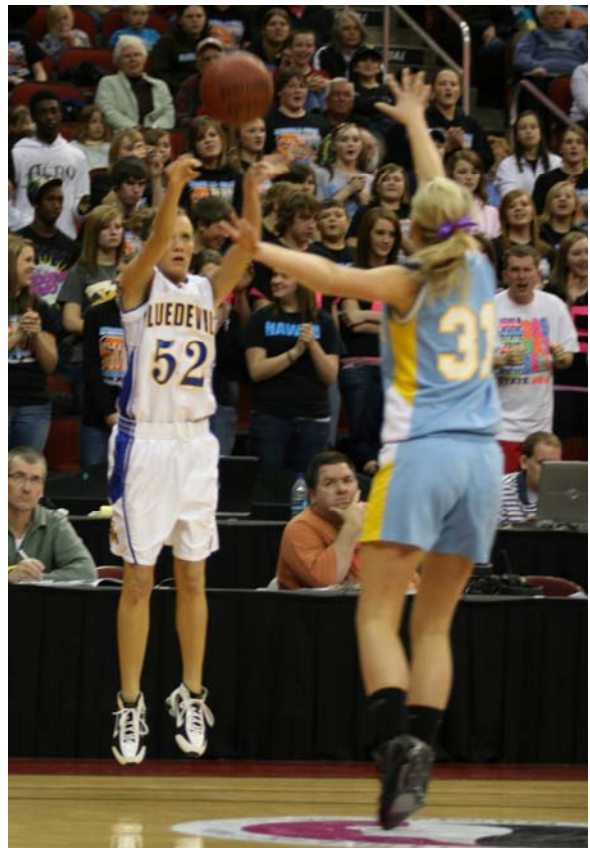
Thank you for your support!

From the Desk of Mr. Peterson
Athletic Director

Girls Basketball – Advanced to the State Semi-finals. They had an outstanding season.



Morgan Halverson made the State All-Tournament Team.



Coach Alexander was Class 1A South District Coach of the Year.



Mackenzie Morrison was named 1st Team All-State by the Des Register. Mackenzie Morrison was named 2nd Team All-State by the Iowa Girls Basketball Coaches Association.



Mackenzie Morrison was named player of the year by the Record Herald Tribune.

Some of the other awards announced at this time:

Class 1A All-District Team

Mackenzie Morrison
Sam Norris

All-Record-Herald Team

1st Team
Sam Norris
Carrie Wood
Mackenzie Morrison
Hayden VanHoose
Zeb Noel

2nd Team

Brittany Kubik

Honorable Mention

Morgan Halverson
Jake Defenbaugh

The Pride of Iowa Conference

Girls' 1st Team
Mackenzie Morrison
Sam Norris
Carrie Wood

2nd Team

Morgan Halverson
Brittney Kubik

All-Academic Team

Brittney Kubik
Morgan Halverson
Meagen Streyffeler
P.J. Estell
Hailey Sweet

Rachel Connor
Sam Norris
Mackenzie Morrison
Carrie Wood

Boys' 2nd Team

Hayden VanHoose

All-Academic Team

Hayden VanHoose
Jacob Schrodt

The Pride of Iowa has recognized a group of our band students. The students were selected to participate in the All-Conference Band. Those representing Martensdale-St. Marys were:

Jake Schrodt
Kayla DePauw
Cassiday Phillips
Dustin Loyd
Michaela McIlravy
Kati Butcher
Taylor Johnson
Emily Hutchinsen

With the winter season wrapped up, I turn my attention to the spring activities. I am going to need everyone in the community to help our school with a very ambitious home track schedule. MSTM will host six track meets this spring. The state athletic associations have selected us to host the regional/district track meet on Friday, May 14th. The meet serves as the state qualifier for the girls and boys state meet. Obviously, the outstanding track and field facility we have was very appealing to the state athletic associations. I want to thank everyone who has signed up already. Please sign up and help us out.

Parting Shot:

"I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed." - Michael Jordan





**CONGRATULATIONS to MStM's "Super Fans!"
Jim and Dorothy Gavin of St. Marys, Iowa.**

They are the winners of the 2010 IGHS AU Sportsmanship Award. This scholarship will be presented to one of our deserving seniors at the 2010 graduation ceremony.

**MARTENSDALE ST. MARYS
MUSIC BOOSTERS SPONSOR**

The Martensdale St. Marys Music Boosters would like you to become a sponsor! Your donations will help support the Pre-K -12 music programs at our school. Music Boosters help to cover costs not otherwise covered by school funds.

Music Boosters donations have helped to purchase music stands for the elementary music room, music folders for high school chorus, props for the elementary musical, and some percussion instruments for the band. But we would like to do much more.

With your help we hope to be able to work toward these goals:

- Rhythm Sticks & other supplies for Elementary Music Students
- Percussion instruments for the High School Band
- Color Guard flags and uniform parts
- Other Music Program extras

If you would like to become a Music Boosters Sponsor, please fill in the information below and send your contribution of \$20.00 or more to:

Martensdale-St. Marys Music Boosters
PO Box 350
Martensdale, IA 50160

Donation Amount \$ _____
(\$20 or more to have your name appear on the concert program)

Please print your name as you would like it to appear on the music concert programs:

(Name)

“Students who participate in music receive more academic honors and awards than non-music students. Even more impressive, music participants make for a higher percentage of A and B students than their non-music counterparts.”

**From the Desk of Mr. Wood,
Elementary Principal**

Cheating

Studies have found that most children have cheated, or thought about cheating, on schoolwork. While schools battle this issue, there are two important things parents can do to help. First, from the time children are very young, parents must emphasize and reward honest behavior. Second, parents must make sure that their children know that cheating will not be tolerated at home or at school. Here are some more ways parents can stop children from cheating.

Stop schoolwork-related cheating by: Monitoring writing projects.

Plagiarism—passing off others’ words or ideas as your own—used to mean copying a few lines or paragraphs from an encyclopedia. Today, with the help of the Internet, children can steal entire essays and research papers. Read your children’s assignments before they turn them in. If the writing doesn’t “sound” like theirs, talk with them about how they came up with the ideas. If necessary, explain that plagiarism is a serious form of stealing that can result in failing grades or even expulsion.

Believing the teacher.

Teachers don’t make accusations of cheating lightly. If the teacher says that your child was cheating, avoid getting defensive. First, get the facts. Then, if necessary, set up a meeting with everyone involved. Finally, establish consequences both for the specific incident and for any “repeat performances.”

Fighting peer pressure.

Peer pressure can be difficult to handle. Children may have a hard time rebuking a friend who asks to copy homework or peek at test answers. Remind your children that it’s OK to say “no” to their friends. Let them use you as an excuse: “Sorry. My parents would be furious if I let you see my homework.”

Allowing your children to do their own work.

Giving your child a little guidance about a school project is fine. Doing even a small bit of the work for them is cheating. You know it. Your child knows it. And so does the teacher.

Battle other kinds of cheating by: Downplaying winning.

Children love to win and sometimes will do anything, including cheating, to achieve victory. Emphasize the reason for playing games or competing in sports is to have fun—win or lose. If you see or overhear them cheating, stop the game immediately and remind them of this. Teach them that any victory won by cheating is meaningless.

Prohibiting pirating.

Not only is it dishonest to download music or copy computer games without paying for them, you and your child may face criminal charges and financial penalties for doing so. Instead, steer them toward the pay-for-play sites.

Sharing stories.

When you read an article in a magazine or newspaper about an honest act—perhaps someone turning in a wallet full of money—share it with your children and talk about how important it is to resist the temptation to keep something that isn't theirs. Finally, scrutinize your own behavior. If they see you using office supplies brought home from work, overhear you talking about subtle ways to cheat on your income taxes, or witness you calling in sick when you're not, they'll believe that cheating is OK.



Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Provided by the Martensdale Lion Club

***Meet on April 3, 2010 at 11:00am
at the park by the bike trail***

Children will be divided by ages during hunt



***From the Desk of
Mrs. Reynolds & Mrs. Pelzer***

Our 4th graders have been busy learning new and interesting concepts. We are all hoping and very ready for a warm and dry spring!!

Math finds us multiplying 2 & 3 digit numbers, then end the year with long division. Long division is a new concept for 4th graders, so keeping up with their multiplication facts will speed up the learning process of long division.

This year we've really enjoyed working with our new reading materials known as Treasures. The stories have been fun, interesting, and have introduced us to several new genres. The kids have enjoyed making connections in other subject areas using their skills and strategies taught from this new reading series.

Social Studies keeps us busy learning the States. With two more regions left to study, we will be ready for the big 50 states test in May.

In Science we are currently focusing on the Solar System. To wrap things up in Science this year we will go out like a lion-learning about extreme weather! 4th graders in Iowa always enjoy learning and discussing weather as they know how unexpected Iowa weather can be.

Thanks to the parents for all your support for working with your child on homework or other personal skills at home. We greatly appreciate your encouragement at home!!

Kindergarten Round-Up

Kindergarten Round-Up is on May 14th from 9am to 2pm.

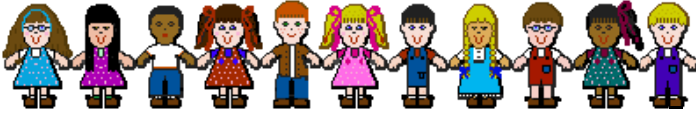
The parent meeting will be April 29th at 6:30pm.

Please contact Mrs. DePauw (641-764-2621) in the elementary office to pick up a "KDG Round-Up" registration packet or to have one mailed to you.

Calling All "2010-2011" Pre-School Students

If you have a child that will be 4 years of age by September 15, 2010, then please call Mrs. DePauw in the elementary office to get on the list for the 2010-2011 pre-school rosters.

Tell all your friends and neighbors too, as there will be a limited number of spaces available. Thanks for your help!



From the Desk of Mrs. Pribil,
Counselor's Corner



Our next Character Counts assembly will be held Friday, April 9 at 8:40 in the small gym. We will be awarding the fairest students from each classroom. Fairness means being open-minded, taking turns, playing by the rules and sharing.

Ways to emphasize fairness in your family:

- Play games by the rules.
- Develop rules that are appropriate for different ages and skill levels.
- Discuss fair ways to choose a movie, restaurant, book to read or vacation.
- Discuss “unfair” practices and together develop more fair procedures.
- Praise, hug, and show genuine appreciation when your child demonstrates the conduct you expect.



It is the policy of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District not to illegally discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, disability, religion, creed, age (for employment), marital status (for programs), sexual orientation, gender identity, and socioeconomic status (for programs) in its educational programs and its employment practices.

There is a grievance procedure for processing complaints of discrimination. If you have questions or a grievance related to this policy, please contact the district's Equity Coordinator.

MStM's Equity Coordinator is Mike Crozier, secondary principal. His address is MStM Community School, 390 Burlington, Martensdale, Iowa 50160. His phone number is 641-764-2686 and his email address is: mike_crozier@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us

The MstM PTO would like to thank the following businesses for making our “Crop for the Kids” a huge success! THANK YOU TO ALL for your generous donations and support!

- Wiegert Disposal
- Sports Page in Indinaola
- Sports Page in Winterset
- Jo Ann Wiegert Longaberger Consultant
- Roadside
- Gabbys
- La De Da
- Nails -Norwalk
- Villagios
- Rosco's
- Lori Dooley-Mary Kay Consultant
- Maple Street Memories
- Breedings Winterset
- Norwalk Hardware
- G & D Electric Indianola
- Pizza Hut
- Bob and Ginny Darr
- Cumings Repair in Prole
- Partylite-Rayliena Rasmussen
- Dove Chocolate- Lori Frazier
- That Scrappy Girl
- Creative Memories-
- Lauer Auto Parts
- Caseys
- Bambinos
- Lia Sophia- Holly Morrow
- Salon Radiance Trish Olson
- Jo Ann Fabrics in West Des Moines
- Jo Ann Fabrics in Des Moines
- Applebees
- Walmart in Indianola
- Manda's Photography- Manda Gibson
- Uppercase Living- Kim Phinney
- Brittains Standard Parts- Winterset
- Fareway Indianola
- Fareway Norwalk
- Silpada- Rana Webster
- Scotts Foods Norwalk
- Four Seasons Auto Wash-Norwalk
- Godfathers Martensdale
- Scheels
- Jo's Hallmark Indianola
- Bowmans Garage Winterset
- Archivers
- Wal-Mart - Jordan Creek
- Fire Creek -West Des Moines
- Chester Chicken
- Capital City Fruit
- Jammz
- HyVee- Indianola

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

February 11, 2010

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on February 11, 2010. This meeting was rescheduled from February 8, 2010 due to weather.

Members Present: Scott Anderson, President; Nicole Bunch, Vice-President; Wade Gibson, and Amy Harper; together with Superintendent Jean Peterson, and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: Dave Shutt

I. Welcome

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

II. Consent Items

- A. Approval of Minutes.
- B. Approval of Agenda
- C. Approval of Bills and Secretary's Report
- D. Approval of Hot Lunch and Activity Reports

Bunch motioned to approve the consent items seconded by Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Supt. Peterson announced that the Department of Education Site Visit for MStM was officially over at 1:45 today. She received many positive comments from the group about the District and would like to give a lot of credit to the staff for their patience and the willingness to upgrade our educational program. Supt. Peterson will provide the results of the Site Visit at the next board meeting.

Tom Wood announced that ITBS for grades 3-6 were done as of today. They went very well.

Mike Crozier announced that the MStM Wrestling Team placed 2nd at Districts/Team Duals at I-35 February 10th. Six wrestlers will be going to Districts this weekend. The MStM Girls' Basketball Team is Conference Champs and they will be starting Districts tonight.

IV. Public Comments

The following community members signed up to speak: Todd Palmer, 9819 20th Ave, Prole, IA 50229
Michael Kleve, 4874 Johnson Street, Prole, IA 50229
Sandi Christensen, 12525 33rd Ave, St. Charles, IA 50240

V. Old Business

A. Reports

- 1) Facilities Report – Supt. Peterson informed the Board that she has met with Matt Carlile and liquidation damages are

being put on hold until the punch list for the track/field project is complete.

2) MStM Music Booster Minutes – February 9, 2010 minutes were reviewed.

3) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes – No minutes

4) MStM PTO Minutes – January 12, 2010 minutes were reviewed.

B. Presentations

1) Superintendent's Report – Supt. Peterson reviewed with the Board The Equal Employment/Affirmative Action Plan, MStM Vision, Mission and Belief Statements, the School District Financial Report Card, MStM Board Goals and the School District Needs Assessment. The Quality Support Committee met on February 1, 2010 to revisit the Vision, Mission and Belief Statements and had them cite examples of things pertaining to these statements happening in our school district. The Board will set up a workshop to update their goals after receiving the report from the Site Visit Team.

2) Principal's Report

Tom Wood announced the Character Counts Students demonstrating responsibility. The 6th Grade TAG came up with a fundraiser for Haiti and raised \$400 for Meals for the Heartland and the American Red Cross. Great Job!!

Character Counts Students

Prek	Grace Miller and Lily Minor
K	Lane Wilgenbusch and Anna Parrott
1 st	Jayda Gay and Jeriray Croy
2 nd	Madelyn Stott and Brynn Olson
3 rd	Darren Vogt and Vince Girardi
4 th	Andrew Andrasko and Brianna Hartman
5 th	Lauren Noga and Michael Darr
6 th	Dakota Chavez and Eric Estell

Mike Crozier announced that ITBS/ITEDs were done last week along with the Work Keys tests. The Site Visit Team asked about the percent of students participating in activities. 82% in the secondary building participates in an activity. Crozier announced the January Students of the Month:

- 7th Grade – Nicole Shutt
- 8th Grade – Elizabeth Gerdes
- 9th Grade – Russell Lester
- 10th Grade – Andria Harper
- 11th Grade – Shannon Snyder
- 12th Grade – Ray Kraber

VI. New Business

A. Discuss/Approve Teacher Comments Regarding Spring Break Snow Make Up Days Supt. Peterson

Melissa Schad represented the Elementary teachers and reviewed the comments that were given to the Board.

They received an email on 01-12-10 stating, "We will be making up the days at the end of the school year." so, most of our teachers made plans after this. They realize that the snow days will affect our students learning at the end of the year. They are simply asking the school board to make an exception to the original decision to use personal leave or unpaid leave. All teachers are awarded only 2 personal days per year, unless some are carried over. Most teachers, even veteran teachers, have less than 3 available to use. Personal days and sick days are kept separate. Most of the affected staff has saved personal days for important family events, for example, graduation, grandchildren's births, etc. They have historically known that our calendar includes a Spring Break and our staff has always made plans with their families during that time. They proposed to the Board that an exception be made, and sick days be converted to personal days during this special circumstance. Christy Holloway represented the secondary staff and asked for 2 days back during the Spring Break week and thinks the kids need a break as well. Other comments included that not all the students will be here the week of Spring Break so the teachers still will not be teaching to all their needs. Bunch stated that this is a no win decision. The seniors are not happy. This is an agriculture community and those families need the help of their children in June. This is not a popular decision and at this point the decision was made because of the kids and that they are more productive in March than they would be in June. Most parents who have voiced their opinion were happy about the decision because they did not want their kids going into June and less daycare expenses for some. The Board had concerns about making any exceptions due to expenses in hiring substitute teachers and students not benefiting by having a substitute teacher for a week. The FY11 school calendar will state that snow days may need to be made up during the Spring Break week. Additional suggestions were to convert sick days into personal days. About five elementary teachers and one secondary teacher have made travel plans for the Spring Break week. Harper motioned to approve not to dock pay to teachers that have travel plans that were purchased prior to January 29, 2010 and to make up those days at

the end of the school year for curriculum purposes, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes.

B. Personnel Resignations Supt. Peterson

Bunch motioned to approve the resignation of Manda Gibson, Preschool Associate, the resignation of Brian Spanhut, Head Volleyball Coach, only if a suitable replacement is found, and the resignation of Grant Harris, JH Baseball Coach, only if a suitable replacement is found, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes.

C. Personnel Recommendations Supt. Peterson

A recommendation was given to the Board to hire Nancy Kisling to fill the Preschool Associate position that is now available. The administration went back to the individuals that were laid off in December of 2009. Seniority was considered and the first individual was not interested and Nancy was. Gibson approved hiring Nancy Kisling as the new Preschool Associate, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes.

D. Approve Soccer Sharing Agreement with Indianola Supt. Peterson

Ron Peterson, Athletic Director, has completed a signup sheet with the high school student body to gauge the interest in playing soccer this spring 2010. Only two students signed up; one Junior and one Senior. The cost to the district for soccer last year for four students was \$1,200 plus \$2,120 for transportation costs. The recommendation from Peterson was not to offer soccer this spring due to lack of interest and the financial burden to the district. The Board asked if the two students who signed up have played soccer in the past and the administration stated yes, they are passionate soccer players and receive sufficient playing time. Gibson motioned to approve paying the \$300 per student that expressed interest as long as transportation is provided by the student, not by the school, seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 4 ayes.

E. Approve to clear Preschool Fund Balance Jill Gavin

Gavin stated that the appropriate coding had been created to move the Preschool Fund 63 into the General Fund. The negative amount is due to the previous years of five year old students' tuition that went into the General Fund and not into the Preschool Fund. Per the auditors, the Board would need to approve paying off the negative amount in the Preschool Fund at the end of January; which is \$23,989.81. The Board

would still like to see the revenue and expenses for the Preschool program and Gavin will still show that on her report. Bunch motioned to approve paying off the negative amount of \$23,989.81 to eliminate the Fund 63 and move those revenue and expenses into the General Fund, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 4 ayes.

F. Discuss/Approve Closing the Daycare Program
Supt. Peterson

Due to the budget cuts that were announced in October, the Board had requested to review all programs. The daycare program, at the time of the cuts in October, was in the negative. Gavin provided numbers to the Board that showed revenue decreasing and expenses increasing over the past three fiscal years. It was stated that in the 2008-09 school year, the daycare program lost 12 children but we kept the number of staff members. Staff cuts were made in August 2009, craft projects were cut, and hours were adjusted for the current staff. Expenses included salaries and benefits, groceries, crafts, and summer transportation.

The Board thanked the parents again for their comments in regards to keeping the daycare program open. The Board has asked the administration and the head of the daycare program to create a survey generated by the ideas given by the families and allow the entire community to answer the survey. The Board recognizes that the families want to make this work and that increasing the prices of daycare would be acceptable. The Board suggested finding ways to promote and advertise the daycare program by creating awareness. The Board also asked for a profit model to anticipate costs and benefits and recommended running the program as a business.

G. Review 2008-2009 Audit Jill Gavin

The superintendent and business manager reviewed the 2008-2009 audit with the Board, noting where we are with their recommendations.

H. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates


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


The Board agreed to have a Budget Workshop on February 23, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

Bunch motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 4 ayes. Time 6:52 p.m.

APPROVED


Board President


Business Manager

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2010**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in a special workshop session, pursuant to law, on Tuesday, February 23, 2010.

Members Present: Scott Anderson, President; Nicole Bunch, Vice-President; Dave Shutt, Amy Harper, Wade Gibson, Mike Crozier and Tom Wood together with Superintendent Jean Peterson and Business Manager Jill Gavin.

Members Absent: None

The President called the meeting to order at 5:12 p.m.


Supt. Peterson asked the Board if school could be dismissed at 2:30 on Monday, March 1, to allow families time to get to Wells Fargo for the State Tournament game. The board agreed to the early dismissal.


Supt. Peterson also discussed that the teachers union will be offering its first proposal to the Board on March 4th during our Agenda Meeting and asked if the Board would be willing to offer our first proposal to the teachers' union.

Supt. Peterson and Gavin discussed and proposed to the Board possible scenarios regarding tax rates along with proposed cuts for FY2011 due to the most recent 10% ATB Cut from Governor Culver on October 8, 2009.

Bunch moved to adjourn, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes; 7:20 p.m.

APPROVED


Board President


Business Manager

*The Martensdale-St.Marys District Newsletter
is published by the end of the preceding month.*

*The newsletter is available for pickup in the Superintendent's
office, Jiffy station and the Roadside Inn.
All of which are located in Martensdale.
You may also view it on the mstm.us website.*

*Questions or concerns may be addressed to:
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641/764-2466*