

School Board Minutes
Montpelier Public School District #14
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
April 8th, 2020

Board Members Present: President Tony Roorda, and Scott Harms. Attending via Google Meets: Abram Valenta, Lynn Boom, Wade Dally and Robert Froehlich. 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 6:05 pm.

Agenda: Addition: Security Cameras.

Consent Agenda: Harms made a motion, seconded by Froehlich, to approve the following:

- a. Approval of the bills and financial reports.
- b. Approval of the minutes from the March 11th regular meeting and the March 24th special meeting, as presented.

A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Secondary Principal /Technology Coordinator Report: Mr. Bear reported: Distance learning (due to COVID-19) continues. It's not going as well as in-classroom education. Each teacher is approaching teaching differently. Some teachers are calling students each week. Much communication is taking place by email. Mr. Bear is working to make sure a weekly online chat is happening once per week with each class. He is trying to sit in on as many of these as possible. The totes that are going back and forth with student work are sitting untouched in the school for at least 24 hours, usually 48 hours, as a safeguard against COVID-19. He emphasized that it is more important that families maintain their emotional health and would hate to see arguments over schoolwork.

Superintendent/Elementary Principal Report: Mr. Waagen reported:

1) Covid-19/Coronavirus update:

- a) Distance learning plan was approved by Governor Burgum and DPI on March 31.
- b) The distance learning is a process as students, teachers, and parents continually adjust to improve learning.
- c) Most learning is being done electronically along with some paperwork for teaching.
- d) Communication with teachers and their parents/students is improving with schedules being developed. It's difficult since parents all work different schedules.
- e) Counseling services are still available from Mr. Soulis and Mrs. Nelson.
- f) We are providing 63 meals daily to our students. Drivers are wearing masks during delivery at this time. There are starting to be challenges in the state for obtaining some items such as fresh fruit and vegetables.
- g) We must be most considerate of the well-being of our student's families and that they may have their own struggles causing distance learning to not always be at the forefront.
- h) No possible end date for using distance learning has been provided.

- 2) Mr. Waagen now meets Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays at noon with the superintendents from across the state. Aimee Copas of NDCEL facilitates the discussion and provides updates. Superintendent Kirsten Baesler also attends the meetings occasionally.

- 3) Mr. Bear and he had a Zoom meeting with Darby Heinert and Adam Gehlhar from James Valley Technology Center on April 8.
- 4) A Zoom meeting held with superintendents from schools that are considering NDPHIT was held on April 6. Many indicated that they are interested in becoming part of the group but not this upcoming year. More discussions being held with BCBS and the Hays Group.
- 5) A Rebels coop meeting is scheduled for April 15 with Kulm being the host.

Teacher Contracts: Ms. Maurer reported that the teacher contracts and negotiated agreement will be emailed on Friday with a read receipt request and copies will also be mailed with a return date requested of April 27th.

Graduation Options: At this time, with COVID-19 social distancing, it is hard to make plans. Mr. Bear could meet online with seniors and their parents, but without more state directives planning will be difficult. Several unique ideas have been put out such as drive in graduations and graduation parades. Senior pennants to hang from city light posts are being looked into.

Schoolboard Election: The governor passed an executive order allowing and strongly encouraging school districts to conduct absentee ballot only elections. NDSBA also strongly encourages absentee ballot only elections. After discussion, Harms made a motion, seconded by Dally, to conduct an absentee only election for the district's June election. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Administrative Negotiations: The negotiations committee needs to meet with Mr. Waagen and Ms. Maurer.

Secondary Principal: Interviews were held with two good candidates. After discussion the board concurred that Mr. Waagen should offer the position to Benjamin Hannasch and provided him with guidance on what to offer him for salary and benefits.

Cameras: Mr. Bear received quotes from ElectroWatchman, Dakota Central, and Jamestown Communication for some new/additional security cameras for the school. Jamestown Communications provided the least expensive option at \$5573.00 and is willing to work with the district's current system. Harms made a motion, seconded by Froehlich, to approve the purchase of the cameras from Jamestown Communications for \$5573.00. A roll call vote was taken with all members voting aye. Motion carried.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Tony Roorda, Board President

Amy Maurer, Business Manager

Approval Date