



September 30, 2009, Issue No. 9

*From the Desk of Ms. Peterson,  
Superintendent*

Once again, I would just like to say that we have had an incredibly smooth start to the 2009-2010 school year. I want to thank our principals, Mr. Crozier and Mr. Wood, for all of their work in getting things ready for both staff and students. I also want to thank our teachers for all of their efforts. They put in a lot of time and energy to make sure our students transitioned easily back into the "learning atmosphere". Many, many thanks go to our secretaries, our associates, our cooks, our custodians and our bus drivers as well. Our educational facility could not operate efficiently and effectively without their assistance!

*Iowa Department of Education Site Visit*

Once every five years all school districts in our state receive a Site Visit from the Iowa Department of Education. Our Site Visit for the MStM Community School District is scheduled for February 9, 10, 11, 2010.

The Site Visit Process is set forth in the Code of Iowa-256.11(10) and the Iowa Administrative Code (Rules) 12.8(4)(A)(2). The purpose of this site visit is:

- To assess progress with the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan
- To make recommendations with regard to the visit findings for the purposes of improving educational practices
- To determine that a school or school district is in compliance with the accreditation standards
- To provide a general assessment of educational practice.

The team that will make this Site Visit will consist of Department of Education Staff Members, Area Education Agency Staff Members and Administrators from other School Districts. This team will spend the three days in February talking with Board Members,

Administrators, Teachers, Support Staff, Students and Parents.

Our school district will be providing information on our Comprehensive School Improvement Plan in regard to:

- The School's Vision, Mission and Goals
- Leadership
- Collaborative Relationships
- Learning Environment
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Professional Development
- Monitoring and Accountability

After the team is finished with this Site Visit, a Final Report will be issued to the School District. The findings in this report will be used to create a new five year Comprehensive School Improvement Plan for our MStM School. We will also post these findings on our website and in our newsletter for our community to view.

*Quality Support Committee*

We are in the process of organizing our Quality Support Committee for the 2009-2010 school year. Our first meeting for this committee is scheduled for November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We will hold these meetings in our high school library. This committee will meet three times throughout the school year.

Our Quality Support Committee is considered our School Improvement Advisory Committee. We look to this committee to give us feedback on our educational programs, our student learning goals and all other aspects of our school.

If you have an interest in serving on this committee, please contact me. You can either call me at 641-764-2466 or email me at: [jean\\_peterson@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us](mailto:jean_peterson@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us).

**CONGRATULATIONS to the 2009-2010  
MSM SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

**PRESIDENT - SCOTT ANDERSON - DISTRICT 3**

**VICE PRESIDENT - NICOLE BUNCH - DISTRICT 5**

**DAVE SHUTT - DISTRICT 1**

**WADE GIBSON - DISTRICT 2**

**AMY HARPER - DISTRICT 4**

**Special thanks go to Velvet VanHoose, John Della Vedova and Cathy Seymour for your past commitment and service to the Martensdale-St.Marys Community School District.**

**From the Desk of Mr. Crozier**

Dear Patrons,

We had a super September at Martensdale-St. Marys. Our new class schedule, which incorporates time for teachers to collaborate, is working well. This schedule allows time for teachers to get together and discuss teaching strategies, student learning styles, and various other topics. The faculty has begun a book study on *The Global Achievement Gap* by Tony Wagner. This book focuses on the tools students need to succeed beyond high school in an ever-changing world. Differentiation and technology continue to be a focus for our professional development. Our teachers have wrapped themselves around the technology and are learning great things that will help them deliver information to students in new and exciting ways.

It was very exciting to open our new athletic facility. The students, community, and staff have a facility that is state of the art. They can be very proud of this facility. It was fun to hear of all the excitement from the football players and band members that have been on the field. Our student body continues to impress me in their behavior this year. They are respectful and are eager to learn.

I would like to thank our Activities Director Ron Peterson for all his hard work in organizing the St. Marys Football celebration. The turnout was great and the Alums enjoyed the evening.

Congratulations to this year's Homecoming Court. Senior Queen Candidates were Lexie Smith, Carrie Wood, Kati Gehringer, Katie Simpson and Taylor Johnson. Senior King Candidates were Allen Brown,

Eric Rinard, Trevor Simpson, Hayden VanHoose, and Tiegen Wood. Junior Attendants: Cori Williamson and Viktor Vasyanovych; Sophomore Attendants: Hailey Sweet and Daniel DeLong; and Freshmen Candidates: Cassidy Phillips and Garrett Gehringer.

It is a very exciting time to be a Blue Devil.

Michael R. Crozier  
Secondary Principal

**From the Desk of Mrs. Davidson, Art Department**

Our school is now a member of Artsonia.com ([www.artsonia.com](http://www.artsonia.com)), the largest online student art museum. Artsonia showcases artwork from thousands of schools around the world.

In the art room, your students will be creating some beautiful art work that we would like to showcase on Artsonia. This opportunity allows parents and out-of-town relatives to see the work that your student is creating. The program also allows you or family members to purchase merchandise with your child's artwork on it. The proceeds from the program will benefit our art department.

I have received many of the permission slips from the students. Please contact me if you need an additional permission slip. The Artsonia website can be accessed from the school website on the Blue Devil Space under Angela Davidson. Please feel free to view Artsonia's website or contact me if you have any questions. I also post pictures of student work on the Blue Devil Space.

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

Marching season has begun. I am sure some of you have seen and heard us on the city streets hard at work. The 6th grade and junior band students, a total of 45, have the task of parade marching at the Log Cabin Days Parade in Indianola on September 26th. The high school band of 40 students has many performances lined up; including the homecoming parade, numerous pep band performances and field marching at the new football field. It quite a bit of work, but we will have a great sense of accomplishment when it's all over.

Coming across an old program from the 1980's, I was a bit curious. I could never quite remember how many we had in band back then, but as a student here at that time I always thought it seemed huge. However in 1980 our high school band actually had 34 students in it. I know my graduating class had 50 students in it. Considering our current class sizes, we actually have a higher percentage of the student body in the high school

band now than back at that time and there are even more activities to be involved with at this time.

That's pretty excited news to share.

Twenty-three fifth graders have started practicing in their first rehearsals, and they are very excited to finally be playing their instruments in class. Instruments are needed each year to help students who wish to be in band, but cannot financially afford an instrument at the time. If you happen to have a used instrument that you would like to find a home for, the band program would gladly accept your donation. I will have them put in playing condition and use them for those students until they can afford an instrument of their own, or they are not longer in the band. The instrument is then used for another student in need. The need in the past couple of years has been greater than ever.

Please donate today.

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

Elementary music students have been learning about the history of the MstM School Song. The tune is *On Wisconsin* and was written in 1909, one hundred years ago.

It is believed that the late Betty Anthony, the former music teacher, wrote the words to our school song. If you have evidence of someone else writing the words, please contact Mrs. Clark.

Elementary students in grades 2,3, and 4 are busy working on their Fall Concert in November.

Students are learning the musical "Choices Count!" The songs in this musical are about the six pillars of Character Counts! Their concert is on Tuesday, November 17 in the MstM high school gym at 7:00pm. Please mark this on your calendars and bring the family. It will be a joy to hear our young students perform!

Spotlight! has begun rehearsals on Monday afternoons in the elementary music room. We have snacks, sing, and play games until 4:15. This is a non-auditioned chorus for 5th and 6th grade students, boys and girls. Come and join us!

Junior High chorus students are preparing for the Norwalk Festival on Monday, October 19. The 8th grade students will be joining with singers from many other schools to perform a concert at 7pm that evening in the Norwalk high school gym. Junior high singers are also having fun learning "Rockin' Robin" and will be performing it at our Fall Concert here at school on Thursday, October 22, 7pm.

High School chorus singers are preparing for the fall

concert as well. Students in this class are working on solfege to improve pitch and to sight read, vocal independence, and blending. One of the songs we are having fun singing is "I Could Have Danced All Night." The Fall concert has a "wing" theme to it, so it has been fun choosing songs to go along with this theme!

The Fall concert is on Thursday, October 22 here in the MstM gym at 7:00pm. Three choruses will perform separately, and at the end of the concert, all singers will form one large chorus to perform a combined piece entitled, "On the Wings of Song." Admission to the concert is free, but there will be a donation basket at the front table. Donated funds help students to attend music activities outside of the classroom.

Several of our high school singers will be auditioning for the All-State Chorus on Saturday, October 24 at the Indianola high school. Good luck to all of you!

The following dates and times are for music events:

October 19-8<sup>th</sup> grade chorus sings at the Norwalk Festival, concert @ 7pm

October 22-Fall Concert @ 7pm for Spotlight, JH Chorus, and HS Chorus here at MstM

October 24-All-State Auditions @ Indianola High School

November 10-Pride of Iowa (POI) Honor Choir to Mt Ayr, concert @ 7pm

November 17-Fall Concert for grades 2-3-4 @ 7pm

Thank you for supporting the music program and the students at MstM! Mrs. Clark

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

Seventh grade Language Arts students have recently written a business letter in modified block style that incorporated the use of formal salutations, proper capitalization, paragraph structure, and weekly spelling words. The figurative language concept of simile was also included in the letters. The art of letter writing is not dead in this era of Skyping, blogging, and texting, and about half the students I surveyed say they still write letters to their parents while at summer camp and to aunts, uncles, and pen pals who live in other states. The letter writing assignment is part of preparing the students to demonstrate effective written communication in the global market upon graduation. Seventh graders have

also been introduced to the author Ernest Hemingway and how his life experiences are connected to his writings, like in *The Old Man and the Sea*.

In eighth grade reading, students are weeks into their unit called Change that encompasses the concepts of icons, iconoclasts, and revolutions. The novel *The Giver* by Lois Lowry is embedded in the self-paced unit, as the main character is an iconoclastic figure. Students are given the option of designing their own end product or choosing a product from a list that synthesizes their accumulated knowledge over the course of the eight-week unit. Students use laptops to complete their on-line assignments and research.

The yearbook staff spent two class periods selling business ads at the beginning of September. Their effort was exceptional. A special recognition goes out to senior Matt Holseid and junior Allen Brown for rounding up the highest and second highest dollar value in sales as of September 18. The theme of Too Good to Be Forgotten has been chosen for the 2010 yearbook, and the design team is now planning the cover and determining how the theme will be carried through the book. Students have been assigned job titles and pages to cover over the course of the school. Our student leaders and editors for first semester will be seniors Annika Harper, Haylee Gehringer, and Katie Simpson.

#### Mrs. Sowder's 7-12 Talented and Gifted News

Much has been going on behind the scenes in preparing for the year and meeting with the children of the talented and gifted program. There are a record 28 students enrolled, each with her or his own Personalized Education Plan being developed. Here is a little bit of what has begun or lies ahead.

The three new Friday seminar groups called Enrichment Clusters began on September 11. The groups are conducting scholarly studies of music legends (facilitated by me) broadcast journalism (facilitated by Mr. Moser), and criminology (facilitated by Mrs. Kandace Drees-Dunn). I received a \$200 Big Yellow School Bus grant this month, which will allow me to take all of the musically gifted students to see the Des Moines Playhouse production of *Annie* in December.

Thirteen high school students met for the first practice session of the Pride of Iowa Academic Bowl competition. There are only eight spots on the team, so for the first time, some students will be alternates or reserves. The practice sessions are monthly. The junior high TAG students will be competing on-line in the Knowledge Master Open in April 2010.

Other TAG contests have been selected for the 2009-2010 school year: History Day Contest, sponsored by the Iowa Historical Museum; Visions of Inventiveness, sponsored by the Belin Blank Center for gifted students or The Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers; and Josten's 2010 Photo Contest. Ms. Skellenger and I will be collaborating on the photo contest. She will be specializing in illusions and photo enhancement, and I will teach the seven rules of composition and emphasize the photographer as a storyteller. All of the contestants will begin their preparations in October.

Kate Cook, sophomore, and Alexandria Mallia, freshman, will soon be passing on their passion for Japanese art when they teach 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade elementary TAG math students how to form origami shapes and animals and language arts students how to write haiku poetry and accompany the poetry with traditional ink blowing creations.

And finally, as a reminder to the public, as published in the 7-12 Student Handbook, parents and teachers may nominate a child for the talented and gifted program at any time during the school year. Students may self-nominate. Drop me an e-mail, send a note, or stop by my room to offer your nomination. See the Handbook for further details on this process.

#### YEARBOOK NEWS

**Parents of Seniors:** Senior ad packets were mailed recently. Please submit all requests for senior ads by Parent/Teacher Conferences in November. Due to deadline constraints with Jostens, no requests after November 5 will be honored.

**Yearbook Delivery:** If you have not received your 2009 yearbook yet, the remaining yearbooks will be available for pick-up at the Homecoming football game on September 25.

**Yearbook Sales:** The 2010 yearbooks will be available for purchase during October and November. The yearbook staff will be selling them during seminar time and during Parent/Teacher conferences. Please do not send money to school; Jostens will bill you for your yearbook.



**From the Desk of Mr. Folkerts, H.S. Counselor**

**The Iowa College Access Network Asks: What Comes After High School?**

Now that you're in high school and have classes under control, have you started thinking about what comes after these four years? It's never too early, or too late, to start planning for your future. Do you want to go to college? Are you planning on joining the military, or will you start working right away? Is there a career you dream of pursuing, like being a doctor, teacher, journalist or graphic designer?

As the new school year gets under way, it's a perfect time to start preparing for life after high school. Thinking about the career you want can help you make other decisions, like if you should go to college, what classes you should take and maybe even where you should look for a part-time job during your high school years.

**Think about what you like to do.** Make a list of things you're good at, such as the classes you're doing the best in and extracurricular activities that you enjoy. Include activities and pursuits you're interested in, like hobbies. Don't forget about your values (for example, do you want to make a lot of money or is helping others more important?). Organizing your thoughts is a great first step toward thinking about what you want to do after high school.

**Research using Choices®.** Choices is the state's designated career-management system. It's an online program that helps you compare and choose from a network of education and career options. You can find a link to Choices at [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org).

**Look into careers that interest you.** Find out as much as you can about these careers by researching them online and talking to adults you know in these fields. Pay a visit to your school counselor and ask your family members and adult mentors for advice on your search, too.

**Take the right classes.** Make sure you're taking the classes needed for graduation, and, if you're planning to go to college, the ones you will need for college admission. Also take classes that appeal to you and apply to your career interests.

**Consider hands-on experience.** If it's possible, spend a day job shadowing, or check out volunteer opportunities that will give you experience in a field you're interested

in pursuing. The experience will look good on a resume or college admission application and you'll find out if that field is something you're good at and one you would enjoy.

**Get a job that's a career stepping stone.** Choosing the right summer job can give you a lot more than a paycheck. Ideally, you want a job that's in line with your long-term career goals. It might require some legwork to hunt down a summer job that's a perfect fit. For example, if you have set your sights on becoming a marine biologist, it may be hard to find a summer job in that field when you live in a land-locked state. Some ways you could gain related experience include working at a county conservation office or a fish hatchery.

For more tips, tools and resources on how to prepare for and succeed in college, contact the Iowa College Access Network (ICAN). ICAN College Planning Centers are located in Cedar Rapids at 1100 Blairs Ferry Road N.E., Suite 104, and in West Des Moines at 160 S. 68<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1101. Both are open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Mondays and Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. All services are **free**. For more information, call (877) 272-4692 or visit [www.ICANSucceed.org](http://www.ICANSucceed.org).

**From the Desk of Ms. Condon,  
Consumer Science Department**

**"SEEKING DONATIONS"**

**Ms. Condon is looking for donations for the Family and Consumer Sciences program! Specifically, she is looking for donations of cotton and cotton blend fabric for sewing class and sets of dishes (4 place settings) for foods classes. If you are interested in getting rid of either of these items and would like to donate to the MStM FCS Program, please contact her at [alison\\_condon@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us](mailto:alison_condon@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us). Thank you for your support!"**

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

**Exposing Children to Career Choices**

“What do you want to be when you grow up?” Upon hearing this question, chances are that your children have no firm ideas about what they want to be or do—but it’s never too early to help them explore all the options out there. Now, more than ever, children are seeing that there’s nothing that they can’t achieve.

**Get them involved.**

From Scouts to Boys and Girls Clubs, there are wonderful after-school organizations that help children learn and grow. Many bring in guest speakers to talk about their careers and take field trips to “work sites” ranging from fire stations to hospitals.

**Read all about it.**

School and public libraries are stocked with books for children that introduce them to interesting careers. Check out titles like *When I Grow Up*, *See What You Can Be*, *Jobs People Do*, *Career Day*, and don’t forget Dr. Seuss’ inspiring *Oh the Places You’ll Go*. Online, visit [www.khake.com/page64.html](http://www.khake.com/page64.html), which offers career exploration guides and resources for younger students.

**Have the “tools” on hand.**

Children can’t know if they’re good at something unless they try it. By having a wide variety of supplies available, your children can explore different skills, while having fun in the process. Calculators, math puzzles and games, and building sets are appealing to those who might end up in math or engineering careers. Toy medical kits and a supply of Band-Aids are always a hit, and can light a fire in future health professionals’ lives. Art supplies, craft kits, and musical instruments may spur an interest in the arts. Check for low-cost used items at thrift stores or garage sales.

**Help them start their own businesses.**

While the days of newspaper routes and lemonade stands are fading fast, there are many ways kids can try out the world of work. With your supervision, your children could launch a pet-sitting or leaf-raking business, sell homemade crafts or baked goods, or earn cash working as “mother’s helpers.” Help them track how much they’re spending to advertise their services, show them how to set a financial goal, mark their progress toward it, and celebrate their successes.

**Talk about your job.**

Many parents have jobs that their kids can’t really comprehend. They might only know that you work in an

office building or a store. If you can, participate in Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day (held every April) so they can see what a work environment is like. Talk to them about the education and training you needed to get your job.

**Keep them balanced.**

It’s tempting for parents to see a talent in their child and focus just on that. But the most successful people in life have a wide variety of interests and abilities. Be proud and encouraging of your young artist’s work, for example, but make sure he or she also does well in math, science, reading, and other areas. Enjoy your youngster’s computer wizardry, but make sure he or she also learns about art and music, books and science, and the fun and team-building of sports and activities.

**Be realistic.**

Many children want to grow up to be professional athletes, rock stars, famous actors, or the president. While shooting for the stars is wonderful, and you should encourage all of their hard work to succeed, help them also realize that the competition for those superstar positions is fierce. Help them expand their dreams to include their ideal job as well as other related careers. If your child is aching to be a pro football player, for example, make sure he or she also knows about careers in physical therapy, sports medicine, physical education teaching, coaching, sports law, and other jobs related to sports.

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**  
**AUGUST 10, 2009**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on August 10, 2009.

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

Members Absent: None.

I. Welcome

VanHoose called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

II. Consent Items

Bunch motioned to approve the consent items seconded by Della Vedova. Roll call: 5 Ayes.

III. Celebrations

Mike Crozier congratulated the baseball season with a 25-1 record, 11-4 Conference record, 4<sup>th</sup> place. JV ended the season with a 23-2 record.

Softball season ended strong with a 35-8, 10-2 Conference record, tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place, Regional Champions, State Tournament Qualifier, and State Tournament 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish. JV ended the season with a 22-0 record. RAGBRAI went through St. Marys and Martensdale on July 22. Pictures were included in the most recent newsletter and Supt. Peterson congratulated the entire community for their hard work and support.

#### IV. Public Comments

The following community members signed up to speak:

John Hadsall, 2234 G50 Hwy, St. Charles – School Bus Contract

Susan Matlage-Simms, 8588 Hwy 28, Prole – Athletic Boosters View of Football Venue

Pat Connor, 3381 197<sup>th</sup> Ct, Prole – Football practices

Dave Shutt, 15776 R45 Hwy, St. Marys – Use of baseball field for football practices and possible games.

Jeri Jo Dudney, 395 School St, Martensdale – Football practices

Deloris Sweet, 1825 Kirkwood St, St. Charles – Football practices

Justin Dehmer, 517 Turnberry Dr, Norwalk – Football practice on baseball field

Bill VanHoose, 16840 R45 Hwy, St. Charles – Football practice move

#### V. Old Business

##### A. Reports

1) Facilities Report – Supt. Peterson. Supt. Peterson introduced Matt Carlile to provide an update on the track and field project. Due to the continued rain the first two varsity games of the season will not be played on the new field. We are now shooting for September 25<sup>th</sup> as the first game on the field; which is Homecoming. On October 5, weather permitting; they will lay down the track. This will need a whole week to dry. The liquidated damages to MStM will be \$6000 per varsity game and \$500 per day after August 15. We are still pushing to move the start date up as work is being done late in the evenings and on weekends. The field looks great with the new drainage.

Mark Thiessen was introduced to give an update to the Board on the elementary gym entrance. It will be completed by next Monday. Sidewalks will be started this

week, handrails installed, and the roof will be completed. He then proceeded to update the Board on the air conditioning project. Twenty-three classrooms are now complete and we are now waiting on MidAmerican to install the meter. The high school gym has the air handlers in place, duct work in place, and the completion date is set for first week in September.

#### B. Presentations

1) Superintendent's Report – Supt. Peterson. Supt. Peterson reviewed the Professional Development Plan and the committee will be presenting the information to the staff during an August workshop. Supt. Peterson reviewed Professional Development Action Plan and the August Workshop Agenda. The New Teacher Reception is scheduled for Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00. There will be a retirement celebration in honor of Jim Seymour's 34 years of service as a bus driver for our school district during the Open House that will be held on August 20<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-7:30 p.m. We will be having three new school board members this fall and we would like to have an orientation for them after our September 10<sup>th</sup> Agenda Meeting. Supt. Peterson concluded with the Common Core National Standards for Language Arts and Math.

2) Principal's Report –Tom Wood presented to the Board the new laptop policy and staff laptop computer policy. Laptops are in and are being prepared with encryption software (SafeHouse). Crozier reviewed the Career and Technical Report. He informed the Board that the admission prices have increased for the POI Conference from 4\$ for adults and \$2 for students to \$5 for adults and \$3 for students. He reviewed the APR Goals for 2009-10, the Drug Impairment Training and the Professional Development Class.

#### VI. New Business

##### A. Request to Speak

Doug George

Mr. George asked the Board to reconsider the bus driver position, due to irregularities in filling the bus driver contract. He had concerns on the process, Veteran Preference information, and a proposal that was altered. Drew Bracken of Ahlers & Cooney was in attendance and informed the Board that the administration contacted him before, during and after to confirm the process being used and that it was acceptable. A request of proposal was the process that was recommended and not an open bid process. He explained that the Veteran Preference was for an

employee and not a private contractor. The Board approved the most qualified and the lowest proposal.

B. Discuss/Approve Football Practice Location - Supt. Peterson

At the July Board Meeting, Ron Peterson recommended using the soccer field behind the school for varsity and JV practice and the JH would practice at St. Marys on the north end of the field and attempt to stay off the current baseball field. R. Peterson and Crozier presented to the Board an amendment to their recommendation in light of the construction meeting that was held on Friday, August 7, 2009. The fact that the new facility will not be completed until September 18<sup>th</sup> changes the scope of their recommendation. It was felt that the most viable option for our students is to use the St. Marys facility as we have for the past 30 years. It is predicted that we will miss 2 Varsity games, 2 Junior Varsity games and 1 Jr. High game. The expense and loss of income involved with moving these games to another location is costly to the activities program and the booster club. The athletes deserve to play their home games in our district since we have a field that is available to them.

R. Peterson informed the Board that after the soccer field had been reviewed it was determined that there was not adequate space for kick off, passes, and there were safety related issues. R. Peterson commended the baseball staff and volunteers for the tremendous job in making the baseball field a first class field, but unfortunately the facilities need to be used for football.

Bunch realized that the agenda item is talking about practice only but the Board needs to consider the St. Marys facilities for at least the first two home games and recommended the Facilities Committee meet as soon as possible. VanHoose felt that we do have the ability to control damages to the field and that we are not considering the seniors that will be playing baseball on the field for their senior year. DellaVedova appreciates the passion of the baseball community but the football team has played on the field for 30 years and recommended using some of the contingency money that we will be receiving from the new track/field project to fix the field in time for the baseball season. VanHoose did not agree about moving practice to St. Marys and says there is enough room behind the school. The mound was totally redone and does not want spectators/kids to damage it. Over \$1000 was spent on seed, fertilizer, rented equipment and volunteered donations and time. Anderson feels that practice should be played behind the school and would like to leave it as approved at the July meeting. Seymour stated that practice should be held in St. Marys.

A motion was made by Della Vedova to approve the recommendation by Ron Peterson and Mike Crozier

that was submitted tonight to have full practice in St. Marys seconded by Bunch. Roll Call: Ayes – Bunch, Della Vedova, Seymour. Nays – VanHoose, Anderson.

The Board requested a break. Time 7:10 p.m.  
The Board resumed the meeting. Time 7:17 p.m.

C. School Board Election Update - Supt. Peterson  
District 1 David Shutt  
District 2 Jeri Jo Dudley and Wade Gibson  
District 4 Amy Jo Harper  
September 8, 2009 School Board Election

D. Approve Personnel Recommendations - Supt. Peterson

Bunch motioned to approve Justin Herrick for Jr. High and High School Cross Country for the fall of 2009 seconded by Seymour. Roll call: 5 ayes.

Bunch motioned to approve Todd Verwers resignation for Jr. High football seconded by Anderson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

Bunch motioned to approve Don Hatcher as the new Jr. High football coach seconded by Della Vedova. Roll call: 5 ayes.

Bunch motioned to approve Wade Gibson to volunteer to work with the Jr. High football team seconded by Della Vedova. Roll call: 5 ayes.

Anderson motioned to table volunteers until legal is contacted seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes. The Board requested a special board meeting for Monday, August 17, 2009 to discuss the volunteers.

Anderson motioned to approve Caleb Hales as assistant coach for the high school volleyball team if there are the numbers as stated in the master contract seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes.

E. Approve Resignation – Sandy Rudolf  
Supt. Peterson

Bunch motioned to approve Sandy Rudolf's resignation due to her retirement seconded by Della Vedova. RC: 5 ayes.

F. Discuss/Approve Presentation from Developers Realty Group LLC Supt. Peterson  
Supt. Peterson reviewed the presentation from July and requested the Board's thoughts and direction of presentation. Anderson recommended tabling the agenda item until the new board is in place. The Board recommended that the Facilities Committee discuss how they would like to precede putting property up for sale. Anderson motioned to table the discussion of the sale of land seconded by Della Vedova. Roll Call: 5 ayes.

G. Approve Transfer of Funds - Supt. Peterson  
Supt. Peterson informed the Board 76 duties were performed by duties saving the district \$2280. Della Vedova motioned to approve the transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Activities Fund for \$2280 seconded by Seymour. Roll call: 5 ayes.

H Discuss/Approve Teacher Laptop Computer Policy - Supt. Peterson  
Bunch motioned to approve the Teacher Laptop Computer Policy seconded by Della Vedova. RC: 5 ayes.

I. Approve Quality Support Recommendation for 2009-10 on Student Achievement Goals-  
Supt. Peterson  
Bunch motioned to approve the Quality Support Recommendation for 2009-10 on Student Achievement Goals seconded by Anderson. RC: 5 ayes.

J. 2nd Reading Policy 900 Series  
Supt. Peterson  
Bunch motioned to approve the 900 series and table policies 903.2, 905.1 and 905.1E1 seconded by Della Vedova. RC: 5 ayes.

K. 2nd Reading Policy – Bus Transportation – Private Contractors  
Supt. Peterson  
Bunch motioned to approve the Local and State Regulations for private contractors seconded by Della Vedova. RC: 5 ayes.

The MStM School Board would like to extend their condolences to the Norwalk Community for the loss of their student over the weekend.

Pres. VanHoose would like to invite the newly elected School Board members to the September 9, 2009 Agenda meeting.

The Facilities Committee agreed to meet on Thursday, August 13, 2009 at 5:00.

The Board agreed to a Special Board Meeting on Monday, August 17, 2009 at 5:00.

Gavin recommended to the Board to invite Larry Sigel to a new school board workshop in September or October to introduce the new members to school finance and what to expect moving forward into the new fiscal years.

Pres. VanHoose reminded the Board that the September Board Meeting will be the transition of the old to the new members, appointing officers and committees.

L. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates  
9/08/09 – School Board Election  
9/09/09 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail

9/10/09 – 5:30 p.m. Agenda Meeting  
9/14/09 – 6:00 p.m. Board

VII. Adjournment  
Seymour motioned to adjourn seconded by Della Vedova. RC: 5 ayes. Time 8:05 p.m.

APPROVED

  
Board President Business Manager

## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING AUGUST 17, 2009

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in special session, pursuant to law, on August 17, 2009.

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

Members Absent: None.

### I. Welcome

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

### II. Public Comments

Delores Sweet, 1825 Kirkwood St., St. Charles – Football & Volunteer Coaches

### III. New Business

#### A. Discuss/Approve Football Game Location Supt. Peterson

Supt. Peterson recommended to the Board playing in St. Marys until the new field is completed. Currently, that would include 2 varsity games, 2 junior varsity games, and one junior high game. Supt. Peterson informed the Board that the Facilities Committee plan to improve the baseball field. Della Vedova motioned to approve playing football games in St. Marys until the new field is ready seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes.

#### B. Approve Personnel Recommendations Supt. Peterson

Supt. Peterson provided to the Board information from Matt Carver of the Iowa School Administrators of Iowa legal counsel. His advice was as long as the individuals understand and sign that their services are volunteer and they are not getting paid and no school administration has asked them to volunteer, that we are not opening our self to litigations. A copy of the waiver was provided to the Board and Crozier will have all volunteers sign. Bunch motioned to approve Todd Verwers to volunteer for varsity football and

Brian Sweet to volunteer for varsity and junior high football seconded by Della Vedova. Roll call: 5 ayes.

C. Discuss/Approve Open Enrollment Request  
Supt. Peterson

Supt. Peterson informed that we received this open enrollment request after the deadline. She enrolled at MStM sometime during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter from Southeast Polk and now wants to go to Indianola. Della Vedova stated that if it was the other way around that the other school would approve. VanHoose asked about siblings. The siblings will be attending MStM. Bunch does not want to force a student to stay if they do not want to be here. Della Vedova motioned to approve the Open Enrollment request for Kendra Watson seconded by Bunch. Roll call: 5 ayes.

VII. Adjournment

Della Vedova motioned to adjourn seconded by Seymour. RC: 5 ayes. Time 5:17 p.m.

APPROVED

  
Board President Business Manager

**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](mailto: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."

*The Martensdale-St.Marys District Newsletter  
is processed by the last Friday of the month.*

*Questions or concerns may be addressed to  
Mrs. Tomlinson  
641/764-2621 or 641/764-2470.*

*Thank you!*

# There have been a few changes here at MStM this month:

Sandy Rudolf, our long time Superintendent Secretary is retiring as of September 30, 2009. Mrs. Rudolf has been employed with the district for the past 24 years.

Sandy's replacement will be Karen Tomlinson who was the Elementary Secretary for the past 15 years.

Replacing Karen Tomlinson will be Brenda DePauw who has been an associate for the district over the past 7 years.

We wish the best of luck to all involved and feel confident that the transitions will go well.

Thanks for all of your patience while the changes are being made.



# **CAUTION:** *Devils at Work*



**Congratulations to this year's Homecoming Court!**

**Here are your attendants and King and Queen candidates:**

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Attendants: Cassidy Phillips and Garrett Gehringer**

**10<sup>th</sup> Grade Attendants: Hailey Sweet and Daniel DeLong**

**11<sup>th</sup> Grade Attendants: Cori Williamson and Viktor Vasyanovych**

**Senior Queen Candidates: Kati Gehringer, Taylor Johnson,  
Katie Simpson, Lexie Smith and Carrie Wood.**

**Senior King Candidates: Allen Brown, Eric Rinard, Trevor Simpson,  
Hayden VanHoose, and Tiegen Wood.**

**Congratulations to your Homecoming King and Queen:**

**Carrie Wood and Allen Brown!**



# Homecoming 2009



**The 2009 Grand Marshall was Doris Lash!**

**Congratulations!**