

## **Official Minutes of the Monticello Community School District Board of Education for the Regular Meeting of April 28, 2025**

Vice President Mandy Norton called the public hearing on the 2025-26 certified budget to order at 6:00pm on Monday, April 28, 2025 in the Board Room at 850 E Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa. No public comments were received. Norton closed the public hearing at 6:01pm.

The Board of Education regular meeting was held on Monday, April 28, 2025 in the Board Room at 850 E Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa, and was called to order at 6:01 pm by Vice President Mandy Norton. Board Member Mark Rieken led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Monticello CSD mission statement. Board Secretary, Judy Hayen, did roll call. The following directors were present: Rieken, Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton and Schlarmann (Stadtmueller arrived at 6:16pm). Absent: None. Also present were: Judy Hayen, Marcy Gillmore, Brian Jaeger, Pete Temple, Shannon Guyer, Robyn Ponder, Nick Schauf, Todd Werner, Shannon Kehoe, Katie Harms, and a few community members.

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

Congratulations were extended to: the following boys' basketball players on their awards: Conley Schauf – 1<sup>st</sup> team all-conference, all-substate team, and 2<sup>nd</sup> team all-state; Carson Lambert – 1<sup>st</sup> team all-conference; Brady Gogel- 2<sup>nd</sup> team all-conference; and Jack Lambert – honorable mention all-conference; the following girls' basketball players on their awards: Jayden Kuper – 1<sup>st</sup> team all-conference, IBCA academic all-state, IBCA all region, IGCA all district, all area gazette, 1<sup>st</sup> team all-state IGCA, and 1st team all-state IBCA/print writers association; Kennedy Hermesen – 2<sup>nd</sup> team all-conference, IBCA all region; Halle Recker – honorable mention all-conference; and the entire girls basketball team – academic all-conference and IGHS AU Distinguished Academic Achievement 3.25 - 4.00; Natalie Henderson, Hailey Henderson, Halle Recker, Lilly Stoll, Porter Campbell, Lane Weber, and Keegan McElmeel for receiving their Iowa FFA Degrees; the following students who scored a Division I (Superior Rating) as a vocal soloist at the solo & ensemble contest: Lydia Ahlrichs, Julia Ambundo, Bentley Martin, Cameron Pasker, Carolos Lagunes Torres, and Destiny Wall; Meghan Besler & Brynn Schmit on scoring a Division I (Superior Rating) as a vocal duet at the solo & ensemble contest; the following students who scored a Division I (Superior Rating) as an ensemble singer at the solo & ensemble contest: Lydia Ahlrichs, Meghan Besler, Cole Bouska, Vannessa Clapp, Aiden Grant, Carlos Lagunes Torres, Haley Larrimore, Eli Moestchen, Meredith Parker, Cameron Pasker, Lorelei Rieken, Brynn Schmit, Lincoln Schneiter, Kendall Siebels, River Smith, and Caleb Tubbs.

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

Elementary Principal Shannon Kehoe: It's a busy and exciting time! Our final concert of the year is happening this week, grade-level transition and regular field trips are in full swing, and we're looking forward to the PTO walk-a-thon and fun day in May. Plus, our preliminary ISASP scores are showing some great improvement!

Middle School Principal Todd Werner: We've wrapped up ISASP testing and are excited to see some strong improvements! Last week, our students took part in the Chalk the Walk/Child Abuse Awareness event in downtown Monticello, working alongside the National Honor Society and the City — they did an outstanding job. Tonight, we're requesting approval for a fundraiser to support the 8th grade canoe trip. In the past, students raised money through magazine and *Monticello Express* sales, but since those fundraisers are no longer in place, we're asking parents and community members to help us raise around \$1,000. We're also getting ready for the end of the school year.

High School Principal Nick Schauf: We're excited to share that our ISASP scores showed improvement across all grade levels, with notable gains in science. We believe our SAMI team process has played a key role in this progress, and we'll continue reviewing both the scores and our strategies moving forward. Last week was Administrative Professionals Day, and I'd like to extend a big thank you to our high school secretaries, Rachel Bowser and Alyssa McNally, for everything they do to keep our building running smoothly. A special thank you as well to our district office secretaries for their ongoing support. We also celebrated Kim Carlson on School Librarian Day—she wears many hats and wears them well! May is a busy and exciting month at the

high school as we prepare for graduation. This year's ceremony will take place outdoors on May 25 at the football field. We're working on a stage layout that includes wheelchair access, and we're hoping to have some seniors perform the national anthem. The final high school concerts of the year will take place in May, and on May 14, our students will participate in the Community Day of Caring to help clean up around town. We also have an upcoming American Heart Association assembly, and SODA will be celebrating National High Day. Important senior dates to note: Honors Night: May 20, Senior Walk-through & Breakfast: May 21, Graduation: May 25.

Curriculum Director Robyn Ponder: Our preliminary ISASP results are looking strong! I've been collaborating with our school counseling team and Grant Wood AEA associates on our comprehensive school counseling plan. In the coming months, we'll also be reviewing our Math and Spanish curriculum.

Superintendent Jaeger: In recognition of Administrative Assistants Day last week, I want to extend a thank you to our District Secretary, Judy Hayen, for all the support she provides to both myself and the Board. Looking ahead, we'll be celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week and Support Staff Week in May—two great opportunities to recognize the incredible work of our staff. A big thank you as well to our outstanding administrative team for everything they do. I also want to thank the Board for their collaboration on the budget process—it's never an easy task, and I appreciate their commitment. And a final thanks to Katie Harms for her continued efforts in helping move the new elementary project forward.

Katie Harms from OPN Architects provided an update on the progress of the new elementary building, shared a projected timeline, and presented renderings of the building's exterior.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Schlarmann to approve moving to the next phase of the design process with OPN Architects for the new elementary as presented with receiving alternate bid options for the gym. Ayes: Rieken, Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, and Schlarmann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Amsler to approve the 2025-26 certified budget with \$400,000 going to the management fund, an increase in income surtax on the instructional support levy to 6% and 1% PPEL income surtax, for a total levy rate of \$15.68502 if the Governor signs the 2% State Supplemental Aid (SSA) before the budget is due. If she doesn't sign it before the budget is due, the Board approved \$400,000 going to the management fund, an increase in income surtax on the instructional support levy to 6% and 1% PPEL income surtax, for a total levy rate of \$16.03653. Ayes: Rieken, Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, and Schlarmann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Norton to approve the 2025-26 certified, non-certified, and administrative contracts as presented. Non-certified and administrative staff will receive an increase of 1.44%, and certified staff a \$1,000 increase (excluding those covered by the new teacher pay law passed by the Governor last year including nurses, social workers, and counselors). Ayes: Rieken, Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, and Schlarmann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Amsler to approve the Resolution Providing for the Levy of Taxes to Pay General Obligation School Bonds (the "Bonds") and to Approve Engagement of Professionals Related to the Issuance of Such Bonds in the amount of \$585,000 as presented. By roll call vote: Rieken, aye; Amsler, aye; Stadtmueller, aye; Norton, aye; and Schlarmann, aye. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Norton, seconded by Schlarmann to approve the Resolution Approving Interfund Transfers (From the Capital Fund to the SAVE Fund and the PPEL Fund) as presented. By roll call vote: Amsler, aye; Stadtmueller, aye; Norton, aye; Schlarmann, aye; and Rieken, aye. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Rieken to approve the Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Individual Procurement Cards (p-cards) as presented. By roll call vote: Stadtmueller, aye; Norton, aye; Schlarmann, aye; Rieken, aye; and Amsler, aye. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Rieken to approve the Corporate MasterCard Program Member Account Agreement with BMO Harris Bank as presented. Ayes: Rieken, Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, and Schlarmann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Norton to approve the 8<sup>th</sup> grade fundraiser for their canoe trip as presented. Ayes: Rieken, Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, and Schlarmann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Norton to approve the high school fundraiser of selling reserved graduation seats (as none were sold at the foundation pep rally) for this year only as presented. Ayes: Stadtmueller, Norton, and Schlarmann. Nays: Rieken and Amsler.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Norton to approve May 28, 2025 with a 1:00 dismissal as the last day of school for the 2024-25 school year as presented. Teachers last contract day will be May 29. Ayes: Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, and Schlarmann. Nays: Rieken. Motion carried.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Norton to approve the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) recommendations as presented. Ayes: Rieken, Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, and Schlarmann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

There were no Board member activity reports.

The Board expressed their appreciation for the generous donations from businesses, parents, and community members. Thank you for your continued support of our district!

There were no agenda items suggested for future work sessions.

The following announcements were made:

- May is Iowa School Board Recognition Month
- Teacher Appreciation Week is May 5-9
- Support Staff Appreciation Week is May 12-16
- Next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, May 19 at 6:00pm
- Graduation is Sunday, May 25 at 2:00pm at the Football Field

At 7:23pm, Schlarmann made a motion, seconded by Norton to move to the closed session (*as provided by the Iowa Code Chapter 21.5(1)(i) to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session*). By roll call vote: Norton, aye; Schlarmann, aye; Rieken, aye; Amsler, aye; and Stadtmueller, aye. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Mark Rieken left the meeting at 7:24pm.

At 8:06pm, Amsler made a motion, seconded by Schlarmann to reconvene to open session. Ayes: Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, and Schlarmann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Schlarmann made a motion, seconded by Norton to adjourn the meeting at 8:06pm. Ayes: Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, and Schlarmann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Approved:

Attest:

Craig Stadtmueller, President

Judy Hayen, Board Secretary