

School Board Minutes
Montpelier Public School District #14
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
Regular Meeting
January 17th, 2024

Board Members Present: President Scott Harms, Robert Froehlich, Abram Valenta, Tony Roorda and Wade Dally. Absent: Brock Naze, and Kyle Throener.

Also Present: Superintendent Mr. Phil Leitner, Principal Mrs. Sara Wilson, and Business Manager Mrs. Amy Maurer.

Visitors: Ms. Julie Williams, and Mr. S. Lynch.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm. The board members were given the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda: Roorda made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to approve the consent agenda which included the following:

- a) Approval of the January bills and financial reports
- b) Approval of minutes from the December 13th, 2023 board meeting, as presented.
- c) Personnel: Approval of the hire of Kadence Kuhn as 3-day per week paraprofessional and bus monitor for the remainder of the school year at a rate of \$16.50 per hour. Approval of the hire of Winter Lusby as a 5-day per week paraprofessional beginning with the 2024-2025 school year for \$16.50 per hour pending successful completion of background check. Approval of the hire of Ian Lien as a student maintenance worker for \$12.50 per hour.

The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent/HS Principal Report: Mr. Leitner updated the board: 1) January is School Board Appreciation Month. He expressed appreciation for all the board does. 2) He shared information on the core sampling that was done on the school roof over the kitchen. 3) During the power outage Ms. Nelson moved much of the frozen food to Mr. Froehlich's freezers so there was minimal loss of food. An electrician will be here soon to repair three classroom heaters. 4) Miscellaneous: a. Don Wilhelm donated \$1940 to the school sound system. \$20,153.70 has been raised for the sound system. The remaining cost to the school will be \$17,622.50. b. Five day per week counselor coverage in the school has made a noticeable impact. c. A Technology Integration Plan, outlining how we will provide cybersecurity instruction to students, is due to the state by June 30th. 5) Team Meeting Proposal: Representatives of the Montpelier Education Association have indicated that the union would like regular meetings to be held throughout the year with administration and would like to have a board member in attendance. A draft of the meetings' purpose, outcome, and proposed norms was shared. The possible implications of having such meetings was discussed. The board requested that Mr. Leitner research and provide more information. 6) The future of flex time (the last 20 minutes of the school day) in grades 7-12 is being discussed at the request of the 10th graders. 7) The Lunch and Learn program is being discussed because some students don't care for it. 8) Work is beginning on the 2024-2025 high school schedule. 9) Snow Week is January 29th-February 2nd.

PK-8th Principal's Report: Mrs. Wilson updated the board: 1) The recess/winter weather guidelines that have been in place for many years was shared with the board. 2) The district was awarded a \$31,000 High Quality Instructional Materials Grant. She applied for the grant using the foundational materials she had researched for the curriculum committee meetings. It will be used for a new reading program in the elementary. 3) Securely Pass: A digital student pass system is being tried out for the month of January for grades 6-12 at the request of the high school staff. If it works well the cost would be approximately \$300 per year. 4) The standards for the ND A+ testing were shared.

Certificates of Deposit: It is recommended to the board that an additional \$200,000 could be invested in a 6-month CD and earn additional interest income. After discussion, Froehlich made a motion, seconded by Dally, to approve putting an additional \$200,000 into a certificate of deposit pending confirmation that the funds are covered by the securities that have been pledged by Unison Bank to cover the district's assets. The motion carried unanimously.

Return to Learning and Continuity of Services Plan: This plan needs to be reapproved every six months for districts that have received federal ESSER funds. Roorda made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to approve the Return to Learning and Continuity of Services Plan without changes. The motion carried unanimously.

Budget Adjustment: After discussion, Valenta made a motion, seconded by Dally, to increase the building fund expenditure budget from \$35,000 to \$50,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Other: The School Board Retreat will be January 27th at 10:00am at the Gladstone Inn. NDSBA is conducting Elections and Negotiations Training February 1st and 2nd. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for February 14th. It was questioned whether transportation is being provided for Archery Club. Mr. Leitner will verify whether it is being provided.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:12 pm.

Scott Harms, Board President

Amy Maurer, Business Manager

Approval Date