

School Board Minutes
Special Meeting
Montpelier Public School District #14
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
August 4th, 2020

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

Also Present: Superintendent Jerry Waagen, Secondary Principal Ben Hannasch, and Business Manager Amy Maurer.

Re-entry Plan Committee Members Present: Mrs. Sarah Ratts and Mrs. Heidi Bear.

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

Health and Safety Smart Restart Plan: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the state requires that each district implement a health and safety plan prior to reopening school.

The ‘Health and Safety Plan’ and ‘Distance Learning Plan’ can be found in their entirety at montpelier.k12.nd.us.

A re-entry plan committee met to develop the plan. Committee members were: Mr. Waagen, superintendent, Mr. Hannasch, secondary principal, Mrs. Bear, Mrs. Ratts, Ms. Leggate, and Mrs. Valenta, teachers, and Mr. Abram Valenta, board member.

They met three times to work on the re-entry/smart restart plan and the distance learning plan. Additional input was received from Mrs. Brandt, head cook, and Ms. Peckham, bus driver.

Mr. Waagen is the school coordinator and Mr. Hannasch is the secondary contact.

The five color phases are blue, green, yellow, orange and red. We are currently in the green phase. The color phase is statewide and is determined by the governor’s office. It is published on ND Department of Health website.

Each district determines what instructional models they will use but a distance learning option model must be available to all families.

Our plan was created using a template provided by NDCEL.

It must be understood that no plan guarantees that our school will not be affected by COVID-19.

The following precautions will be utilized to minimize the risk of COVID-19 exposure during the green phase:

- 1) Hand washing will be taught and monitored.
- 2) Hand sanitizer will be available in all classrooms and other locations throughout the building.
- 3) Social distancing will be practiced to the best of our ability. NOTE: Preschool has 5 confirmed students attending and that will be the maximum number due to room size.
- 4) Instructional materials will not be shared.

- 5) All visitors and parents will be limited to the lobby area.
- 6) Students will be taught to cover their coughs and sneezes.
- 7) Frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, and light switches will be cleaned frequently. A schedule will be developed for doing so.
- 8) Each classroom will have disinfectant spray that is to be used between classes for grades 7-12 and at lunch time for elementary students.
- 9) Cloth face coverings will be provided for all individuals in the school. Disposable masks will also be available. All students are required to have a face mask when at school. Everyone will be encouraged to wear a face covering.
- 10) There will be a barrier in the office window.
- 11) Contactless thermometers will be available to check students temperatures as needed. Bus drivers will also have them but they are not required to take temperatures.
- 12) Parents are asked to monitor the health of their children daily, especially for fever. The school does not want children to be given fever reducers and then sent to school with the hope the fever stays down or does not get worse.

Requirements will be more stringent during the yellow phase. The orange and red phases require school closure.

Consideration will be given to individuals at a higher risk and environments will be adapted if possible and practical.

Parents may be asked to consider having their child tested for COVID-19 if their child exhibits symptoms. The return to school of individual who was isolated or quarantined is determined by NDDoH or Central Valley Health.

Any school closures will follow the guidelines given by NDDoH or Central Valley Health. If the district is notified of a positive COVID test and advised that the school must close, notice will be sent out by the coordinator to parents. The notice will occur as used for weather closure.

Social, emotional, and behavioral support for students will be available through Mr. Soulis and Mrs. Nelson. Mrs. Nelson will be working remotely using Google Meets. The district EAP, The Village, is available for staff members.

The school staff looks forward to working to re-establish relationships with our students.

The food service plan is being reviewed and will be adjusted as needed. Some meals may be served outside while weather permits, and some elementary students will be served in their classrooms. The current plan includes the delivery of meals to students' homes on Fridays, which will be a distant learning day.

Due to the inability to social distance while on the bus, all students must wear masks/face coverings while on the bus. Bus drivers will disinfect their buses after each trip.

After discussion, Froehlich made a motion, seconded by Harms, to approve the Health and Safety Plan. The motion carried unanimously.

Distance Learning Plan: In the blue, green, and yellow phases students will attend school for face to face learning Monday through Thursday. Students will stay home for distance learning on Fridays.

Fridays/distance learning day:

- 1) Teachers will be in the building.
- 2) Teachers will connect with students through Google Meets. Particular efforts will be made to connect with struggling students,

- 3) Students will have work to do at their homes and be expected to complete this work. Teachers will be available for help.
- 4) Teachers will be working on distance learning materials for students choosing to distance learn every day.
- 5) There will be professional development for distance learning tools.
- 6) Meals will be prepared and delivered to families requesting them. They will be charged the usual rate for meals.
- 7) Paraprofessionals will assist teachers with paperwork, contact students and assist as otherwise requested.
- 8) Bus drivers will deliver meals and disinfect buses.
- 9) Custodial staff will do additional deep cleaning.

Parents/students will be allowed to change once per semester from face to face to distance learning and vice-versa. They may not change back and forth during a semester.

Total distance learning will be implemented in orange and red phases as determined by the governor and posted on the NDDoH website.

After discussion, Dally made a motion, seconded by Harms, to approve the distance learning plan. The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Adjustment: Harms made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to approve adding \$8500 to the expenditure budget to allow for the purchase of a new copy machine. The motion carried unanimously.

Copy Machine: Harms made a motion, seconded by Dally, to approve the purchase of a new color copier. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Tony Roorda, Board President

Amy Maurer, Business Manager

Approval Date