

Minutes
School Board Retreat
Gladstone Inn, Jamestown, ND
Montpelier Public School District #14
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
January 14th, 2023

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

Also Present: Superintendent Phil Leitner, pk-12 Principal Sara Wilson, and Business Manager Amy Maurer.

Call to Order: President Roorda called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

Virtual Learning and Storm Make Up Days: Currently the storm and virtual days are applied as follows based on the district's current plan:

Event 1-Storm Day is forgiven by the board.

Events 2 and 3- The storm days are made up in person on the storm days built into the school calendar.

Events 4-8- students may be taught virtually.

Events 1-6 have been used to date.

Surveys were taken asking teachers and parents if it would be preferred to make up days in excess of the events allowed in person or to have virtual learning for more days if there are more weather events.

A teacher survey found that most, but not all, prefer virtual learning days.

A parent survey found that most, but not all, prefer virtual learning days.

The days left in the school calendar to make up days in person would be February 20th and April 10th.

Academic rigor of virtual days was discussed. Whether all parents have internet was discussed.

School Demographics and Long-term Planning: School enrollments, and class sizes were reviewed and discussed.

Students participation rates in athletics and other activities were reviewed.

NWEA fall starting test scores, state norms and standard deviations were reviewed.

Building and Grounds: Priority projects include the science room floor and identifying a leak by the gym windows/possibly the gym roof. Potential projects include conducting a building needs assessment, improving the appearance of the front entrance, adding interior and exterior signage/murals/painting, and improving the gym floors and bleachers. Ideas from staff include gym windows that open, air conditioning in the kitchen, and a new lawn mower.

Transportation: The new 53 passenger bus that was ordered last year is supposed to be arriving in March. This bus will be used on the large Jamestown (Joline's) route replacing #3. #3 will then be used on the Ypsilanti (Jeannie's) route replacing bus #4. Bus #4 will be sold.

The new 14 passenger bus ordered this year is expected to arrive in July/August. It will be used on the small Jamestown route (Mr. Wright's), replacing bus #6. Bus #6 will replace the small white activity bus #8. #8 will be sold.

It was suggested to sell buses on consignment.

The possibility of cameras on buses was discussed.
The possibility of incentivizing drivers to get CDL's was discussed.

2023-2024 Budget Considerations: There are several things to consider when looking at the budget for the next two years. The governor's budget recommendation is to increase the per student aid amounts by 4% for 23-24, and 3% for 2024-25. It is early to rely on those numbers.

Transportation funding for open enroll students will be eliminated beginning with 2023-24 (\$44,000). NDDPI's method of calculating the allocation of Title aid to schools may be changing which may put those funds at risk. Mr. Leitner recommends trying to maintain the equivalent of 10 mills in the building fund (approximately \$73,000). Currently there is \$57,000. 2023-2024 is the last year of ESSER funding.

Future Budget Considerations: Positions currently being paid with ESSER funds include the academic interventionist, after school program, progress monitor, part of the preschool teacher salary (30% FTE-to split pk into two sessions). Total approximate cost \$72,730.

What the district's needs are, what future staff openings there might be, local levies, and future enrollments are all things that will need to be considered.

Martin Time: The after-school program attendance averages were: September 8 students, October 7 students, November 6 students, and December 3 students. 57% of students in grades 7-12 attended Martin Academy during the first semester. It is used for students to catch up, keep up, or make up work, and to get extra help from teachers.

Martin Academy: The academy has changed and evolved since it was first started. The self-rated engagement of students is generally high but declines sharply in the upper grade levels, especially among 11th and 12th graders.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Tony Roorda, Board President

Amy Maurer, Business Manager

Approval Date