

Frenchtown School Board of Trustees Meeting
September 14, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.
Middle School Shared Common Area

- I. **Call to Order:** The Special School Board Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Chair Jami Romney FitzGerald. Trustees Bryce Simpson, Shiloh Lucier, Jami Wright and Noah Peters were in attendance. Also in attendance were Superintendent Les Meyer and District Clerk Shauna Anderson.

The meeting opened with the pledge.

II. Information/Discussion: Trustee Candidate Interviews

Board Chair Jami Romney FitzGerald discussed the interview procedures with attending trustees. Candidates to be interviewed were Amanda Hansen, Brandy Houlihan and Debbie Lester.

Superintendent Les Meyer thanked each candidate for their interest in serving on the Frenchtown Board of Trustees and clarified board policy for trustee vacancies and term length.

Board members asked a series of 11 questions to each candidate. Questions asked were in regards to: their qualifications, background, commitment to the time demands of the position, reason for their interest in the position, response to pressures and conflicts, opinion of the District and its direction, and roles and responsibilities of the board of trustees. Additional follow up questions were asked to candidates for clarification. Each candidate answered all questions, discussed their background, experience and goals. Questions were asked by the candidate of the board members. Each candidate was again thanked for their time and interest in the position.

III. Review/Action: Appoint New Trustee to the Board

Discussion was held regarding Board Policy 1113P and the procedure in place to appoint a new trustee to serve the remainder of the vacant term. Per policy, each trustee was to vote on the candidate of their choice. Comments were made regarding the candidates and each trustee provided their opinions about each interview. Consideration was given to commitment to the district, the learning curve of new trustees, the benefits of new ideas, experience, and the appreciation for everyone who applied.

Noah Peters made a motion to appoint Debbie Lester as the new trustee to the board to fulfill the open position. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – regarding the candidates and their qualifications, and what skills are needed for the district at this time. Superintendent Meyer discussed the appointment procedure in policy and the need for each candidate to vote for the candidate of their choice. Per policy, then each trustee voted for the candidate of their choice. The majority of the votes went to candidate Debbie Lester. Further discussion was held regarding the interviews and the upcoming election in May.

Bryce Simpson made a motion to appoint Debbie Lester as the new trustee to the Board to serve the remainder of the vacant term to May 2022. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – regarding the difficulty of this decision due to having three very qualified and excellent candidates with tremendous dedication to the district and how hard it was to choose just one. Unanimous.

IV. Review/Action: Swear in New Trustee to the Board

Shiloh Lucier made a motion to table the swear in to a later date. Bryce Simpson seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

ADJOURNED 8:00 p.m.

Approved: October 19, 2021

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jami Romney FitzGerald
Board Chair

/s/ Shauna Anderson
District Clerk