

**School Board Minutes**  
**Montpelier Public School District #14**  
**214 7<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
**Montpelier, ND 58472**  
**April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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

**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 6:03 pm.

**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 10<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting and the March 30<sup>th</sup> special board meeting minutes, as presented.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Secondary Principal's Report:** Mr. Hannasch reported: 1) Melissa Marshall and Sue Valenta have been selected as the next Nice Bike award recipients. 2) Grades 7-8 will attend a presentation on distracted driving in Gackle. 3) The Chasing Dragon documentary will be shown to students. 4) Mrs. Anderson will be taking the 11<sup>th</sup> graders to do volunteer work on Earth Day. The volunteer hours can count toward their graduation requirements. 4) Mrs. Anderson will be taking the 9<sup>th</sup> graders to UJ to work in their Smart Lab. 5) NDSA testing will take place on April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. 6) On May 6<sup>th</sup> there will be a presentation on the dangers of vaping. 7) Prom is May 1<sup>st</sup>. 8) The seniors will be taking a trip to Fargo on May 14<sup>th</sup>. 9) The Samsung grant team did not make it to nationals, but are busy planning their budget for the \$15,000 grant award they did receive. They are considering the purchase of 3D printers, cameras, computers and a Cricut smart cutting machine. 10) Mr. Hannasch ordered LEGO a LEGO SPIKE prime set which provides a hands-on approach to STEM. This was purchased using SEEC Innovation Grant funds. 11) SB2196 opens up opportunities for students to get credit for math and English learned in settings other than the traditional classroom. 12) There is also legislation removing the requirement and the funding for all 11<sup>th</sup> graders to take the ACT and CTE WorkKeys tests. 12) The grading scale was discussed. It was recently changed to A 100-90, B 89-80, C 79-70, and D 69-60 to conform to distance learning grading scales and not penalize college bound students whose GPA's impact their eligibility for scholarships. Mr. Hannasch shared the idea of no longer having the D grade and having anything below a 70 be an F due to concerns that there is a culture of underachievement among some capable students who will do the minimum of work to barely get a D. There was a discussion on creating a culture of educational achievement in the school.

**Superintendent/Elementary Principals Report:** Mr. Waagen reported:

1) He is watching a webinar series about Priority Standards for school subjects that will assist individuals and school teams with planning and implementation of priority standards strategies. This is being sponsored by the SEEC and NESC rural education associations. These strategies may be utilized in the upcoming school year.

- 2) We continue to receive guidance on the use of the second and third rounds of ESSER funds once the state releases these funds. Receiving estimates for different projects for our facilities. Projects costing over \$5,000 will require prior approval by the state.
- 3) He completed a webinar to complete the school's improvement plan for this year and prepare it for the 2021-2022 school year. This is due May 1.
- 4) Legislative update. The legislature is in its last month of this session with possible adjournment a few days early leaving a few days for possibly meeting at the end of the year.
  - a) HB1388, the school finance bill, is continuing to be worked on with a possible adjustment of a 1% per year increase per pupil payment for the next two school years.
  - b) HB1027, school transportation, payments may be paid based on 2018-2019 ridership. After that the calculation for transportation may exclude rides and miles for open enroll students which will have a negative impact on the district budget.
  - c) SB 2215 addresses the negotiations and a deadline to be completed by July 1.
  - d) SB 2165 would make the change of not reducing the state foundation aid payment based on the general fund ending fund balance for the next two years. This could potentially allow more flexibility for spending the ESSER funds.
- 5) There will be an early release for professional development on April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- 6) The health inspector did the inspection in person. Concerns were minimal.
- 7) Spring concert, prom, and graduation will all be taking place in-person. Some COVID guidelines will need to be put in place for the events.
- 8) He attended a meeting of the NDSU advisory board. They are working to promote involvement in 4-H.
- 9) A retirement gift for Mrs. Valenta was discussed.

**Teacher resignation:** A letter of resignation from music teacher Mrs. Kietzman was read by Mr. Hannasch. Boom made a motion, seconded by Harms, to accept Mrs. Kietzman's resignation effective as of the end of the school year. The motion carried unanimously.

**Teacher Hire:** Harms made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to hire Mr. Brandon Gange as a teacher beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. The motion carried unanimously.

**Substitute Teacher:** Boom made a motion, seconded by Froehlich, to hire Ms. Renae Knoell as substitute teacher. The motion carried unanimously.

**Policy Changes:** The board did the first reading of changes to the following policies;

- 1) Cell Phone
- 2) Food and Beverage (previously "Pop Policy")
- 3) Graduation requirements
- 4) Extra-curricular Activities
- 5) Lunch Rules

The proposed changes can be read in their entirety at: <http://614-new.montpelier.k12.nd.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Proposed-Policy-Changes-04-21-2021.pdf>

**NDPHIT:** The board has been looking into NDPHIT to provide health insurance to employees beginning with the 2021-2022 school year. Boom made a motion, seconded by Dally, to commit to joining the North Dakota Public Health Insurance Trust (NDPHIT). The motion carried unanimously.

**Administration negotiations:** The board may wait to negotiate with administration after teacher negotiations.

It was discussed that Mr. Bear has said he may want to discontinue being contracted as technology coordinator and driver's education teacher for the district after this year, although he may still continue to assist occasionally if needed.

**Teacher Negotiations:** Froehlich made a motion, seconded by Harms, to go into executive session to discuss teacher negotiation strategy as allowed by NDCC 44-04-19.1 and 44-04-19.2. The motion carried unanimously.

The board went into executive session at 7:32 pm.

The board returned to open session at 7:53 pm.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

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Tony Roorda, Board President

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Amy Maurer, Business Manager

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Approval Date