

School Board Minutes
Montpelier Public School District #14
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
November 13th, 2019

Board Members Present: President Tony Roorda, Scott Harms, Lynn Boom, Jeff Jensen and Wade Dally. Absent: Abram Valenta, and Robert Froehlich.

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

Visitors: Teachers Mrs. Hansen and Miss Kramer.

Call to Order: President Roorda called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Agenda: Addition 1) Board retreat date.

Consent Agenda: Boom made a motion, seconded by Harms, to approve the following:

- a. Approval of the bills and financial reports.
 - b. Approval of the minutes from the October 9th regular meeting, as presented.
 - c. Approval of no charge tuition agreements and open enrollments for four students into the district.
- The motion carried unanimously.

Secondary Principal /Technology Coordinator Report: Mr. Bear reported: 1) Some students will be participating in job shadowing at various workplaces tomorrow. 2) Work continues on the development of a new mission statement. 3) He attended a principals meeting at SEEC where ideas on developing positive student staff relationships and student shadowing (principal attending school, doing homework and assignments as a student for a day) were discussed. Mr. Bear has been appointed to be part of the SEEC's program advisory board.

Superintendent/Elementary Principal Report: Mr. Waagen reported: 1) Bus drivers attended their annual training in Valley City on October 16. 2) Teachers in grades K-3 are attending a writing workshop presented by Steve Dunn in Jamestown. Mrs. Bear and he will also be attending a couple of sessions. This is a series of workshops and is being funded by our school's comprehensive grant. 3) A Veterans' Day ceremony was given on Friday, November 8. Mrs. Valenta and Mrs. Hansen guided the ceremony. 4) He attended the NDCEL conference in Bismarck on October 16-18. a) October 16 listened to two lawyers that discussed non-renewals, evaluations, and 504 plans. b) Keynote speakers were Monte Selby, Allen Pratt, Tim Elmore, and Devin Hughes- mainly inspirational speakers that also provided some ideas to use in schools. c) Other sessions included the 4-day school week, leadership behavior, and millennials. 5) He attended the Southeast Schoolmaster meeting in Wyndmere on October 29. Topics included: a) Road test waiver for drivers' education. b) Bus driver regulations may be pushed back. c) August professional development and the positive effect of having national speakers come to a central point to work with teachers. d) A lot of discussion about days to hours application e) Future school funding.

Substitute Teacher: Harms made a motion, seconded by Jensen, to approve Dylan Schnabel as a substitute teacher. The motion carried unanimously.

Sick Leave Bank Committee: President Roorda appointed Lynn Boom and Robert Froehlich to be the board representatives on the committee.

Storm Day Time for Teachers and Support Staff: Mr. Waagen explained that state law changed to count student instructional time as annual hours rather than a set number of days per year. There is discussion at the state level trying to clarify what is defined as instructional time with the hope of clearer direction for future school calendars. Montpelier increased the student day by 20 minutes this year to allow more flexibility in case of storm days. Since the annual hours exceed the annual hours required by the state, approximately nine storm days will not be legally required to be made up. Similar to many other districts that are adjusting to the change from the requirement for days versus the new requirement for minutes, Montpelier's intent on whether storm days will be made up has not been defined. Mr. Waagen is concerned that if there ends up being a significant number of days missed and not made up, that important core teaching time for students will be lost.

Support staff have brought concerns to Mr. Waagen that if the storm days are not made up their annual earnings will be reduced if they do not have the opportunity to work those missed days. Two or three support staff had their work day increased by 20 minutes due to the extended school day which would make up time lost for them. There was some talk of possible ways to recover lost time for other support staff such as working additional hours.

Mrs. Hansen and Miss Kramer discussed teacher's concerns about the extended school day with the board. They are concerned that since the teacher's work days have increased by 20 minutes each day because of the change in schedule, and that if the student days built into the schedule are equivalent to nine days, then the teachers annual hours worked would be equivalent to that much additional time worked. If they have fewer than nine days off due to storm days, they believe they will have had that much added to their work time each year. At the time of school board negotiations last spring the length of the school day had not yet been decided. The negotiated agreement specifies that teachers are contracted for 183 days but they said the teacher's understanding from the conversations with the school board negotiators was that if the days were extended the board would make it right. One idea the teachers had would be to pay all teachers for an additional five days at the current substitute teacher rate.

Roorda proposed to table the discussions and reconsider it in the spring when it is known how many days have been missed.

President Roorda said the board would take the teacher's concerns under advisement.

Superintendent Evaluations: The board and Mr. Waagen reviewed and discussed the superintendent evaluation. Boom made a motion to approve the evaluation and Dally seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

School Board Retreat: The board concurred that the retreat will be on January 11th from 10 am to 3 pm.

NDSBA Convention: Mr. Dally attended the new member seminar and the convention which included round table discussions with other board members and speeches by Governor Burgum and motivational speakers.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Tony Roorda, Board President

Amy Maurer, Business Manager

Approval Date