

**School Board Minutes**  
**Montpelier Public School District #14**  
**214 7<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
**Montpelier, ND 58472**  
**May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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

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

**Visitor:** Mrs. Valenta.

**Call to Order:** President Roorda called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**Agenda:** Added: Request by Mrs. Valenta.

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

- a. Approval of the bills and financial reports.
- b. Approval of the minutes from the April 14<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting and the April 28<sup>th</sup> special board meeting minutes, as presented.
- c. Approval of non-tuition/open enrollments into the district for five students who are already attending here.

The motion carried unanimously.

**Mrs. Valenta Request:** Mrs. Valenta is retiring this year after 34 years in the district. The new 2021-2023 negotiated agreement provides for paying specific amounts for unused leave when teachers leave employment including sick days under 70 and Mrs. Valenta requests that she be paid the same when she finishes her employment after the end of the school year. Harms made a motion, seconded by Dally to approve paying Mrs. Valenta for unused leave as outlined in the 2021-2023 negotiated agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

**Secondary Principal's Report:** Mr. Hannasch reported:

- 1) Allison Roorda was awarded a \$1000.00 scholarship by Kenneth and Arlene Lueck.
- 2) Allison Roorda and Lucas Rich were Constitution winners.
- 3) The state testing is done.
- 4) The seniors will be going on a fun field trip Friday.
- 5) Finals are next week.
- 6) Grades are due to be out by the 26<sup>th</sup>.
- 7) It's expected that several teachers will attend an Innovative Academy Workshop that will provide professional development for teachers to learn how to implement a STEM Lab into their curriculums.
- 8) Over the summer there will be work on policy consistency.
- 9) He is working with Mr. Soulis on internships two years from now which will allow some students to learn skills in the workforce, possibly get paid, and get credit for classes. Parents will need to be involved with providing transportation.

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

- 1) Barb Orr spoke with grades 2-6 about farm safety on April 15. She met with multiple classes this year as she was unable to do so last spring due to COVID.
- 2) Mrs. Bear attended 504 training in Bismarck on April 27.
- 3) He has been watching webinars regarding priority standards, proficiency scales, and ESSER funding.
- 4) He attended the Region VI Fine Arts meeting in Kulm on April 29. They discussed locations for events for the upcoming school year.
- 5) Held our final SLT and PLC meetings with Ed Direction reviewing what has been accomplished this past year and the plans for the beginning of next year.
- 6) Attended the legislative update from Dr. Aimee Copas of NDCEL on May 12 in Valley City.
- 7) Spring concert will be held on May 13 in the gym at 7:00.
- 8) Elementary play day is May 14 with Mr. Entzi coordinating activities with the staff.
- 9) Graduation is on Sunday, May 23 at 2:00.
- 10) We are still looking for a music teacher and looking at alternative plans.
- 11) Mr. Roorda, Ms. Maurer, and I will be attending ESSER training in Bismarck on June 3. Guidance and suggestions for using the ESSER funds we will be receiving.
- 12) Laurie Brown is organizing swimming lessons for area children. The lessons will be in Edgeley. Mr. Waagen is allowing them to use the district's bus as long as it's one of our drivers driving it.
- 13) Because of COVID, Comprehensive Support funding will be available for one more year.

There was discussion that it is expected that there will be Science Fair, Acalympics, and Mathcounts next year. A one-act play is also a possibility. Also, everyone looks forward to more involvement of parents next year after this COVID year made that difficult.

**ESSER Funding:** The district will be receiving ESSER II and III funding. Federal guidance requires 20% of ESSER III funding to be spent on catching up with student learning loss and that is expected to be the goal. Tonya Kjellberg has been hired to work with students next year and Mrs. Williams has been hired to work an additional day as a progress monitor. A STEM lab could help address student motivation and learning loss. Many area districts have STEM labs. A long list of items that could be considered for ESSER funding was shared with the board. The funding can be used for certain building improvements. The building committee had met previously to prioritize needed improvements and Mr. Waagen would like pursue trying to find contractors to complete some of those projects. After discussion, Harms made a motion, seconded by Dally, to approve moving forward with the K-12 STEM lab, the high school carpet/flooring, the bathroom renovations, replacing the roof over the north elementary and new siding and gutters for the Quonset building. The motion carried unanimously.

**Policy Changes:** The board did the second reading of the changes to the cell phone, graduation requirements, food and drink, and lunch rules policies. Boom made a motion, seconded by Jensen, to approve the changes to the cell phone, graduation requirements, food and drink, and lunch rules policies. The motion carried unanimously.

The proposed changes to the extra-curricular policy were revised to incorporate the concussion signs and symptoms part of the most recent recommended NDSBA concussion policy. The district's old concussion policy will be replaced by the new NDSBA recommended policy. The board did the first reading of the newly revised concussion and extra-curricular policies.

**Restart Plan (Health and Safety and Distance Learning Plan):** The plan that was implemented to restart school in the middle of the COVID epidemic was discussed. Boom made a motion, seconded by Jensen, to discontinue the plan as of the end of the school year.

The plan will be kept available in case it should need to be reimplemented or used as a resource in the case of new outbreaks or other circumstances.

**Resignation:** A letter of resignation from Mr. Bear for his technology coordinator and driver's education teacher positions as of the end of June (except for any uncompleted student driving) was read. Boom made a motion, seconded by Harms, to accept the resignation. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Bear will continue to be available as substitute bus driver as his schedule allows for the remainder of the school year.

**Classified Staff/Substitute Teacher Salaries:** Mr. Waagen shared recommended 2021-2022 salaries for classified staff with an average increase of 3% and an increase to the substitute teacher pay to \$135.00 per day. Harms made a motion, seconded by Boom to approve the classified staff increase, the substitute teacher increase to \$135.00 per day, and to continue the bus driver retention bonuses the same as in the past. The motion carried unanimously.

**Summer Employee:** Dally made a motion, seconded by Harms, to approve hiring Lucas Rich as summer custodial help for \$10.75 per hour. The motion carried unanimously.

**NDSOS:** Membership in ND Small Organized Schools provides a discount on ND Distance Education courses and they provide bus driver training. Harms made a motion, seconded by Jensen, to join the NDSOS for the 2021-2022 school year. The motion carried unanimously.

**Election Workers:** Boom made a motion, seconded by Jensen, to approve Amy Roorda, Maureen Schrader, Joline Luck, and Angela Hansen as school board election workers at the June election and to pay them \$15.00 per hour. A roll call vote was taken: Dally-aye, Jensen-aye, Harms-aye, Boom-aye, Roorda-abstain. Motion carried.

**Graduation:** Graduation is May 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. Mr. Roorda will present diplomas.

**Other:** The school board rate of pay will be discussed at the next meeting. The board negotiators had told the teachers that the school day hours would be addressed in policy. Mrs. Valenta's retirement party is on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, at 3:30 pm.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

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Tony Roorda, Board President

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Amy Maurer, Business Manager

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Approval Date