

**School Board Minutes**  
**Montpelier Public School District #14**  
**214 7<sup>th</sup> Ave**  
**Montpelier, ND 58472**  
**March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

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

**Also Present:** Superintendent Mr. Phil Leitner, Principal Mrs. Sara Wilson and Business Manager Amy Maurer.

**Visitors:** Kelsey Naze, Kristin Lynch, Jeff DeBuck, Kyle Troener, Tonya Kramer, Kevin Smith, Julie Smith, Janet Hendrickson, Scott Lynch, Ellen Fehr and Julie Williams.

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

**Agenda:** Valenta made a motion, seconded by Naze, to make the following changes to the agenda: 1) Public comment, 2) Consent Agenda- employee resignations. The motion carried unanimously.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Public Comment:** The board accepted public comment which was in support the innovation and opportunities provided at the school, including the efforts of the Martin Academy.

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

- a) The minutes from the February 8<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and the February 20<sup>th</sup> special meeting, as presented.
- b) Approval of the bills and financial reports, as presented.
- c) Acceptance of the resignations of Mr. Stutlien (math) and Ms. Aurora Bear (English), effective as of the end of their contracts. Approval of Mr. S. Lynch pursuing his CDL.  
The motion carried unanimously.

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

- Counseling
  - A career exploration event to go to DuraTech and the James River Career and Technology Center had to be postponed due to weather conditions.
  - Currently working with seniors on post-graduation plans and plan to follow up with them in the next month. Will be working with the rest of the high school and preparations for next year.
  - 7 Mindsets curriculum (SEL) has been implemented since the beginning of the year. Due to the cancellation of Martin Academy we will be revamping some delivery of the curriculum to ensure all mindsets are covered next year for students K-12.
- Building and Grounds

- Members of the Marion Fire Department are doing a walk-through inspection of the school tonight at 7:00.
- The elementary roof has had multiple leaks in the last few weeks and we have been advised to call someone when the snow melts to see if they can identify the issues.
- Farmers Union will be on site to look at our bus garage improvements to ensure we have the proper amount of insurance on it.
- Athletic/Extracurricular
  - Congratulations to the Girls' Basketball team on winning the Region 3 Tournament and finishing 5th at the State Basketball Tournament.
- Policy
  - We will be holding a wellness committee meeting sometime during the month of March.
  - We will be updating the list of curriculum currently taught and that is requested to be taught next year. Our goal is to have a curriculum committee meeting before the end of the school year.
- Transportation
  - The new bus that was ordered last school year from Harlow's is complete and we are awaiting delivery.
- Finance
  - The legislature held crossover and we are anticipating updated budget numbers from DPI that will help us as we work on the 2023-24 budget.
  - Requisitions are done in the spring of the year. Requisitions will be going out in March/April.
- General School Business
  - Our Title I review was held this morning and we will be working on items that need corrections and send them back to DPI in April.
  - Our open teaching positions will be advertised shortly. The board concurred he should advertise one as a math opening and one as an English or Elementary Teacher opening as there are teacher(s) who might like to change positions within the school. We have a number of considerations to think about when filling our staff needs for next year.
  - High school teachers are in the process of reviewing the student handbook and school policy for the upcoming school year.
  - He participated in a few meetings for our school lock-in and one general student input meeting based off student input at the last board meeting.
  - He attended the James Valley Career and Tech Center Spring meeting. Notable items discussed were legislative funding, work-based learning, drone racing, and career ready practices.
  - Stutsman County is currently evaluating the funding for the bookmobile and has asked for our input.
  - The Title I funding formula for next year will remain the same so it anticipated that we will not lose that funding.

**Principal's Report:** Mrs. Wilson reported on the student NWEA scores. The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter ends March 9<sup>th</sup>. A partnership with UND and Burgum Foundation has provided a scholarship opportunity for teachers to get a masters degree.

**Teacher Request for Unpaid Leave:** Mrs. Williams has the opportunity to take a trip to Africa next fall and requested approval for unpaid leave. Valenta made a motion, seconded by Naze, to approve up to 12 days of unpaid leave for Mrs. Williams to take the trip to Africa. The motion carried unanimously.

**Drone Racing Program:** The school has the opportunity to have a Drone Racing Program as an extra-curricular activity. Mr. Lynch is interested in being the advisor/coach. The total first year cost after grants would be approximately \$1610.00. The future annual cost would be approximately \$4810.00 per year, with possible discounts to some student participation fees. The program was discussed. After the first year, they would do fundraising. Valenta made a motion, seconded by Naze, to approve the drone racing program and to hire Mr. Scott Lynch as the coach. The motion carried unanimously.

**Policies:**

- The board did the second reading of the grade promotion, retention, and acceleration policy GCAA and grade promotion, retention, and acceleration procedure GCAA-AR. This is a new policy with the old policy to be repealed. It defines the criteria and procedure for promoting and retaining students. Valenta made a motion, seconded by Naze, to approve adopting policy GCAA grade promotion, retention, and acceleration and GCAA-AR grade, promotion, retention, and acceleration procedure, and to repeal the current promotion and retention policy. The motion carried unanimously.
- The board did a first reading of a revised Inclement Weather Policy which describes when storm days will be forgiven, make up days will be used, or virtual learning will take place.
- The board did the second reading of policy GAEE on Critical Race Theory. The required policy defines critical race theory and helps to outline public access to district curriculum and instructional/resource materials. Naze made a motion, seconded by Dally, to approve adopting policy GAEE on critical race theory. The motion carried unanimously.
- The board did the second reading of policy HCAA on Purchasing. This required policy outlines the process and procedure for making school purchases. Naze made a motion, seconded by Froehlich, to adopt policy HCAA on school purchases. The motion carried unanimously.

**Superintendent Evaluation:** The superintendent evaluation was reviewed and discussed. Froehlich made a motion, seconded by Dally, to approve the superintendent evaluation. The motion carried unanimously.

**Public Participation at Board Meetings and Recording of Board Meetings:** The board discussed the possibility of recording board meetings, making a video link available, and having it available on the website. The board discussed allowing public participation at board meetings to take place in a more structured way. Possibly adopting a policy that defines the procedure. The policy committee will meet to work on developing a policy.

**Teacher Negotiations:** Naze made a motion, seconded by Valenta, pursuant to NDCC 44-04-19.1(04) to move into executive session to discuss negotiations strategy. Motion carried unanimously.

The board moved into executive session at 7:53pm.  
The board returned to open meeting at 8:15pm.  
The next regular board meeting is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup>.  
The school board election is on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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Tony Roorda, Board President

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Amy Maurer, Business Manager

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Approval Date