

Board of Education Workshop  
Monday, November 13, 2023  
4:45 PM

Montrose Elementary School of Innovation  
100 - 2nd St S  
Montrose, MN 55363

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## MINUTES

Present: Bob Sansevere, Matt Hoffman, Amanda Lawrence, Adam Bjorklund, Sue Lee, Melissa Brings

Absent: Sheila Smude

1. Presentation: Montrose Elementary School of Innovation  
Tony Steffes, MESI Principal

AVID work with students talking about careers and continued education. Various activities have been created. Working on creating an outdoor learning space in the wooded area on the east side of the building. This year, staff are prioritizing state standards into Promise Standards based on need for development and focus.

2. Site Improvement Plans 2023-24

Pam Miller, Director of Teaching and Learning

BCMS – Principal Matt Lubben – Student Advocacy where students take ownership of their education. BHS is working on students advocating for themselves. Students participated in a survey. Results were submitted to AVID and currently waiting for the results. Shared videos of BCMS students talking about their personal experiences with focused note taking. BHS feels the benefits of AVID experiences at BCMS showing the importance of working together from K through 12.

3. Spring Activities Review

### A. BHS

Nick Guida, BHS Activities Director

Spring activities continue to gain participation. Combining area districts to provide adaptive sports, the Coyotes, is working well.

Discussion: thoughts about the Lake Conference have changed. Students are improving both physically and competitively.

### B. BCMS

John Hayden, BCMS Activities Director

Past practice for pulling 8<sup>th</sup> graders up to 9<sup>th</sup> grade is going to be revisited with move to Lake Conference. Especially noticed in baseball last spring when 13 players were pulled up to fill high school team leaving a small number of participants at the middle school level. This was the first time we were able to hold soccer and softball games on campus. Facility at BCMS is the best in the area. Participation increased from the previous year.

4. BHS Course Proposals

Pam Miller, Director of Teaching and Learning and Mark Mischke, BHS Principal  
New courses include – Food Animal Products, Algebra Foundations, Financial Algebra (replaces Life Skills), Guitar 2, CIS Physics, CIS Creative Problem Solving and CIS Certified Nursing Assistant. Working with local entities to provide the CNA certification. Pre-boardAlso included is an adjustment in the scope and sequence of courses due to requirements development hours.

5. Quarterly Financial Update

Miranda Kramer, Controller

In the current year our budget has increased just under \$7 million which can be attributed to the Food Service category resulting from the change to universal school meals and the timing of when we receive those payments. Increased expenditures are in instruction-related and student support services as well as the food service fund. We are spending more than the amount of revenue we are receiving. This is the fourth consecutive year that we are seeing this trend.

6. Quarterly Cash and Investment Report

Ryan Tangen, Director of Finance and Operations

Based on the current market trends, daily funds and short-term maturities are paying a higher rate than longer-term investments. Consequently, there is a higher portion of the portfolio in liquid funds and short-term investments. . Compared to other prior years, the cash balance is trending differently due to the planned spend down of fund balance in the second half of the operating referendum. In the OPEB Trust fund, we are showing a projected surplus over the next 30-year period which is estimated at \$4,809,126.

7. 2023 Payable 2024 Final Property Tax Levy Certification

Ryan Tangen, Director of Finance and Operations

The district will hold its Truth in Taxation public meeting as part of the December 11<sup>th</sup> school board meeting. Overall, the final Pay 2024 property tax levy will result in an estimated annual decrease of \$111 or 8.30% in tax burden for properties with a value of \$330,000 compared to the final Pay 2023 levy.

8. 2024-25 School Calendar

Scott Thielman, Superintendent

The 2024-25 school calendar has been drafted and has been reviewed by administration. The calendar includes the trimester schedule for the high school and the quarter schedule for students K-8. Due to the passage of the bond referendum, we will wait to approve the 2025-26 calendar since construction dates will be developed which may cause a need to start/end school earlier/later in both years.

9. Committee Reports

AL – AMSD

AB – negotiations, Veterans Day Program

MH – DCTL

SL – WTC

Adjourned at 6:37 pm