

Official Minutes of the Monticello Community School District Board of Education for the Regular Meeting of June 22, 2026

The Board of Education regular meeting was held on Monday, June 22, 2026, in the Board Room at 850 E Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa, and was called to order at 6:00pm by President Craig Stadtmueller.

Board Member Mandy Norton 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. Absent: None. Also present were: Judy Hayen, Marcy Gillmore, Brian Jaeger, Katie Harms with OPN Architects, Todd Werner, Robyn Ponder, Rebecca DeWitte, Nick Joos with *The Monticello Express*, and Nick and Julie Sauser.

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

Congratulations and appreciation were extended to Nick Sauser on his retirement after 54 years of service to the Monticello Community School District. To honor his dedication, Superintendent Dr. Brian Jaeger presented him with a commemorative service plaque.

Congratulations were also extended to: the additional girls who qualified for the state track meet: Kenya Davis Robinson (4 x 200), Mary Grace Lyons (distance medley), Peyton Ries (distance medley), Ava Zimmerman (distance medley, 4 x 200), Laila Atkinson (distance medley, 4 x 200), Charlett Smith (400 hurdles, shuttle hurdle relay), Emma Kromminga (discus), Mallory McElmeel (4 x 200), Addison Norton (shuttle hurdle relay), Jorja Jacobs (shuttle hurdle relay), and Macy Dusanek (shuttle hurdle relay); the girls state track medal winners: Mary Grace Lyon who placed 2nd in the 1500 and 3rd in the 3000, the distance medley relay team of Mary Grace Lyons, Peyton Ries, Ava Zimmerman, and Laila Atkinson who placed 7th, and the 4x800 team of Mary Grace Lyons, Peyton Ries, Brynn Schmit, and Halle Recker who placed 7th; Halle Recker who received the Iowa Association of Track Coaches All-Academic All-State award; the high school girls track and field team for achieving an overall GPA of 3.825; and the Monticello FFA Horse Judging team of Peytin Schultz, Ella Geigerich, and Emily Leytem on placing 3rd as a team at the State FFA Horse judging competition, with Peytin also finishing as the 3rd place overall individual.

REPORTS:

Elementary Principal Shannon Kehoe and High School Principal Nick Schauf were absent.

Middle School Principal Todd Werner: June has been a quiet month, and it was nice to wrap up the school year prior to Memorial Day. I would like to extend a special thank you to Dylan Shaffer for his time and service as a Science Teacher, as well as to our long-term substitutes who stepped in this year: Dan Beck, Lauren Manternach, Bo Kramer, and Gretchen Eastman. We appreciate all of our substitutes and everything they do! Currently, we are busy finalizing handbooks, organizing schedules, and preparing our building for the upcoming school year.

Curriculum Director Robyn Ponder: Robyn Ponder shared that she and a team of Monticello staff attended an informative 504 conference at the University of Northern Iowa today. The team gained valuable insights regarding 504 qualifications, assistive technology, health plans, and their coordination with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs). Additionally, the curriculum department is narrowing down its evaluation of the current math curriculum. We are also actively planning special education programming for the upcoming school year.

Superintendent Brian Jaeger: Superintendent Dr. Brian Jaeger shared that, due to recent legislative changes, he will provide an update to the Board at the July 27 meeting regarding eighth graders playing varsity sports, certified enrollment count changes, and the potential impact of early graduates on those counts. He noted that the Board will be voting to approve the 2026-2031 Strategic Operating Plan tonight, expressing pride in the dedication of everyone involved and stating it will serve as an excellent roadmap for the next five years.

Additionally, he highlighted that the approval of a new high school science teacher on tonight's agenda will fully complete the district's teaching staff requirements for the upcoming school year.

Katie Harms from OPN Architects discussed the change order on the new elementary. The adjustments were required to address poor soil conditions at the waterline, supply power for the kitchen's overhead doors, and incorporate owner-requested layout updates to the classrooms, nurse's office, and special education spaces. These modifications resulted in a total cost increase of \$59,030.89.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Randolph to approve the Garling Construction Change Order #004 in the amount of \$59,030.89 as presented. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Amsler to approve the following 2026-27 staff handbooks as presented: District Teacher Handbook, Administrative Staff Handbook, Support Staff Handbook, and Panther Academy Staff Handbook as presented. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Norton, seconded by Schlarmann to approve the 2026-2031 Monticello CSD Strategic Operating Plan as presented. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Norton, seconded by Amsler to approve a \$60 monthly employee cell phone stipend in lieu of a district-provided cell phone as presented. Stipends will be approved at the July 27 board meeting. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Randolph to approve the first reading of the following board policies as presented: #102.2 Title IX Grievance Procedure, #203.2 Officers of the Board of Directors – Secretary, #203.3 Officers of the Board of Directors – Treasurer, #204.1 Board of Directors Conflicts of Interest, #802.5 Investment of Funds, #802.7 Transfer of Funds, #804.1 Care, Maintenance, and Disposal of School District Records, #804.2 Financial Records, #1001.2 School District – Community Group Relations, #1001.5 Public Examination of School District Records, #1001.6 Community Volunteers, #1003.2 Sunday and Wednesday School Use of Facilities, #1004.1 Visitors to School District Buildings and Sites, #1004.3 Tobacco/Nicotine-Free Environment, #1005.2 Advertising and Promotion. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

There were no Board member activity reports.

The Board wanted the public to know that construction on the new elementary school is moving forward smoothly, with the installation of the tip-up walls scheduled for completion this Wednesday.

Randolph suggested a future work session to discuss the district's recent performance rating, proposing a collaborative challenge among all schools to drive improvement for the upcoming year.

The following announcements were made:

- There will be no July Work Session.
- The next regular Board Meeting is for Monday, July 27, 2026, at 6:00pm.

There being no further business, Schlarman made a motion, seconded by Norton, to adjourn the meeting at 6:54pm. Ayes: Norton, Schlarman, Randolph, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Approved:

Attest:

Craig Stadtmueller, President

Judy Hayen, Board Secretary