

School Board Minutes
Montpelier Public School District #14
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
October 8th, 2025

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

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

Visitors: Ms. Ellen Fehr.

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

Agenda: Throener made a motion, seconded by Koep, to add Teacher Release of Contract to the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- a. Approval of the October bills and financial reports.
- b. Approval of minutes from the September 10th regular board meeting and tax hearing, as presented.
- c. Approve the open enrollment/non-tuition agreement for 1 student into the district.
- d. Approve the following personnel report items:
 - Winter Lusby, part time aide- resignation
 - Amy Maurer, Business Manager-retirement
 - Joni Brandenburg, part time aide-hire

Assuming a roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent's Report: Supt. Leitner reported:

- We are working to resolve plumbing/sewer issues.
- The first strategic planning meeting will be held November 12th at 5:00pm.
- He would like the board to consider having all meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of the month instead of the second beginning in January.
- \$1700 has been donated to the playground project so far. October 24th is a spaghetti fundraiser with silent auction.
- Budgeting work from February-October was reviewed.

Principal's Report: Ms. Wilson reported:

- Parent teacher conferences were on September 25th with a good turnout overall.
- Elementary teachers spent professional development time devoted to best practices in student interventions.
- Grades 7-10 had a tour of Collin's Aerospace.
- High School Girls' Choir had a workshop in Jamestown on the 8th.
- All grades will attend Pumpkin Patch on Thursday.
- A video showing the new morning announcements format was shared.

- The first survey through Vital Network (teacher retention program) was done this week. The results indicated that the district's teacher's current satisfaction score is +66.67 on a scale of -100 to +100. The national average is -13.
- BARR coaching is being implemented with the first item of focus being on teacher attitudes, i.e. their belief in how their actions can affect learning, motivation and student behavior.

Carrying Weapons Policy: The previous policy was not formally rescinded when the new policy was approved. Koep made a motion to rescind the old policy and replace it with the already approved new policy. Naze seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Fuel Oil Bids: The request for bids was advertised in the Jamestown Sun. Allied Energy submitted a bid of their listed highway price less 20 cents. Throener made a motion, seconded by Koep, to accept the Allied Energy bid. The motion carried unanimously.

Transportation: The transportation committee met and discussed the districts transportation. While the district is currently staffed with drivers it is very difficult to find CDL bus drivers. It would be worth getting a bid from Harlow's for part of the route(s). The committee has concurred that the district should advertise for bids for an additional 14-passenger bus. This would be needed if the district continues to do all of its own transportation. If the board decides to buy a bus, it would be delivered and paid for in the 2026-27 school year. It is estimated that new 14-passenger buses are going for around \$115,000.

Budget Adjustment: A proposed budget adjustment to account for finalized grant amounts was presented. Dally made a motion, seconded by Koep, to approve the budget adjustment. The motion carried unanimously.

Vape Detector: Mr. Leitner shared information on the cost of a vape detector. The cost is \$6224 which includes a 3-year license fee of \$1100. The district did get a metal detector wand which can be used appropriately if there is probable cause. The board concurred the metal detector would be adequate for now.

Business Manager Position: The board discussed advertising options for the business manager position. Dally, Harms, and Koep will be on a committee to find a new business manager. Mr. Leitner would like the position to be 5 days per week.

Release of Contract: Ms. Fehr, science teacher, has been offered a position as an environmental educator at Prairie Waters Education & Research Center at VCSU and is requesting release from her contract effective January 2026. After discussion, Throener made a motion, seconded by Dally, to release Ms. Fehr from her contract without damages. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Scott Harms, Board President

Amy Maurer, Business Manager

Approval Date