

School Board Minutes
Montpelier Public School District #14
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
February 10th, 2021

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

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

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

Agenda Addition: 1) Tonia Kjellberg employment.

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

- a. Approval of the bills and financial reports.
- b. Approval of the minutes from the January 13th, 2021 regular board meeting and the January 9th, 2021 school board retreat with corrections.

The motion carried unanimously.

Secondary Principal's Report: Mr. Hannasch reported: 1) Mr. Entzi and Mrs. Schrader were recipients of this month's Nice Bike awards. 2) Juniors will take the ACT test on March 2nd. 3) Ms. Anderson will be taking students on a science field trip to VCSU. Mr. Wright will be joining them along with the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow team who will be there to learn more about app building as related to their project. They will later be working with Mr. Bear and UJ students to learn more about app building. 4) Work on next year's class schedule continues. 5) Professional development is now focusing on academic innovation including a book study and the recent viewing of the documentary "Most Likely to Succeed."

Superintendent/Elementary Principals Report: Mr. Waagen reported: 1) The elementary SLT and PLC groups are continuing their meetings with Ed Direction. The goal is to create sustainable practices when we are no longer working with Ed Direction. 2) Virtually attended the Southeast Schoolmasters meeting on Friday, January 26. Topics included: a. Next year's school calendar with all schools planning on not having school on October 22 and 23, teacher convention. b. ESSER II funds- not sure when they will be received as the legislature is weighing in on their uses. c. COVID-19- some schools testing staff and not students. All schools extended the FFCRA leave d. NDPHIT- some schools expressed concerns with the lack of communication by the Hays Group. Not all schools not planning on joining, others are waiting to hear more details. 3) Johnson Controls technician inspected our fire alarm system and did an adjustment to main panel and now all horns are operating properly. Repaired a smoke detector in the high school. 4) The legislature is in full swing with many bills being discussed. Have a weekly update from NDCEL about bills relating to education. Also receive a weekly update from NDSBA. 5) Ms. Morehouse from the NDSU Stutsman County Extension Agency has been did a baking project with the 4th graders. 6) Mr. Waagen recommends going back to five-day weeks next quarter, beginning March 15th. He also would like to allow the elementary students currently attending by distance learning to rejoin the face-to-face classes next week. Montpelier has been having face-to-face classes Mondays-Thursdays and distance

learning on Fridays since the start of the school year. There have been no recent positive cases or close contacts. Face-to-face learning is the most effective for most students. Most schools in the state are now going the full five days. The practice of wearing masks in the halls and when going to lunch would continue. After discussion, the board concurred that the school will go to five-day face-to-face learning beginning March 15th if the COVID situation stays as it is.

Recognition of the MEA: Boom made a motion, seconded by Dally, that pursuant to NDCC Section 15.1-16-10, the Board of Montpelier School District recognizes as an appropriate negotiating unit all employees licensed to teach by ESPB and employed primarily as classroom teachers. The motion carried unanimously.

The MEA also requested to be recognized as the representative negotiating unit for the teachers. The request will be posted for the required 10 to 20 days. A special board meeting will be held on February 24th at 5:00 pm to address the request.

Substitute Teachers: Frohlich made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to approve hiring Ben Kietzman, Orrin Kluting, and Cali Haberman as substitute teachers upon their acquiring all required credentials. The motion carried unanimously.

Tech Savvy/STEMtastic fiscal agent: Boom made a motion, seconded by Harms, that Montpelier School agrees to be the fiscal agent for the 2021 Tech Savvy/STEMtastic Event at the University of Jamestown. James Bear will serve as Montpelier School's authorized representative. The motion carried unanimously.

Activity Fund Transfer: Harms made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to approve moving the student activity fund balances for the classes of 2019 and 2020 to the high school fund. The motion carried unanimously.

School Calendar 2021-2022: Mr. Waagen shared proposed school calendars to the board. Dally made a motion, seconded by Boom to approve version C with a change to make February 11th a school day and February 18th a day off. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignations: Lisa Brandt will be resigning upon completion of her fourth year at the school. Mr. Waagen thanks her for her hard work and appreciates the early notice. Mr. Waagen will advertise the position immediately.

A letter of resignation/notice of retirement from Mrs. Sue Valenta was read. Appreciation for her 34 years of employment and dedication to the school and students was expressed. Froehlich made a motion, seconded by Harms, to approve the resignation. The motion carried unanimously.

Election: Boom made a motion, seconded by Froehlich, to have the election on Tuesday June 8th with the polls open from 11:00am to 7:00 pm at the Montpelier School. The motion carried unanimously. The positions held by Robert Froehlich and Abram Valenta are up for election. Also, on the ballot will be the question of the publication of the minutes.

Superintendent Evaluation: The evaluation is due to be completed by March 15th.

Employment of Tonia Kjellberg: Ms. Kjellberg has been doing a great job helping students. She was hired beginning last October to work Mondays-Thursdays helping students and working as a substitute as needed using federal CARES Act funds, and paid at the long-term substitute rate of pay. Mr. Waagen recommends that her employment continue through the end of the school year. Harms made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to approve continuing her employment using CARES Act ESSER funds. The motion carried unanimously.

Elementary Athletics: A board member brought up concerns from a parent about elementary athletics. More specifics of the concern were requested.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Tony Roorda, Board President

Amy Maurer, Business Manager

Approval Date