

Montague Area Public Schools

Board of Education

Minutes

Minutes of the regular Board meeting held on August 11, 2025

The regular Board meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 6:00 p.m. in the MHS CAT Lab by President, Brent Raeth.

Members Present: Raeth, Neubauer, Francis, Dahl, Smith, Fullmer

Members Absent: none

Others Present: Jeffrey Johnson, Stacey Brown, Michelle Pulver, and other staff and community members.

Approval of Agenda

To approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by: Dahl

Seconded by: Smith

All voted yes – motion carried (6-0)

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion by: Dahl

Seconded by: Neubauer

Motion to amend agenda to remove Tom Coon from list of resignations.

Motion by: Francis

Seconded by: Dahl

Motion to approve amended agenda

Motion by: Francis

Seconded: Neubauer

- a) Approval of minutes from the July 14, 2025 meeting.
- b) Approval of expenditures for a total of \$877,789.39; General Fund \$620,996.37; Food Service Fund \$105,998.81; Technology and Safety Fund \$131,462.53; Scholarship Fund \$ 2,240; Activity Fund \$6,993.79; 2020 Debt Refunding \$500; Capital Projects \$9,597.89
- c) Resignations:
 - Katie Wright – Speech Pathologist

All voted yes – motion carried (6-0)

Public Comment Portion of the Meeting

Kristin Tank, 7770 Old Channel Trail, Montague: spoke in support of Tammy Draggoo for open board seat

Theresa Eilers, 6375 Indian Point, Montague: introduced self as running for open board seat

Amanda Kiefer, 8701 Westwood, Montague: interested in subbing and spoke in support of Theresa Eilers for open board seat

Reports

Superintendent Comments:

Mr. Johnson shared beginning of school year opening week staff activities, as well as shared the high school graduation rate increase this year from 96.23% to 96.3%.

Mr. Mulder shared an athletic update for the 2024-25 school year.

Mr. Denniston shared a district-wide five year technology plan.

New Business

A. Board Member Appointment

Motion by: Fullmer

Seconded by: Neubauer

To appoint Ben Rupert as new board member.

Discussion: Francis requested to amend motion to have a discussion. It was agreed that there was no reason to amend the motion, as discussion can happen before a vote. Board members shared their insights into the review process and some shared who they were in support of.

Motioned by: Fullmer, to table her first motion.

Seconded by: Smith

Motioned by: Francis

To eliminate Ben Rupert from the list of candidates because of receiving his application after the deadline, due to typing in an incorrect email address for the application submission.

The motion was not seconded, and therefore the motion died.

Original motion was again put on the table:

To appoint Ben Rupert as board member to fill the seat of Mr. Beishuizens' seat whose term runs through December 2026

Motion by: Fullmer

Seconded by: Neubauer

Smith wished to abstain from voting.

Support: (4)

Nay: (1)

Abstain: (1)

Motion carried (4-1)

B. Administrative Salary Schedule

Motion by: Francis

Seconded by: Smith

To approve the administrative salary schedule as presented.

All voted yes – (6-0) motion carried

C. New Hire

Motion by: Dahl

Seconded by: Francis

To approve Hilary Kiely as the Student Support Counselor Specialist at the high school.

Voted yes – (6-0) motion carried

D. New Hire

Motion by: Dahl

Seconded by: Neubauer

To approve Kate Watkins as the At-Risk Behavior Specialist at the MACC.

All voted yes – (6-0) motion carried

E. Approve City of Montague Easement

Motion by: Neubauer

Seconded by: Smith

To approve the Willing Seller Agreement to grant a permanent easement to the City of Montague for the purpose of completing and maintaining Safe Routes to School sidewalk improvements.

All voted yes – (6-0) motion carried

F. First Reading of Policy 5610

The Board had a first reading of policy 5610. There will be a second reading and adoption of this policy at the September 2025 board meeting.

G. Second Reading/Adoption of Board Policies

Motion by: Dahl

Seconded by: Smith

Suggested Motion: To approve the second reading and adoption of Neola policy numbers 0131.1, 1430, 3430, 4430, 2340, 5320, 5330, 5330.01, 5350, 7310, 8320, 8510, 8640, 2264, 2266.

All voted yes – (6-0) motion carried

Adjournment

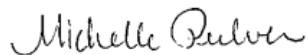
Motion by: Francis

Seconded by: Dahl

To adjourn the August 11, 2025, regular Board meeting at 7:05 p.m.

All voted yes – (6-0) motion carried

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Pulver, Recording Secretary



Cindy Francis, Board Secretary