

## **Official Minutes of the Monticello Community School District Board of Education for the Regular Meeting of March 24, 2025**

Vice President Mandy Norton called the first public hearing on the 2025-2026 certified budget to order at 6:01pm on Monday, March 24, 2025 in the Board Room at 850 E Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa. There were no public comments. Norton closed the public hearing at 6:02pm.

The Board of Education regular meeting was held on Monday, March 24, 2025 in the Board Room at 850 E Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa, and was called to order at 6:02 pm by Vice President Mandy Norton in lieu of Craig Stadtmueller's absence. Norton also led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Monticello CSD mission statement. Board Secretary, Judy Hayen, did roll call. The following directors were present: Norton, Schlarmann, Rieken, and Amsler. Absent: Stadtmueller. Also present were: Judy Hayen, Marcy Gillmore, Brian Jaeger, Pete Temple, Robyn Ponder, Nick Schauf, Todd Werner, Shannon Kehoe, Shannon Guyer, Dennis Dirks, Mike Wink, Roger Worm and Nick Duffy with OPN Architects, Travis Squires with Piper Sandler, Barb Randall with Assured Partners, and a few community members.

It was moved by Schlarmann, seconded by Rieken, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Rieken, and Amsler. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Congratulations were extended to: the Middle School Jazz band on their great season, they received a Superior rating at the district festival and Mary Grace Lyons received an honorable mention for her solo; the HS Jazz Band on getting 2nd place at the district festival and earning a place at the Iowa Jazz Championships. Alan Arriaga-Rangel also earned the Outstanding Soloist Award in Class 2A; the following students for receiving a 1 rating at State contest: Cole Bouska, Skylar Christensen, Nessa Clapp, Carlos Lagunes-Torres, Sam Ruchti, Karli Schwendinger, Kendall Siebels, Bonnie Tran, Caleb Tubbs, Destiny Wall; and the following students for being nominated to perform at All State: Carlos Lagunes-Torres and Kendall Siebels.

Travis Squires from Piper Sandler provided an update and timeline on the project financing for our elementary bond project.

Nick Duffy and Roger Worm from OPN Architects presented updated floor plans for the new elementary school, along with a conceptual view of what the exterior could look like.

Principals Shannon Kehoe, Todd Werner, and Nick Schauf each gave their building report.

Elementary Principal Shannon Kehoe: Parent/Teacher conferences were well attended once again this year. Carpenter also hosted an art show during the conferences, which was a big success! Our staff has been working with students on a new math tool called Digi Bocks. We've also launched a new baseball-themed kindness challenge, "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," where students can earn red stickers that resemble baseball stitching. Staff might even join in on a whiffle ball game. We're also getting ready for ISASP testing.

Middle School Principal Todd Werner: Our parent-teacher conferences were well attended, with around 70% participation from 5th and 6th grade families, and about 50-60% from 7th and 8th grade. We also held a MAP assembly to celebrate students who showed the most growth, which included a fun pie-in-the-face activity with staff. With ISASP testing approaching, we're busy preparing students for the assessments. Additionally, we have a reading challenge underway. Jamie Vroegh organized a kindness drive and collected over 1,200 personal care items. Some of these items will support our students, while others will be donated to the Monticello Food Pantry. A big thank you to Jamie! Spring sports kicked off today.

High School Principal Nick Schauf: We recently held parent-teacher conferences, and while attendance was low, teachers made an effort to reach out to at least three parents virtually. Donnie Kremer has been putting in a lot of effort to get our welding class up and running this year. With new welders in place, we anticipate the class will continue to grow each year. The spring play is this week, ISASP testing is scheduled for next week, and spring sports have already begun. I'd like to extend a special thank you to Kathy Larson for her dedicated

service as our high school counselor; she will be retiring at the end of the year—congratulations, Kathy! We will be conducting interviews next week for that position. Our student council and NHS are also organizing another community-wide cleanup day this spring.

Curriculum Director Robyn Ponder: As mentioned in the principals' reports, we're ensuring that students are reading and feeling prepared for the ISASP tests, especially with the online format. We have a School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) meeting scheduled for next Thursday, where we will present recommendations to the Board for approval at the April meeting. Later on the agenda, I'll be seeking approval for bids related to internet services, switches, and Chromebooks.

Superintendent Jaeger: I'll be including the elementary project update on each agenda to address any questions that may come up. We've been putting a lot of effort into designing the new building and ensuring we are as efficient as possible. Robyn and I attended the Transition School's Chili Cook-Off, which was both a fun and tasty event! Marcy and I have been working on the budget and exploring insurance options, which we'll discuss in the exempt session. A quick reminder for Board members: the rating and narrative for my evaluation are due to Craig Stadtmueller by April 1st.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Rieken to set April 28, 2025 at 6:00 pm as the date & time for the second public hearing on the 2025-26 budget. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Rieken, and Amsler. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Rieken to approve the bid for carpet and tile in the high school from the FloorShow in the amount of \$124,545.00 as presented. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Rieken, and Amsler. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Rieken to approve the bid from Freese Motors for a 2022, 12 passenger van for \$37,000 with a trade in allowance of \$9,000 for a 2015, 8 passenger van, for a total of \$28,000.00 as presented. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Rieken, and Amsler. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Amsler to approve the bid from Cascade Communications as our Internet Provider for 3 years in the amount of \$43,656 with erate covering 50% as presented. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Rieken, and Amsler. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Rieken to approve the bid from CDW Education for chromebooks in the amount of \$96,250 as presented. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Rieken, and Amsler. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Rieken to approve the bid from Infrastructure Technology Solutions, LLC for switches in the amount of \$46,287.96 with erate covering 50% as presented. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Rieken, and Amsler. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Schlarmann to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Rieken, and Amsler. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board wanted to inform the public that we are making steady progress on the new elementary school, thanks to the dedicated efforts of our staff working closely with OPN Architects. It's a lot of work!

Board member Mark Rieken would like to have a discussion on graduation at a future work session.

The following announcements were made:

- Next Work Session is Wednesday, April 9 at 6:00pm
- Next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, April 28 at 6:00pm

There being no further business, Schlarmann made a motion, seconded by Rieken to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 pm and move to the Exempt Session. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Rieken, and Amsler. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Approved:

Attest:

Mandy Norton, Vice President

Judy Hayen, Board Secretary