



Montpelier School Board Meeting April 15, 2026 - 6:00 PM - Room 112 Board Minutes

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

Also Present: Superintendent Phil Leitner, Business Manager Brittany Hansen, and guest staff member Maureen Schrader. Amy De Kok from NDSBA was also present via video conference.

Absent: Kyle Throener

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:01M by President Scott Harms. The Board was given the opportunity to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Agenda: Mr. Leitner requested to have two items added to the agenda. Item (f) Student Governance and item (g) Classified Staff wages; then move item (f) to top of agenda as it pertains to the Guest Speaker, Amy De Kok.

Valenta made a motion to approve the additions to the agenda, Roorda seconds motion, motion carries unanimously.

Consent Agenda:

Roorda made a motion to approve the consent agenda with two corrections to the March 18, 2026, minutes, with corrections as "break" is misspelled and should be "brake" and Abram Valenta was missed during noted roll call with a 'yes' vote. Dally seconds motion with corrections to March 18, 2026 minutes; motion carries unanimously to approve the following:

- Approval of March 2026 bills and financial reports
- Approval of March 18, 2026, Board meeting minutes (with corrections)
- One new open enrollment/Non-Tuition Agreements was discussed for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Hiring – Hunter Heck – new teacher-- \$45,500 per Negotiated Agreement for 2026-2027.

Item (f)- Student Governance:

Amy De Kok from NDSBA was present via video conference to discuss Student Governance and its meaning with the Board. This program foundation is a 'Students First' initiative that guides School Boards through practical approaches tying activity directly to their school systems focus on outcomes. This program would be slated to begin late Summer into Fall, entails a 2-year commitment, 1 in-person day of training for each Board member and would include a coach and an online platform that helps build routines, tracking, and goals for the School Board. New Board members could also take part in the program if needed. The initial cost is originally \$20,000, but grants are being offered for the first two years of a reduction of 75% for a total of \$5,000/year our cost if interested; \$10,000 total. At 6:46PM Ms. De Kok left meeting.

Mission Statement: Embracing success through education

Vision Statement: Preparing today for a better tomorrow.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee: Mr. Leitner reports that the Finance committee met prior to this meeting and will make a purposed recommendation for the Board's consideration on Classified Staff wages.

Buildings and Grounds Committee: The septic system was also discussed. After evaluation by K2S Engineering, another meeting was suggested with the Building and Grounds Committee to review the findings. We are still waiting for a camera to be placed in the system to investigate the baffle.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Leitner reported:

- Our current Mill levy was reviewed.
- Our ND Governor has recommended a 0% increase to per pupil payment for the biennium. We will continue to assess this situation.
- Special Reserve funds were reviewed and discussed.
- Total enrollment: K-12 is currently 100; 107 including PreK.
- Litchville-Marion is currently utilizing one of our 14 passenger buses to finish out the school year.
- Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Lee, and Mr. Leitner attended Cognia Training in Bismarck on April 14, 2026, for strategic planning.
- Choice Ready week- students will reach out to our Board members to gather more information about their profession.
- There are currently 9 projected PreK students registered for 2026-2027. We currently have room for one more student.

Business**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 current calendar being presented to the Board does not have any 'make up/snow days' included anything with weather would be considered virtual.

Valenta made a motion to accept the school calendar as is, Roorda seconds motion. After discussion, the Board would really like to have flexibility with two snow days rather than 100% virtual. Roll call was taken; Dally – no; Koep – no; Naze –no; Roorda- no; Harms – no; Valenta– no; Motion does not carry.

Roorda made a motion to amend the school calendar to show April 9, 2027, and April 30, 2027, as snow days/make up days. Roll call taken.

Koep – yes; Naze – yes; Harms – yes; Dally – yes; Valenta– yes; Roorda- yes; Motion carries unanimously.

Four-Year-Old Program Renewal:

Our '4-year-old program' is up for renewal for the "Best in Class" Grant. Cost of this is \$50.00 for 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 years. Valenta made a motion to approve Montpelier Pubic School's application for a Four-Year Old program for the 2026-27 and 2027-28 school years. Naze seconds motion, motion carries unanimously.

Land Sale:

The City of Montpelier has requested to discuss the sale of land owned by Montpelier Public School. The City of Montpelier would like to apply for grant funding to assist with building a new Community Center, and would like to try to purchase the land on the West side of the Horse Arena. Additional discussion will take place after further research is completed.

NDPHIT Insurance:

NDPHIT had notified us that they will be cutting back from 60+ insurance plan options to only 9 options with our current plan not being one of 9 options being offered for the future. NDPHIT has agreed to give one year on our current plan but by 2027-2028, we would need to decide which plan is the best option for our school. An insurance committee was established with Board members Scott Harms, Kyle Throener, and Dan Koep. The Board would like to include at least two teachers or members from their negotiations committee to be involved in the conversations. Conversations will continue to happen throughout the next school year. We have to provide NDPHIT a response by May 28, 2026 for the 2026-2027 year as to which plan we will be choosing.

Item (g)-Classified Wages:

Classified wages were discussed and presented to the Board for review.

	2025-2026	Proposed for 2026-2027	Hour/Day
SPED Paraprofessional	\$22.35	\$23.02	Hour
Instructional Assistant	\$31.41	\$32.35	Hour
Non-CDL Rate- Full Route	\$48.00	\$50.00	Trip
CDL Rate- Full Route	\$70.00	\$72.00	Trip
Assistant Cook	\$18.54	\$19.10	Hour
Custodial	\$18.54	\$19.10	Hour
Vocational Driver	\$22.50	\$22.50	Hour
Head Custodial	\$21.00	\$21.63	Hour
Head Cook	\$21.63	\$23.50	Hour
Administrative Assistant +Notary	\$21.63	\$23.50	Hour
Social Media Coordinator	\$1,060.00	\$1,100.00	year
Bus Mechanic	\$90.00	\$90.00	hour
Activity Driver	\$20.00	\$20.00	Hour
Vocational Sub	\$20.00	\$20.00	Hour
Kitchen Sub	\$16.50	\$19.10	Hour
Head Cook Sub	\$20.00	\$20.00	Hour
Janitor Sub	\$16.50	\$19.10	Hour
Special Ed Aide Sub (no sub lic)	\$17.50	\$17.50	Hour
Aide Sub (with sub license)	\$21.00	\$21.00	Hour
Secretary Sub	\$16.50	\$16.50	Hour
Sub Teacher	\$150.00	\$160.00	Day
Bus Additional Hours	\$20.00	\$20.00	Hour
Bus driver Bonus - 14 Passenger	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	year
Bus driver Bonus - CDL	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	year

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Bus driver Bonus - Min of 40 Routes	\$500.00	\$500.00	Year
Acting Administrator	\$13/hr in addition to daily rate of pay	\$13/hr in addition to daily rate of pay	
Any substitute teacher or support	Free lunch	Free lunch	Day
Unused support staff Personal Leave Pay	Daily Rate of Pay	Daily Rate of Pay	
EL Teacher	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	year
Lead Teacher	\$1,589.00	\$1,625.00	Year
Teacher Stipend for work outside of contract days	\$250.00	\$250.00	

Roorda made a motion approve the Classified Wages as presented with the exception of "\$50 upon leaving employment in good standing as defined by the Superintendent, under unused support staff leave". Roll call taken. Dally – yes; Koep – yes; Naze – Abstained; Roorda- Yes; Harms – yes; Valenta -- yes; Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Hansen
Business Manager

Scott Harms, Board President

Brittany Hansen, Business Manager

Approval Date