

School Board Minutes
Montpelier Public School District #14
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
October 13th , 2021

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

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

Visitors: Student Miranda Witt, and Head Cook Jodean Nelson.

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

Agenda: The board concurred that the following would be added to the agenda: 1) Head cook request 2) Superintendent Evaluation

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

- 1) Minutes from the September 8th, 2021 regular board meeting, and the September 8th, 2021 tax levy hearing, as presented.
 - 2) Bills and financial reports
 - 3) Open enrollments/non-tuition agreements for five students into the school district.
- The motion carried unanimously.

Student Request: Ms. Witt is requesting, on behalf of the secondary students, that lunch time be increased from 25 minutes to 30 minutes. This would also cause periods 5, 6, and 7 to start 5 minutes later. It would shorten the length of the flex time at the end of the day to 30 minutes. After discussion, the board concurred that the lunch period could be extended 5 minutes on a probationary basis, at administration's discretion.

Head Cook Request: Ms. Nelson is requesting that her probationary period end and that her wage be increased to \$18.50 per hour and her hours be increased to 40 hours per week, based on the professional nature of the job which includes menu planning that complies with federal rules and regulations, record keeping, ordering, and finding food suppliers. The position has been especially challenging this year due to supply disruptions. After consideration, Dally made a motion to increase her hourly wage to \$18.50 per hour and adjust her to a 6am-2pm/40-hour week. Valenta seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- 1) Teachers for grades 7-12 continue to implement project based/personalized learning into their classes.
- 2) The first quarter ends October 20th.
- 3) NWEA testing is happening this week.
- 4) He is inviting area farmers to nominate our school for a Monsanto Grant. An email will go out on the listserv this week.

- 5) Coming up this week: a) Six students will participate in a Scratch (coding) Competition. b) Five students will be competing in the Envirothon Competition. c) The Business Communication Class students will be doing job shadows.
- 6) Mr. Hannasch, Mrs. Bear, and Ms. Anderson will be attending the Innovation Academy which focuses on personalized learning.
- 7) Mr. Hannasch attended the Choice Ready Conference. He learned different strategies to ensure all students are choice ready.
- 8) The district will be utilizing the STOPIT app which allows students to anonymously report activity such as bullying, drug use etc. Most importantly, it has a crisis hotline for students who need to speak with a counselor. It is free for two years.
- 9) A full implementation of "Habits of Work" tracking will begin in the second semester. This will be a standards-based way of tracking engagement, respect, homework completion and preparedness, and will be tracked within Powerschool. It will remove point penalties from homework for course grades.
- 10) Mr. Hannasch says the current system is not a deterrent to students getting tardies. After discussion, the board concurred that four tardies will equal an absence.
- 11) State school accountability scores typically use test scores, engagement surveys, choice ready data, and graduation rates. Because the district had fewer than 10 students graduating, the only thing that is considered is the engagement survey which is a 21-question survey given to students in grades 9-12. If we don't improve on the engagement survey score we will become a comprehensive school.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Waagen reported:

- 1) The Title IX team participated in the required Title IX training provided by NDCEL.
- 2) He participated in the NDSU Extension Agency Advisory Council meeting on September 14. Updates were provided about the various activities the agency works with. The challenges and effects of the pandemic on the program was discussed.
- 3) The elementary School Leadership Team (SLT) and Professional Learning Community (PLC) teams have begun meeting and are discussing student goal setting.
- 4) Central Valley Health was at the school on September 23 to provide regular immunization shots for students needing them and did vision screening for various elementary grades.
- 5) September 22 Mrs. Bear and he attended a day of training regarding Comprehensive Schools. The training provided guidance to this extra year of being classified as a Comprehensive School. Our school and others were "frozen" in the status due to the pandemic. Ideas discussed were increasing family engagement by having Smart Lab camps and Family Literacy nights.
- 6) Mrs. Lynch hosted a band instrument night for parents of 5th and 6th grade students on September 28. There are a large number of students participating in band and Mrs. Lynch is reviewing current instruments and sending off those that can be repaired. Additional instruments will likely need to be purchased with outside financial support being sought.
- 7) The first early release was held on September 29 with the main focus of the discussion of student goal setting. Goal setting has been proven to be highly effective in improving student performance.
- 8) Fall parent/teacher conferences held on September 30. The attendance rate appeared to be less than normal.
- 9) A Zoom meeting was held by the North Dakota Educators Service Cooperative regarding food procurement for schools. The original provider, Cash-Wa, for the cooperative is dropping the contract with the cooperative. The cooperative is working hard to find ways to assist schools in

meeting their food needs. This is a nationwide issue for schools and businesses. We are looking at multiple means of obtaining the foods our kitchen needs for meal preparation.

- 10) Rock Solid Chiropractic from Marion did voluntary screening of students' backs on October 11. 27 students were screened and they may return to screen those students that were missed.
- 11) NDSBA informed us that there have been issues brought up regarding our school auditor, Harold Rotunda. The state auditor office has multiple years of delinquent audits for schools using him as their auditor. Our school does not have any delinquent audits, but the 2019-20 and 2020-21 audits have not yet been approved by the state. There will be a meeting soon for all schools that have used his services in the past 4 or 5 years to provide clarification.

Substitute Teacher: Froehlich made a motion, seconded by Boom, to approve hiring Joan Brandenburg as a substitute teacher. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Annual Report: Tabled until November.

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

NDSBA Convention: Harms, Roorda, and Maurer are registered to attend. Dally may be able to attend.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.

Tony Roorda, Board President

Amy Maurer, Business Manager

Approval Date