

Official Minutes of the Monticello Community School District Board of Education Work Session of January 10, 2024

The Board of Education Work Session was held in the Board Room at the High School at 850 East Oak Street, Monticello, Iowa on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. President Craig Stadtmueller called the Work Session to order at 6:00 pm. 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, Rieken, Amsler and Stadtmueller. Absent: None. Superintendent Brian Jaeger, Judy Hayen, Pete Temple, and Mike Wink were also present.

It was moved by Schlarmann, seconded by Rieken to approve the agenda as presented with the exception of moving Item #3.02 Professional Learning Community Process and item 3.03 Performance PE Class to the February Work Session due to the no school day today. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Rieken, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The following items were discussed:

- **Pricing Elementary School/Weight Room/Transportation Center:** Susan Bowersox, Vicky Highland, and Carly Weber with OPN Architects went over the initial pricing for a new elementary (\$25,593,750), a new weight room/fitness addition at the high school (\$1,475,520) a Transportation building (2,462,170), a bus garage with a roof only (\$554,400) and site improvements, contingency, and soft costs (554,400) for a total project cost of \$30,472,240. OPN stated that this is just a starting point. The Board discussed the costs and the project and thought at this time that it might be best to just start with an elementary school and then look at the other projects down the road. The next steps will be to hear from Travis Squires with Piper Sandler on our bonding capacity (January 22 meeting) and also to form a facilities committee made up of community members to make project recommendations to the Board. The Board will give Dr. Jaeger a list of suggested members by the next Board meeting on January 22.
- **2024-25 School Calendar:** Brian Jaeger discussed the differences in the draft version of the 2024-25 school calendar. With leap year this year, it will make the 2024-25 calendar 4 days longer. A few options were discussed on returning to school on January 3 which is a Friday or possibly making January 20 (Martin Luther King Day) a school day or adding a day at the end of the year. Due to how the calendar aligns, graduation will be back on Memorial Day weekend. He will meet with the calendar committee next week for their input and have a final version ready for approval at the January 22 Board meeting.
- **Debrief of Legislative Session:** Board member Tony Amsler wanted to discuss the format of the legislative session that was held on December 20, 2023. He asked if the format was published and in the future if we could possibly have an open hour for community and board members to ask questions and to possibly do it in conjunction with another district. This will be added to one of our work sessions this fall for further discussion.
- **Tradition of Handing Out Diplomas by Board Members at Graduation:** Board member Tony Amsler recognized that it has been a tradition for Board members to hand out diplomas to their children. He wondered if it would be possible to have past board members hand out diplomas at graduation to their child(ren). He thought it would be a nice recognition for their years of service. The Board discussed and others thought it was a great idea, Mark Rieken thought that only the Board President should hand out diplomas unless you have a child graduating then the Board member would do it. Mark also asked if graduation could be moved back to the HS gym. The Board will vote on the handing out of diplomas at their January 22 meeting.

No action or voting took place on the above items.

There being no further business, it was moved by Norton, seconded by Rieken at 7:33 pm. Ayes: Norton, Schlarmann, Rieken, Amsler, and Stadtmueller. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Approved:

Attest:

Craig Stadtmueller, President

Judy Hayen, Board Secretary