

Minutes
School Board Retreat
Gladstone Inn, Jamestown, ND
Montpelier Public School District #14
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
January 25th, 2020

Board Members Present: President Tony Roorda, Scott Harms, Abram Valenta, Lynn Boom, Robert Froehlich and Wade Dally. Absent: Jeff Jensen.

Also Present: Superintendent Jerry Waagen, Secondary Principal James Bear, and Business Manager Amy Maurer.

Call to Order: President Roorda called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Mission, Vision, Belief Statements: Mr. Bear shared that the committee working on the statements, along with input from students, staff and community, came up with the following ideas:

Belief Statement: Montpelier School believes that each student is unique, capable of learning, has potential, and is able to attain personal goals by preparing to succeed in a changing world while supporting students emotional and physical well-being.

Vision Statement: the original ideas was “existing today for a better tomorrow”, which the board suggested changing to “preparing for a better tomorrow”.

Mission Statement: Embracing success through education.

These ideas were reviewed and discussed.

Strategy Map: Separate strategy maps will need to be developed for the elementary and secondary schools.

School Demographics: School enrollments, and class sizes were reviewed and discussed.

2020-2021 School Budget: Mr. Waagen presented information on the preliminary 2020-21 budget which includes a proposed total levy of 71 mills, which includes 69 general fund mills and 2 building fund mills. The board has the authority to levy up to 92 mills. The preliminary general fund budget has revenues of \$1,957,095 and expenditures of \$1,962,593. The budget was reviewed and discussed.

DPI Insights/School Data: Mr. Waagen presented information on the insights.nd.gov website which provides educational information to the public about ND schools. Some of the information is very interesting but the relevance of the statistics, regardless of whether it’s positive or negative, for small districts is questionable because of the small sizes of the classes tested and the variabilities between those classes.

Flex Mod Schedule: Mr. Bear updated the board on how the flex mod schedule is working. The schedule is more structured this year which makes it more predictable for staff and students but also does not have the degree of flexibility that was useful last year. The schedule was discussed.

ITV Consortium: Mr. Waagen reported the consortium is not being used this year. Our students are more successful taking online classes, especially foreign languages. To cancel our membership in the consortium, we would need to give the consortium our one-year notice at their meeting in July.

Grading Scale: The district's grading scale was reviewed and discussed. Montpelier's current grading scale is 94+ A, 88+B, 80+ C, 74+ D. Mr. Bear requested information from other schools and ours had the second highest scale of those responding. Online class scales are 90/80/70/60. Some possible impacts of lowering the grading scale include kids not trying because they would have to do less to get the grade, teachers might make the content more rigorous in order for kids to have the same grade, and/or GPA's might be higher making our students better able to compete for scholarships, college admissions, etc. Two alternative grading scales were reviewed.

School Calendar/School Day Length: Mr. Waagen shared with the board how some other districts with school days longer than the state required minimum are handling their school calendars. The Jamestown school year/calendar policy was reviewed. The calendar was discussed.

School Facilities: Mr. Waagen shared with the board a list of maintenance and improvement needs including some areas that need new carpet/flooring, paint, dishwasher, and possible recoating the roof over the elementary.

Transportation: Mr. Waagen shared information about the current bus fleet and which buses may need to be replaced. The bus routes and possible adjustments that might be needed were discussed.

School Board Role: Mr. Waagen shared a presentation on school board roles.

Technology: Mr. Bear presented information on technology needs for next year including student Chromebooks, ActivPanels, MS Office changes, and additional security cameras.

School Attire: The current dress code and some concerns about student attire were discussed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:10 pm.

Tony Roorda, Board President

Amy Maurer, Business Manager

Approval Date