

**School Board Minutes**  
**Montpelier Public School District #14**  
**214 7<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
**Montpelier, ND 58472**  
**December 9<sup>th</sup> , 2020**

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

**Also Present:** Superintendent Jerry Waagen, Secondary Principal Ben Hannasch, and Business Manager Amy Maurer.

**Visitors:** Allison Roorda, senior class representative.

All attended via Google meets.

**Call to Order:** President Roorda called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**Agenda modifications:** 1) NDFS Basketball Streaming. 2) ESSER Position.

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

- a. Approval of the bills and financial reports.
- b. Approval of the minutes from the November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 regular board meeting and the November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 special board meeting.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Senior Privileges:** In representation of the class of 2021, Ms. Allison Roorda presented a list of requested privileges for the second semester. After discussion, Boom made a motion, seconded by Froehlich, to approve the following contingent upon grades and at teacher and administrator discretion: 1) Permission to leave during flex time 2) permission to budge in line at lunch 3) Permission to have beverages in class during resource time. The motion carried unanimously.

**Secondary Principal's Report:** Mr. Hannasch reported: 1) The Nice Bike Award recipients for December are Mr. Wright and Ms. Joline Luck. This is a program for teachers to acknowledge and honor other educators. 2) The district received a \$1000 Awesomeness grant to purchase Sphero robot balls and Ozobot educator kits to teach coding in a fun way in grades pk-12. 3) Working with UJ, art classes will be offered on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month via Zoom. 4) Two Montpelier students are participating in basketball this year. 5) Final tests take place next week.

**Superintendent/Elementary Principals Report:** Mr. Waagen reported: 1) He held an all staff meeting on November 20 for a general discussion about how we are dealing with COVID. The staff is meeting the many challenges that have been given to them and the mental challenges they are facing. Concluded the activity with staff sharing on sticky notes, one about something they are proud of and the other of what they need help with. 2) COVID-19 update. New quarantine guidelines reducing the number of quarantine days from 14 to 10 for close contacts following certain guidelines, allowing return of students and staff sooner. 3) During the weekly NDCEL discussion, Superintendent Baesler informed schools that we will shortly have the Binax Now COVID test available. This is a 15-minute test for

asymptomatic individuals that has approximately a 95% accuracy rate for positive tests. Schools will be trained if wanting to participate. This test is for staff only. The board concurred that Montpelier should provide the testing to staff on a voluntary basis. The governor has extended the mask mandate through January 18<sup>th</sup>. Masks are now worn throughout the schoolday. 4 ) The school leadership team met with coach Pam VanHorn to discuss how the two PLC meetings went. The goal is to have PLCs meet and guide their own meetings now and in future years. 5) There will not be a Christmas concert this year but hopefully a winter concert can happen if COVID conditions improve and allow. The music department has acquired 16 glockenspiels (xylophones) and ukuleles to be used with elementary students. Students will be able to wear their masks when performing with these instruments. 6) Meals will not be served on December 18. Teachers will use the day to finalize grades and reach out to any students that need assistance. 7) Mr. Waagen has begun work on a preliminary calendar for next year. 8) He has prepared a preliminary retreat agenda and invites the board to suggest topics. 9) NDPHIT is still in the works to provide a self-funded health insurance program to local governments. 10) The NDHSAA has changed their guidelines for basketball games to allow 25% capacity if the overall capacity is 1000 or less, not to exceed 150 fans. Each player is being provided two tickets per game to give to attendees.

**Instructional Mode – Parent/Student Selections Second Semester:** An updated proposed (COVID Related) Operational Guideline and Second Semester Distance Learning Plan for grades 7-12 were reviewed and discussed. Unless impacted by illness or quarantine, parents must decide whether their child will attend face to face or do distance learning for the whole second semester and may not switch back and forth between the two. For grades 7-12 distance learning will be done through the North Dakota Center for Distance Learning. Changing back and forth from face to face learning to distance learning has very stressful for teachers because of the difficulty of getting students to participate, complete their work and succeed in their classes. If the same number of secondary students continue to distance learn, the NDCDE tuition would be approximately \$11,175 which could be paid using ESSER federal grant funds. Many other districts are providing distance learning in a similar manner. After discussion, Valenta made a motion, seconded by Boom, to approve the proposed operational guidelines and second semester distance learning plan as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Kitchen Assistant:** A new substitute employee has requested the pay for the kitchen assistant position be changed from \$13.00 to \$13.50 per hour. The board discussed the request. No action was taken.

**Johnson Controls:** Froehlich made a motion, seconded by Valenta to approve updating the annual contract to discontinue the bell inspection and begin annual fire alarm system inspections. The motion carried unanimously.

**2021 Board Meeting Schedule:** The proposed schedule which has most meetings the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00 pm was reviewed. Harms made a motion to approve the schedule as presented. Dally seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

**School Board Retreat:** The board concurred the retreat will be at the Gladstone on January 9<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 3 pm.

**NHFS Basketball Streaming:** The EKM cooperative has proposed contracting to stream online the games played in the 20-21 season due to the limited attendance allowed because of COVID. The cost to our district would be \$1000. After discussion, Harms made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to approve the streaming. The motion carried unanimously.

**ESSER/CARES Act Position:** Mr. Waagen recommended that Ms. Tonia Kjellberg continue be employed in the ESSER position working every Monday through Thursday through March 10<sup>th</sup> as substitute teacher/aide/etc at the same long-term substitute rate of pay. Harms made a motion, seconded by Froelich to approve continuing her employment. The motion carried unanimously.

**Education Corps Funds:** Education Corps funds are being used to provide stipends for additional pay to teachers who document additional hours worked due to COVID/Distance learning in excess of their regular contract hours. These funds expire on December 30<sup>th</sup>. The board concurred that Mr. Waagen and Mr. Hannasch may turn in requests for stipends for their extra hours if funds remain after all teachers have been paid.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:32pm.

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Tony Roorda, Board President

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Amy Maurer, Business Manager

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Approval Date