

**FINANCIAL DATA**

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| EAV.....                      | \$ 244,000,000 |
| Bonds Outstanding.....        | \$ 8,200,000   |
| Total Budget Revenue.....     | \$ 25,200,000  |
| <b>TAX RATE —</b>             |                |
| Education.....                | 3.4800         |
| Operations & Maintenance..... | 0.5000         |
| Transportation.....           | 0.2000         |
| Working Cash.....             | 0.0500         |
| I.M.R.F.....                  | 0.0500         |
| Tort Immunity.....            | 0.4100         |
| Bond & Interest.....          | 0.6800         |
| Fire Prevention.....          | 0.0500         |
| Social Security.....          | 0.2300         |
| Special Education.....        | 0.0400         |
| TOTAL.....                    | 5.7300         |

**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

The Meridian CUSD 223 Board of Education is comprised of citizens dedicated to providing the best education possible for every student it serves. Board members establish sound written policies and expect the superintendent to function as the chief executive officer in implementing those policies.

| <b>Name .....</b>                  | <b>*Years</b> |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| John Smith, President.....         | 13            |
| Jill Huber, Vice President.....    | 9             |
| Tim DeVries, Secretary.....        | 11            |
| Dustin Collins, Board Member.....  | 1             |
| Matt Rhodes, Board Member.....     | 7             |
| Marsha Welden, Board Member.....   | 11            |
| Kristine Youman, Board Member..... | 11            |

*\*Years served on the Meridian CUSD 223 Board of Education.*

**IDEAL CANDIDATE**

Candidates will be evaluated on their professional merits and successful experience that demonstrates a good match for the district, with emphasis on the following, specified by the Board of Education. The Superintendent of our district should be an educational leader who:

- Has excellent written and verbal communication skills/collaborative.
- Has finance/budget expertise.
- Facilitates meaningful and ongoing family/community engagement.
- Develops and supports curriculum, instruction and assessment.
- Develops and works cooperatively/effectively with BOE.
- Fosters a professional culture for educators.
- Ensures an inclusive, safe school environment.


**Experience as a teacher and principal required.**

**Previous district-level and superintendent experience preferred**

**APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO CONTACT BOARD MEMBERS.**

**Meridian CUSD 223 is an equal opportunity employer and the Illinois Association of School Boards is an equal opportunity employment search agency.**

This Professional Superintendent Search is being conducted by the Illinois Association of School Boards, Alan Molby Consultant, Executive Searches, (630) 629-3776, ext. 1235



**APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS**

IASB has an online application process and does not accept mailed, emailed, hand-delivered or faxed application packets.

Please begin your application process at: <https://www.applitrack.com/IASB/onlineapp>

Applicants will need to establish a username and password. Applicants will be asked to give consent to a limited background inquiry. Completed responses to statements identified in this announcement will be required.

All applicants must apply online by 12:00 p.m. (CST) **September 27, 2024** and upload the following documents to receive consideration:

1. A **formal letter of application** indicating your desire to be a candidate for this position.
2. A **formal resume** that includes a summary of achievements in all education positions, educational vision, and goals, personal leadership philosophy and reasons for your interest in this position.
3. At least **three recent letters of reference dated within the last three years.**
4. **Copies of transcripts** from each college/university attended. **(Please redact/remove your social security number and birthdate before uploading any of these items).**
5. **Proof of qualification and licensure to be a superintendent in the state of Illinois** (copy of the administrative licensure with all related endorsements\*) or other evidence showing qualification to be a superintendent in another state. **(Please redact/remove your birthdate before you upload this document).**

\*Information on certification and licensure can be obtained by contacting the Illinois State Board of Education, Department of Educator Effectiveness, 100 North First Street, Springfield, Illinois 62777 or by visiting the ISBE website at [www.isbe.net](http://www.isbe.net).

**Announcement of Vacancy**  
**Superintendent**  
**Meridian CUSD 223**



**MERIDIAN**  
**SCHOOL DISTRICT #223**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*“Our mission is to educate students to be self-directed learners, collaborative workers, complex thinkers, quality producers, and community contributors.”*

**August 2024**

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF VACANCY

The Board of Education of Meridian CUSD 223, Stillman Valley, Illinois is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Superintendent. The Board wishes to select a superintendent who will begin work on July 1, 2025.

It is anticipated that the total compensation package will be based on successful experience and education. It is expected that the initial contract will be for a multi-year period, as authorized by Illinois statutes.

## GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE DISTRICT AND THE AREA

**LOCATION** – Meridian Community Unit School District 223 (MCUSD 223) is a rural district that spans over 120 square miles in Ogle and Winnebago Counties. Stillman Valley, a village in Marion Township, lies east of Byron, south of Rockford and west of Davis Junction, with a population of 1,120. Davis Junction is a village in Ogle County with a population of 2,512. Monroe Center is a village in Ogle County in Monroe Township, population of 471.

**TYPE** — K-12; 1,500 Students.

**OFFICE** — 207 W. Main Street, Stillman Valley, IL 61084.

**STAFF** — 4 Principals, 2 Assistant Principals, 125 Teachers, 150 Support Personnel.

**CENTRAL OFFICE PERSONNEL** —

Superintendent, Director of Safety and Operations, Coordinator to the Superintendent and Board of Education, Human Resource/Payroll, Finance Manager.

**CURRICULUM** — Rigorous coursework with over 10 AP and 10 Dual Credit classes.

**SPECIAL SERVICES** — partnership with Ogle County Education Cooperative (OCEC).

**FACILITIES** — Highland Elementary School - grades PK–2; Monroe Center School - grades 3–5; Meridian Junior High School - grades 6–8; Stillman Valley High School - grades 9–12

**TRANSPORTATION** — Leased fleet of buses.

**FOOD SERVICE** — Internally run with four kitchens.

**DISTRICT WEBSITE** — <https://www.meridian223.org>

**MEMBER OF** — Big Northern Conference, IASA Northwest, IASB Northwest.

**COLLEGES** — Rock Valley College, Rockford, IL; Rockford University, Rockford, IL; Kishwaukee College, Malta, IL; Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL; Highland Community College, Freeport, IL; Sauk Valley College, Dixon, IL.

**Leadership and Recognition:** MCUSD 223 has earned multiple national recognitions, reflecting its systematic approach to leadership and educational excellence:

- **District of Distinction:** Recognized for systematic leadership development, emphasizing strategic planning and effective governance.
- **School of Opportunity:** Awarded for exceptional social-emotional supports provided to students.
- **Great Places to Work Certification:** Achieved for two consecutive years, showcasing a positive work environment and strong staff engagement.
- **Lighthouse Schools:** Two schools in the district designated as Lighthouse Schools, serving as exemplars for the Leader in Me program.
- **US News and World Report Recognition:** For seven straight years, the district's academic achievements have been highlighted.
- **Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Awards:** Multiple "Those Who Excel" award winners, including two finalists for Teacher of the Year the Illinois Superintendent of the Year, who was also a finalist for National Superintendent of the Year.
- **Gold Achievement of Excellence Award:** highlighting the district's outstanding performance and commitment to excellence

**Academic Excellence:** strategic initiatives and curriculum development:

- **Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment:** focus on high-quality curricula and assessment practices
- **Early Education Investment:** Increased fiscal allocation to lower grades, recognizing importance of early education
- **Innovative Programs:** Adoption of new ELA and Math curricula for PK-5, continuous professional development for staff to enhance instructional practices.
- **Technological Advancements:** investments in technology to enhance the learning experience and operational efficiency:
- **1:1 Chromebook Ratio:** greater than 1:1 ratio of Chromebooks to students
- **Promethean Interactive Boards:** interactive boards in classrooms to facilitate engaging and interactive lessons.
- **Infrastructure Upgrades:** \$3 million renovation to enhance school security and improve facilities, funded partially by a competitive grant from the Department of Justice.
- **Community Engagement and Support:** strong partnerships with local businesses, civic organizations, and community members
- **Parent and Community Involvement:** Active participation in Parent-Teacher Organizations (PTO), Principal-Parent Advisory Councils (PPAC), and community service projects.
- **Support for Local Businesses:** Collaboration with local businesses to support economic growth and community development
- **Student Assistance Programs:** counseling, speech, special education, occupational and physical therapy, and social work services to address diverse student needs.

## A PROJECTED TIMELINE

**Application Deadline:**  
September 27, 2024 by Noon (CST)

**Candidates Presented to Board:**  
October, 2024

**Board Interviews Candidates:**  
Oct/Nov, 2024

**New Superintendent Appointed:**  
Nov/Dec, 2024

**New Superintendent Begins:**  
July 1, 2025

**Applicants will be required to provide responses to the following online application statements:**

1. Describe your experience in curriculum development and instructional implementation.
2. Describe your experience in school finance and budgeting.
3. Describe your experience in developing and monitoring goals for school improvement.
4. Describe your experience in building and sustaining productive relationships with stakeholders (board, staff, students, parents and community members).
5. Describe your experiences in working with a diverse population (socio-economic, cultural, ethnic, etc.).
6. Having read the ideal candidate section of the announcement of vacancy, why do you feel you are a match for this district?