

**Minutes**  
**Regular Board of Education Meeting**  
**Montrose Community Schools**  
**February 24, 2025 6:00 pm**  
**KHMS Media Center**

**Members Present:** Chuck Wright, Mary Kreider, Vicki VanCura, Dan Hill, Chris Zolinski, Trevor Jones

**Members Absent:** Barry Gross

**Other Participants:** Dr. Linden Moore, Cassandra Jackson, Jennifer Sutton, Casey Schaub, Shaun Brewer, Shawna Birchmeier, Cassandra Wright, Angie Florian

**Guests: 21**

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| <b>Call to Order</b>                                                                                                 | Chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Presentation</b>                                                                                                  | Student Recognition<br>Student Data                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>First Call for Citizen Comment</b>                                                                                | City Mayor Tom Banks                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>BOARD MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO CONSIDER AND DECLARE POTENTIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ISSUES WITH ANY ACTION ITEM</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Recommended Actions</b>                                                                                           | <p>A motion was made by Chair to approve the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approval of the January 27, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Minutes</li> <li>• Approval of Financial/Secretary Report and Bills as Presented</li> <li>• Approval of Proposed Agenda</li> </ul> <p>Support: Dan Hill</p> <p><i>The motion carried with all members' present voting yes.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Consider Approval of Overnight Trip for HMHS Digital Media to Grand Rapids, MI</b>                                | <p>The annual MHSAA livestreaming of Gymnastics Finals are being held at Kenowa Hills High School, in Grand Rapids, MI on March 7-8, 2025. The Digital Media class is requesting approval for an overnight trip (1 night) to participate in the livestream process and work on their broadcasting skills. There will be 2 students and 2 chaperones attending.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b></p> <p>The Montrose Schools Board of Education approves the overnight (1 night) trip for the Digital Media team to attend the MHSAA Gymnastics Finals at Grand Rapids, MI from March 7-8, 2025. The Schools Board reserves the right to cancel the trip in the event of severe weather or potentially dangerous world conditions. All staff, students, and parents involved in this trip are cautioned that the district will not assume any financial responsibility for funds lost due to the cancellation of this trip may want to pursue trip insurance to guard against such a possibility.</p> <p>Motion: Chris Zolinski<br/>Support: Dan Hill</p> <p><i>The motion carried with all members present voting yes.</i></p> |
| <b>Consider Employee Honorarium for</b>                                                                              | Hiring and maintaining employees has been a difficult task over the last few years. It becomes increasingly difficult for administration to hire people when they find out late in the school year that they are losing someone.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

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| <b>Declaration of Retirement or Return for the 2025-2026 School Year</b> | <p>To that end, the administration team is recommending every district employee and third-party employee through METS, GECS, and DM Burr for the 2025-26 school year receive an honorarium of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) on the second pay in October.</p> <p>Additionally, the administration team is recommending every district employee and third-party employees through METS, GECS, and DM Burr that intends on retiring at the end of the 2024-2025 school year will receive an additional one thousand dollars (\$1,000) on the last pay in June, provided they submit their letter of separation from the district for retirement to the Montrose Community Schools Central Office by Thursday, March 27, 2025.</p> <p>The cost of this is estimated at \$184,000. The funding for this payment will be from the General Fund.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b><br/>The Montrose Schools Board of Education approves the honorarium as presented.</p> <p>Motion: Vicki VanCura<br/>Support: Mary Kreider</p> <p>Roll Call: Vicki VanCura, Trevor Jones, Mary Kreider, Dan Hill, Chuck Wright, Chris Zolinski</p> <p><i>The motion carried with all members present voting yes.</i></p> |
| <b>Consider Resolution calling for Full, Permanent Funding of IDEA</b>   | <p>When IDEA was passed in 1975, the federal government promised to fund 40% of the additional costs schools would face. In the 50 years since, Congress has never funded the program higher than 18% and this year, funding has dropped all the way back to 10.3%, costing Michigan roughly \$650 million this year alone. This resolution will join school districts across the state calling congress to pass the IDEA Full Funding Act (S.2217/H.R. 4519) which would create a 10-year mandatory path to fully funding IDEA.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b><br/>The Montrose Schools Board of Education approves the resolution calling for funding of IDEA as presented.</p> <p>Motion: Vicki VanCura<br/>Support: Chris Zolinski</p> <p><i>The motion carried with all members present voting yes.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Information Items</b>                                                 | <p><b>Administrative Reports: Attached</b></p> <p><b>Superintendent Reports</b></p> <p><b>Board Calendar</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ March – 2025-2026 District Calendar Review</li> <li>○ April – State Testing</li> </ul> <p><b>School Board Requests for Information</b></p> <p><b>For the Good of the Order</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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| <b>Future Business</b>                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 12 – Early Release Day</li> <li>• March 21 – Early Release Day (K-7) End 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period</li> <li>• March 24 – Regular Meeting</li> <li>• March 28 – Early Release Day</li> <li>• March 31-April 4 – No School – Spring Break</li> </ul> |
| <b>Consider Going into Closed Session for Contract Negotiations</b> | <p>Dan Hill motioned to go into <b>closed</b> session at 6:47 pm<br/>Support: Mary Kreider</p> <p>Mary Kreider motioned going into <b>open</b> session at 7:59 pm<br/>Support: Chris Zolinski</p> <p><i>The motion carried with all members' present voting yes.</i></p>                              |
| <b>Adjournment</b>                                                  | <p>Chair moved to adjourn the meeting @ 8:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The motion carried with all member's present voting yes.</i></li> </ul>                                                                                                                               |

- Minutes recorded and prepared by Jennifer Sutton, Executive Secretary
- Submitted by Vicki VanCura, Board Secretary