



October 1, 2010

**Message from the Interim Superintendent**  
**Dr. Jim Verlengia**

As you know we can go on and on about what our schools have to offer and the many great things our teachers can do for our students but the real difference in a child's education is parent involvement.

**Get involved, stay involved**

*When children start kindergarten, most parents are quite involved with their education. They attend parent-teacher conferences, cheer on their children at school concerts, and proudly display their children's artwork. But far too often, parents begin to distance themselves from their children's schooling, as the kids grow older. The involvement drops dramatically once young people enter middle and high school—in some respects the most difficult time for young people. Parents don't have to visit schools every day or even volunteer monthly, but it's important to know what's going on with their children's education. Parent Involvement in Schooling is the qualities, experiences, and relationships that help young people grow up healthy, caring, and responsible.*

**Here are the facts**

Research shows that young people are more likely to grow up healthy when their parents are involved in their education. Only 29 percent of young people, ages 11–18, say their parent(s) are actively involved in helping them succeed in school, according to Search Institute surveys. Remember, even if they don't always show it, young people need your help with school. Check in often with your kids to see how they feel things are going with school—and make sure to communicate regularly with teachers as well.

**Tips for building this asset**

Young people need their parents to stay actively involved in their education throughout middle and high school. If you're a parent, introduce yourself to your child's teachers and establish clear, open communication. Attend all teacher-parent conferences, or reschedule a more convenient time if needed. If possible, volunteer in small ways, such as speaking on career day or setting up for a classroom party. Also, talk to your child about school. Ask him or her about current assignments and projects. Be available to help when your child needs it. If you're a teacher, reach out to parents and engage them as partners in their children's education.

**Here are some options for consideration:**

**In your home and family:** Maintain ongoing communication with your child's teachers. Call or e-mail to check in every other month—or more often if necessary.

**In your neighborhood and community:** Join a parent-teacher organization. If your time is limited for volunteering do what you can when you can.

We know it will take a village to educate a child in today's world. We can't do it alone. I encourage you to be involved as you can be in your child's education. They'll thank you for it.

**From the Desk of Mr. Crozier**

**Happy autumn to MStM parents and patrons!**

The 2010-2011 school year has gotten off to a tremendous start. I hope your student's transition back to school went smoothly. Martensdale-St. Marys School continues to set the pace in student achievement. Once again we have met our Adequate Yearly Progress for No Child Left Behind for the 2009-2010 school year. More and more MStM students are choosing to engage in rigorous curriculum and the results are showing! We have 31 students dual-enrolled in college courses through DMACC.

I am certain that the 2010-2011 school year will be equally impressive. Each student's success is the primary concern of the staff at MStM. As a group, the teachers at MStM will provide students with the help they need to be successful. That success cannot be achieved without assistance from home. Here are some specific items that will help with your student's success this year.

- Be sure to bookmark the MStM website at <http://www.mstm.us/>. This website is kept up to date on school information and activities. **This is a main source of information for parents and patrons and we ask you to refer to it often.**
- JMC is available to be viewed at any time. Last year, over 90% of our students' grades and attendance information was viewed through JMC. As always, I encourage you to log on and check your student's progress on a regular basis. If you need a copy of your log on information, please call Christy @ 641-764-2486.
- Continue to stress the importance of proper care of your high school student's laptops. This program has

been very successful. Remind your students to charge their laptops nightly.

- Parent Teacher Conferences are right around the corner. They are scheduled for November 1st, 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM, and November 4th, 3:30 PM – 7:30 PM.

With your support, we can continue to reach our goal of helping each student achieve to his or her greatest potential.

It is great to be a Blue Devil!

**From the Desk of Mr. Peterson,**  
**Blue Devils Activities Director**

The fall sports are underway and the volleyball team is enjoying another very successful season. The pairings for the regional have been released and the Blue Devils will open play with Melcher-Dallas at Melcher on October 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00. Good luck Devils.

The junior high volleyball team has been fun to watch. The girls have been very successful and have displayed outstanding sportsmanship. Super job everyone.

The high school and junior high football teams have had a tough season from a wins perspective. However, I feel like the programs are moving in the right direction and I look for the W's to start soon. I want the teams to know that we know how hard they are working and we wish them the best.

Kerry and I would like to thank everyone who gave of their time to help with taking admission, running the scoreboards, working in the concession stand and other activities this fall. It is greatly appreciated. It was amazing to see how quickly people were willing to step up and help out.

**THANK YOU!**

**Parting Shot:**  
**A must read for Grandparents...**  
**(Those who aren't will love it, too.)**

At one point during a game, the coach called one of his 9-year-old baseball players aside and asked, 'Do you understand what cooperation is? What a team is?' The little boy nodded in the affirmative.

'Do you understand that what matters is whether we win or lose together as a team?' The little boy nodded 'yes'.

'So,' the coach continued, 'I'm sure you know, when an out is called, you shouldn't argue, curse, attack the umpire, or call him a moron, idiot or fool. Do you understand all that?' The little boy nodded 'yes' again.

He continued, 'And when I take you out of the game so another boy gets a chance to play, it's not good sportsmanship to call your coach "a complete mindless fool or horse crap "is it?' The little boy shook his head 'NO'.

'GOOD', said the coach.

'Now go over there and explain all that to your grandmother!'

*A good friend of mine on the staff sent this to me and I had to pass it along. Sometimes people get it and sometimes people don't.*

**From the Desk of Mr. Folkerts**  
**Counselor**

**Online Gradebook Access**

Parents can now access live data from the teacher's gradebook online. To sign up for access, you will need to contact Christy, the high school secretary.

**National ACT Testing Dates for 2010-2011**

Test Date	Registration Deadline	(Late Fee Required)
September 11, 2010	August 6, 2010	August 7 – 20, 2010
October 23, 2010	September 17, 2010	September 18 – October 1, 2010
December 11, 2010	November 5, 2010	November 6 – 19, 2010
February 12, 2011**	January 7, 2011	January 8 – 21, 2011
April 9, 2011	March 4, 2011	March 5 – 18, 2011
June 11, 2011	May 6, 2011	May 7 – 20, 2011

**Scholarships**

Scholarship information is available in the Counseling office for any senior interested in scholarship assistance for college. Talk to the guidance secretary, Kerry or the counselor for more information.

**Senior Timeline**

SEPTEMBER:

1. Register for fall ACT test, if you are planning to go to a four year university in the fall of 2011.
2. Make sure you meet the admissions requirements of the colleges that you are interested in. Change your schedule in the counseling office if you need to take extra courses.
3. Double check college admissions deadlines.
4. Start the process of getting recommendation letters from teachers and/or people who know you.
5. Most early decision and applications are happening between October 1 and November 1.

6. Search for scholarships online and review the scholarship notebook.
7. If planning on playing sports in college, be sure you register ASAP with the NCAA Clearinghouse at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net).

#### OCTOBER:

1. Make final decisions on possible colleges.
2. Complete college applications, paying close attention to early admission deadlines.
3. Request teacher and/or counselor recommendations if needed.
4. Request transcripts from the counseling office as needed.
5. Attend college sponsored campus visit programs.
6. Search for scholarships online and through the scholarship notebook.
7. Be aware of admissions deadlines, housing deadlines, scholarship deadlines, etc.
8. Take ACT or ACT tests. Make sure that the official scores are sent by the testing company to the colleges or universities that have made your final list of schools.
9. Register with the Selective Service if you are a male and 18 years old.

#### **Junior Year Responsibilities**

1. Attend College Night...October 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 in the Media Center.
2. Take the PSAT/NMSQT on October 13th.
3. Register for spring SAT or ACT.
4. Take Advance Placement exams (if eligible) in May.
5. Review college options, requirements, and deadlines for admission, housing, financial aid, and scholarships to begin preparing to narrow college choices. Pay close attention to admission deadlines.
6. Visit college campuses of interest, if possible.
7. Register with NCAA Clearinghouse if you plan on being a college athlete for Division I or II schools. Registration can be completed online at [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net).

#### **From the Desk of Ms. Skellenger, Media Center**

##### Library News:

The elementary library has had a great year so far. This year we have quite a few new nonfiction books which are very exciting. We have new books on space, animals, and biographies on scientists, artists, and musicians to name a few. They have been very popular among the students and are in constant circulation.

There are also some new biographies and encyclopedias in the high school library. The biographies include subjects such as Catherine the Great, Attila the Hun, Alexander the Great, and Napoleon. I've read several and they are quite interesting. In addition to new books, we have a couple of volunteers in the high school library. Mrs. Sweet will be in the library on Wednesday mornings and Mrs. Brommel will be in the library on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Mrs. Dunn will also be in the library for the next six Friday mornings. I appreciate all their help!

#### **From the Desk of Mr. Moser, Secondary English Language Arts Instructor**

The 2010-2011 school year is off to a bustling start. Students in grades 9-12 are adapting very well to the use of personal laptop computers in their English classrooms. For instance, most handouts (excluding exams and other assessment pieces) are posted on a Web site (<http://mstmhsla.pbworks.com>) for easy access to assignments from school, home, or wherever a student may be. The landing page provides general information as well as links to relevant Web sites and applications. Each class has its own page and link on the landing page that allows students to download handouts, view relevant video clips, and search suggested content-related podcasts for use on iTunes. This practice not only encourages responsible and meaningful technology usage but also ensures continuity between the classroom and home. In the event a student is absent from class, he or she will be able to access – and in most cases complete – assignments from home. Students and parents may also view daily lesson plan objectives and activities through their JMC portals.

During the first few days of school this year, each class created what is known as a “Code of Cooperation” that will serve as student and instructor expectations. Rather than receiving a list of pre-established rules, students collaborated to create sets of classroom “norms” (expected conduct in the classroom, pertaining to both behavior and work ethic) in each class. Since I have seven sections of class, there are seven different sets of classroom norms, and they can be viewed – and commented on – on the individual course pages on my Web site.

Students in English II are in the beginning stages of their semester-long study of public speaking. Crucial in any field or profession, the skills and practice of public speaking serve as the primary content for the fall semester. Throughout the semester students will deliver seven speeches of varied content, purpose, and structure, including personal narrative, interpretive reading, and extemporaneous. As an accompaniment to the speeches themselves, students will also study textbook content, listen to famous (and not-so-famous) speeches, watch relevant video clips, and various writing activities designed to enhance their public speaking endeavors.

The American Ideas classes are well on their way to developing a shared understanding of the American identity. Our study of American thought reaches as far back as our Native American heritage and visits significant events, people, and texts up through modern life. Students will experience a wide array of both print and non-print texts in an effort to quantify and define what it means to be American. In addition to our classroom work, American Ideas students participate in online discussions through Writeboard technology (posts and comments can be viewed at <http://mstmhsla.pbworks.com/American-Ideas> by clicking on the “Unit Writeboard” link).

The 31 seniors taking Composition this year will engage in a variety of writing exercises and projects designed to develop their writing technique, personal voice, and confidence as they

look toward their post-secondary educations. The fall semester consists of several writing projects on par with college-level complexity and expectations, including college entrance essays, research/analysis papers, and a digital literacy project. A majority of each class period is devoted to writing workshop where students write and revise their work, conference with the instructor, and dialogue with peers about the writing process. All assignments can be viewed at <http://mstmhsla.pbworks.com/Composition>.

Literacy Enrichment is a new addition to the English Language Arts course offerings. Currently serving 14 students in grades 9-12, students spend each class period working individually and in small groups, working on personal reading goals and skill development, and building a reading community with peers and their instructors, Mr. McAlexander and I. A typical day will involve large group instruction at the beginning of the block – usually focused on a particular reading strategy or team building activity. Following lunch, students will then break into their groups and spend the remainder of the block in 21-minute rotations between computer-aided instruction through Odysseyware, direct instruction with either myself or Mr. McAlexander, and independent reading. This promises to be an enriching and meaningful experience because the class—in its creation, structure, and content—is geared entirely toward student need.

Rounding out my fall course load is Creative Writing, an independent study program with four creative and motivated young writers. Students spend their designated class time reading, writing and working with one another on a variety of writing exercises in preparation for larger projects in fiction, poetry, and other genres. We meet periodically during the week to discuss assignments, answer questions, and dialogue about the writing process. This is the first year Creative Writing has been offered entirely through independent study, and it is the perfect structure for what the course demands.

I am very excited to have started my 11<sup>th</sup> year at Martensdale-St. Marys, and this year promises to be a challenging yet rewarding experience. If you are interested in visiting my classroom to see students in action, please feel free to contact me by phone at (641)-764-2486 x 210, via email at [josh\\_moser@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us](mailto:josh_moser@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us), or by leaving a comment on my Web page (<http://mstmhsla.pbworks.com>).

**From the Desk of Mr. Herrick,**  
**7-12 Language Arts Instructor**

As the new year begins, students are beginning to settle in for another exciting year. One thing that has created excitement is the distribution of laptops for every high school student. Not only has this been a change for the students, but the teachers as well. It has altered the way I present material and give assignments/tests. With this technology, I've had the opportunity to use my Web site as a home base for classes: [www.mstmenglish.pbworks.com](http://www.mstmenglish.pbworks.com). Within the site, each class has a section where documents, Web sites, Power Points, etc. can be shared. This has become an intricate part of my class as we prepare students for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs. I have also seen more responsibility from the students as they take initiative to

locate their assignments in order to prepare for class. Since it can be viewed from home, students are able to access their work outside of the classroom. Also, with the implementation of lesson plans on JMC, students and parents can see the activities and assignments due for each day.

In Language Arts, students just finished the classic Steinbeck novel *The Pearl*. Continuing with our novel unit, students will begin to venture into the adolescent themes of bullying, peer pressure, loyalty, and cliques as they read Robert Cormier's *The Chocolate War*. Throughout this novel, students will be able to express themselves through posters and the construction of a bullying pamphlet. As we near the end of our novel unit, we will continue the semester with Drama and the Greek theater. Students will have the opportunity to perform classic and contemporary dramas throughout the unit.

English I students have recently completed a survival unit that involved reading short stories, as well as the creation of their own survival story. In continuation of our short story unit, we dive into the dark and dreary side of American literature. Through the analysis of Dark Romantic authors, their themes, and purpose, students will receive a background to our country's literature. As the semester winds down, students will begin their research paper unit. Within this unit, we will cover proper researching tools, the elements of a paper, and sentence structure.

Mass Media nears its first issue of the student newsletter. This semester will focus on the construction of the monthly newsletter, along with smaller units that concentrate on the elements of journalism writing. Each issue of the student newsletter can be found on the school's Web site.

**From the Desk of Mrs. Sowder,**  
**7-12 English / Yearbook Advisor**

Seventh grade English students have been exposed to similes, metaphors, and other types of figurative language that they have then included in their written work. Students are gearing up for a Freedom Writer's unit that starts the second week of October and wraps up in December, with the finished product being a multi-chapter autobiography from each writer.

Junior high students in Literature Workshop I completed the first 12 lessons from the *Signature Series* workbooks and *Odyssey* software programs at the end of September and will be switching to literature circles using novels and autobiographies or doing new reading strategy lessons on the *Odyssey* program. Students with various levels of reading skills rotate units and practice their skills in a variety of activities and settings.

Yearbook staffers continue to take photographs of fall sports and special events like homecoming, while completing their photography and journalistic writing units. They have been shown how to upload their photos and are getting ready to start their layouts on InDesign via our online yearbook site. Students have also spent time selling business ads to surrounding communities and distributed the 2010 yearbook.

Yearbook News: Seniors who need the services of Manda's Photography for a free senior portrait for the yearbook and graduation slide show, please sign up ASAP with Mrs. Sowder. Manda Gibson will be offering her professional photography services for free on Thursday and Friday, October 7 and 8, from 11:30-12:30. Seniors must sign up for a photo shoot session. Students **will not** receive any printed photos. The digital images will be submitted by Manda to the yearbook staff for inclusion in the senior section and slide show.

Yearbook order forms for 2011 are available from Mrs. Sowder or in the high school office. Please return forms to Mrs. Sowder by the end of October for mailing, or you may purchase a yearbook online at [www.jostens.com](http://www.jostens.com). Yearbooks are \$47 until May 2, at which time the cost goes up to \$50.

### **From the Desk of Mrs. Sowder & Ms. Skellenger, Tag News**

Elementary and junior high students in the genealogy unit with Mrs. Sowder and Ms. Skellenger have started their family trees online at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com). Students in elementary will be investigating family structure through the fifth generation, and junior high students may select from a variety of projects that focus on their family's history. On October 4, these amateur genealogists will travel to the Iowa Genealogical Society to get hand-on experience using historical documents.

Junior high and high school students in the Sports Enrichment Cluster called Sports: America's Obsession recently began the task of creating a new sport or investigating a sports-related topic of their choice and will also be going a field trip in October to explore architectural design of athletic stadiums and sports' centers as well as tour the Hall of Pride. Mr. Herrick will be guest speaker to present information on the connection between nutrition and sports.

### **From the Desk of Mrs. Clark**

The fall concert for the Junior High and High School choruses will be Thursday, October 21 at 7:00pm. The Junior High band will also be performing that evening. Admission is a free-will donation that helps support the music program.

Junior high students have been working on singing in two-parts, featuring an American folk song that the students have a "blast" singing! High school students have been working on songs from a popular musical, "The Phantom of the Opera". The bass clef chorus has learned a modern "ghost" song, and the treble clef chorus has learned a Brahms' piece in *A minor*.

Mark your calendars to enjoy a performance by our musical students!



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

#### **School Attendance**

Students need to be in school every day to stay on track. Teachers' lesson plans are carefully constructed to introduce

new concepts, reinforce them with learning activities, and then move on to new skills and ideas. When children aren't in school, they fall behind. And the more days they miss, the harder it is to catch-up. That's where you come in.

#### **Report In.**

Schools are required to track attendance of every child in every classroom every day. It is essential that you always contact the school if your child is going to be late for class, will need an early dismissal, or will be absent.

#### **Get the Work.**

When you know ahead of time your child will be missing class, give the teachers plenty of notice so they can provide your child with make-up work to do. Be sure that your child follows through—you'll need to be his or her "teacher" on those days, so be available to explain concepts or monitor the work. If your child is out unexpectedly, due to illness or other reasons, in addition to contacting the school attendance office, make arrangements with your child's teachers to pick up a packet of work/ readings from the school. If the absence will be lengthy (e.g., for surgery), alert the teachers as soon as you know and get updated assignments and work packets as the days go on.

#### **How Sick Is Too Sick?**

It's impossible to say categorically when a child should go to school or stay home. However, one typical guideline is that a child is usually fine to attend school if his or her fever is under 100° and there is no rash, "pink eye," nausea, or diarrhea. The decision to keep a child home from school is best made between you and your child's health care provider. If the doctor or nurse recommends that your child stay home, find out exactly how long and on what conditions he or she can return to class (e.g., after 24 hours of antibiotics).

#### **Faking It?**

If your child is complaining of a fever, but you're suspicious, make sure to stay in the room the entire time the child's temperature is being taken. A child complaining of nausea will probably be paler in color and slightly sweaty, and will usually need to vomit more than once. Send your child to school if you don't see a real symptom, knowing that the school nurse will contact you if things change. Also, be alert if your child seems to be "sick" on school days but always rebounds for the weekend.

#### **Vacation Plans.**

It's tempting to pull your kids from school for a family trip, but it's a bad idea. Why? First, it gives your children the impression that their schooling is not your top priority. And when they miss class work, even if you ask for make-up work to be sent home ahead of time, they can fall behind because they're missing many hours of instructional time each day. Instead of thinking of how you can miss the crowds by taking trips during the school year, think about what it could be costing your child in the long run.

**Check Those Appointments.**

Schedule your kids' doctor and dental appointments for after-school or weekend hours unless there's an emergency. Schedule your children's twice-yearly dental appointment during winter and summer breaks, and schedule school physicals, immunizations, and other routine care for school holidays or summer break.

Finally, remember to show and tell your children that attendance is important—whether it's as a child in school or as an adult on the job. You'll be helping them succeed, both in school and in life.

**From the Desk of Mr. Franey,**  
**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Social Studies**

In social studies the 5<sup>th</sup> graders are learning about the history of the Americas. They will be learning about Christopher Columbus and his voyages to the Americas. They will study the colonization of the Americas by the Spanish and they will discover who lived in the Americas before Columbus and how the two sides lived together. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders will also learn what other countries sent explorers to the new world and what these explorers were interested in finding. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders will then move on to discovering how the 13 colonies were founded and how they turned into the United States of today.



In social studies the 6<sup>th</sup> graders learned about the Fertile Crescent. They read about their religion, farming techniques,



and daily life. They are now studying Ancient Egypt and their religion, mummification, hieroglyphs, trading partners, weapons, pyramids, and daily life. Following Ancient Egypt the 6<sup>th</sup> grade will start to discover Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome.

**Counselor's Corner**  
**Mrs. Pribil, Elementary PK-6**



Going back to school is an adjustment for a child of any age! This is the time of year when a little extra effort and organization on your part can minimize headaches later on.

**Set high expectations.** Let your child know what you expect from them, both in terms of doing their best in school and taking responsibility for appropriate actions.

**Open the lines of communication.** Attend parent/teacher conferences in the fall. Create a safe, welcoming atmosphere for your children to communicate with you.

**Be visible and vigilant.** Your presence while homework is being done and occasionally at school for events or visits will express your interest in and commitment to your child's academic success more than anything you will ever say. Keep abreast of how things are going.

**Show understanding, but send your child to school.** Regular and prompt attendance is paramount to students' success. Firm and calm insistence that the child attend school may help minor "separation anxieties." Establish a consistent daily routine so that your child is sure of the details of his/her day.

**Stay involved!** Studies show that children do better in school when their families stay involved in their education.

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**  
**AUGUST 2, 2010**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in special session, pursuant to law, on August 2, 2010.

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


Members Absent: None


- I. Welcome  
Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. and welcomed all guests, John Della Vedova and Earl Bridgewater.
- II. Public Comments – None
- III. New Business

A. Interim Superintendent 2010-2011 Interviews  
Board President

Tours of the facility and the district were given by Josh Moser, MStM Teacher, with each of the three candidates. The Board conducted interviews with the following candidates: Jodi Bernal, Bob Newsum, and Steve McAllister. At the end of the interviews, the Board had an in depth conversation on each candidate. A decision will be made at the August 9, 2010 Board Meeting.

APPROVED

  
Board President

  
Business Manager

**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
AUGUST 9, 2010**

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in regular session, pursuant to law, on August 9, 2010.

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

Members Absent: None

- I. Welcome  
Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. and welcomed all guests.
- II. Consent Items
- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| A. Approval of Minutes                        | Board President |
| B. Approval of Agenda                         | Board President |
| C. Approval of Bills and Secretary's Report   | Board President |
| D. Approval of Hot Lunch and Activity Reports | Board President |

The Board discussed the cell phone policy and bringing an updated policy to the next board meeting. Bunch motioned to approve the consent items seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.

- III. Celebrations  
Crozier congratulated the Softball Team for finishing 4<sup>th</sup> place at the Girls State Softball Tournament. All State First Team were Haley Sweet, Sam Norris and Morgan Halverson. All State Second Team was Brittney Kubik. All State Honorable Mention was Meagan Streyffeler. Crozier also congratulated the Baseball Team for being the State Champions with a perfect record of 43-0. All State First Team were Ethan Westphal, Dillon Coates, Hayden VanHoose,

and Zeb Noel. All State Second Team were Nick Ferin and Jake Defenbaugh.

Wood updated the Board that the wireless is set up in the building and everything is looking good for the 1:1 rollout for the start of the school year.

- IV. Public Comments  
Earl Bridgewater, 4117 SW 25<sup>th</sup> St, Des Moines, 50321 – Superintendent search.
- V. Old Business  
A. Reports

1) Facilities Report  
Bunch asked for an update on the HS gym floor. Gavin stated that there are still wet spots under the floor due to the extra moisture we are getting from all the wet weather that we are having. Anderson stated that the first plan of boring under the floor was not going to work and they were going to have bore through from the outside. Verlengia mentioned his experience with a similar situation and advised the board that there still may be additional problems that may need to be addressed in the future such as mold or floor board warping. He suggested the board stay in touch with the insurance representative to ensure that the floor is restored completely.

2) MStM Music Booster Minutes – none

3) MStM Athletic Booster Minutes – none

4) MStM PTO Minutes – August 4<sup>th</sup> minutes were provided. Bunch informed the board that the PTO were willing to help with Homecoming and coordinating volunteers for the parade. The Music Boosters suggested having high school students help out in the elementary. One suggestion was given to having the parade start at the school, end at the field and having Coronation at the field, weather permitting. All the Boosters were willing to help. The Board appreciated their willingness to help.

B. Presentations

1) Superintendent's Report

Jim Verlengia

Verlengia informed the Board that he was excited and willing to be the Interim Superintendent until the end of October. He understands that there is business that will need to be done and state deadlines that will need to be met. He will keep the Board informed by emails and will update the new Interim Superintendent as well of any and

all action he is suggesting as it pertains to the district. He is pleased to be a part of this District. The Board thanked him for his services.

2) Principal's Report Tom Wood

Wood updated the Board on the laptop/wireless project. Everything is ready to go. Preschool numbers are up 6 students from last year. The maximum for the class is 35. Kindergarten numbers are up 1 student from last year.

Wood was excited to see that he will have the same elementary staff for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row. Professional Development focus is strong with his staff. He asked the Board for their approval to move forward to fill a Special Ed Associate position that is already budgeted for the year. Harper asked about the cases being used with the laptops. The cases that are being provided will fit in student backpacks and into a hard case if parents choose to purchase hard cases.

3) Principal's Report Mike Crozier

Crozier updated the Board on the secondary's professional development goals for the year. He provided an update on the laptop rollout and asked for the Board's recommendation of when to hand out the laptops; either during Open House or the first or second night of school. The Board agreed that August 24<sup>th</sup> would be the best night to hand out laptops and go through policy with parents and sign forms. He updated the Board on the Cross Country numbers. Approximately 7 students would like to go out for the sport.

VI. New Business

A. Discuss/Approve Interim Superintendent 2010-2011 Contract Jim Verlengia

The Board suggested making a few changes to the contract in regards to length. The administration stated that there is a lot to do in June. Discussion was held on what days this person would need to be here, travel reimbursement, and the justification of working more than 10 days per month. Bunch motioned to approve the Interim Superintendent's contract with Robert L. Newsum seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.

B. Discuss/Approve Open Enrollment Jim Verlengia

Winterset denied the open enrollment request for Justin Nielsen because the request was not made prior to the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. If we approved the request no funding from Winterset would follow. The family would need to be living in our district or pay the full tuition amount for the year.

Bunch motioned to approve the open enrollment request for Justin Nielsen contingent on payment of tuition at registration seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.

Bunch motioned to approve the open enrollment request for Kole Stapes seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.

C. Discuss/Approve Personnel Recommendations Jim Verlengia

Bunch motioned to approve Matt Ritchey and Todd Verwers as Junior High Football Coaches seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.

Bunch motioned to approve Mike Miller and Brian Sweet as Volunteer Varsity Football Coaches seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

Bunch motioned to approve replacing the Special Ed Associate position seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

Crozier provided an update on the Music Position. They received four applicants for the three part time positions that were advertised. One was not interested after the initial phone call. Wood handed the Board a daily schedule and ways to break up the positions to make it work. Elementary music is already doubled up for this year. Concerns by parents were lessons and making sure there would be music the first day of school. Verlengia provided an overview of what the Board is looking for in regards to positions, setting up interviews immediately, and possibly setting up a special board meeting to approve positions. Bunch stated that the concern several months ago was that one person could not handle vocal and instrumental for all grades. She is asking the administration to find the right mix and keeping it within the budget.

D. Discuss/Approve Cross Country Participation with Volunteer Coach Jim Verlengia

Bunch motioned to approve having a volunteer coach for Cross Country for the 2010-2011 school year approved by Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes.

E. Discuss/Approve Laptop Fee Jim Verlengia

Crozier recommended a fee of \$30-\$50 for the laptop fee for the 2010-2011 school year. The Board discussed what the fee would cover and what other schools charge. It was discussed if students take really good care of their laptop

during the year; they may be allowed to take their laptop home with them over the summer months. In addition, raised fees on everything else this year and equipment breakdown insurance were also discussed. The administration is to gather data from this year to share with the board. Bunch motioned to approve not charging any laptop fees for the 2010-2011 school year seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

F. Reading of Bus Driver Job Description

Jim Verlengia

Verlengia suggested that the Transportation Committee review the job description for bus drivers and bring it back to the board for approval.

G. Discuss/Approve 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Policy 206.1-215.1E1

Jim Verlengia

Shutt motioned to approve Policy 206.1-215.1E1 seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.

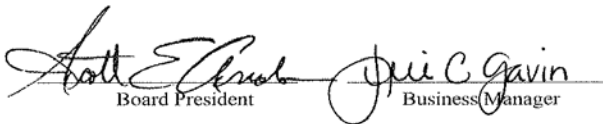
H. Confirm – Next Meeting Dates Jim Verlengia

09/08/10 – Agenda subcommittee by e-mail  
09/09/10 – 5:00 p.m. Board Agenda Meeting  
09/13/10 – 6:30 p.m. Board Meeting

IV. Adjournment

Gibson motioned to adjourn, seconded by Shutt. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 6:35 p.m.

APPROVED

  
Board President Business Manager

## MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING AUGUST 13, 2010

The Board of Directors of the Martensdale-St. Marys Community School District met in special session by conference call, pursuant to law, on August 9, 2010.

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

Members Absent: None

I. Welcome

Anderson called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. and welcomed all guests.

II. Public Comments - None

III. New Business

A. Discuss/Approve 2010-2011 Master Contract

Jim Verlengia

Bunch and Gavin reviewed with the rest of the board the final changes that were made on the Master Contract for 2010-2011. Harper motioned to approve the 2010-2011 Master Contract seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes.

B. Open Enrollment Request

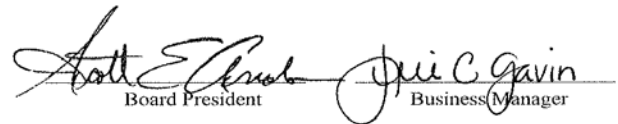
Jim Verlengia

Shutt motioned to approve the open enrollment request in for Hope Hamilton seconded by Harper. Roll call: 5 ayes.

IV. Adjournment

Bunch motioned to adjourn, seconded by Gibson. Roll call: 5 ayes. Time: 12:15 p.m.

APPROVED

  
Board President Business Manager

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](mailto:mike.crozier@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us)

*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 <http://mstm.us/> website. Questions or concerns may be addressed to:*

*Mrs. Tomlinson  
Martensdale-St.Marys  
Superintendent's Office  
390 Burlington  
Martensdale, Iowa 50160  
[karen.tomlinson@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us](mailto:karen.tomlinson@m-stmarys.k12.ia.us)*

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