

**School Board Minutes**  
**Montpelier Public School District #14**  
**214 7<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
**Montpelier, ND 58472**  
**August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

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

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

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

**Correspondence:** Mr. Waagen received correspondence that the JRSEU has been approved by NDDPI.

**Consent Agenda:** Froehlich made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to approve the following consent agenda items:

- 1) Minutes from the July 14<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, as presented.
  - 2) Bills and financial reports
  - 3) Open enrollments/non-tuition agreements for three students who will start attending in the 2021-22 school year, and for a preschooler to start attending in the 2022-2023 school year.
- The motion carried unanimously.

**High School Principal's Report:** Mr. Hannasch reported:

- 1) Several high school teachers attended training for the new SmartLab and are making plans for ways to incorporate it into curriculum.
- 2) Fifteen students are signed up to attend vocational center classes.
- 3) Grades 7, 9, 10, and 12 will be issued new computers this year.
- 4) Professional development days are August 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be a focus on priority standards.
- 5) Ms. Anderson will be teaching a new STEM class and she plans on incorporating more field work in Environmental Science.
- 6) An occupational math class will be offered which is geared to specific trades.
- 7) Miss Bear will be teaching an intervention English class.
- 8) Ms. Anderson plans to have Science Fair and Envirothon this year.
- 9) Miss Bear plans to have One-act Play this year.
- 10) Mrs. Lynch plans to have students participate in music contests this year.

**Superintendent's Report:** Mr. Waagen reported:

- 1) SmartLab training was well attended by staff on August 4 and 5 with 16 staff members participating. The SmartLab will be providing STEM activities for students in all grades.
- 2) He attended the Superintendent Bootcamp in Bismarck on August 3. Several roundtable breakout sessions occurred including Cognia (school accreditation), public relations, budget and finance, and professional development.
- 3) He held a bus driver meeting for regular bus routes on August 6 to discuss riders and routes. Bus drivers will be contacting parents to let them know approximate pickup times. Training for all

drivers will be available again through NDSOS and available topics were chosen. All buses have been or will be sent to Barton's Bus for repair, maintenance and clean up.

- 4) Four staff members of the CPI (Crisis Prevention Institute) team attended a refresher course on August 10 in Jamestown. The CPI team assists when a situation arises where the safety of a student or other students requires de-escalation techniques.
- 5) Activities director, Mr. Wright, indicated that there are fourteen students in grades 5-8 that are participating in fall activities. Mr. Wright continues to work on the transportation of these participants, with additional drivers needed.
- 6) There has been a significant increase in the enrollment for this upcoming school year. Seventeen K-12 students have enrolled and there will be ten preschoolers. Approximately three students have transferred out of the school. Current estimate is 112 K-12 students, up from 97 at the end of last year. At this point all the school buses are full.
- 7) The staff will be participating in professional development on August 12 and 13. August 12<sup>th</sup> the staff will have CPR/AED/First Aid training along with staff meetings. The staff will travel to Edgeley on August 13 to listen to speaker Jimmy Casas who will be discussing school culture.
- 8) The first day of school is Wednesday, August 18.
- 9) There may be a need for the addition of early release days for professional development.
- 10) Every five years the school needs to go through the process to receive accreditation. Montpelier is up for that this year and Cognia will assist with this very involved process.
- 11) Mrs. Schuetz, who had been approved for hire as school counselor, was unable to sign her contract due to personal reasons, but may be able to commit to help out later in the year. Mr. Soulis will continue to be here every Monday.

**Policies Second Reading/Approval:** After doing the second reading, Valenta made a motion, seconded by Dally, to approve new/amended policies on student attendance and absences, student conduct and discipline, school year, school hours (school day hours defined), searches of students and students' personal property, compensation and expenses of board members, and classified personnel. The motion carried unanimously.

**Gym Sound System:** The sound system in the gym has gotten worse over time. Beau Kastet has offered to look at it and do a board wash as a starting point. New microphones, mounting of the current speakers, and adding additional speakers were discussed.

It was noted that a new United States flag is needed in the gym.

**Substitute Teachers:** Dally made a motion, seconded by Froehlich, to approve Laurie Brown, Sue Valenta, and Kris Kietzman as substitute teachers. The motion carried unanimously.

**Title/Schoolwide Application:** After review, Dally made a motion, seconded by Froehlich, to approve the Title/Schoolwide application. The motion carried unanimously.

**ESSER Stakeholder Group update:** Eleven individuals attended the August 5<sup>th</sup> ESSER Funding Stakeholder Committee meeting, including teachers, staff members, a board member, parents, and a student. Many ideas for building improvements and improved use of space were discussed. An after-school program for students wanting/needing to improve their grades was discussed. An academic interventionist and progress monitor have been hired. A SmartLab has been purchased and set up, the

roof has been replaced over part of the elementary, plumbing fixtures have been updated, carpet has been replaced in the high school hallways, and tile installed in the west basement hallway.

**ESSER III Application:** The ESSER III application was reviewed with the board. It outlines several things including how student/teacher/stakeholder input was received, how the district will address learning loss, the return to in-person learning plan, and how the funds will be used to address these areas. Mr. Waagen will submit the application prior to the August 17<sup>th</sup> deadline.

**In-person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan:** The board discussed what the guidelines to start the school year should be. Plans of other school districts were reviewed. The board is considering incorporating the following into the plan:

- 1) Masks will be optional on all school property (inside and out).
- 2) Confirmed positive cases will be isolated outside of school following local/state health requirements.
- 3) Contact tracing will not be conducted.
- 4) Close contacts will not be required to quarantine but will be asked to self-monitor for COVID symptoms.
- 5) An email communication will be sent to parent/guardians if a positive case is identified in the school.
- 6) Hand-hygiene, sick stay home, and other general good health habits will be encouraged.

The board requested that these ideas be incorporated into the plan for further review and consideration at a special meeting to be held early next week.

The plan can be changed at any time at the board's discretion.

**Facilities Update:** In addition to replacing the north elementary roof, the roofers replaced six roof caps on the gym, and did patching over the kitchen area. Needed repairs to the high school chimney were discussed. New library shelving was received but three of seven were damaged. A SmartLab has been purchased and set up, the roof has been replaced over part of the elementary, plumbing fixtures have been updated, carpet has been replaced in the high school hallways, and tile installed in the west basement hallway. Next year a new lawn mower may be needed.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.

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Tony Roorda, Board President

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Amy Maurer, Business Manager

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Approval Date