

Official Minutes of the Monticello Community School District Board of Education for the Work Session and Regular Meeting of September 28, 2026

The Board of Education work session was held on Monday, September 28, 2026, in the Board Room at 850 East Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa. President Craig Stadtmueller called the work session to order at 5:03pm. Board Secretary, Judy Hayen, did roll call. The following directors were present: Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, Schlarmann, and Randolph. (*Norton arrived at 5:33 pm*). Absent: None. Others present were: Judy Hayen, Marcy Gillmore, Brian Jaeger, Kegan Arduser, and Rebecca DeWitte.

Travis Squires with Piper Sandler delivered a presentation (*virtually*) outlining revenue bond options and the project finance plan, incorporating the 2026 sales tax component. Following discussion, Travis was directed to present refined options at the October 14 meeting.

There being no further business, Schlarmann made a motion, seconded by Randolph to adjourn the work session at 5:50pm. Ayes: Amsler, Stadtmueller, Norton, Schlarmann, and Randolph. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Board of Education regular meeting was held on Monday, September 28, 2026, in the Board Room at 850 East Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa. President Craig Stadtmueller called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Stadtmueller 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: Stadtmueller, Norton, Randolph, and Amsler. Absent: Schlarmann. Others present were Judy Hayen, Marcy Gillmore, Brian Jaeger, Kegan Arduser, Rebecca DeWitte, Nick Schauf, Todd Werner, Robyn Ponder, Kim Carlson, and Katie Harms with OPN Architects.

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

Congratulations were extended to everyone for a great Homecoming Week!

A special celebration was shared by Stacy Hansen, Executive Director of the Iowa High School Speech Association (IHSSA). Stacy virtually presented Dr. Jaeger with the 2026 IHSSA Fine Arts Administrator of the Year Award! Brian will be recognized at the IHSSA Coaches Convention on Friday, October 9 at the Gateway Hotel in Ames. Congratulations Dr. Jaeger!

REPORTS:

Elementary Principal Gina McConahay was absent.

Middle School Principal Todd Werner: The first five weeks of school are off to a successful start. Staff are concluding FAST testing and beginning to analyze student benchmark data. Homecoming week was a great success; appreciation was extended to the High School for including Middle School students in their pep rally. Upcoming events include: October 7 is "Shadow a Student Day" and October 9 is 7th Grade Outdoor Education Day. SRO Erik Honda has been visiting classrooms to present on digital citizenship (internet safety, AI awareness, social media risks) and safety protocols/emergency procedures.

High School Principal Nick Schauf: MAP testing is currently underway. The civics test has been completed, with staff currently collecting data and ensuring full senior participation. A special thanks was extended to Counselor Emily Kiefer and the AmeriCorps students for assisting each senior in mapping out their post-graduation plans and next steps. Staff are actively developing professional learning goals, reflecting on classroom experiences, and sharing key learnings. Advisory periods and peer-to-peer mentoring groups have been paired. Progress continues on the furniture update, with a final plan nearing completion. Appreciation was expressed to Mrs. Lake and the Student Council for organizing a successful Homecoming week despite unfavorable weather, highlighted by an awesome mobile pep rally. Mr. Baumhover was commended for doing a great job debuting the new school mascot, Panther Pete.

Curriculum Director Robyn Ponder: MAP and FAST testing are currently underway. I assisted with coverage and administrative support at the elementary buildings during Gina's absence, which included attending a student field trip. The District Career Academic Plan (DCAP) team met and submitted their plan; the team is currently awaiting feedback. High school, middle school, and elementary vertical teams are meeting on Wednesday to focus on academic standards, curriculum alignment, and proficiency scales. And we are preparing for special education count date at the end of October.

Superintendent Brian Jaeger: Thank you to the Iowa High School Speech Association for the recent honor of IHSSA Fine Arts Administrator of the Year award, noting appreciation for being selected alongside a distinguished group of peers. Shannon Kehoe is providing support during Gina's absence, which is going well; Gina is scheduled to return in early November. Deep appreciation was expressed to the Monticello School Foundation for donating over \$94,000 this year, including approximately \$82,000 dedicated to the new math curriculum. We couldn't do it without you! I met with the Lions Club to present an update on the elementary building project, which was well-received. And Dylan Shaffer will present at the October board meeting regarding the OSEP Middle School student trip to Michigan.

Katie Harms from OPN Architects discussed change order #006 for the new elementary. The adjustments were for exploratory excavation to determine the limits of the existing leach field and for the denial of TV and Smart TV adjustments with power and data drop adds as additional devices were accounted for in the specifications. These modifications resulted in a total cost increase of \$5,956.90. A huge thank you to Katie for being such a wonderful advocate for Monticello Schools!

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Amsler to approve the Garling Construction Change Order #006 in the amount of \$5,956.90 as presented. Ayes: Stadtmueller, Norton, Randolph, and Amsler. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Norton, seconded by Amsler to approve the funds allocated to the support staff by the State Legislature to be given as a bonus to our support staff similar to last year with the amount to be based on their hours worked last year and payable on the November 24 payroll as presented. Ayes: Stadtmueller, Norton, Randolph, and Amsler. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Norton, seconded by Randolph, to approve the special education allowable growth request in the amount of \$140,318.80 as presented. Ayes: Stadtmueller, Norton, Randolph, and Amsler. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Norton, seconded by Amsler, to approve the application to the School Budget Review Committee (SBRC) for English Language (EL) excess costs in the amount of \$67,716.02 as presented. Ayes: Stadtmueller, Norton, Randolph, and Amsler. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Amsler, seconded by Randolph to approve the amended 2026-27 State Wide Voluntary Preschool Program (SWVPP) budget and contract (due to an additional student) as presented. Ayes: Stadtmueller, Norton, Randolph, and Amsler. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Motion by Randolph, seconded by Amsler to approve the first reading of the following Board policies as presented: #401.1 Equal Employment Opportunity, #403.1R1 Abuse of Students by District Employees Regulations (*deletion*), #605.4 Technology and Instructional Materials, #605.4E1 Technology and Instructional Materials Exhibit, #706.4 Time and Effort Reporting as presented. Ayes: Stadtmueller, Norton, Randolph, and Amsler. Nays: None. Motion carried.

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

The Board wanted the public to know we have one of the best Superintendents in the state!

The following announcements were made:

- a. Next Work Session is Wednesday, October 14 @ 6:00 pm
- b. Next Board Meeting is Monday, October 26 @ 6:00 pm
- c. IASB Delegate Assembly is November 18
- d. IASB Annual Convention is November 18-19

There being no further business, Norton made a motion, seconded by Randolph to adjourn the meeting at 6:43pm. Ayes: Stadtmueller, Norton, Randolph, and Amsler. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Approved:

Attest:

Craig Stadtmueller, President

Judy Hayen, Board Secretary