

School Board Minutes
Montpelier Public School District #14
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
April 13th, 2023

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

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

Visitors: Julie Williams, Stacy Peckham, Jeannie Davis, Kristin Lynch, Scott Lynch, Ellen Fehr, Tonya Kramer, Jeff DeBuck, Kevin Smith, Jodean Nelson, Heidi Bear, Trinity Lusby, Sarah Ratts, Sally Dick, Tiffany Bell, Jess Widmer, Ryan Widmer, and Shawn Ratts.

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

Agenda: Harms made a motion, seconded by Froehlich, to make the following changes to the agenda: 1) Move the school store topic to be discussed after the consent agenda, and add 2) Bereavement leave to business. The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence: None.

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

- a) The minutes from the March 8th regular meeting, as presented.
- b) Approval of the bills and financial reports, as presented.
- c) Acceptance of the resignations of Mr. Gange (6th grade), Mr. Giles (2nd grade), and Mrs. Ratts (1st grade). And to hire Ms. Charity Dosch (elementary).
The vote was as follows: Harms-aye, Boom-aye, Dally-aye, Froehlich-nay, Naze -aye, Roorda-aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Roorda thanked the resigning teachers for their service to the school.
Conducting exit interviews was mentioned.

School Store: Mrs. Bear and elementary student Ms. Trinity Lusby presented to the board an idea for a school store. Trinity and Lilly Ratts came up with the idea. They are raising starter money with a penny drive. They would purchase school supplies and trinkets to sell to students. They have developed a job application (unpaid position) for students who would like to help run the store. They would accept regular money and Monty Money, which is given for things like good behavior and working hard. The board was impressed by the idea of the school store and thanked Ms. Lusby and Mrs. Bear for the presentation.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Leitner reported:

- Counseling
 - A career exploration event to go to DuraTech and the James River Career and Technology Center for 9th and 10th grade students is scheduled for April 17.

- The first half of 7 Mindsets for the month has been taught. This is grades K, 1, 2, 6, 7 and 8. Grades 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11 and 12 will be done the last week of April.
- Grades 10-12 students will take the ASVAB on April 13. The ASVAB is very important to getting our students ND Choice Ready.
- Building and Grounds
 - Yearly fire extinguisher checkup has been completed.
 - We are working with Farmers Union to determine the appropriate coverage for our school buildings. One option is blanket coverage so all of our buildings would be covered under the same deductible.
- Athletic/Extracurricular
 - Members of the e-sports team went to the state competition in Grand Forks.
 - A much appreciated donation of \$2500.00 was received in support of the Drone Program.
 - State Archery was held in Minot at the end of March.
 - A football/Wrestling co-op meeting was held on April 11.
- Transportation
 - The new bus is here and is properly licensed, insured and has a radio.
 - Rural gravel roads are in rough shape and we have some alternate pickup locations for some bus routes.
- Finance
 - Requisitions are out to staff and we will begin the process of identifying priorities and working them into the 23-24 budget.
 - The current proposal for the state legislature has an increase in the per pupil payment of 3.5% in year one and 3% in year 2.
- General School Business
 - We are waiting to hear back from our recent Title I audit revisions from DPI.
 - A time waiver renewal was sent to DPI. This allows us to have an 8-period day.
 - I attended two student activity meetings and a student council meeting.
 - Our school feedback on the bookmobile was sent to Stutsman County. We hope that our feedback will show the value the bookmobile has to our community.
 - Neighboring schools days missed/virtual days this year were reviewed.

Principal's Report: Mrs. Wilson reported: 1. Prom is this weekend. 2. NDSA (state) testing is coming up. 3. Bill 1398 would require mandatory instruction of computer science and cyber security. What this means for schools is still being ironed out. 4. Evaluations of educational staff is nearly complete. 5. Cognia Strategy Map is due May first. This is part of the school accreditation requirement. A rough draft was reviewed with the board. 6. Engagement survey results were shared with the board.

Bereavement Leave: Mr. Leitner suggested that some sort of bereavement leave be made available to Mrs. Luck. After discussion, Boom made a motion, seconded by Harms, to approve ten days of paid bereavement leave and to allow donations from employees to be guided by the sick bank policy. The motion carried unanimously.

School Board Election Workers: Boom made a motion, seconded by Dally, to approve Naomi Walz, Miranda Witt, Sue Valenta, and Amy Roorda as election workers for the school board election on April 25th. The motion carried unanimously.

School Calendar: After review, Harms made a motion, seconded by Dally, to approve the 2023-2024 school calendar. The motion carried unanimously.

Policies: The board did the second reading of the Inclement Weather policy. Harms made a motion, seconded by Naze, to approve the new policy. The motion carried unanimously. The board reviewed the Title I Dispute Resolution Policy. Froehlich made a motion, seconded by Harms to reauthorize the Title I Dispute Resolution Policy. The motion carried unanimously.

IXL Demo: Mrs. Wilson reviewed with the board the features of the IXL Personalized Learning software which builds individual supplemental lessons based on individual diagnostics. The cost is \$10,000 over five years.

EL Position: NDCC requires each district to have an English Language Learner Program teacher. In the past SEEC provided this service but they no longer will do so. An on-staff teacher could obtain the credentials for this position by taking 16 credits and then be paid extra for filling the position. Naze made a motion, seconded by Boom, to approve hiring a part time EL teacher. The motion carried unanimously.

Negotiations: Harms made a motion, seconded by Naze, to go into executive session to discuss negotiations strategy. Legal authority NDCC 44-04-19.1(4). Motion carried. The board moved into executive session at 7:17pm. The board returned to open meeting at 8:07pm.

Other: The board concurred that Scott Harms, Wade Dally, and Robert Froehlich would reach out to resigning teachers to conduct exit interviews with them. Interview questions were discussed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Tony Roorda, Board President

Amy Maurer, Business Manager

Approval Date