

**Special Meeting
School Board Minutes
Montpelier Public School District #14
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
March 24th, 2020**

Board Members Present: President Tony Roorda, and Scott Harms. Also attending via Google Meets: Abram Valenta, Wade Dally, Robert Froehlich and *Lynn Boom. Absent: Jeff Jensen.

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

Visitors: Meeting was streamed live online.

Call to Order: President Roorda called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Classified Staff Wages: The board discussed maintaining the classified staff during the COVID-19 crisis. Classified staff includes cooks, bus drivers, paraprofessionals, custodians and the administrative assistant.

*Boom joined the meeting.

Mr. Waagen advised that it would be unlikely that additional days would need to be added to the calendar and shared that most districts are continuing to pay their classified staff. The district's funding should remain unchanged.

Harms made a motion, seconded by Froehlich, to approve paying wages and benefits to the classified staff based on each staff member's typical hours worked while distance learning is taking place, with the understanding that staff will be available to work as requested by the administration. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Health Insurance Trust: The board had approved the non-binding intent with NDPHIT, but if the district wants to leave the ND Blue Cross Blue Shield Pooled Schools a 180-day notice is required. Once the district leaves the pooled schools it could not participate again. Blue Cross has requested that if the district wants to remain with pooled schools that they be notified no later than April 8th. Blue Cross has projected that the premiums will increase by 4.9%. This year they increased by 16.9%.

After discussion, Valenta made a motion, seconded by Boom, to remain in the Blue Cross Blue Shield ND Pooled Schools for the 2020-2021 plan year. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

*Boom left the meeting.

COVID-19 Update: Governor Burgum ordered schools closed for the week of March 16-20 to provide time for planning for the COVID-19 crisis. He later issued an order that schools will be closed until further notice and that districts may receive continued funding with the submission and approval of a distance learning plan within the school calendar requirements.

Mr. Bear and Mr. Waagen met with the teaching staff on the 16th developing a distance learning plan. A meeting with staff via Google Meets will be held tomorrow.

The preliminary distance learning plan was reviewed.

James River Vocational should be providing education to vocational students with Google Classroom by next week.

A pass/fail system of grading is being discussed.

Prom and the graduation ceremony were discussed but whether they will be able to take place is unknown at this time.

It's important to continue to provide the opportunity for student growth.

Each Monday the bus drivers will deliver teaching materials and pick up completed assignments. Dacotah Bank and Gate City Bank donated tote bags and the first teaching materials were delivered to students yesterday.

Teachers are developing plans for how to communicate with students and parents online. Mr. Bear discussed different types of online communication that is taking place.

The cooks are preparing and the bus drivers are delivering meals to 42 students each day. The USDA has made the Summer School Program available to districts which allows for meals to be provided to any student 18 and under for free regardless of their free and reduced status.

Randy and Sally have been coming in to clean and disinfect the school.

Mr. Waagen has been attending daily meetings with NDDPI to keep abreast of all required plans and continual updates and changes.

Mr. Waagen has started doing daily YouTube videos.

Mr. Roorda will be attending an online meeting with the Governor for all school board presidents tonight.

Principal Resignation: Mr. Bear has accepted a position as a teacher education faculty member at the University of Jamestown and is resigning his position at Montpelier effective June 30th. He will continue to be available to help with technology and to teach driver's education if needed.

Dally made a motion, seconded by Harms, to accept Mr. Bear's resignation. A roll call vote was taken: Ayes: Valenta, Dally, Harms, Roorda. Nay: Froehlich. Motion carried.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Tony Roorda, Board President

Amy Maurer, Business Manager

Approval Date