

School Board Minutes
Montpelier Public School District #14
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
March 9th, 2022

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

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

Visitors: Ms. Sarah Ratts.

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

Agenda: Harms made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to make the following additions to the agenda: 1) Issuance of teacher contracts 2) Superintendent hiring process. The motion carried unanimously.

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

- 1) Minutes from the February 9th regular board meeting and the February 15th special board meeting, as presented.
 - 2) Bills and financial reports
 - 3) One open enrollment application into the district.
- The motion carried unanimously.

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

1. Students of the month are Ian Lien and Bryce Anderson.
2. NWEA testing is almost complete.
3. Science fair was March 1st.
4. Parent teacher conferences were February 24th.
5. Environmental Science class took their ice fishing trip.
6. Ms. Lynch brought students from grades 7-9 to participate in a choir festival.
7. The 7th and 8th grade students participated in Stemtastic in Jamestown.
8. The 7th graders participated in a coding competition in Valley City.
9. Overall grades have improved from last year. It's typical for ten to fifteen students to stay for the Martin Time afterschool program on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Waagen reported:

1. We participated in this year's Stutsman County Spelling Bee . Blue ribbon winners were: Jeremy Butterfield, Warren Koep, Aubrie McIntyre, Lilly Thorlakson; red ribbons winners were: Greysyn Blueshield, Callie Smith, and Hudson Lubenow.
2. Utilized e-learning February 21-23 due to the weather and roads. He observed several classes working online and both students and staff were doing well with it.
3. Students in physical education have been roller skating the past 10 ten days. The PTO generously pays for the skate rental.
4. Parent/teacher conferences were held on February 24 and March 1 from 3:30-6:30 each night.

5. The science fair for grades 5-8 was held on March 1 from 1:00-3:30.
6. Cognia is currently doing the accreditation review and will finish on March 10. The review will provide information about our school's areas of strength and areas for growth. This process occurs every five years.
7. The health inspector inspected the kitchen on March 2 and there were two minor corrections needed.

Driver's Education Fee: After discussion, Froehlich made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to set the fee for the 2022 driver's education program at \$50.00 per student but free to those students qualifying for free or reduced meals. The motion carried unanimously.

Water Quality Conference Science Trip: Ms. Anderson would like to take four students on an overnight trip to present their River Watch findings and listen to others presentations. Harms made a motion, seconded by Dally, to approve the Water Quality Conference trip. The motion carried unanimously.

Time Waiver for High School: The time waiver request for the high school was reviewed with the board. With 47-minute periods, science is slightly short of the 150 hours outlined for science which creates the need for the waiver request.

Resignations: A letter of resignation from Ms. Julie Gruenstein, paraprofessional, who has worked for the district for over 25 years, was read. Boom made a motion, seconded by Froehlich, to accept Ms. Gruenstein's resignation. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Waagen, superintendent/elementary principal, read his letter of resignation. He has been with the district for over 10 years. Dally made a motion, seconded by Boom, to accept the resignation. The motion carried unanimously.

The board expressed their appreciation for both employees many years of service.

Hiring a paraprofessional will be discussed with James River Special Education Unit.

Last Day of School Schedule: Harms made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to approve releasing school at 2:00 pm on the last day of school. The motion carried unanimously.

Fourth Storm Day: School has been cancelled four days due to weather. Two will be made up with built in storm days. District policy and state law allow for one "grace day". The board has the authority to forgive the fourth day if they so choose. If they choose not to forgive the day, graduation would need to be rescheduled to fit the day into the calendar. After discussion, Harms made a motion, seconded by Jensen, to approve forgiving the fourth storm day. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff Pay Storm Days: In a normal year, when all storm days are made up, staff has the opportunity to earn the wages lost on those days. After discussion, Froehlich made a motion, seconded by Boom, to pay all regular staff for the two storm days that will not be made up in the 2021-2022 school year. The motion carried unanimously.

Staff Pay E-learning Days: Teachers worked and were paid for the E-learning days. Most classified staff, however, were unable to work on those days. After discussion, Valenta made a motion, seconded by

Harms to provide classified staff the following options for the E-learning days in the 2021-2022 school year:

12-month staff who are offered vacation days may use vacation time if they did not report to work these days.

9-month classified staff have the following options:

- 1) May use sick or personal days, if available.
- 2) Should claim hours worked remotely, if they haven't already. Will only be paid for hours actually worked.
- 3) May work with the superintendent to make up missed hours by working additional non-scheduled hours by May 15th, without putting in overtime.
- 4) May choose to not be paid for those days.

The motion carried unanimously.

*Mr. Valenta left the meeting.

Transportation Committee Report: The following items were discussed in the committee meeting: 1. The need to replace bus #4 with a new bus. 2. The difficulty finding new bus drivers and the new requirements for getting a CDL. 3. The need to clear out the bus barn and get the furnace working. 4. The option of creating a transportation coordinator position. 5. Getting cameras on buses.

Boom made a motion, seconded by Dally, to approve seeking bids on a 53-passenger bus, seated to 47, with a camera, and with other specifications to be determined by the transportation committee. The motion carried unanimously.

The board concurred that the district would pay for the cost of obtaining a CDL for new drivers who go on to work for the district for at least two years. Those who work with the district for less than two years will need to pay back the district proportionately to the time not worked.

The board concurred that an ad should be placed for a transportation coordinator for the 2022-23 school year whose responsibilities would include coordinating bus repairs, scheduling substitutes to drive when regular drivers are gone, and teaching drivers the details of each bus. The rate of pay would be \$4000.00 per year/\$1000.00 per quarter. The superintendent would still be responsible for school cancelations and handle complaints.

Mr. Waagen will check with Jamestown Communications for cameras for the buses.

The bus garage will be worked on this summer.

Building Committee Report: The buildings committee discussed several possible repairs/improvements including: 1. Getting the elementary sinks working 2. Replacing the windows in the high school 3. Insulating in the high school 4. Installing some mini-split air conditioning units 5. Updating the science room 6. Sealing the chimney in the high school 7. Buying a storage shed.

Mr. Waagen will get bids on windows in the high school, get someone to look at the elementary sinks, check into storage sheds, and continue to look into the science room remodel.

It was noted that a new lawn mower will be needed in the near future.

The board concurred that a student should be hired as custodial help for the summer at the rate of \$11.00 per hour.

Siding or painting the STEM lab and possibly the bus barn was discussed.

Superintendent Evaluation: Harms made a motion, seconded by Froelich, to approve the superintendent evaluation. The motion carried unanimously.

Teacher Contracts: Contracts will be issued on April 11th.

Superintendent Hiring: It was decided that an ad would be placed for a superintendent with possible principal duties with salary depending on experience with a deadline of April 15th.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Tony Roorda, Board President

Amy Maurer, Business Manager

Approval Date