School Board Retreat Minutes
Gladstone Inn-Jamestown
Montpelier Public School District #14
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
February 2nd, 2025

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

Also Present: Superintendent Mr. Phil Leitner, PK-12 Principal Ms. Sara Boom, and Business Manager Amy Maurer.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am. Board members were given the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

The board welcomed newly appointed board member Dan Koep.

Successes: Mr. Leitner reviewed the following with the board:

The number of teachers with master's degrees has increased. There was one teacher with a master's degree in 2022-23, four in 2024-25, and five anticipated in 2025-26. UND offered a Mastery Program that helped teachers pay for the degrees along with the school board incentives of $200 per credit reimbursement and a $5,000 move on the salary schedule.

For 2024-2025 the district received a $120,000 Best in Class grant to pay for the district's preschool program. If the state legislature approves continued funding of the program we may receive funding next year. If 8 or more students attend next year the grant would be $60,000, if 11 or more students $120,000. There on 8 students on the current list of potential students with 5 students very likely to attend. The preschool program is a play-based learning program.

A $31,000 High Quality Instructional Materials Grant was received from the state to support the state's emphasis on the Science of Reading. Science of Reading focuses on how student's brains best learn how to read vocabulary, background knowledge, decoding, and sight recognition. This was used to pay for the new CKLA reading curriculum for grades K-6.

The district has a counselor available to students every day. Mr. Soulis on staff Mondays, and Ms. Dockter Tuesdays-Fridays. Ms. Dockter has also gotten the extra-curricular speech program going again this year and she will be teaching the classroom portion of driver's education this summer.

A positive school culture among staff is being enhanced with weekly Team Time, potlucks, and utilization of Vital Network organization which was paid for with a $35,000 state grant. The results of the first Vital Network Survey were reviewed and showed positive results but areas for improvement will be pursued.

Challenges: Some challenges facing the district are vaping and Snapchat. It was noted that even without the use of cell phones at the school, the dramas that come from social media still carry over into the school. A drug dog was at the school on February first to check lockers.

Student Achievement: The ND A+ test is administered to students three times per year and helps to predict if students will be proficient on the state assessment. ND A+ scores by grade were reviewed.

There was a review of what path was taken by the last several years of graduates and whether they entered the workforce, military, 2-year college, or 4- year college.

Strategic Planning: A sample Strategic Plan and planning tool were reviewed. The board discussed how creating a plan for Montpelier School might be done and how it might be tied in with the current Continuous Improvement Plan.

5-Member School Board: It was discussed whether our district would be better off going from a 7-member board to a 5-member board. The district is geographically small and many of our students are open enrolled contributing to a limited number of individuals interested in serving on the school board. The legal requirement to make a change would be for someone to start a petition and get signatures from at least 1/3 the number of voters who voted at the last election (17 would be required) and have it voted on at a special election. In order to have it coincide with the scheduled 2025 annual election, it would need to be turned in by mid-March.

Policy Reviews: The board reviewed and discussed the district's policies that pertain to the school board and how complaints are to be handled.

Enrollment: The district's current enrollment is 85 students in grades K-12. Mr. Leitner estimates next year's enrollment to be between 85-99 with it likely being somewhere in between.

Financial Snapshot: Three preliminary 2025-2026 general fund budget scenarios were reviewed. All scenarios were based on: 70 mills general fund levy, 10 mills miscellaneous levy, 2% increase in state aid with correct weighting factor applied, 3% increase to salaries with a freeze to non-salary spending and no changes to staffing.

All scenarios show deficit spending and are based on different student average daily memberships (ADM).

	Revenue less Expenditures	Ending Fund Balance
85 ADM	($204,152)	$388,298
90 ADM	($115,687	$477,483
95 ADM	($26,003)	$567,167

Building and Grounds: This year's levy is $25,000, 3.26 mills. We are budgeted to spend $45,000 which would leave an ending fund balance of $10,541. If the budgeted amount was not spent, it would leave a balance of $55,541. It was discussed whether any changes should be made to which fund the roof replacement should be spent out of compared with the original budget.

Transportation: The district currently runs four routes. Millarton and south Montpelier (11 students), Ypsilanti and North Montpelier (14 students), Jamestown Subway (40 students), and Jamestown home (14 students). There is a need for increased busing in Jamestown. The tan van is close to needing to be replaced. The current fleet of buses is in fairly good shape but new buses are very expensive and take a long time to get.

Athletics: The district is still in the cooperative with Edgeley and Kulm for basketball, volleyball, and track. And, with Ellendale, Edgeley and Kulm for football. We are with Jamestown for cross country.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.

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Scott Harms, Board President	Amy Maurer, Business Manager	Approval Date