

Official Minutes of the Monticello Community School District Board of Education for the Regular Meeting of April 27, 2026

President Craig Stadtmueller called the public hearing on the 2026-2027 certified budget to order at 6:00pm on Monday, April 27, 2026 in the Board Room at 850 E Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa. No public comments were received. Stadtmueller closed the public hearing at 6:01pm.

The Board of Education regular meeting was held on Monday, April 27, 2026 in the Board Room at 850 E Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa, and was called to order at 6:01 pm by President Craig Stadtmueller. Board Member Creighton Randolph led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Monticello CSD mission statement. Board Secretary, Judy Hayen, did roll call. The following directors were present: Randolph, Amsler, Stadtmueller, and Schlarmann. Absent: Norton. Also present were: Judy Hayen, Marcy Gillmore, Brian Jaeger, Nick Joos with *The Monticello Express*, Nick Thumma, Robyn Ponder, Nick Schauf, Todd Werner, Shannon Kehoe, Katie Harms with OPN Architects, and Richard and Linda Drake.

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

Congratulations were extended to: Conley Schauf on his basketball awards: all-substate team, academic all-state, 2nd team all-state, and was selected to play in the Iowa Basketball Coaches Association all-star game; these talented artists on their awards from the RVC Art Show: 1st Place Watercolor Painting – Ashlynn Coohy, 1st Place Ink Drawing – Samantha Ruchti, 2nd Place Graphite Drawing – Ashlynn Coohy, and 3rd Place Opaque Painting – Greyson Keunen; the MHS Jazz Band for earning 6th place in Class 2A at the Iowa Jazz Championships! Congrats also to Rylan Bertling for receiving honorable mention solo award and Alan Arriaga-Rangel for being named one of the 4 Outstanding Soloists in 2A; Eric Schmitt on receiving the 2026 STEM BEST® Program Explore award in the amount of \$7,150 for students in grades 9-12 to have a paid, community-based summer internship of working in the greenhouse as well as upkeeping the flowerpots on Mainstreet in Monticello! This is an expansion of the STEM BEST gran he received previously; to the Music Department for another year of being awarded as a Best Community for Music Education! 5th year in a row!

REPORTS:

Elementary Principal Shannon Kehoe: Special thanks were extended to the many individuals and groups who helped make the Grandparents/Special Persons Breakfast at Shannon and Carpenter a success. Shannon welcomed approximately 320 attendees, while Carpenter hosted 335. Appreciation was shared for the Monticello PTO, Heather Hansen, all our staff, volunteers, Pat Kelly and the food service team, Mike Wink, bus drivers, and the community members who participated. The elementary is currently in the midst of assessments, including ISASP, MAP, and FAST benchmarks. An update was also provided on the Beanstack reading initiative, which has shown strong student engagement. The focus has been on goal-setting for 2nd through 4th grade students. Since February, students have logged 127,000 reading minutes, working toward an end-of-year goal of 140,000 minutes. Participation has been balanced among boys and girls, with strong overall engagement. Plans are in place to continue and expand the program through the summer months.

Middle School Principal Todd Werner: ISASP and FAST testing has been completed, and we are currently reviewing initial results. Last week, we also hosted our PBIS Celebration “Minute to Win It” event, which continues to be a favorite among students. In addition, 8th grade students participated in a Financial Literacy program in Anamosa, and 7th graders enjoyed Outdoor Education Day at Central Park. Work on the library relocation is moving forward, including packing books and transferring them upstairs. We anticipate the wall removal will be completed by the end of the school year. Finally, a special shout-out to Angie Shady in recognition of Administrative Professionals Day. She does an incredible amount to support our building and truly helps keep the middle school running smoothly.

High School Principal Nick Schauf: ISASP testing has been completed. Special thanks to Kim Carlson for coordinating and ensuring students who were absent during testing were able to make up their sessions. Prom and Post-Prom were both successful events—thank you to everyone who contributed to making the evening safe, enjoyable, and well-organized for our students. Last week, we conducted a shelter-in-place drill

with support from SRO Erik Honda, the local police department, and K-9 units. These drills are valuable practice for maintaining a safe and prepared school environment. Looking ahead, the dessert concert is coming up, along with the National Honor Society induction and Honors Night scheduled for May 12. May 15 will be the last day for seniors, which will include building “walk-throughs,” a brunch, and graduation practice. Graduation is set for May 17 at 2:00 p.m. at the football field. Plans are being made to ensure handicap accessibility, including blocking off the second row. The high school office will communicate these details to graduates and families. Discussions are also ongoing regarding improvements to handicap accessibility at the track/football field. Director of Maintenance Dennis Dirks has referenced the layout at Tipton’s facility as a possible model. Richard and Linda Drake were at the meeting and emphasized the importance of designated areas for elderly and individuals with mobility needs. The SODA (Students Okay Without Drugs and Alcohol) group’s “Natural High Day” is scheduled for Wednesday, along with a Student Council “Amazing Race” event focusing on mental health awareness and activities. Finally, recognition was shared for both Teacher Appreciation Week and Support Staff Week coming up in May. A special shout-out was also given in honor of Administrative Professionals Day to Rachel Bowser and Alyssa McNally for all they do behind the scenes to keep the school running smoothly.

Curriculum Director Robyn Ponder: While official proficiency levels for ISASP results are not yet available, preliminary data indicates student growth. A comprehensive data comparison is expected to be completed by late summer or early fall. The Middle School and High School will be adopting a new math curriculum, Math & You, an updated version of the current instructional materials. A sincere thank you is extended to the Foundation, and especially Audrey Savage and Sue Lilly for their generous support of this curriculum purchase and for fully reimbursing the district for the cost. The district has also successfully filled all 10 Associate II positions. This role includes additional training and coaching responsibilities to support fellow associates, along with increased hours, benefits, and dedicated collaboration time with teachers. Finally, appreciation was shared for Morgan Murray-Zimmerman for her phenomenal work across multiple areas, including technology, curriculum, and Special Education, in recognition of Administrative Professionals Day.

Superintendent Brian Jaeger: Recognition and appreciation were extended to Judy Hayen in honor of Administrative Professionals Day. Congratulations were also shared for two retirements: Janne Schlemme, a food service employee retiring after 8 years of dedicated service, and Nick Sauser, a bus driver retiring after an outstanding 50+ years with the district. Beginning next year, all high school students will be required to take the Civics Test as part of graduation requirements, with a minimum passing score of 60%. Conversations are ongoing regarding the most effective timing for administration of the test, including the possibility of students completing it in 8th grade versus freshman year. Dr. Jaeger has also reached out to Representative Steve Bradley regarding this topic, who has brought it forward to the education committee. With the legislative session nearing its conclusion, further progress is anticipated next year. The Strategic Operating Plan (SOP) update is moving forward well. Committees made up of parents, staff, and students have met twice and have worked to prioritize key areas for the updated plan. Appreciation is extended to Nick and Robyn for their participation in these discussions. A final draft is expected to be presented at the June Board meeting. Finally, the district has been identified as “High Performing” by the Iowa State School Performance Profile, ranking #21 out of 329 districts statewide—placing us in the top 6–7% in Iowa. This is an impressive achievement that reflects the collective efforts of our staff, students, parents, and community. Thank you!

Katie Harms from OPN Architects discussed the change orders on the new elementary. The change order included foundation adjustments on shop drawings for \$3,708.21, pricing to backfill footings or change of depth for \$821.58, and pricing to core out bad soils per Terracon for \$656.52.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Amsler to approve the Garling Construction Change Order #002 in the amount of \$5,186.31 as presented. Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, Stadtmueller, and Schlarmann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Schlarmann to approve the Resolution Providing for the Levy of Taxes to Pay General Obligation School Bonds as presented. By roll call vote: Randolph, aye; Amsler, aye; Stadtmueller, aye; and Schlarmann, aye. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Amsler to approve the 2026-27 certified budget with \$575,000 going to the management fund, with income surtax on the instructional support levy at 6% and a 1% PPEL income surtax, for a total levy rate of \$15.72595 (*last year's was \$15.8664*). Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, Stadtmueller, and Schlarmann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Schlarmann to approve the 2026-27 substitute pay as presented. Ayes: Amsler, Stadtmueller, and Schlarmann. Nays: None. Randolph abstained. Motion carried.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Randolph to approve May 22, 2026 with a 1:00 dismissal as the last day of school for the 2025-26 school year as presented. Teachers last day will be May 26. Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, Stadtmueller, and Schlarmann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Randolph to set May 18, 2026 at 6:00pm as the date & time for the public hearing to amend the FY 26 budget. Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, Stadtmueller, and Schlarmann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Amsler to approve the high school and middle school math curriculum adoption as presented in the amount of \$86,194.95, which the Monticello School Foundation is reimbursing the district for the full amount. Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, Stadtmueller, and Schlarmann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Randolph to approve the first reading of the following Board policies as presented: #102.0 Educational Opportunity, #102.0E1 Annual Notice of Nondiscrimination, #102.0E2 Continuous Notice of Nondiscrimination, #102.0E3 Notice of Section 504 Student and Parental Rights, #102.1 General Grievance Procedure, #102.1F2 Witness Grievance Documentation, #801.1 Planning the Budget, #901.4 Educational Specifications for Buildings and Sites, #902.1 Purchasing Policy, #902.3 Disposition or Lease of School District Buildings and Sites, and #902.5 Warning System and Emergency Plans. Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, Stadtmueller, and Schlarmann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

There were no Board member activity reports.

The Board expressed sincere appreciation for the generous contribution from the Monticello School Foundation, as well as Sue Lilly and Audrey Savage, in support of our math curriculum. Thank you for your continued support of our district. The Board also shared its pride in the district's recognition as "High Performing" by the Iowa State School Performance Profile, ranking #21 out of 329 districts statewide—placing us in the top 6–7% in Iowa. This achievement reflects the outstanding work of our staff and students. In addition, congratulations were extended to the Music Department for being named a Best Community for Music Education for the fifth consecutive year.

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 4-8
- Support Staff Appreciation Week is May 11-15
- Graduation is Sunday, May 17 at 2:00pm at the Football Field
- Next Regular Board Meeting is Monday, May 18 at 6:00pm

At 7:06pm, Randolph made a motion, seconded by Amsler 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: Amsler, aye; and Stadtmueller, aye; Schlarmann, aye; and Randolph, aye. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The board took a short break and then resumed closed session at 7:14pm.

At 7:54pm, Amsler made a motion, seconded by Randolph to reconvene to open session. Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, Stadtmueller, and Schlarmann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Schlarmann made a motion, seconded by Randolph to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm. Ayes: Randolph, Amsler, Stadtmueller, and Schlarmann. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Approved:

Attest:

Craig Stadtmueller, President

Judy Hayen, Board Secretary