

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

The Board of Education regular meeting was held on Monday, July 27, 2026 in the Board Room at the High School at 850 East Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa. In lieu of Board President Craig Stadtmueller's absence, Vice President Mandy Norton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Board member John Schlarmann led the Pledge of Allegiance and read the Monticello CSD mission statement. Board Secretary, Judy Hayen, did roll call. The following directors were present: John Schlarmann, Creighton Randolph, Tony Amsler, and Mandy Norton. Absent: Stadtmueller. Others present were Judy Hayen, Marcy Gillmore, Brian Jaeger, Kegan Arduser with *The Monticello Express*, Tim Lambert, Gina McConahay, Todd Werner, Nick Schauf, Robyn Ponder, Rebecca Dewitte, Diane Witt with Outdoor Recreation Products, and Katie Harms with OPN Architects.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Schlarmann to approve the agenda as presented with the exception of moving two board policies (#200.1 Code of Ethics and #202.0 Elections) from the consent agenda (Item #5.08) to under the action items. Ayes: Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Norton. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Celebrations included that we are looking forward to the start of another school year! New teachers report on August 18, all other teachers report on August 19, and Open House is August 20.

REPORTS:

Elementary Principal Gina McConahay: What a great welcome to the district! Thank you to everyone. I've been meeting individually with all staff members to build relationships. Additionally, I attended the SAI New Elementary Principals Conference and just immersing myself into the district's operations, culture, and upcoming school year preparations.

Middle School Principal Todd Werner: July is a quiet month dedicated to preparing the building for the return of staff. In light of the new elementary construction, the library has been successfully relocated upstairs; while hallways near the library are running warm, all classrooms remain cool and comfortable. A thank you goes to our maintenance staff for their hard work in getting the facility ready for another school year.

High School Principal Nick Schauf: We are actively addressing recent legislative changes, including the addition of a January 15 certified enrollment count date. To support both student outcomes and district funding under these rules, seniors planning for early graduation will complete 90 hours of work-based learning during the second semester. In professional development, the Building Leadership Team (BLT) recently completed a book study on *The 6 Types of Working Genius*. My superintendent licensure coursework continues through the University of Northern Iowa. High school schedules are complete, student schedule adjustments are in progress, and gratitude goes to our custodial team for their hard work readying the building for the return of staff and students.

Curriculum Director Robyn Ponder: Some upcoming August professional development dates include elementary math curriculum work on August 7, new teacher, critical friends, and mentor meetings on August 10, CPI training on August 11–12, and all-staff PD on August 20. The Special Education Department will host specialized training for Associate II positions and a half-day PD for all associates, with recruitment ongoing for vacant associate roles. Additionally, appreciation was extended to Heather, Morgan, and Michael for preparing student and staff devices, with systems fully in place for online registration opening next week.

Superintendent Brian Jaeger: The administrative team will be attending the School Administrators of Iowa (SAI) conference next week. This is always a great conference with presentations, events, and networking. We continue to work on policy updates driven by standard reviews and recent state legislation, with draft policies regarding employee cell phone usage and 8th-grade athletic eligibility slated for board presentation next month. Additionally, preliminary timeline preparations are beginning for the FY28 Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) renewal.

Katie Harms from OPN Architects discussed change order #005 for the new elementary. The adjustments were for tree lights in the library and reception area, deduction for light fixture revisions, steel additions from shop drawing reviews, and a deduction for a yield sign. These modifications resulted in a total cost increase of \$42,757.35.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Randolph to approve the Garling Construction Change Order #005 in the amount of \$42,757.35 as presented. Ayes: Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Norton. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Diane Witt with Outdoor Recreation Products did a presentation on the playground for the new elementary.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Randolph to approve the elementary playground equipment quote from Outdoor Recreation Products as presented. Ayes: Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Norton. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Activities Director Tim Lambert shared details on the 8th grade athletic participation approval process, emphasizing continued coordination among coaches, parents, administration, and students.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Schlarmann to approve the 8th grade athletic participation approval process as presented. Ayes: Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Norton. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Randolph to approve the changes to early graduation requirements as presented due to the state legislature adding an additional certified enrollment count date on January 15. Seniors wanting to graduate early will need to complete 90 hours of work-based learning during the 2nd semester. Ayes: Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Norton. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Judy Hayen shared the results of the Board's selections for the IASB Legislative Priorities.

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Schlarmann to approve the 2026-27 IASB Legislative Priorities as follows: Supplemental State Aid, Mental Health, Teacher Recruitment and Licensure, and Iowa School Boards Local Accountability and Decision Making. Ayes: Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Norton. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Amsler to approve the first reading of the following Board policies as presented and those with changes as noted: #202.1 Vacancies, #202.4 Oath of Office (*with changes*), #503.15 Disruptive Behavior (*with changes*), #503.15R1 Disruptive Behavior – Removal Procedures, #503.15R2 Disruptive Behavior – Removal Procedures for Nonviolent Behavior for Students with an IEP. Ayes: Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Norton. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Schlarmann to approve the following 2026-27 handbooks as presented: Elementary Student & Parent Handbook, Elementary Faculty Handbook, Middle School Student & Parent Handbook, Middle School Faculty Handbook; High School and Alternative High School Student & Parent Handbook, High School Faculty Handbook, Activities Department Handbook, 1-to-1 Technology Handbook, and Panther Academy Parent Handbook. Ayes: Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Norton. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Amsler to approve the first reading of Board policy #200.1 Code of Ethics as presented with changes. Ayes: Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Norton. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Schlarmann to approve the first reading of Board policy #202.0 Elections as presented with changes. Ayes: Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Norton. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

There were no Board member activity reports.

The Board would like the public to know that we are making progress on reviewing and updating board policies. Also, we are excited for the new elementary school's planned playground and reminded families that online registration will open next week.

There were no agenda items suggested for a future work session.

The following announcements were made:

- a. Next Work Session is Wednesday, August 12 @ 6:00pm
- b. New Teacher Orientation is Tuesday, August 18 at 8:00am
- c. All Staff Welcome Back/Employee Recognition Luncheon is Thursday, August 20 at 11:30am
- d. School starts Monday, August 24
- e. Next Board Meeting is Monday, August 24 at 6:00pm

Motion by Schlarmann, seconded by Randolph to adjourn the meeting at 7:59pm. Ayes: Schlarmann, Randolph, Amsler, and Norton. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Approved:

Attest:

Mandy Norton, Vice President

Judy Hayen, Board Secretary