

## Official Minutes of the Monticello Community School District Board of Education for the Regular Meeting of March 23, 2026

Vice President Mandy Norton called the first public hearing on the 2026-2027 certified budget to order at 6:00pm on Monday, March 23, 2026 in the Board Room at 850 E Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa. There were no public comments. Norton closed the public hearing at 6:01pm.

The Board of Education regular meeting was held on Monday, March 23, 2026 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, Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller (*Stadtmueller arrived at 6:35pm and Schlarmann arrived at 6:45pm*). Absent: None. Also present were: Judy Hayen, Marcy Gillmore, Brian Jaeger, Nick Joos, Robyn Ponder, Nick Schauf, Todd Werner, Shannon Kehoe, Nick Thumma, Mike Wink, Katie Harms and Brent Jackman with OPN Architects, and a few community members.

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

Congratulations were extended to: the Monticello High School Jazz Ensemble for earning 1st Place in Class 2A at the Coe Jazz Summit; Alan for earning Outstanding Performer in Class 2A; 7th grade boys' basketball team for going undefeated this year; the Boys Bowling Team on placing 6th at State and to Quinn Thomas for placing 3rd individually and Gavin Hinrichs 26<sup>th</sup>; Quinn Thomas on being selected as KCRG's Athlete of the Week; Kennedy Hermsen for being selected for the Class 3A-1 All Regional Team and the Iowa Girls Coaches Association All-District NE Basketball Teams; the High School Jazz Band for earning 1st place at the Coe Jazz Summit and 2nd place at the NEIBA Jazz Festival. Alan Arriaga-Rangel was awarded the Outstanding Soloist in Class 2A at both events. The band has been invited to participate in the Iowa Jazz Championships on April 7. The middle school is happy to share that we received 915 donations during the Kindness Drive held over the last two weeks of February!

### **REPORTS:**

Elementary Principal Shannon Kehoe - We've had a very strong, productive month focusing on high quality instruction and growth; including ongoing work around standards and testing. Professional learning emphasized reflective practices, using data to make instructional adjustments. Shared leadership teams (BSEL and BLT) continue to collaborate. Parent-teacher conferences were completed with excellent turnout (over 96-100%). Upcoming events include some fun spring activities and Grandparents Day on April 9 and 10.

Middle School Principal Todd Werner - Conference attendance for us was in the mid-80% range for grades 5-6 (up 10% from last spring) and 60-mid-60% range for grades 7-8, also showing improvement. MAP testing is complete, and ISASP testing preparation is underway. A 'pie in the face' assembly was held prior to spring break to celebrate our MAP progress, and a kindness drive led by Jamie Vroegh supported the Monticello Food Pantry, with appreciation extended to donors.

High School Principal Nick Schauf - Nick reported on FFA Week events such as a grandparent's breakfast, Drive Your Tractor to School Day, Ag Olympics at the middle school, and the Build a Burger competition at Carpenter. RVC principals highlighted a focus on profiling employability skills and noted that our district practices are serving as a model for others. Parent-teacher conferences were held with the first hour virtual/phone where teachers were to connect with 3-4 parents each. The remainder of the time the conferences were in person. BLT reviewed data and began setting goals for next year. Preparation is underway for ISASP testing (April 7-10). Spring activities have begun. The first senior meeting will be held Wednesday. Commencement is planned for May 17 at the football field with new ramps in place. With Prom on April 18, the high school will attend a "Forever 17," presentation that focuses on wise choices and your future.

A few guests commented on the ADA accessibility and limited handicap seating at the football field for graduation. Dr. Jaeger and Principal Schauf will review that and provide a report at the April 27 meeting.

Special Programs Director Robyn Ponder - ISASP testing is underway, with appreciation extended to Morgan Murray-Zimmerman for her extensive behind-the-scenes work. Updates to the assessment include an adaptive math component and changes to performance levels; while cut scores will be available, overall proficiency levels will not be released until June. The District Continuous Improvement Team has been established as part of the Strategic Operating Plan. In Special Education, planning is ongoing regarding programming and student numbers for the upcoming year. For Technology, I will present Chromebook bid information later in the meeting for board approval.

Superintendent Brian Jaeger - Meetings for the Strategic Operating Plan will be held on April 15 and 22 with student, staff, and parent groups. Appreciation was expressed to the Board for approving an annual spring break, which has been well received and provides a valuable refresh for students and staff. Mike Wink was present to discuss the recently purchased 12-passenger van. The District recently purchased a 2024 Ford Transit 12-passenger van with a raised roof, providing extra headroom for students and adults. The vehicle features all-wheel drive, has 14,500 miles, and was purchased for \$54,400. Mike Wink thanked the Board for giving him permission to purchase as one came available.

Katie Harms and Brent Jackman from OPN Architects discussed the change orders and gave a project update on the new elementary. The change order included storm sewer changes, removing window testing, adding a yield sign to Spring Farm Lane, and structural modifications from shop drawings.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Norton to approve the Garling Construction Change Order #001 in the amount of \$28,549.30 as presented. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Norton, seconded by Amsler to set April 27, 2026 at 6:00pm as the date & time for the second public hearing on the 2026-27 budget. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Schlarmann to approve the bid for Chromebooks from CNB System Liquidation in the amount of \$89,065 as presented. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Schlarmann to approve the addition of one Virtual Learning Day (6 hours) as one snow make up day for the 2025-26 School Calendar as presented. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

Board member Tony Amsler attended the first Jones County Conference Board meeting on February 25. During the meeting, the group reviewed last year's assessor's budget, discussed the upcoming year's budget, and considered salary increases for the assessor's office. A follow-up meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

The Board would like to remind the public that there is much to celebrate in our district—just take a look at the many recognitions shared at each meeting!

The following announcements were made:

- Next Work Session is Wednesday, April 8 at 6:00pm
- Next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, April 27 at 6:00pm

There being no further business, Schlarmann made a motion, seconded by Norton to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 pm and move to the Exempt Session. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Approved:

Attest:

Craig Stadtmueller, President

Judy Hayen, Board Secretary