

**School Board Minutes**  
**Public Forum on Building Addition**  
**Montpelier Public School District #14**  
**214 7<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
**Montpelier, ND 58472**  
**May 31<sup>st</sup> , 2016**

**Board Members Present:** President Tony Roorda, Robert Froehlich, Shane Kjellberg, Scott Harms, and Julie Jansen and Shane Steele. Absent: Lynn Boom.

**Also Present:** Superintendent Jerry Waagen, Secondary Principal James Bear, and Business Manager Amy Maurer.

**Visitors:** Brian Bertsch, Laurie Brown, Ryan Nelson, Kayleen Anselment, Heidi Bear, Meggan Smith, Eric Smith, Jamie Bertsch, Sue Valenta, Isaac Valenta, Abram Valenta, Wes Valenta, Rob Valenta, Curtis Brown, Lynn Krueger, Julie Smith, Kevin Smith, Matt Bowen, and Maureen Schrader.

The meeting began at 6:30 pm.

Superintendent Waagen presented a PowerPoint on the proposed building addition which would be a seventy by seventy foot building with four main classrooms which would be used as follows:

- a) Library room. This would free up the room in the elementary that is currently being used for multiple purposes including as a library, Mrs. Bear's second grade classroom, meeting room, and speech therapy room. It would also allow Mrs. Bear to conduct the Title I program out of that elementary classroom, allowing the Learning Center to be used exclusively for LD/Special Education.
- b) Music classroom with instrument storage. This would allow the old shop building which has been being used as the music room for many years to be used for storage. It would allow students to go directly to class without spending time putting on and taking off winter outerwear, which can be very time consuming especially for the very young students which cuts into their learning time. It would also be safer for students to not have to cross the parking lot. It would be a much nicer environment for learning.
- c) ITV classroom/meeting room. This room would be used for ITV classes. These classes are currently taking place in the principal's offices. It would also be used for meetings such as IEP meetings, parent meetings, and board meetings.
- d) Business classroom. This class is currently taking place in the old high school basement. Moving this room would allow the old classroom to be used as the science classroom, separate from the science lab.

Additionally there would be a counselor's office, a small speech therapy room, a mechanical room, and a bathroom.

The addition would be located on the east side of the gymnasium, where the trailers are currently located, with a breezeway connecting it to the main building.

The school has been purportedly been "dying" for the last thirty years but it is still here. A new facility with an atmosphere conducive to learning would allow the district to make a more positive impression on potential new teaching staff, and students and their parents.

The enrollment this school year has varied from 108 to 114. The projected enrollment for 2016-17 is 110 students. A steady enrollment is anticipated through 2020.

The project would be paid for out of district reserves at a cost of approximately \$420,000. After paying for the project this would leave the district with approximately \$339,000 in reserves at the end of the 2016-2017 school year.

A question and answer session took place and is summarized as follows:

There was a concern over whether the single unisex bathroom would have a privacy stall. Yes, it would have a privacy stall.

There was a question on whether state budget cuts should be a concern. For the 2016-2017 school year, school districts are not subject to the across the board cuts that other state entities will be. The last legislative session included legislation reducing the amount of money that districts are allowed to have in reserves. While our district has less in reserves than some comparably situated districts, it is something that needs to be considered. Districts can lose state funding if their reserves exceed a certain amount.

There was a question on whether water drainage in the space between the addition and the main building had been considered. The drainage would run north to the road and then west. Snow removal would be necessary in that area

There was a question on why there isn't two bathrooms, a boys' and a girls'. In addition to a privacy stall, the main bathroom door will be kept locked and be accessible only by a key handed out by the teacher. Any student who prefers to use the main bathrooms in the main part of the school, which isn't far away, may do so. Additionally, parents may decide that their children are not allowed to use the unisex bathroom in the addition. The bathroom was included in the plan for emergencies and as a convenience and is not a legal requirement because the main bathrooms in the school are adequate for the size of the building including the addition. There are two unisex bathrooms in the basement of the high school that have been in use for many years.

A visitor expressed appreciation to the school board for the time and effort they put into planning the project. And shared the importance of the school to the community. Mr. Waagen said that the school fills a unique niche and an opportunity to thrive for the students that attend here from within the district, from Ypsilanti, and those that open enroll from other areas.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016

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Tony Roorda, Board President

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Amy Maurer, Business Manager

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Approval Date