



May 1, 2010

From the Desk of Ms. Peterson, Superintendent

School Board Recognition Week, May 9-15



This has undoubtedly been one of the most challenging years for School Boards. You cannot pick up a newspaper or listen to television newscasts without hearing about how schools all across Iowa have been dealing with their budget issues this year. Because of the down turn in the economy and the decisions made by both the Governor and the State legislature, School Boards have had to make extremely difficult and emotional decisions in regard to staff reductions and the raising of property taxes.

The Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District is joining with communities throughout Iowa to honor its elected school board members during Iowa School Board Recognition Week, May 9-15, 2010. This year's theme—"Leading Students to a Brighter Future"—recognizes that Iowa's volunteer school board members are providing leadership, through responsibilities ranging from strong financial stewardship to ensuring high quality curriculum, to make sure all students have a bright, vibrant future ahead of them.

Serving on the MStM School Board are:

Scott Anderson - Board President
Nicole Bunch - Vice President
Wade Gibson
Dave Shutt
Amy Harper

These men and women volunteer for countless hours of unpaid time to provide the best possible education for our students and we want to recognize that in this community. As your elected leaders, they represent you in their continuing commitment to local citizen control and decision-making for our public schools. Too often the efforts of School Board Members go unrecognized and unrewarded. So, this recognition week is an appropriate time to thank them. I, for one, am thankful for our MStM School Board Members. They are all very knowledgeable, caring and dedicated individuals who are committed to improving student achievement and to striving for what is best for all of our students.



Iowa School Board Facts 2010

Role of School Board Members:

VISION: The School Board engages the community in setting the course to guide local education, keeping student achievement as the primary focus.

STRUCTURE: The School Board employs a superintendent, adopts policies and plans, and ensures that human and financial resources are allocated to accomplish the vision.

ACCOUNTABILITY: The School Board monitors student achievement, evaluates progress toward district goals, and reports progress to the community.

ADVOCACY: The School Board serves as the key advocate on behalf of students and public education and builds partnerships with others to support student learning.

TIME DONATED TO PUBLIC EDUCATION: Iowa School Board Members are volunteer elected officials who donate their time to school board service. Each week, Iowa School

Board Members donate thousands of hours in service to Iowa students.

K-12 Public School Districts:

More than 2,000 men and women serve on local public School Boards in Iowa, guiding the education of over 474,000 young people and overseeing a combined budget of \$4.4 billion. School Board members are elected by their local communities in an election held the second Tuesday of September in odd numbered years. They serve four year terms.

2008-2009 K-12 Enrollment Data:

<i>Enrollment</i>	<i># Boards</i>	<i># Board Members</i>	<i>% of Total Board Members</i>
Under 250	34	172	7%
250-499	92	488	24%
500-749	90	512	26%
750-999	35	192	10%
1,000-1,499	45	255	13%
1,500-1,999	23	133	7%
2,000-3,499	16	100	5%
3,500+	26	182	8%
Total:	361	2,034	100%

K-12 Gender Data:

<i>Category</i>	<i># Male</i>	<i># Female</i>
All Members	1,355 (66.7%)	679 (33.3%)
Board Presidents	260 (70.0%)	101 (30.0%)

K-12 Length of Service Data

(Average Length of Service: 4.7 years):

<i>Category</i>	<i># Board Members</i>
Under 5 years	1,294 (64%)
5-9 years	505 (25%)
10-14 years	159 (8%)
15-19 years	55 (2%)
20+ years	21 (1%)

From the Desk of Mr. Crozier

I want to thank the student council members for their hard work on April 14th at our leadership retreat. We reviewed our discipline policies and the students discussed issues regarding the policies and procedures in our student handbook. The students also participated in leadership activities throughout the day. I was very impressed with the input the students provided through this process. We have great students at Martensdale-St. Marys and they have great ideas and opinions that we will use in developing and revising student policies.

You should have recently received your students ITBS/ITED results in the mail. These tests are very important to our district. We showed gains in most grades but have some work to do with others. We are reorganizing our 7th and 8th grade Literature Basics and Literature Workshop classes. We are designing a curriculum to reach both the low and high

achieving students' needs. We are also creating a class that will help meet the needs of incoming freshmen that are below the proficient level in reading comprehension. The achievement of our students is very important. We will continue to investigate ways to improve our students' scores.

Our Track and Field season is off and running. We have had three track meets so far and they have been outstanding. Thank you to all our volunteers that have been helping to run the meets. It takes many people to run a good track meet and we appreciate all of your help. I also would like to commend our Activities Director, Ron Peterson, for his outstanding organization of these events. His leadership continues to move our programs forward.

The end of the year is approaching fast. Semester tests for seniors will be on May 18th and 19th. Semester tests for all other students will be held on May 25th and 26th. Graduation will be on May 23rd at 2:00 PM.

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.

From the Desk of Mr. Folkerts

Commonly Asked Questions

Parents and students often ask some of the same questions which I am glad to answer. This article tries to address a lot of commonly asked questions in regard to college planning.

1. When should my student take the ACT?

There is no magic time to take the ACT. My usual response is to take the ACT during the junior year but it can be taken earlier. A good rule of thumb is to take the ACT when a student is enrolled in Algebra II. There is a lot of geometry and algebra on the ACT and sometimes it is helpful to take the ACT while enrolled in Algebra II. For sure, a student who is applying to a four year college/university should take the ACT at least during their junior year so they will have an ACT score to use to apply to four year colleges in the fall of their senior year.

2. Should a student take the ACT more than once?

ACT reports that 55% of students that take the ACT a second time raise their score. Realize that it obviously benefits ACT monetarily for students to take the test multiple times. But the 55% figure is a reasonable expectation. Students should do some type of preparation prior to taking the test. The most beneficial preparation is just doing practice tests.

3. If a student takes the ACT a second time, does that hurt the students chance of admission to a college?

No. Colleges will take the highest score.

4. What is the score that a student should get on the ACT to be admitted?

A 20 composite score is commonly seen as a major indicator of four year college success. It actually varies college to college. Some colleges have higher admission standards so the ACT score requirement will be higher. Other colleges may have lower admission standards. To be sure, check the college website and click on admissions for the freshman admission requirements. Or call the admissions office and speak to a college admissions representative.

5. How can I find more information about college and career choices for my son/daughter?

The state of Iowa has provided an excellent resource for all schools called Choices Planner. It is a web based college and career information center that has a great deal of information about colleges and careers. The website is administrated through the Iowa College Student Aid Commission. Go to: www.ihaveaplaniowa.gov Click on "First Time User" to establish a new electronic portfolio or "Returning User" to check and add to your existing portfolio. Choices Planner has an interest inventory, a skills assessment, a values sorter, and many other resources available to help students and parents in the career/college search process.

SUMMER 2010 – What Juniors can do to Prepare for College Planning

1. Attend Iowa Private College Week, August 2-6, 2010 (See article below)
2. Put together a portfolio of information to be ready to fill out college applications. Accumulate information in regards to activities, honors and awards, volunteer and community service accomplishments. This makes it easier to complete scholarship applications and college admission applications.
3. Volunteer in service opportunities and then list them on applications for scholarships.
4. Spend time surfing college web sites to learn about prospective colleges and narrow your list to 3-5 colleges.

Class of 2011: Plan College Visits for Fall, 2010

The fall is a busy time with start of school, fall athletics, fall music and speech activities. Now is a good time to begin to think about scheduling college visits to prospective colleges. It is best to go in the fall before snow blankets the campus. It is important for parents to arrange time off from work to go on the visit. Check college web sites or call college admission offices for individual and group visit days. The campus visit is the single most important factor in deciding which college to attend. Planning ahead and coordinating school and work schedules can be tricky, but looking ahead can give you a day that will work well for students and parents.

Iowa Private College Week: August 2-6, 2010

For five days, Iowa's private colleges and universities are inviting you and your parents **to explore campuses, visit with professors, meet coaches, hear what current students have to say, and learn about all academic and social opportunities.** Variety is the spice of life, so check out up to ten different colleges during the week, compare notes and decide which college fits you. Tours are schedules twice each day at each campus: 9:00am and 1:30pm **Iowa Private College Week 2010:** August 2-6. Go to www.thinkindependently.com to register for this summer.

From The Desk of Mr. Newbury

The year has gone so fast even with the long winter. The High School PE classes are finally getting outside after spending most of the year inside. The activities the students have been participating in are flag football, speedball, whiffleball, pickleball, and badminton. Every day the kids do a running activity and we lift weights. They have been working hard to get stronger and have been working on their cardio. The next big activity is the physical fitness testing, which they will do 5 tests. The tests include the shuttle run, sit and reach, pull-ups, sit ups, and the mile run. Usually most of the kids take these seriously and give 100% to reach their goal. The Health classes have been studying such things as alcohol abuse, stress, self esteem, fitness, and nutrition. The next thing we will do is every student will learn CPR and have a chance to become certified.

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

Congratulations to the High School Chorus and Jazz Band on a most creative Variety Show on April 10th! Students took their show to "Hollywood" this year. Nominees performed and trophies were awarded. A highlight of the show this year was the YouTube video created by chorus members. Original ideas and director/producer for the video was Alexandria Mallia. Thank you to all who supported the high school students with their attendance and donations!

Thank you to all who supported the very youngest students at their spring concert. The "Farmer's Life" was so much fun! Proceeds will go to purchase musical supplies for the elementary students.

High school chorus students participated in the IHSMA solo/ensemble festival at Melcher-Dallas on Saturday, April 17th. Earning a solo Superior (1) rating was Taylor Furness. Those performing solos and earning an Excellent (2) rating were Emily Hutchison, Brandon Robinson, Broc Christensen, Michaela McIlravy, and Kate Cook. Participating in the duet event were Josh and Katie Butcher.

Also, congratulations to Abby Wetzler for accompanying two performances at the festival. All of these fine outstanding students represented MStM with their talent! Thank you to all of you!

Coming up on May 7th, is the IHSMA Large Group Festival at Winterset High School. The MStM band plays at 5:00 and the MStM chorus sings at 6:00. The admission for the festival is \$3 for adults and \$1 for students. Come and support our fine musicians this year!

Thursday, May 13th, is the high school Awards Night at 7:00pm. Come and enjoy the great music before the ceremony starting at 6:00 pm. Students will be performing before the awards are given, so come and support their talents!

Friday, May 14th, the 4th graders will present in concert their recorders with the 5th and 6th grade bands at 2:00.

Saturday, May 15th, the junior high chorus and 6th grade band will participate in the solo/ensemble festival here at MStM. Performances will begin at 8:00 for a judge and continue through the morning.

Thursday, May 20th, is the 5th and 6th grade talent show. The show begins at 2:00 for all elementary classes.

And to finish up the year, the JH band, JH chorus, and HS band will perform at Adventureland on Friday, May 21st. The JH Chorus will perform at 1:30 and the HS chorus will perform at 1:50. Come and enjoy the fun with all those teenagers!!!! Mrs. Clark

**From the Desk of Mrs. Sondag,
Band Department**

Recently, there has been a sign in the office stating the number of days left in the school year. I heard someone say "It's all a downhill slide now". For the music department, it's the uphill climb of the year.

After the jazz band performed at the Variety Show on April 10th, soloists competed at the 1A State Solo/Ensemble contest at Melcher-Dallas on Saturday, April 17th. We had more entries than any of the other 1A schools there, so we were pretty busy. Kelsey DePauw, a freshman percussionist, earned a I or "Superior" rating and all other band students earned II or

"Excellent" ratings. There was no one who received a III rating.

Other students who participated were:

Emily Hutchison, Katie Butcher, Kayla DePauw, Katrina Devore, Cassidy DePauw, Michaela McIlravy, Abby Wetzler, and Katelynn Miller. Emily, Cassidy and Michaela were only one point away from a I rating. On April 20th, three of our junior high band students were selected to participate in the Simpson Junior High Honor Band. Sheniya Craig, Kaitlynn Miller and Dallas Newman were part of rehearsals throughout the day and a great performance that night.

Coming up are numerous events. The spring concerts are April 23rd for the junior high and April 30th for the high school music groups. Friday, May 7th, is the State Large Group Contest in Winterset. We are the only 1A school participating at this center all others will be 3A schools.

The band performs at 5:00 pm. We are fortunate enough to have the numbers needed to do this. There are fewer small schools participating each year. The fine arts awards night is on Thursday, May 13th, at 6:30; the 4-6 recorder/band concert is on May 14th at 2:00 pm, and the 6th grade solo/ensemble contest is on Saturday, May 15th, during the morning.

There are also trips for secondary band students planned. On May 17th, the high school band will be marching at Worlds of Fun in Kansas City and using the park afterwards. On May 21st, the junior high band will take its trip to perform at Adventureland. These trips are possible because of the fundraising and donations that you have given to the program and help from the music boosters. Of course, the one last performance for this school year will be at Graduation on Sunday, May 23rd.

Thank you everyone who has donated time, money, piano skills, brought cookies, fundraised, attended concerts and chaperoned this year. Thank you to the music boosters and parents who support in other ways throughout the year as well. I couldn't do it without your help and support.

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

YEARBOOK NEWS: Preserve your junior high and high school memories forever with the 2009-2010 YEARBOOK. You may still send in your payment by May 3rd, if you received an invoice.

You may also order online at www.jostens.com with a credit card by May 21 or order a yearbook from Mrs. Sowder with cash payments by May 21.

SENIORS: Heather Brown will be taking pre-orders for senior graduation slide show CD until Friday, May 21st, at rehearsal. Cost is \$10.00 and pre-payment is due when placing the order.

The slide show CD, which has more photos than ever, will be delivered or mailed the week after graduation.

Visual Arts News-Mrs. Davidson

Des Moines Art Center's Nurturing a Student's Vision: Celebrating Artists K-12 Sponsored by Hubbell Homes

Hubbell Homes, Des Moines Art Center and Des Moines Arts Festival are proud to host "Nurturing a Student's Vision": Celebrating Artists K-12 student art exhibition (NSV) at the Des Moines Arts Festival on June 25-27, 2010, in downtown Des Moines' Western Gateway Park!

NSV is a program that spotlights the creativity of children in kindergarten through 12th grade attending schools in central Iowa through a special exhibition on-site at the Des Moines Arts Festival and the six weeks after at the Downtown Public Library. It recognizes students' artistic achievements at the Visionary Artist Ceremony, NSV Reception, and rewards them with a Certificate of Appreciation along with a Des Moines Art Center Student Membership.

This year the Art Department has chosen the following students to represent Martensdale-St. Marys with their outstanding pieces of art:

Elementary Artists:

Alisha Kauten, 3rd Grade, Watercolor Landscape
Brinley White, 4th Grade, Oil Pastel Bird Drawing
Lauren Noga, 5th Grade, Falling for Foreshortening Portrait
Abby Wetzler, 6th Grade, Tuesday Drawing

Jr/Sr High Artists:

Kylea Pote, 7th Grade, Pop Art Drawing
Kaitlyn Belieu, 8th Grade, City Drawing
Alexandrea Mallia, 9th Grade, Still Life Drawings
Haylee Gehringer, 12th Grade, Parrot of Painted Paper Collage

The artwork of these students will be on display at the Des Moines Arts Festival with an awards ceremony on Saturday of the festival.

Junior and Senior High School Art Show

Junior High and Senior High School student art work from this year will be on display in conjunction with the MStM Awards Night on May 13, 2010 at 7 pm.

From the Desk of Mr. Peterson Athletic Director

Congratulations to the high school chorus members who represented MStM in the Iowa High School Music Associations Solo/Ensemble Festival! The Festival was Saturday, April 17th, at Melcher-Dallas. Earning the Superior (1) rating was Taylor Furness. Excellent (2) ratings were Emily Hutchison, Brandon Robinson, Broc Christensen, Michaela McIlravy, and Kate Cook. Also representing MStM was Abby Wetzler as she accompanied two performances on the piano. Thank you to all of our fine high school musicians who performed!

Congratulations to Carrie Wood. She was named the team MVP for the Class 1A Select Team at the Iowa Girls Coaches Association All-Star games play in early April.

The first track meet in the new stadium was held on April 22nd. I want to thank everyone who helped make it successful. It takes a lot of people to make it run well.

A special thanks to Jim Lynch and Cory Fast for all of the work they did preparing the stadium and grounds to help make everything look and work properly.

Speaking of running well, the boys team won the meet and several individuals set new meet records. Kyle Bown set a new mark in the 400 meter hurdles in a time of 57.58 (Old Record 1:00:50). The Shuttle Hurdle Relay team set a new mark in the time of 1:04.21 (Old Record 1:15:16). The relay team members were Hayden VanHoose, Tiegen Wood, Jacob Schrodt, and Kyle Bown. Congratulations.

The girls track team has been performing well and their MStM Invitational is May 11 with a 5:00 p.m. start time. The girls and boys teams will be hosting the District/Regional Meet on Friday, May 14, 2010 with a 4:00 start.

Parting Shot:

I had a member of the community shared an article with me related to keeping athletics in the proper perspective. The title of the article was "Send the Right Message" and the passage I found most interesting dealt with empowering your child to have a relationship with his/her coach, his/her teacher or other trusted authority figure. The message encourages parents to let their children talk to the coach/teacher about problems. If it is difficult for your child, go together but let your child deliver the main message. It is simply good life skills. The article wants parents to let athletics be a road for preparing your child for facing the challenges of adulthood.

Bruce Brownlee, a soccer referee and coach in Atlanta, Georgia, says parents should memorize and use the following statements before and after the game.

Before:

I love you.
Good luck.
Have fun.

After:

I love you.
It was great to see you play.
What would you like to eat?

From the Desk of Mr. Wood, Elementary Principal

The Rewards of Reading

You know how important it is to read to your children. Children whose families read with them do better in school. And the bonds that you make with your children when you read with them help them feel loved, comforted, and secure. Like most families, you want to read with your children, but somehow days can go by without you sitting down with them and opening a book. The key is to make it a priority. Here are

several suggestions to help your children improve their reading skills.

Fifteen minutes a day can change their lives.

You may be surprised to know that educators recommend just 15 minutes a day of reading, as a minimum. Like exercise, of course, longer sessions are even more beneficial.

Always have a book on hand, no matter where you are.

Keep a small book in your purse or your car's glove compartment. Or have a picture book or two in the baby's stroller. Make sure that you and your children always have something to read when time is available.

Focus on their interests.

Reading with you should be for pleasure, so get books from the school or public library that features characters or topics they're really interested in. It doesn't matter if they're reading a book about NASCAR or NASA—either way, they're reading!

Ask them questions while you're reading.

Everyone is a better "listener" when they know they're going to be asked questions about what they're listening to. Don't make it a test, but do keep their interest going by asking them stories about what's being read. Get their brains working. Don't just ask who the characters are. Instead, ask questions like "Why do you think he did that?" "What would you do if you were in that situation?" or "What do you think will happen next?"

Be a patient listener.

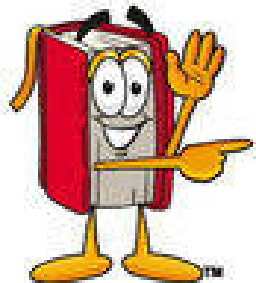
It can be difficult listening to your children struggle while reading. But think how terribly important it is that they succeed. Don't jump in and finish the sentence for them, no matter how slowly they're reading. Instead, encourage their effort and let them see that you're proud they're reading, and not annoyed that it's taking so long.

Get everyone involved.

The more people who read with your children, the more they'll see that reading is important. Talk with the other adults and older children in your household and let them know that reading with each child is going to be a daily activity, and that you need them to participate.

But first...

Kids make time for a lot of extras in their day. So do parents. TV shows, computer games, and going online can eat up surprising amounts of time. Read first—before the computer goes on or their favorite TV show comes on.

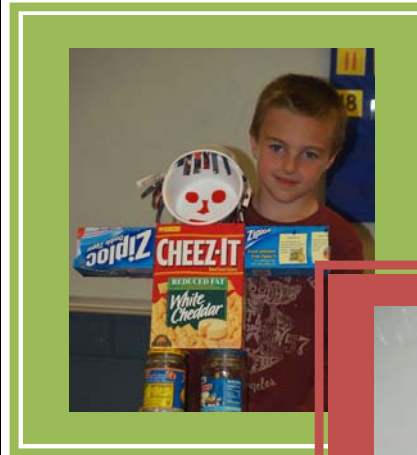


**Come
Read with
Me!**

There's something special about owning a book.

Libraries and garage sales offer "well loved" books for sale, often for as little as 25 cents. Keep spare change on hand so you can pick up some great reads for your children when you see a sale. When birthdays or holidays come around, make sure there's always a good book wrapped up and waiting. Yes, you're busy. Yes, your children are too. But reading with your children really needs to be part of your day, every day. Fifteen minutes a day is a small investment that will generate enormous rewards.

Earth Day in First Grade



First graders learn how to recycle during "Earth Week".



Creativity is



overflowing!

Turning trash into fun at MStM!

Way to go kids!

**From the Desk of
Mrs. Franey and Mrs. Scriver**

Upcoming Second Grade Events...

As we move into the last month of the school year, the second grade classes are looking ahead to the carefree months of summer, but before we can get there they are going to have some exciting events to help them remember all of the fun that they had in second grade.

The second grade classes are really looking forward to the PTO's annual Fun Run "If Kids Ran the World". While talking about this event, the kids were able to write and draw what the world would be like if the kids were in charge. Their creativity on this assignment was amazing!

Another event that the kids are super excited about is their annual field trip to Lake Aquahbi. While on the field trip, the students will hike all around the lake and end the trip with a class picnic. The field trip is based on topics they have learned in their science classes, such as identifying plant and animal types and exploring the nature that is around them.

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.

Calling All "2010-2011" Kindergarten Students

If you have a child that will be 5 years of age by September 15, 2010, then please call Mrs. DePauw in the elementary office (641-764-2621) to get on the list for the 2010-2011 kindergarten rosters.

Kindergarten Round-Up will be Friday, May 14th from 9-2. Anyone with an upcoming kindergarten student should call the elementary office to make sure they are on the list for next year, and (the 2010-2011 kindergarten student) is invited to attend round up on that Friday.

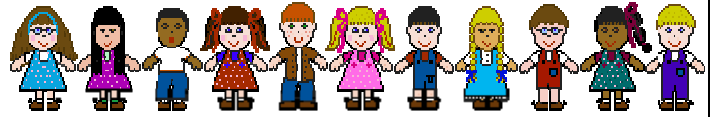
Tell all your friends and neighbors too!

Thanks for your help!

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

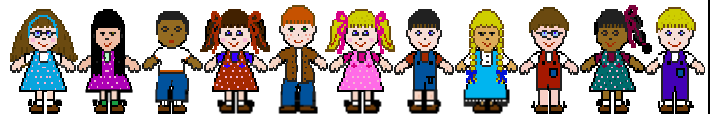


From the Desk of Mrs. Pribil, Counselor's Corner



Our last Character Counts assembly will be held Wednesday, May 19th at 8:40 in the small gym. We will be awarding students who demonstrate citizenship from each classroom. Citizenship means doing your share to make your school and community better, protect the environment, and obey laws and rules.

The Citizenship pillar ties in with the theme of this year's Fun Run, which is "If Kids Ran the World..." Every student in the elementary will be designing posters and they will be hung up on the walls the week of the fun run. The posters will include the theme and what the kids' envision their world to look like if they were in charge.



MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING MARCH 4, 2010

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on Thursday, March 4, 2010.

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

Members Absent: None

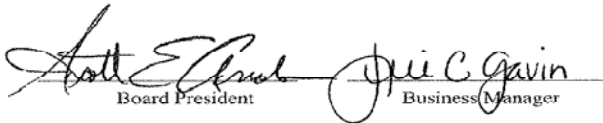
- I. Welcome – Board President
The President called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed all guests.
- II. Public Comments - None
- III. New Business

- A. MStM Education Association First Proposal – Jodi Noga, Val Sondag, Melissa Schad
Jodi Noga discussed with the Board the MStM Education Association’s first proposal that included changes in the base salary, creating one salary schedule that includes teacher salary supplement funds and changes in the master contract.
- B. MStM School Board First Proposal
President Scott Anderson provided the MStM School Board’s first proposal to the Education Association that included changes in the master contract and no changes in salaries. The Board thanked the Education Association for their proposal and stated that we will be in touch with them soon to set up the next meeting.
- C. Review Board Packets for March 8, 2010
Supt. Peterson and Jill Gavin reviewed the board packets with the board members. Matt Carlile will be attending the meeting to update the board on the stadium project. The Board requested to have another budget workshop which was then scheduled for after the March 8 board meeting.

IV. Adjournment

Bunch moved to adjourn the meeting seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 6:35 p.m.

APPROVED



**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
MARCH 8, 2010**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in a special workshop session, pursuant to law, on Monday, March 8, 2010.

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

Members Absent: None

The President called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

Supt. Peterson and Gavin discussed and proposed to the Board possible scenarios regarding tax rates for FY2011

The Board understands that everyone is facing difficult economic times, but not knowing if the legislature is going to fully fund the 2% allowable growth, makes this budget year very difficult. The Board looked at a 2009 Special Education

deficit of \$195,682, the 10% across the board cut made in October of \$248,479, the Phase I cut of \$71,000, and FY09 and FY10 1.5% across the board cut of \$33,590. The Board is also faced with dealing with possible future across the board cuts, teacher negotiations and their proposed salary increases.

The Board spent considerable amount of time discussing what “the number” is to cut for FY11 and also looking towards FY12. They were provided with information on what the current tax rate is for our district and what the surrounding school districts’ tax rates are for FY10. Our district is currently the lowest in Warren County at 16.39759. The Board’s main concern is what the District’s enrollment will be like next year and how much to raise property taxes to cover the funding that we might not receive from the State.

Per the Department of Management the Cash Reserve Levy published and adopted by the school board can be reduced later in the budget process, but never increased. The notice of public hearing on the budget must be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the District not less than ten or more than twenty days before the hearing. The Martensdale St. Marys’ hearing will be Monday, April 12, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. in the Superintendent’s office.

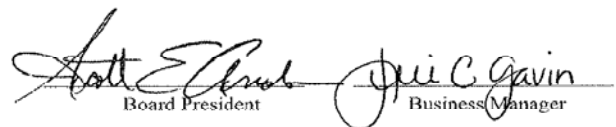
The Board has already eliminated seven positions and we received an early retirement package from a teacher in December of 2009 in an attempt to deal with the across the board cut. The Board is still forced to look at cutting 2.5 teacher positions and six extracurricular positions for the 2010-2011 school year.

After reviewing many different scenarios, the Board agreed to set the SBRC Cash Reserve to \$350,000 and the Other Cash Reserve Levy to \$220,000 which results in a tax rate of 18.45137. This is a 2.05378 increase from the FY10. This amount will be published in the Indianola Record Herald the week of March 22nd.

Bunch motioned to approve the publishing of the proposed budget with a tax levy of 18.45137 which includes a cash levy of \$570,000 seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

Bunch moved to adjourn, seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes; 8:42 p.m.

APPROVED



**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
MARCH 8, 2010**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on March 8, 2010.

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

Members Absent: none

I. Welcome

Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.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: 5 ayes.

III. Celebrations

Tom Wood announced the 6th grade D.A.R.E. Graduation was held on Friday, March 5, 2010. He congratulated the 6th grade students, thanked the PTO for providing cake and refreshments after the graduation and thanked Officer Spurr for another great year.

Mike Crozier congratulated the six wrestlers that qualified for the state wrestling tournament and for our new State Champion, Robert Walker. He congratulated the Girls Basketball Team for winning the 1st Round at the State Tournament and for a great season. He congratulated Morgan Halverson for being chosen on the Class 1A All Tournament Team. He congratulated Mackenzie Morrison for being chosen on the Des Moines registers' All State Girls Basketball Team. He congratulated Coach Jed Alexander for being 1A Coach of the Year.

IV. Public Comments - none.

V. Old Business

A. Reports

1) Facilities Report – Supt. Peterson

Supt. Peterson introduced Matt Carlile of Confluence to provide the Board with an update on the track and field project. The Board was provided a copy from Ahlers & Cooney regarding the liquidation damages that were sent to Pinnacle and Matt provided the Board with the punch list that Pinnacle responded to. Matt will be going over the punch list again and will inform the administration if the punch list is complete and when he will approve the next Pinnacle payment application. Harper asked if drainage around the field was working properly and Crozier has been checking it out and it looks like the drainage is working. Bunch asked when the first track meet was and Crozier responded April 22nd. Matt was worried

about the grass coming through and we will just have to wait and see once the snow if gone.

Supt. Peterson, Crozier, Jim Lynch and Ron Peterson met with Iowa Thunder, the women's professional football team who are interested in using our football complex for practices and games. Peterson provided the Board with points of negotiations and what MStM would provide regarding access to the stadium, a maintenance person to handle problems, an event supervisor to oversee events and the use of the locker rooms, press box and other areas deemed necessary. The Board agreed that the one of the purposes for the new stadium was to be able rent it out and provide positive exposure for our school district. This opportunity sounds like the one to start with. The Board agreed to have the administration move forward negotiating with Iowa Thunder and asked for an update at the April meeting.

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.

The Board requested from each organization revenues and expenses on a monthly basis to be prepared in case they are audited. The Board asked to update the web with the different organizations' officers listed.

B. Presentations

1) Superintendent's Report – Supt. Peterson

Supt. Peterson reviewed the areas of non-compliance that were identified during the State Department's Site Visit and the requirements for the K-12 library program. Bunch mentioned that years ago parents donated books for the library. Wood mentioned the PTO has \$2000 in vouchers that can be used for new books and the upcoming Book Fair will be contributing books to the library as well. Bunch suggested have the National Honor Society come up with a project to find donations for the secondary section of the library.

2) Principal's Report

Wood updated the Board on the ITBS and Iowa Writing Assessment Update, the Character Counts students and the 2nd Quarter Honor Roll.

Character Counts Students

Prek	Cordelia Fluharty and Kailey Phinney
K	Angelina Furness and Jared Lamb
1 st	Devin Schall and Chloe Husted
2 nd	Morgan Dunn and Elizabeth Devore
3 rd	Jena Wenck and Kailyn DiCesare
4 th	Chandler Craig and Kaitlyn Schad

5th Jamie Seymour and Andrew Shutt
6th Raigen Furness and Magen Andrasko

Crozier reviewed with the Board the Senior Exit Survey. The Board provided suggestions regarding the length of the survey and the importance of some of the questions. Crozier will analyze the survey and report back to the Board in April. He reviewed the Parent advisory Committee meeting that will be held on March 11th. They will go over the Student Handbook, Awards Assembly, security issues and will report back to the Board in April. The Junior High Vocal Festival was held on February 23 and they received a good turnout. Crozier congratulated the February Students of the Month.

7th Grade – Gentry Davidson
8th Grade – Jessy Mendez
9th Grade – Garrett Lies
10th Grade – Josh Butcher
11th Grade – Brandon Robinson
12th Grade – Annika Harper

VI. New Business

A. Approve Policy 102 and 102.E1

Supt. Peterson

Bunch motioned to approve Policy 102 and 102.E1 seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

B. Approve Policy 302.1 and 303.2

Supt. Peterson

Bunch motioned to approve Policy 302.1 and 303.2 seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.

C. Discuss/Approved 2009-2010 Audit Proposal

Jill Gavin

Bunch motioned to approve the 3 year audit proposal from Nolte, Cornman & Johnson P.C. seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.

D. Discuss MStM 2010-2011 Calendar

Supt. Peterson

The Board agreed to starting school on August 23, 2010 with an end date of May 23, 2011. New teachers will arrive on August 17 and they will state on the calendar that snow days will be made up during the week of May 23rd, then on the full day of PD on February 16, and then use the days during Spring Break. Harper requested an early out for Good Friday. The Board will discuss and approve the calendar at the April board meeting.

E. Approve Publication of Proposed 2009-2010 Budget Amendment

Jill Gavin

Bunch motioned to approve the publication of the 2009-2010 Budget Amendment seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

F. Approve Publication of Proposed 2010-2011 Budget

Jill Gavin

Bunch motioned to table the publication of the proposed 2010-2011 budget and to allow the Board to discuss and approve the publication during the Board Workshop following tonight's board meeting seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.

G. Approve Budget Guarantee Resolution for 2010-2011

Jill Gavin

Shutt motioned and Gibson seconded the *RESOLVED, that the board of Directors of the Martensdale St. Marys Community School District will levy property tax for fiscal year 2010-2011 for the regular program budget adjustment as allowed under section 257.14, Code of Iowa.* Roll call: 5 ayes.

H. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates

04/07/09 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail

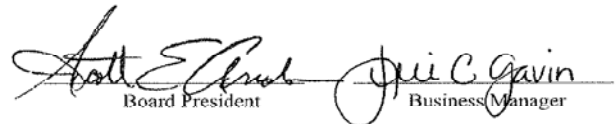
04/08/09 – 5:30 p.m. Agenda Meeting

04/12/09 – 6:00 p.m. Board Meeting

VII. Adjournment

Bunch motioned to adjourn the meeting seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time 7:10 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 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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