

**Unapproved School Board Minutes  
Montpelier Public School District #14  
214 7<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Montpelier, ND 58472  
November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

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

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

**Visitors:** Four visitors attended by phone via Google Meets.

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

**Agenda modifications:** 1) Bus bid.

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

- a. Approval of the bills and financial reports.
- b. Approval of the minutes from the October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 regular board meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Secondary Principal's Report:** Mr. Hannasch reported: 1) The Nice Bike Award recipients for November are Mrs. Bear and Ms. Anderson. This is a program for teachers to acknowledge and honor other teachers. 2) 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders are participating in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest which challenges students and their teachers to use STEM skills to solve real world problems. There is potential for large cash awards. 3) Students in Ms. Leggate's classes are working on a castle building challenge. 4) Ms. Anderson is implementing the use of Minecraft Edu in science classes. 5) The current week of distance learning has had better attendance by secondary students than the distance learning earlier in the school year. In the afternoons Mr. Wright is working with any students with failing grades.

**Superintendent/Elementary Principals Report:** Mr. Waagen reported: 1) The School Leadership Team (SLT) has been working with Ed Direction coach Pam VanHorn developing an area of focus for the elementary teachers. The main area of focus will be on formative assessment with students as well in the PLC groups. She will be modeling on this during PLC meetings. Consistent use of feedback should improve student achievement. 2) He attended the virtual fall conference sponsored by NDCEL on October 22 and 23. The process went very well with multiple keynote speakers and breakout sessions. We have six teachers that are also participating in the conference and have six months to complete watching the necessary sessions to receive credits. 3) The school has two teams, one each for elementary (K-8) and high school (9-12) completing the Cognia diagnostic for school quality factors. Surveys will be created based on the feedback provided by the teams. These surveys and the diagnostic tool will then help create guidance for our school improvement plan. Team members include Mr. Hannasch, Ms. Anderson, Mrs. Bear, Mrs. Ratts, and Mr. Waagen. Mr. Bear has been helping guide this process. 4) During a NDCEL noon update meeting Don Moseman spoke about school emergency drills and safety during this time of COVID. We will be doing a lockdown drill in the near future and will let staff, students, and parents know what day this will occur prior to the actual drill.

**Budget Adjustment:** The budget adjustment is to account for recently approved and for new federal grants. Froehlich made a motion, seconded by Harms, to approve the budget adjustment. The motion carried unanimously.

**Cares Act Grant Review:** The Cares Act Funding includes four grants: 1) ESSER, \$44,190, granted on 09/18/2020. Deadline to spend is 09/30/2020. Allowable expenses include assisting the district with its COVID response including paying for cleaning supplies, educational technology, mental health supports, summer learning, and distance learning. 2) Education Corps Funds, \$53,241, granted on 09/18/2020. Deadline to spend is 12/31/2020. May not supplant items already budgeted. Allowable expenses include paying for additional staff, tutoring, and stipends for overtime. 3) Resiliency Grant, \$56,857, granted on 10/28/2020. Deadline to spend 12/31/2020. May not supplant items already budgeted. Allowable expenditures include technology, mental health support for staff and students, professional development, and employee recruitment. 4) Broadband grant, \$683.22. Deadline to spend 12/31/2020. This is to assist families in need of broadband telecommunications to enable students to succeed in school.

**Frontline Education Recruiting:** SEEC assists with the cost of this employee recruitment service. Harms made a motion, seconded by Dally to approve continuing with the Frontline Education Recruiting service. The motion carried unanimously.

**School Bus:** The transportation committee recommends the district advertise for bids for a mini school bus. After discussion, Harms made a motion, seconded by Boom, for Mr. Waagen to advertise for bids for a new, 14 passenger dually mini bus that meets all school code requirements with a deadline of November 23<sup>rd</sup>. The motion carried unanimously. A special meeting will be scheduled for November 24<sup>th</sup> to review any bids.

**Support Staff Substitute:** Mr. Waagen proposes that Naomi Walz be hired as a substitute/helper in various positions such as secretary, tutoring, and in the kitchen. Cares Act monies may be used to fund this position through December. Valenta made a motion, seconded by Harms, to approve the hire of Naomi Walz. The motion carried unanimously.

**Bus Bid:** One bid was received for old bus #3. Mr. Roorda opened the bid which was from Barton's Bus Sales in the amount of \$875. Froehlich made a motion, seconded by Harms, to accept the bid. The motion carried unanimously.

**Distance Learning Plan Review:** The learning plan was originally written to implement distance learning if the state designated the county "orange". The district followed that by going to distance learning on November 6<sup>th</sup> after Stutsman County was designated orange by the governor. Very few other districts in the area have gone to total distance learning. School districts may operate on a facility to facility basis and determine what is best for their district. Mr. Roorda sent an email to teachers to get their input. Most supported continuing with the hybrid plan of four days face-to-face and Fridays as a distance learning day because they believe it is more effective for student learning. Some had concerns about returning to face-to-face learning. Parents may choose to go all distance learning for their children even if the district goes back to the hybrid plan. Comments were invited and taken from those attending the meeting by phone. After discussion, Boom made a motion, seconded by Dally, to return to the hybrid model of Monday- Thursday face-to-face learning and distance learning on Fridays effective beginning on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. The distance learning plan is to be revised to accommodate district

flexibility, reviewed by the Distance Learning Plan Committee, and presented to the board for their consideration at the special meeting on November 24<sup>th</sup>. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye. The motion carried.

**Superintendent Evaluation:** The superintendent evaluation was reviewed and discussed. Valenta made a motion, seconded by Boom, to approve the evaluation. The motion carried unanimously.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

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Tony Roorda, Board President

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Amy Maurer, Business Manager

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Approval Date