

School Board Minutes
Montpelier Public School District #14
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
April 9th, 2025

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

Also Present: Superintendent Mr. Phil Leitner, Business Manager Amy Maurer, and Dean of Students Tyler Lee.

Visitor: Mrs. Fehr, Science Teacher.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm. Board members were given the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda: No changes.

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

- a. Approval of the April bills and financial reports.
- b. Approval of minutes from the March 12th, 2025 regular meeting, as presented.
- c. Personnel: 1) Acceptance of the resignation of Mr. Jeff Ingerson. 2) Approve the hiring of James Bear as technology coordinator for 2025-2026 for \$10,000.

The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports: There was a policy committee meeting. There will be a first reading of an amendment to the Professional Development Plan Policy.

Superintendent's Report:

- Supt. Leitner reported on the latest legislative happenings and shared concerns that some could very negatively impact Montpelier and other small schools. The current K-12 funding proposal is to increase funding by 2%.
- *Dally arrived.
- He and Mr. Lee attended a meeting concerning the district girls' basketball program which has received a Title IX complaint over a concern about the tournament games not all being played in Jamestown, while all the boys' tournament games are being played in Jamestown.
 - Mr. Lee, Mr. Nelson, Ms. Nelson, and Ms. Doctor are attending the national BARR Conference later this month. This is part of the ND Climbs grant.
 - Health insurance will be increasing over 8% again for next year.
 - Staffing
 - Summer maintenance worker. This position is currently unfilled and will not be filled as there are no major projects planned and to save money.
 - Title Paraprofessional. This position has not been filled since the person that last held the position quit. For next year the plan is to have Mr. Wright take on the position of 50%-time Title teacher and to not have the paraprofessional position.

- With the music teacher position open Mr. Leitner will consider unique ways to fill the position. The district will advertise for a teacher but there are over 30 music teacher openings in the state at this time.
- School Counselor- We are currently working with James River CTC to expand our career development program. CTC would then take on some of the counselor expense. Thank you to Ms. Dockter for starting the research on this.
- The current preschool aide was a temporary hire. The district applied for the \$120,000 Best in Class grant to finance the preschool program for next year but currently there are not enough students signed up to get that larger grant amount. If the class size is under 11 students an aide may not be hired for preschool.

Dean of Students Report: Mr. Tyler Lee reported:

- Several students attended the State Science Fair. Ella L. received two awards and Clara Harms received an award. This is the second year Montpelier has qualified for state.
- Music: PK-6 concert will be on April 24th and the 7-12 concert will be on May 1st.
- Grades K-6 will be learning from the artist in residence at the Arts Center in Jamestown. Thank you to Ms. Kramer for pursuing this project.
- Sophomores toured the vocational center on April 7th.
- Mr. Wright took several students to Tech Wars at VCCSU. Taking 2nd Place was- Dakota F., Ella L., & James L. Taking 4th Place was- Brayson W., Ian L., & Bentley L.
- PreK open houses were held on the 11th and the 25th.
- Several students in grades 7-12 attended a math competition at VCSU today.
- The elementary girls' basketball season is almost over. Montpelier had one great participant.
- There are 8 track meets remaining.
- Speech regionals were on April 4th and the state competition is April 25th. Ella L. placed 5th in Dramatic Interpretation and 2nd in Storytelling. Ella L. is the region champion in Storytelling and the lone state qualifier from our region.

Budget Amendment: Roorda made motion, seconded by Koep to approve a budget adjustment which adds \$191,500 to the revenue and expenditure budgets for the ND Climbs grant, and corrects the expenditure lines to which the administrator's salaries are allocated. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Election Workers: Throener made a motion, seconded by Koep, to approve Sue Valenta, Brianna Syverson, Gus Wiley, and CeCeBear as election workers at the upcoming annual election. The motion carried unanimously.

Professional Development Plan Policy: In negotiations teachers had asked to have more involvement in the planning of professional development. The policy committee met and proposes the Professional Development Plan Policy be amended to say that certified staff and administration will collaborate on PD days exceeding 3 days. The first reading of the proposed policy was done.

Petition for a 5 Member School Board: A petition was received to have a ballot measure to ask the district voters whether the board should be reduced from 7 members to 5 members. This would require a special election. The petition was received too late to have the special election on the same day as the 2025

annual election according to state election laws. After reviewing the options, Valenta made a motion, seconded by Roorda, to call for the special election to be held on the same day as the 2026 annual election. A roll call vote was taken: Dally-aye, Harms-aye, Throener-no, Roorda-aye, Valenta-aye, and Koep-aye. Motion carried.

Negotiated Agreement 2025-2027: The board reviewed the proposed negotiated agreement that was agreed upon by the Montpelier Education Association and the board's negotiations committee. Some of the changes include \$1000 added to the base each year, addition of 10 days parental leave, increase funeral leave from 1 to 3 days, and removes the requirement for the district to provide First Aid training every other year. Throener made a motion, seconded by Dally, to approve the proposed 2025-2027 with corrections to two typographical errors. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Other: The annual school board election will be on Tuesday, April 29th.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Scott Harms, Board President

Amy Maurer, Business Manager

Approval Date