

Official Minutes of the Monticello Community School District Board of Education Regular Meeting of February 23, 2026

The Board of Education regular meeting was held on Monday, February 23, 2026, in the Board Room at 850 E Oak St., Monticello, Iowa. Vice President Mandy Norton called the meeting to order at 6:03pm. Board member Tony Amsler led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Monticello CSD mission statement. Board Secretary Judy Hayen did roll call. The following directors were present Amsler, Stadtmueller (*arrived at 6:08pm*) Norton, and Randolph. Absent: Schlarman. Others present were Dr. Brian Jaeger, Marcy Gillmore, Judy Hayen, Nick Joos, Todd Werner, Shannon Kehoe, Robyn Ponder, Nick Thumma, Mike Wink, and Dylan Shaffer.

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

Congratulations were extended to: the following Senior Athletes on their high school career: **Girls Wrestling:** Izzy Taylor; **Boys Wrestling:** Dominic Culpepper, Kaesyn Husmann, Parker Johnson, Ty King, Jerin McElmeel, Mace Schnoor; **Boys Basketball:** Alex Jamison, Conley Schauf, Lincoln Schneiter, Ben Welter; **Girls Basketball:** Kennedy Hermsen, Halle Recker; **Girls Bowling:** Hannah Butterworth, Cambryn Lee, Nevaeh Norton; **Boys Bowling:** Kyle Arduser, Carlos Lagunes Torres; **Cheer:** Nevaeh Norton, Destiny Wall; Izzy Taylor for punching her ticket to State Wrestling and placing 5th; the following groups for earning a 1 rating at District Large Group speech contest and advancing onto State Large Group Speech Contest : Last Minute Adjustments (Varsity Reader's Theater) - Amber Christensen, Eden Devilbiss, Stella Flynn, Brianna Merfeld, Carter Sellner; The Raven (Choral Reading) - Hannah Butterworth, Nessa Clapp, Haley Larrimore, Kei Lee, Sam Ruchti, Jack Saunders, Leah Schemmel, Destiny Wall, Emersen Verhagen; Guys and Dolls (Musical Theater) - Cole Bouska, Carlos Lagunes-Torres, Caleb Tubbs; Macy Dusanek & Emersen Verhagen (Group Improv); The True Meaning of Halloween (Ensemble Acting) - Kei Lee, Brianna Merfeld, Jackson Saunders; KY2K (Radio Broadcasting) - Eden Devilbiss, Stella Flynn, Sam Ruchti, Destiny Wall; In Sheep's Clothing (Short Film) - Cole Bouska, Carlos Lagunes-Torres, Haley Larrimore, Caleb Tubbs; Appropriate Audience Behavior (9th Reader's Theater) Jasmine Beanblossom, Ella Giegerich, Mia Gomez, Olivia Gray, Mary Grace Lyons, Landry Schauf, Natalie Tubbs; XWING (Radio Broadcasting) - Rylan Bertling, Lincoln Schneiter, Ben Welter; M.Y.T.H. (Radio Broadcasting) - Nessa Clapp, Skylar Christensen; Kitty Cat News (TV News) - Laila Atkinson, Meghan Besler, Macey Burlage, Brynn Schmit, Katie Stadtmueller; 200.1 (Freshman Radio Broadcasting)- Oliva Gray, Lindsay Ruchti, Landry Schauf; Radio Royals (Freshman Radio Broadcasting) - Jasmine Beanblossom, Mia Gomez, Mary Grace Lyons, and Natalie Tubbs; the following group for earning a 1 rating at State Large Group Speech contest: The Raven (Choral Reading) - Hannah Butterworth, Nessa Clapp, Haley Larrimore, Kei Lee, Sam Ruchti, Jack Saunders, Leah Schemmel, Destiny Wall, Emersen Verhagen; Macy Dusanek & Emersen Verhagen (Group Improv); In Sheep's Clothing (Short Film) - Cole Bouska, Carlos Lagunes-Torres, Haley Larrimore, Caleb Tubbs; XWING (Radio Broadcasting) - Rylan Bertling, Lincoln Schneiter, Ben Welter; Kitty Cat News (TV News) - Laila Atkinson, Meghan Besler, Macey Burlage, Brynn Schmit, and Katie Stadtmueller; the following Large Group All State nominees: Group Improv - Macy Dusanek & Emersen Verhagen; Radio Broadcasting "XWING" - Rylan Bertling, Lincoln Schneiter, Ben Welter; Short Film "In Sheep's Clothing" - Cole Bouska, Haley Larrimore, Carlos Lagunes-Torres, Caleb Tubbs; MS Teacher Dylan Shaffer on receiving the Northeast STEM Region 2026 Iowa STEM Teacher Award! The Iowa STEM Teacher Award, sponsored by Google, honors six teachers across the state for their contribution and dedication to science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in Iowa; Haley Larrimore who was selected as KCRG's February Student of the Month; Wyatt Wilson for punching his ticket to State Wrestling and placing 1st at the Conference meet; to the Boys Bowling team for punching their ticket to State Bowling as a team, and Gavin Hinrichs and Quinn Thomas for qualifying as individuals as well; the following boys' basketball players on their awards: Conley Schauf – 1st Team All-Conference and Co-Player of the Year; Alex Jamison – 1st Team All-Conference; and Hayden Hackney – Honorable Mention; and the following girls' basketball player on their awards: Kennedy Hermsen – 1st Team All-Conference; Mallory McElmeel and Paige Fangmann – 2nd Team All-Conference; and Halle Recker – Honorable Mention.

REPORTS:

Elementary Principal Shannon Kehoe - We've had a very productive month, even with staff and student illnesses. We've been busy with mid-year assessments, taking a close look at testing data, and continuing to focus on student engagement. We're also working on a Kindness Project that includes an action challenge centered on social and emotional learning. In addition, we're preparing for conferences coming up in the next few weeks.

Middle School Principal Todd Werner - The middle school students have wrapped up winter testing and we are now beginning to dig into the data. Our Student Council hosted a winter dance with approximately 189 students in attendance. Middle school activities are starting to wind down, and the 7th grade ski trip was a hit once again.

Earlier this month, we celebrated School Counselor Week and School Resource Officer Day — a big thank you to our counselors and Erik Honda for all they do to support our students. Congratulations as well to Dylan Shaffer on receiving the Iowa STEM Teacher Award!

High School Principal Nick Schauf was absent.

Special Programs Director Robyn Ponder - We are beginning to prepare for next school year and reviewing applications for our Transition School program. Now in its 15th year, the Transition School may see its highest enrollment yet, so we are planning ahead to accommodate that growth. The Transition School will host its annual Chili Cook-Off on March 4, and everyone is invited to attend. In March, we will also be meeting with teachers to review ISASP data. Congratulations to Dylan Shaffer on receiving the Iowa STEM Teacher Award — he earned the highest number of nominations among all award recipients! Iowa STEM continues to be a valuable resource, providing excellent grant and funding opportunities to support STEM initiatives.

Superintendent Brian Jaeger - I will be meeting with our administrative team to review our calendar hours, including the possibility of adding a third virtual day. If recommended, it will be brought for approval on the March 23 agenda. At our April 27 meeting, we will discuss any additional hours or potential make-up days if needed. We will conduct six elementary principal interviews on Wednesday, February 25, with a team of staff, board members, and community members participating. Our goal is to bring a recommendation for approval at a special meeting on March 4. Also on tonight's agenda is approval of our sharing agreements, and I wanted to highlight how long these partnerships have been in place: Food Service Director with North Linn – 12 years; TAP Specialist with Midland – 8 years; School Social Worker with Anamosa – 7 years; and Human Resources Director with Anamosa – 6 years (and previously 6 years with Midland). We also have a sharing agreement with the City of Monticello for our School Resource Officer, which will be brought forward for approval at a future meeting. The SRO agreement has been in place for 8 years. I will continue working on our Strategic Operating Plan and will provide updates as progress is made.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Norton to accept the bid from School Bus Sales for a new 71-passenger school bus at a price of \$145,980 as presented. Ayes: Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, and Randolph. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Randolph to set March 23, 2026 at 6:00 pm as the date & time for the first public hearing on the 2026-2027 budget. Ayes: Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, and Randolph. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Norton, seconded by Randolph, to approve the 2026-2027 Budget Guarantee Resolution as presented. By roll call vote: Amsler, aye; Stadtmueller, aye; Norton, aye; and Randolph, aye. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Norton to approve the first reading of Board Policy #505.1R1 Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities Regulations as presented. Ayes: Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, and Randolph. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Norton, seconded by Randolph to approve the first reading of Board Policy #505.3 Student Eligibility and Good Conduct Policy as presented. Ayes: Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, and Randolph. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Norton to approve adding a special board meeting on March 4, 2026 at 6:00pm to approve a new elementary principal. Ayes: Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, and Randolph. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Norton to approve the middle school field trip from September 7-11, 2026 to Grand Island National Recreation Area in Michigan as presented. Ayes: Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, and Randolph. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Randolph to approve the consent agenda items as presented. Ayes: Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, and Randolph. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Board Member activity reports: Tony Amlser shared that he will attend his first Jones County Conference Board meeting on February 25 and will provide an update at our next meeting.

The Board wanted to let the public know how excited we are to provide an incredible opportunity for some of our middle school students by approving the MS field trip to Grand Island, Michigan. And MCSD truly offers something for everyone — just take a look at all the great celebrations happening this month!

No agenda items were proposed for upcoming work sessions.

The following announcements were made:

- Special Board Meeting is Wednesday, March 4 at 6:00pm
- Foundation Tailgate Party & Alumni Reunion is Saturday, March 7 at 5:30pm
- Spring Break is March 16-20
- Next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, March 23 at 6:00pm

There being no further business, Norton made a motion, seconded by Amsler to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm and move to the Exempt Session. Ayes: Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, and Randolph. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Approved:

Attest:

Craig Stadtmueller, President

Judy Hayen, Board Secretary