

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

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

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

Board Members Absent: Kyle Throener

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:01pm. The board was given the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda: Two additions/modifications were requested to the agenda.

- e.) Signature change on bank accounts by Leitner
- f.) Playground equipment by Naze

Roorda made a motion to approve adding both item e.) Signature change on bank accounts and f.) Playground equipment, seconded by Koep. 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 November 2025 bills and financial reports.
- b. Approval of minutes from November 12, 2025, regular board meeting and the special meeting held November 20, 2025, as presented.
- c. No open enrollment/Non-tuition Agreements to discuss.
- d. Hiring - Curt Brown as Paraprofessional for 2nd semester of 2025-2026 year at \$21 per hour

The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Harms reported that the negotiations committee met with Business Manager Amy Maurer and will have a proposal for board consideration. At the time of the agenda printing, the negotiations committee had not yet occurred.

Superintendent Leitner reported that the strategic planning committee met on December 8, 2025. A handout called "PTO Bingo Survey Results" was included in your packet. This survey was done by community members attending PTO Bingo.

Mission Statement: Embracing success through education.

Vision Statement: Preparing today for a better tomorrow.

Superintendent Leitner also reported that the Curriculum committee met on December 3, 2025. There will be two proposals that will need to be discussed with the members of the board.

Naze reported that the playground committee has found a grant and has a proposal they would like to bring to the board.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Leitner reported:

We held a storm day on December 8. Per school policy this day will be forgiven by the Board. The next two storm days we will use storm make-up days scheduled for March 20 and 27. After those days are used it will be virtual learning. With further discussion about calendar adjustments, the board would like to keep calendar changes the way policy currently stands and would make any changes needed at the time of arise.

Montpelier School District was recognized by Niche for being one of the top school districts in ND. Congratulations to our staff, students, and community on this accomplishment!

- **#21 Best school districts in ND**
- **#12 Best teachers in ND**
- **#22 Best places to Teach in ND**
- **#1 Best teachers in Stutsman County**

Congratulations to Mrs. Wilson on being named Region 5 Middle Level Principal of the year. She is now a finalist for the ND Middle Level Principal of the Year.

Our lawn mower was sold at Orr Auction for \$1,000. We received \$905 after fees.

We have CD's maturing in December and January and at this time we plan to automatically renew them per our agreement.

Staffing considerations for the 2026-27 school year is underway.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Wilson reported:

The event 'Hour of Code' was led by EduTech, our state technology support, in the school gym on December 3rd, 2025. She reported that this was great involvement from the students and provided exposure to hands-on activities and coding/programming. Different activities were done with each set of grades. Grades 3-6th met in the morning, 7-12th grade met during lunch hours, and PK-2nd grade met after lunch.

Our Christmas Concerts are scheduled for next week. On Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 6:30PM, the Elementary Concert is held. On Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 6:30PM, there will be a High School Concert. There will be a coffee house vibe. The school patrons are asked to share baked goods or your favorite dessert.

MPS 9th grade students are scheduled for Friday, December 19, 2025, to be at 5 Jamestown businesses for bell ringing for the Salvation army. Each student is required to have 25 hours of community service

Mission Statement: Embracing success through education.

Vision Statement: Preparing today for a better tomorrow.

prior to graduation, per “Choice Ready” initiative. This will assist students in gaining hours towards that requirement.

Tie Blankets will be made and donated to a few students within the school. Mrs. Kietzman donated fabric for the blankets to be made by students.

Mrs. Wilson discussed a Math Intervention Grant for \$26,500 that has already been submitted. This would allow our school to assist with earlier intervention to students with Math needs that may be struggling.

Mrs. Wilson also discussed Vital Network. This is a central location for information (Monty Hub), provides a digital suggestion box, publicizes staff shoutouts, and ensures meetings are efficient. The goal is to reduce stress, burnout, and an anonymous way for suggestions to be heard. Work continues with the Vital Network/Teacher retention program.

New Business:

2026 Board Retreat: The board retreat is tentatively scheduled for February 7th, 2026, at the Gladstone Inn. Possible ideas and topics were discussed by the board that they felt would be imperative to focus on next year.

Superintendent Leitner reported that the strategic planning committee met on December 8, 2025. A handout called “PTO Bingo Survey Results” was reviewed and discussed. This survey was done by community members attending PTO Bingo.

Superintendent Leitner also reported that the Curriculum committee met on December 3, 2025. There will be two proposals that were discussed with the members of the board:

Proposal 1: Assistance for long term Science Sub

Contract with Mrs. Fehr to provide lesson planning etc. for Mrs. Kjellberg for the 2nd semester of the school year in 7-12 science. Mrs. Fehr would remain the teacher of record for the remainder of the school year. (\$288/day) based on estimated time commitment and rate of pay.

Roorda made a motion to approve the proposal as proposed, Valenta Second; motion carried unanimously.

Proposal 2:

Offer struggling math students in grades 7-12 additional math help from Mrs. Harris during her prep hour. She would be paid \$21.00 per the negotiated teachers’ contract beginning the 2nd semester.

Roorda made a motion to approve the proposal as proposed, Valenta Second; motion carried unanimously.

Personnel: Koep made a motion, seconded by Roorda to approve the following hires/personnel:

- Amy Maurer be to be retained at \$40/hour – 24 hours per week, which could include school holidays until the next board meeting, which is scheduled for January 21, 2026.

Mission Statement: Embracing success through education.

Vision Statement: Preparing today for a better tomorrow.

Valenta made motion to approve Amy Maurer’s schedule with no changes; Koep 2nd, motion carried unanimously.

Signature change on bank accounts

Roorda made a motion to approve removing current Business Manager, Amy Maurer from the Montpelier Public School bank account(s) and to add new Business Manager, Brittany Hansen to the account. Dally Second, motion carried unanimously.

Playground Committee Update: The first phase of playground equipment would be the Rotunda Fitness Course from WillyGoat Playground Company, which was quoted at around \$28,000. This provides a lot of desired play opportunities for upper elementary students. Additionally, rubber borders would need to be ordered. This would not include installation costs such as site prep, pea rock, wood chips, and labor. It is considered to meet playground safety standards. The equipment would not impact insurance costs beyond its value as an asset. Grants are also being pursued.

Roorda made a motion to commit \$15,000 of the building fund to the playground fund, Second by Koep. Motion carries unanimously.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Hansen
Business Manager

Scott Harms, Board President

Brittany Hansen, Business Manager

Approval Date