



Montpelier School Board Meeting March 18, 2026 - 6:00 PM - Room 112 Minutes

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

Also Present: Superintendent Phil Leitner, Principal Sara Wilson, Staff member Linda Dockter, and Business Manager Brittany Hansen.

Absent:

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00M by President Scott Harms. The Board was given the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: No modifications were requested.

Consent Agenda:

Throener made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Roorda seconds motion. The motion carries unanimously to approve the following:

- Approval of February 2026 bills and financial reports
- Approval of February 18, 2026, Board meeting minutes
- Three new open enrollment/Non-Tuition Agreements were discussed for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Resignation – Amy Maurer – Business Manager Support - Effective 03-01-2026.
- Hiring – Linda Dockter – Drivers Education Classroom -- \$1,500
- Hiring – Linda Dockter – Drivers Education Behind the Wheel -- \$300/student-- \$2,700

The motion carried unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Transportation Committee: Mr. Leitner reports that the Transportation committee met with Harlow's Bussing Services and will make a purposed recommendation for the Board's consideration.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Leitner reported:

- The first purchase of the WillyGoat Playground equipment has been received and paid for a total of \$27,121.00. The next piece of equipment will be selected by the committee.

*Mr. Valenta joins meeting at 6:06PM

- Principal Search update
 - The Principal search committee met and will make a purposed recommendation for the Board's consideration.
- The septic system was also discussed. After evaluation by K2S Engineering, another meeting was suggested with Building and Grounds Committee to review the findings.
 - This meeting is set for Thursday, March 26, 2026.
- Teacher's contracts have been issued and returned
 - We will currently have two open teaching positions that are open. Those positions are: (1) Pre-K teacher and (1) High School/Middle School Science teacher
- The purchase of the 2024 Chrysler Pacifica has been completed totaling, \$42,729.00.
- NDPHIT Insurance plan: Mr. Leitner reported that we recently received our renewal notice for our employee health insurance. Our increase is expected to be 11.41% from last year.
- Mr. Leitner reported that the Special Education unit is considering a change to their reimbursement program. Changes are expected with the 2026-2027 school year.
- The school instructional waiver has been submitted to NDDPI, and we are currently awaiting an approval.
- Mr. Leitner reported that \$3,848.78 was raised from Donkey Basketball.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Wilson reported:

- Mrs. Wilson reported that IXL professional development has been scheduled for the NDCounts Grant that was awarded for \$15,000.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences were held. Johnny B's pizzas were served to encourage family engagement and attendance.
- Bookblast was held at the school recently and provided 3 books to each student.
- One student qualified for All State Music
- Mrs. Wilson reported that a speaker from the Cancer Center visited with students on the various effects of vaping.
- The Regional Science Fair is coming up. We currently have 4 students that will be attending, and 3 qualified for State Science Fair.
- Pre-K will be holding an open house in the upcoming week.
- Dakota Valley Electric will be utilizing our facility on Monday, March 23, 2026 for their Caucus meeting. Proceeds will be distributed to the LifeSmarts group.
- The BARR Coach will be visiting the school at the end of the month to observe and give feedback on I-Time and U-time.

Business

Infinite Campus Transition:

Mission Statement: Embracing success through education

Vision Statement: Preparing today for a better tomorrow.

An update was provided to the Board on the transition from PowerSchool to Infinite Campus. The transition is expected to happen Around July 2026 and will be in place for the 2026-2027 school year. PowerSchool's multi-year contract was discussed, and Mr. Leitner and Ms. Hansen will keep watching for potential offerings to end this contract. Backup plans will also be put in place to ensure that no data would be lost in migration to the new system.

Drivers Education:

We held registration for Drivers Education and Behind the Wheel and nine students registered. Ms. Linda Dockter presented information regarding the requirements of Driver's Education and what is needed for students to be successful in completion.

The new vehicle purchase of the 2024 Chrysler Pacifica will be used as the Driver's Education vehicle and will need to have a couple updates, including the passenger driving brake. Mr. Leitner will work on making arrangements with a local vendor. Registration is now closed.

Naze made a motion to charge students that qualify for Drivers Education Classroom and Behind the Wheel \$200 for district residents and \$200 non-district residents and cap enrollment at 9 students for 2026 Valenta seconds motion, motion carries unanimously.

DPI Finance Facts Review:

The latest issue of DPI Finance Facts were reviewed with the Board.

Virtual Days:

A student member of MPS News joined during this time to present a survey that was completed by students, staff, and Listserv. Statistics that were provided:

- Students: 29% Snow day; 71% Virtual Learning
- Teachers: 14.3% Snow day; 85.7% Virtual Learning
- Community/Parents: 41.7% Snow day; 58.3% Virtual Learning

Contracted Bus Service:

A discussion will be held on contracting Harlow's Bus service for our district. A potential contract was reviewed and discussed. This would apply to the Jamestown bussing routes only. Various logistical options will continue to be reviewed for pick-up and drop-off possibilities.

Roorda made a motion to allow Superintendent Leitner to meet with Harlow's Bussing Services to review what our district's contract would look like and gave authorization to sign a contract if in the best interest of the district. Throener second motion, motion carries unanimously.

School Calendar:

A potential school calendar was presented, and discussion occurred related to virtual days as well as other items from the potential school calendar. The Instructional Time Waiver request has been submitted to the ND DPI so Montpelier School can accomplish the goals of its strategic plan.

Principal Search:

Mr. Leitner led discussions about Principal candidates and a potential training strategy.

Roorda made a motion to hire Maureen Schrader as Elementary Principal/Teacher and Tyler Lee as High School Principal/Teacher. Schrader and Lee would both receive \$80,000, hiring a substitute teacher for 8 days during the onboarding timeframe of the new principal, add 9 additional contract days to the new Principals contract, and add an additional 9 contract days on Mrs. Wilson's contract. Dally seconds motion; roll call taken.

Dally – yes; Koep – yes; Naze – yes; Roorda- Yes; Harms – yes; Throener – abstained; Valenta – Yes; Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Hansen
Business Manager

Scott Harms, Board President

Brittany Hansen, Business Manager

Approval Date