

School Board Minutes
Montpelier Public School District #14
214 7th Ave
Montpelier, ND 58472
May 8th, 2023

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

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

Visitors: Scott Lynch, Kristen Lynch, Julie Williams, Ellen Fehr, Tonya Kramer.

Call to Order: President Roorda called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

Agenda: Boom made a motion, seconded by Harms, to amend the agenda: 1) Bus Garage item changed to discussion of buildings. The motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence: Mr. Leitner shared: 1) A letter from North Dakota Dental Foundation explaining their goals. They provided toothbrushes to be handed out to each student. 2) A resolution from the Sixty-Eighth Legislative Assembly of ND which was mailed to all school districts urging all public schools to protect women's rights by distinguishing between the sexes according to biological sex at birth for the purpose of providing equal opportunities and ensuring the privacy and safety of women and girls. 3) A letter from Superintendent Baesler acknowledging the hard work of educators for Educator Appreciation Week.

*Valenta arrived.

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

- a) The minutes from the April 12th regular meeting, with a correction to the visitors listing.
- b) Approval of the bills and financial reports, as presented.
- c) Personnel: Approval of the hire of Mary Hilgemann as elementary teacher and Tyler Lee as elementary/junior high teacher.

The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Harms gave a report on the exit interviews conducted by the board appointed committee with departing employees.

Superintendent's Report: Mr. Leitner reported:

- Counseling
 - Monthly counseling classroom activities have been completed for the year.
 - Class registration for students will be held in the summer when a schedule is finalized.
 - 9th and 10th grade field trip to JVTCV and Duratech was held.
 - ASVAB test results were received and a military rep will be working with students on interpreting their scores.

- 7-12 students will be attending a motivational talk in Jamestown the last week of school by Hunter Pikne called “No Bad Days.”
- Building and Grounds
 - Condenser in the old freezer should be replaced this summer.
 - Core Facility Solutions was on site to look at our facility and energy analysis.
 - Tricorn Audio will be on site at the end of May to make a recommendation on an audio system in the gym.
- Athletic/Extracurricular
 - A 3-class volleyball plan has been presented. It is modeled after the 3-class basketball plan.
 - A few parents have asked about transportation to elementary club football. AD Richard Wright is examining what kind of commitment this would be to our district and we will then determine projected costs as we evaluate this request.
- Transportation
 - He will be riding on a bus the rest of the year to help decrease student behavior issues. Proper behavior for students will be a point of emphasis next year.
 - He is working with transportation director Jeff Deback to determine the appropriate buses to recycle at the end of the school year.
- Finance
 - State legislature has adjourned session. K-12 education will see a raise in the per pupil payment of 4% in year 1 and 4% in year 2.
 - We would like to formally thank our legislators, Representative Headland, Representative Vigesaa and Senator Wanzek, for their work during session.
 - He recommends a finance committee meeting in late May/early June to review budget.
- General School Business
 - Title I Review items were sent back to DPI with noted corrections. EL review items were included.
 - He is working on intent to apply for Title funds and the consolidated application.

Principal’s Report: Mrs. Wilson reported: 1) She would like to meet with the curriculum committee in the summer. 2) Congratulations to August Harms who received a star rating and Jordan Jensen who received an excellent rating at the state music competition in Minot.

Certify Election Results: The board canvassed the election results. The district’s annual election was on Tuesday, April 25th, 2023. Thirty-nine ballots were cast. For Member of the School Board. Two at-large positions, 3-year terms.

Candidate	Votes
Scott Harms	32
Sharon Jensen	10
Kyle Throener	29
The following were write-in votes	
Daniel Koep	1

Eric Schrader 2

Lynn Boom 1

Scott Harms and Kyle Throener, having the highest number of votes, are elected to the school board for 3-year terms. Their terms begin at the annual meeting in July.

Measure 1: Shall a record of the proceedings of the Montpelier School Board be published in the official newspaper of the district?

Yes 26

No 13

The minutes will be required to be published in the official newspaper of the district.

Boom made a motion, seconded by Dally to certify the election results. The motion carried unanimously.

Classified Staff Raises: Mr. Leitner presented an itemized proposal for raises of approximately 4% for classified staff. He shared that he had received a request for health insurance from one employee and that this could be researched. He had a request for a bonus from another employee.

Harms made a motion, seconded by Dally, to approve the classified staff raises as presented. The motion was rescinded.

Harms made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to approve the wages as presented, with a change to allow the licensed substitute teachers working as aide substitutes to be paid at the substitute teacher rate.

The motion carried unanimously.

IXL Contract: Mr. Leitner recommended approval of IXL Personalized Learning software which builds individual supplemental lessons based on individual diagnostics. This would be supplemental to the regular curriculum. The cost is \$10,641 for five years. After discussion, Harms made a motion, seconded by Dally, to approve the IXL contract. The motion carried unanimously.

Building Improvements: The school's lawn mower is starting to cut quite unevenly. It was purchased in 2006. One dealer had options between \$6000-\$15,000. It was discussed that other brands would be less expensive. The possibility of hiring the city or taking bids for the mowing was discussed. The board requested that bids be solicited for mowing school property.

The science room and adjacent hallway flooring bid did not include the extensive leveling needed. After discussion, Valenta made a motion, seconded by Boom, to approve an additional \$1400 for the leveling needed. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Leitner reviewed the bids for replacement of the windows in the high school that were approved last school year. The approved project includes all of the high school basement classroom windows, and three south windows in each classroom with two windows in each classroom to be boarded up. It does not include the east and west windows. Infinity has bid \$12,800.00 to replace all of the east and west windows. The south high school office window is not included. After discussion, the board asked the building committee to look into the project in more depth.

Infinity was previously approved to install gutters and downspouts on the bus barn and to put steel siding on the Smart Lab. They would charge \$8988.00 to put steel siding on the bus barn. After discussion, Valenta made a motion, seconded by Harms, to approve hiring Infinity to put steel siding on the bus barn, contingent on it matching the siding on the Smart Lab. The motion carried unanimously.

2023-2025 Teacher’s Negotiated Agreement: The negotiations committee reviewed with the board the agreement with the teachers. Some of the changes include increasing the base to \$42,550 in year 1 and \$43,500 in year 2, changing combination classroom pay to 25% of the base, increasing the number of personal days by 1, and pay at the teacher’s daily rate for unused sick days over 70. Valenta made a motion, seconded by Dally, to approve the 2023-2025 teacher’s negotiated agreement as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Business Manager Agreement: The negotiations committee reviewed the agreement with Amy Maurer, business manager. Changes include increasing the district 403(b) contribution by \$2000.00 per year and paying her the hourly rate for unused sick hours over the maximum allowed annual carryover. Salary will stay the same. Dally made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to approve the agreement with the business manager. The motion carried unanimously.

Administration Negotiations: Mr. Leitner shared with the board his vision for the district over the next three years and proposed contract changes.

The principals proposed contract was reviewed.

Harms made a motion, seconded by Valenta, to go into executive session under the legal authority provided in NDCC section 44-04-19.1(9) to discuss administration negotiations. The motion carried unanimously.

The board went into executive session at 7:47pm

The board returned to open session at 8:45pm

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Tony Roorda, Board President

Amy Maurer, Business Manager

Approval Date