

School Board Minutes
Montpelier Public School District #14
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
September 10th, 2025

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

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

Visitors: Janet Hendrickson, Stephanie Naze.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. The board was given the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda: Valenta made motion, seconded by Dally, to remove "Vital Network Update", from the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- a. Approval of the September bills and financial reports.
- b. Approval of minutes from the August 13th regular board meeting, as presented.
- c. Approve the open enrollment/non-tuition agreements for 4 students into the district and one student out of the district.
- d. Approve hire of Deb Hatlewick as substitute teacher.

Assuming a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports: The building committee met to discuss the playground improvement project. Additionally, they requested that Mr. Leitner create a schedule of when improvements were last made and the projected life of those projects/schedule of future needed maintenance/improvements.

Superintendent's Report: Supt. Leitner reported:

- Due to student numbers an additional bus route using the school van was started for Jamestown. We will work to have a Transportation Committee Meeting before the October Board Meeting. Purchasing a new 14 passenger bus and a van will likely be part of the 26-27 budget. The price of buses has nearly doubled within the last few years with current prices running around \$115,000.
- \$2,000 was donated to the school from Sue Valenta for the purchase of a new flagpole. We are working on plans to put it on the south side of the school.
- We were chosen to be one of three schools to take part in a promotion of the Vital Network Teacher Retention Program due to our belief in the mission of Vital Network.
- Monty Staff Survivor and NFL Pick Challenge have begun.
- PK-12 students attended the homecoming parade in Edgeley.

Principal's Report: Ms. Wilson shared school happenings with the board:

- Announcements and are being done via Zoom this year with the help high school students. The teachers then do the pledge of allegiance with their individual classes.
- Regular BARR meetings with staff are scheduled to implement the program.
- There was a good open house turnout.
- Teachers have been certified/recertified with Safety Care training.
- A fire drill took place on the 4th day of school.
- Students in grades 3-12 will be attending a presentation on positive life choices including an anti-vape message in Gackle.
- Students in Cross Country earned Team Scholar Awards with their good grades.
- Parent-teacher conferences are on September 25th. There will also be a Scholastic Book Fair.

School Compliance Reports: Roorda made a motion, seconded by Koep, to approve the 25-26 School Compliance reports. The motion carried unanimously.

2025-2026 Budget: The proposed budget was reviewed and discussed. Valenta made a motion, seconded by Koep, to approve the 2025-2026 budget as presented. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

It was discussed that the district participated in a cooperative procurement process for the hot lunch program and Sysco won the bid and is now the district's primary food vendor. The district must purchase 80% of its food from Sysco.

Tax Levy Approval: Roorda made a motion, seconded by Dally, to approve the certificate of levy as budgeted. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Playground Steering Committee Update: Stephanie Naze and Kelsey Naze shared the work that the Playground Steering Committee has been putting into the playground improvement project. They presented a flyer for the fundraising which includes donation tiers and a general vision for the project. The city has agreed to contribute about \$2500 toward painting the city owned tennis courts to turn them into pickleball courts and to purchase some pickleball equipment. Playground equipment is expensive and after discussion it was decided to set a fundraising goal of \$100,000 which would likely still not completely cover the installation costs. A longer-term goal would be to create bike riding/walking paths in the area. There will be a Fall Festival Fundraiser on Friday October 24th with a spaghetti dinner, hayrides, and silent auction.

Roorda made a motion, seconded by Valenta, that the board fully supports the Playground Steering Committee's playground expansion project activities. The motion carried unanimously.

School Board Convention: Mr. Harms plans to go. New board members are required to attend the New Member Session.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Scott Harms, Board President

Amy Maurer, Business Manager

Approval Date

UNOFFICIAL