

**Unapproved School Board Minutes  
Montpelier Public School District #14  
214 7<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Montpelier, ND 58472  
September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

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

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

**Call to Order:** President Roorda called the meeting to order at 6:25 pm.

**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 August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 regular meeting.
- c. Approval of non-tuition agreement and open enrollment applications for five students into the district.

The motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that Jamestown approved an open application for one student from Montpelier into their district.

**Secondary Principal's Report:** Mr. Hannasch reported: 1) After one and a half weeks of face to face learning the district is currently distance learning September 8<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup> due to COVID cases/exposures. This is allowing teachers to work through issues which will leave them better prepared for more extended distance learning if necessary. He reviewed the distance learning process and scheduling with the board. 2) Three students have been assigned to the technology help desk. 3) When face to face learning resumes vocational center classes will take place on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays with distance learning on Thursdays and Fridays. 4) He outlined several grants that he is pursuing. 5) Fall student testing has begun. 6) October 14<sup>th</sup> there is a Manufacturing Day in Jamestown. It is hoped that high school students will be able to attend.

**Superintendent/Elementary Principals Report:** Mr. Waagen reported:

- 1) There was professional development for staff on August 13 and 14. The focus on August 13 was on COVID-19 safety and protocols. The afternoon was used for Google Classroom training led by Mr. Hannasch. The second day was used for staff meetings, new staff orientation, and continued assistance with Google Classroom.
- 2) The first day of school was on August 19 as originally scheduled. The first day of scheduled distance learning, August 28, seemed to go well with teachers connecting with students and preparing distance learning lessons.
- 3) Student enrollment as of September 1 is 102 students K-12 and three preschoolers.
- 4) We have one junior high and three elementary girls participating in volleyball this year.
- 5) COVID update: The district has experienced cases of COVID in the school and followed guidelines provided by NDDoH and Central Valley Health. They were very helpful in the process. The positive cases were isolated for the required 10 days and close contacts were quarantined for 14

days. Notices were sent out using the alert system as well as teachers connecting with parents of quarantined students.

- a) Most students are wearing masks in the hallways and when getting lunches. Will continue to encourage the wearing of masks in those situations. Some classes have been eating lunch outside weather permitting.
  - b) Elementary students are being provided breakfast in their classrooms.
  - c) Currently we have an adequate number of face masks and hand sanitizer available.
  - d) Custodians did a thorough cleaning on distance learning Friday.
  - e) This is a learning process and he is having regular conversations and emails with Robin Iszler, our contact at Central Valley Health.
  - f) He recognizes and appreciates the willingness of the staff to be flexible when changes are needed.
- 6) He virtually attended a town hall meeting on Saturday, August 22. Governor Burgum, Superintendent Baesler, and member of NDDoH presented updates on the North Dakota Healthy Return to Learning.
  - 7) Bus drivers and others that drive students will be doing training in the next couple of weeks.
  - 8) Work with Ed Direction will be beginning again soon.

**Transportation Fuel Provider:** Tabled until next month.

**LEA/School Compliance Report:** Each year the district is required to provide assurances to the state that all teachers have valid teaching licenses, are highly qualified in the subjects they teach, that the school meets all the curriculum requirements, meets safety requirements, does required background checks, and participates in the required review process. Harms made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to approve the compliance reports. The motion carried unanimously.

**2020-2021 Budget Approval:** Boom made a motion, seconded by Dally, to approve the 2020-2021 budget. The motion carried unanimously.

**Tax Levy Approval:** Harms made a motion, seconded by Boom, to approve the 2020 tax levy of \$486,136 (\$472,045 general fund, and \$14,091 building fund). The motion carried unanimously.

**Parental involvement Policy Review:** Harms made a motion, seconded by Dally, to approve the review of the parental involvement policy.

**Policies:** Following the second reading, Dally made a motion, seconded by Valenta to approve these policies: 1) Discrimination and anti-harassment 2) Title IX sexual harassment grievance procedure 3) Discrimination and harassment grievance procedure and 4) Cell phone/Electronic communication device. The motion carried unanimously.

**Thunder High School Football Coop Agreement:** Boom made a motion, seconded by Harms to approve the high school football coop agreement with Edgeley, Kulm, and Ellendale. The motion carried unanimously.

**Payroll Tax Deferral:** There was an executive order by the president allowing employers to defer the employee portion of Social Security and Medicare between September and December 2020. However, this was not a forgiveness of the tax and the payroll tax would need to be collected from the employee

between January and April. Harms made a motion, seconded by Valenta to not do the payroll tax deferrals. The motion carried unanimously.

**Support Staff Compensation:** The board discussed the effect of distance learning on support staff positions. Some support staff will not be able to work the full hours for which they were hired due to distance learning days. While there is an expectation that support staff will be available, flexible and willing to work when and where reasonably needed, the board concurred that they may be paid their previously agreed upon salaries when adequate hours cannot be found for them.

**Superintendent Evaluation:** The board discussed the timeline, process and due date of the superintendent evaluation.

The board concurred that the November meeting date will be changed to November 10<sup>th</sup>.

**NDSBA Delegate Assembly:** The board concurred that Lynn Boom and Wade Dally would represent the district as delegates. The assembly is being held online and voting is being done by mail.

**NDSBA School Law Seminar and New Member Seminar:** NDSBA is not having a convention this year. The School Law Seminar and the New Member Seminar can be attended online.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

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Tony Roorda, Board President

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Amy Maurer, Business Manager

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Approval Date