

School Board Minutes
Montpelier Public School District #14
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
June 11th , 2025

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

Also Present: Superintendent Mr. Phil Leitner, and Business Manager Amy Maurer.

Visitor: Ms. Fehr, Ms. Dockter, Ms. Harris, and Ms. Stephanie Naze.

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: Dally made a motion, seconded by Roorda, to add to the agenda: 1. Playground Improvement
2. Curriculum Update. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- a. Approval of the June bills and financial reports.
- b. Approval of minutes from the May 12th, 2025 regular meeting, as presented.
- c. Approval of open enrollment/non-tuition for one student into the district from Litchville-Marion.
- d. The motion carried unanimously.

*Koep arrived.

Superintendent's Report:

- The buses are going in for annual servicing.
- The high school building roof leak has been looked at and it was recommended to work with a company that works with flat roofs to give us an opinion on what options we have, but they have not been able to come down to Montpelier yet.
- NDSBA and Association of Counties are offering a seminar on budgeting with the new rules set by the legislature this session.
- We currently have 5 students registered for PK. We need 8 to get the Best In Class grant of \$30,000 and 11 to get \$60,000. Anything that can be done to spread the word on our PK program is appreciated.
- Delays at the Federal level and legislative changes at the state level has really slowed down our summer budgeting information etc.
- The City of Montpelier gave their old lawn mower to the school which was much needed and appreciated.

Playground Improvement: Stephanie Naze presented information to the board recommending getting additional playground equipment, especially geared toward older elementary students. She shared ideas for fundraising. The board indicated that they supported pursuing the playground improvement.

ADM/Transportation Reports: Roorda made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to approve the ADM and transportation reports. The motion carried unanimously.

The 2024-2025 ADM was 87.05 students. Transportation miles reported, which are the basis for state funding, do not include those for open enroll students.

Food Service Program Rates: The proposed rates for 2025-2026 increase most meal prices by 25 cents. Roorda made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to approve the proposed meal prices. The motion carried unanimously.

21st Century Skills: Ms. Fehr presented information on providing students more options to meet the state's Choice Ready criteria by giving students the opportunity to do Capstone projects the last week of school instead of the currently required final tests. A proposal of steps and timelines to accomplish this include 1) July-the board rescinds the Test Exemption Policy which requires teachers to administer a final test unless a student meets the exemption requirements. It was noted that some teachers may still decide it is best practice to require final tests although they would not be required by the school policy. 2. January- the board hears plans from students and staff. 3. May- there is a public Capstone Project showcase.

Curriculum: Ms. Fehr shared information on the physical science curriculum she has created for 7th and 8th grade. It is curriculum aligned with ND state science standards and includes a predominance of hands-on learning opportunities. She used open source online textbooks and resources to create the curriculum. It is shared with the district on Google Drive so it is available to district staff now and in the future.

JVCTC MOU: Montpelier has an opportunity for our current counselor, Ms. Dockter, to be partially paid by the James Valley Career and Technology Center. The potential savings to the district is \$27,000 as defined in the memo of understanding. Dally made a motion, seconded by Koep, to approve the MOU with JRVCTC to have them reimburse the district for career counseling as provided to the district by our counselor. The motion carried unanimously.

It was noted that Ms. Dockter is counselor 4 days a week and may be hired as BARR coordinator for one day per week.

Mill Levies and Ending Fund Balances: Mr. Leitner reviewed with the board a very preliminary budget for 2025-2026. He is waiting on clarification of changes to the districts taxing authority that were made in the legislative session but it does not appear to be favorable to Montpelier, which has been taxing conservatively. There is now a limit of a 3% increase to the dollars levied in the past for most levies. The district may need to explore levies that we have not used before such as tuition and special reserve fund levies. State foundation aid is very dependent on student counts so small variances in student counts can have a significant impact on the budget.

Budget Adjustment: A proposed amendment to the 24-25 building fund budget so the district could pay for part of the roof replacement with building fund monies was reviewed. Valenta made a motion, seconded by Dally, to increase the building fund expenditure budget from \$45,000 to \$60,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Certificates of Deposit: The district has CDs maturing in June and July. After discussion, Valenta made a motion, seconded by Roorda, to give the superintendent and business manager authority to explore the best certificate options and make decisions concerning the CDs on behalf of the board. The motion carried unanimously.

Administration Contracts: The negotiations committee met with Mr. Leitner, Ms. Wilson, and Ms. Maurer and came to tentative agreements. Maurer 3% increase to salary for 2025-26. Ms. Wilson 3% increase to salary and one additional vacation day for 2025-2026. Mr. Leitner a 3-year agreement 3% increase for 2025-26, 3.5% increase for 2026-27, and 4% increase for 2027-2028 and an increase to vacation days.

After discussion, Roorda made a motion, seconded by Koep, to approve the contracts/agreement for Mr. Leitner, Ms. Boom, and Ms. Maurer, as proposed. The motion carried unanimously.

The next board meeting is scheduled for July 16th.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Scott Harms, Board President

Amy Maurer, Business Manager

Approval Date