



Montpelier School Board Meeting June 22, 2026 - 6:00 PM - Room 112 Board Minutes

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

Also Present: Superintendent, Phil Leitner and Business Manager, Brittany Hansen

Absent: Abram Valenta

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.

Public Comment: None

Modifications to Agenda: None

Consent Agenda:

Roorda made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Koep seconds motion; motion carries unanimously to approve the following:

- Approval of May 2026 bills and financial reports
- Approval of May 20, 2026, Board meeting minutes
- No new open enrollment/Non-Tuition Agreements to discuss for the 2026-2027 school year.

Committee Reports:

Buildings and Grounds/Playground Committee:

The septic system committee met prior to this meeting and will have a recommendation to further discuss with the Board.

Curriculum Committee:

The Curriculum committee met prior to this meeting and will have a recommendation to further discuss with the Board.

Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Leitner reported:

- ORR Auction will have an auction in September and it is recommended to sell 2 or 3 of our 5 large buses. We will schedule a transportation committee meeting on July 15 at 5:00.
- NDSBA Virtual Board Member Bootcamp will be held on Tuesday, July 28. Please let the superintendent know if you would like to attend and we can watch it at the school.
- The superintendent was contacted by a superintendent that uses the NDSBA Student First Governance.
 - Standard 1 - Student Outcomes - School district governance places primary focus on student outcome goals that are specific to needs within the community and aligned to a state level vision for student achievement.
 - Standard 2 - Process and Practice - School boards implement and/or improve governance processes and practices to maximize time focused on student outcomes,

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support board member competency, and maintain efficacy in fulfilling statutory responsibilities.

- Standard 3 - Collaborative Governance - School boards, representing the needs of the community, work in alignment with superintendents, representing the needs of the school system, to improve student outcomes and maximize returns on the public investment in education.
- On Wednesday, June 24 the NDSBA Brunch and Learn Webinar Series will be on the new web-based evaluation system to evaluate superintendents, business managers and school boards. If you would like to attend please let the superintendent know.
- Mrs. Schrader and Mr. Leitner visited the Zeeland school to bid on items in their auction due to the school closing at the end of this year. Staff at Zeeland school were very welcoming and accommodating.
- Mrs. Schrader and Mr. Leitner attended the NDCEL summer conference. Mr. Leitner was part of a breakout session with the Dickenson and Bismarck superintendents that focused on the work Vital Network is doing with our schools to address teacher retention. There is also a case study that will be available at some point regarding our three school districts and our work with Vital Network.

Business:

Septic System Bids:

We received three (3) bids for the septic system. Bids were as follows: (1) Mittleider Excavating and Horizontal Boring: \$39,947.20 (excluding tax); (2) Kepida Contracting: \$82,125.75; and (3) Trash Panda: \$51,750.00.

All of the current bids are outside of the Districts current budgeted allotment of funds, so no bids were accepted at this time.

Roorda makes a motion to hire Mittleider Excavating and Horizontal Boring to complete maintenance work on the septic system. Dally seconds motion;

Roll Call - aye: Scott Harms, Dan Koep, Wade Dally, Kelsey Naze, Tony Roorda

Opposed: Kyle Throener

Motion carries.

*Roorda has to leave meeting at 6:31PM.

Pupil Membership and Transportation Reports:

The Pupil Membership and Transportation Reports were presented and reviewed with the Board by Mr. Leitner.

Dally made a motion to approve the Pupil Membership and Transportation Reports, Throener seconds motion. Motion carries unanimously.

Canvass and Certify Election Results:

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The election results were reviewed with the board. Included below are the results from our 2026 Montpelier Public School District School Board Elections held on June 9, 2026. A total of 27 voters, 6 Absentee and 21 in-person voters cast ballots. Terms begin at the annual meeting in July 2026.

Ballot Questions:

1. Election of School Board Members:

- **Kyle Throener -24**
- **Scott Harms -20**
- Write in: Alice Pekarske -1
- Write in: Shane Kjellberg -2
- Write in: Brant Naze -1
- Total: 48

With Kyle Throener and Scott Harms having the highest number of votes, they are elected to the school board for 3-year terms

2. Publication of School Board Minutes in the Official Newspaper

North Dakota law requires school districts to place this question before voters every two years (NDCC 15.1-09-31).

- A “Yes” vote supports continuing publication of school board minutes in the district’s official newspaper. The estimated annual cost of publication is approximately \$2,000.
- A “No” vote opposes publication of school board minutes in the district’s official newspaper.

**Please note that the district will continue to post school board minutes on its website regardless of the outcome of this measure.*

- No votes: 20
- Yes votes: 6
- Total: 26

3. Proposition Measure No. 1

Shall the size of the Montpelier School Board be reduced from seven (7) members to five (5) members beginning with the 2027 election?

- In April 2025, the school board responded to a petition received, requesting a change from 7 board members to 5 board members. Due to timing and setting a special election, a motion was made to have the proposition placed on the 2026 election ballot.

If approved, the reduction would occur in accordance with NDCC 15.1-09.1-06. Existing board members would serve out their current terms until the approved board size is reached.

A **“Yes” vote** supports reducing the school board from seven members to five members.

A **“No” vote** opposes reducing the school board from seven members to five members.

- No votes: 17
- Yes votes: 10
- Total: 27

Naze made a motion to certify the 2026 Montpelier School Board Election results, Dally seconds motion. Motion carries unanimously.

Math Curriculum Purchase:

When the curriculum committee met, options were reviewed for the math curriculum for Kindergarten students. The Saxon math curriculum purchase would get through one more year before a whole new curriculum would need to be purchased.

Throener made a motion to approve the 1-year Saxon Math curriculum purchase for \$657.63, Koep seconds motion. Motion carries unanimously.

“Go Time” - Instructional Waiver and After School Program:

The Board reviewed a draft concept called “Go Time” which is a program of leveraging our instructional waiver and an after-school program. This allows opportunities for Montpelier Students to become Choice Ready to meet our graduation require. All students in grades 7-12 will participate in GO Time from 3:00 to 3:30PM. GO time will also contribute to staff growth as staff will participate in staff meetings related to the operation of the school and district initiatives such as BARR.

No motion(s) were made at this time.

July Board Meeting Date:

The current Board Meeting schedule does not include the July 2026 meeting.

Throener made a motion to set July 15, 2026 for the July School Board Meeting at 7PM, Dally seconds motion. Motion carries unanimously.

Staffing:

Discussion of staffing needs occurred. Mrs. Kietzman has officially retired, but is still interested and willing to be a music mentor for the Music Program. The Board reviewed staffing considerations for the 2026-27 that include personnel assigned to 7-12 band, 5-6 band, music mentoring, 9-12 science/math courses, academic interventionist, overload contracts, signing bonuses, and a paraprofessional position. It was noted that these items would be reflected in the 2026-27 Preliminary Budget that will be approved at the July Board Meeting.

Title Budget for Consolidated Application:

Mr. Leitner presented the Title Budget for Consolidated Application. Mr. Leitner notes that changes to our allotment contribute to new Legislative rules and Federal funding decreasing. The allocations have not been received yet, but approval of the application is required.

Estimated 26-27 Federal Allocations:		Estimated 26-27 Federal Spending:	
Title I	\$34,716	Family Engagement	\$5,000
Title II	\$8,139	PK Teacher	\$35,000
Title	\$0	Paraprofessional	\$0
Title IV	\$10,000	EL Teacher	\$1,250
		Homeless	\$50
		IXL	\$1,995
		Unobligated	\$9,560
TOTAL:	\$52,855	TOTAL:	\$52,855

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Dally made a motion to approve the Title Budget for Consolidated Application, Throener seconds motion. Motion carries unanimously.

Piano Purchase:

The recorder on our old piano broke and we need to get a new piano. We will attempt to get gaming funds for this purchase, but we must pay for it now. The total cost for a Yamaha Clavi nova CLP-845 Digital Piano including a \$600 rental credit is \$3,472.00 from Popplers Music.

Naze made a motion to approve the purchase of a piano from Popplers Music for \$3,472, Dally seconds motion. Motion carries unanimously.

Blue Cross Settlement:

We received a Blue Cross/Blue Shield Health Insurance 'Class Action Settlement' check for health insurance or administrative services on plans between 2008-2020 in the total amount of \$6,181.58. After discussion, the Board would like to deposit at this time, which would give up any settlement rights in the future for this class action lawsuit.

Throener made a motion to deposit the Settlement check in the amount of \$6,181.50, Koep seconds motion. Motion carries unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Hansen
Business Manager