

Frenchtown School Board of Trustees Meeting

July 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Middle School Shared Common Area

- I. **Call to Order:** The Regular School Board Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Jami Romney FitzGerald. Trustees Shiloh Lucier, Bryce Simpson, Jami Wright, Rainier Batt and Amanda Hansen were in attendance. Also in attendance were Superintendent Les Meyer, Principals Jake Haynes and Aaron Griffin, Activities Director Eli Field, Technology Coordinator James Forrider and District Clerk Shauna Anderson.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting opened with the pledge at 7:01 p.m.
- III. **Board Recognition** – Board Chair Jami Romney FitzGerald welcomed attendees to the first meeting of the 2022-2023 school year.
- IV. **Public Comment Period – none.**
- V. **Individuals and Delegations to Address the Board:**
Frenchtown Community Coalition representative Reagan Mecham discussed the upcoming August conference. Registration information is on their website, other schools are sending students and they are hoping for more Frenchtown participants.
- VI. **Staff Presentation – none.**
- VII. **Approval of Minutes**
Jami Wright made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.
- VIII. **Administrative Reports**
Highlights of the administrative reports were 1) Maintenance Supervisor Sean Mecham discussed the summer project list, complicated by the recent flood at the high school. Superintendent Les Meyer discussed the excavation of the stadium lights electrical line and showed the board the damaged section of line discovered. The project is significantly bigger than anticipated. Questions were asked about site mapping and future extension of repair possible. 2) Technology Coordinator James Forrider introduced Benton Farquhar, the new Associate Technology Coordinator and discussed summer projects for the IT department. 3) Superintendent Les Meyer discussed the upcoming SAM administrators training and MTSBA board training possible for August. Also discussed was the CI-12, its failure to qualify for the November ballot and the diverse group of coalition members opposing the initiative. Upcoming professional development for teaching staff is the Joe Sanfelippo training on August 18th and 19th, and trustees were encouraged to attend if possible.
- IX. **Business**
 - A. Old Business
 - 1) Information/Discussion: Summer Projects
Superintendent Les Meyer discussed the wiring project at the high school stadium in more detail, water issues at the high school, and the elementary painting project that will hopefully be started mid to late August.
 - B. New Business
 - 1) Review/Action: Hiring
Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the following certified staff for hire: Summer School Teacher Sydne Simanton Lamping, Bus Drivers Danielle Wilson and Randy Harrington, Sub Bus Driver Ben Farquhar, Jazz Band Joshua Hungate, Substitute Christine Mallozzi, Fall Activities Coordinator Brandon Robbins, HS Assistant Principal/Curriculum Beth Terzo. Bryce Simpson

made a motion to approve the certified hires as listed with the exception of Beth Terzo. No second, motion failed. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the certified hires as recommended. Rainier Batt seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Jami Romney FitzGerald, Shiloh Lucier, Jami Wright and Rainier Batt voted in favor of the motion. Bryce Simpson and Amanda Hansen opposed. The motion carried 4-2.

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the following classified staff for hire: Certified Paraprofessional Montana Holmes and Non-Certified Paraprofessional Elizabeth Bagnell. Jami Wright made a motion to approve the classified hires as recommended. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

2) Information/Discussion: Resignations

The resignations of Kindergarten Teacher Jamie Junyk, Special Education Teacher Blake Cohlhepp and Kitchen Worker Cheryl Covey were discussed.

3) Review/Action: Support Staff Negotiations

The Negotiations Committee met and recommended support staff and supervisory personnel salaries for the 2022-2023 school year. Jami Wright made a motion to approve support staff salaries as recommended by the committee. Bryce Simpson seconded the motion. Public discussion – whether these salaries were included in the board packet. Superintendent Meyer indicated they are not in the packet and rather are a committee recommendation. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

4) Information/Discussion: Flooding Information

Superintendent Les Meyer discussed the recent flood at the high school, impacting the library and classrooms below. A bid was received from Dayspring for the repair. The mitigation costs have not been invoiced as of yet. Superintendent Meyer discussed the policy allowing for emergency approval of purchases, and accepting the Dayspring bid was approved by the insurance adjuster and will be the most timely and cost effective response. Causes of the flood were discussed, and thankfully the servers were not impacted by the flood.

5) Information/Discussion: I Love You Guys Foundation – School Safety Program

Superintendent Les Meyer discussion upcoming PIR day training on active shooter response for both campuses.

6) Review/Action: Approve the Contract with Western Montana Mental Health Services

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended approving the contract with Western Montana Mental Health Center for the 2022-2023 school year. CSCT services have been challenged with staffing shortages and lack of internal support and concerns were discussed on their ability to staff the teams for the District. It was recommended to approve the contract and continue to work with them in hopes they will be staffed. Jami Wright made a motion to approve the contract with Western Montana Mental Health Center. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

7) Review/Action: Approve Individual Transportation Contract

There is a new student in the District that lives outside of where our bus can transport. As such, Superintendent Les Meyer recommended offering an Individual Transportation Contract. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve the Individual Transportation Contract as recommended. Jami Wright seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

8) Review/Action: Approve Resolutions for Signature Changes – Student Activities, Montana Educators Credit Union Visa

Superintendent Les Meyer discussed the need to change signatories on the Student Activities bank account and the Montana Educators Credit Union account due to staffing changes. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to the resolutions for signature changes for Student Activities at TrailWest Bank and the Montana Educators Credit Union credit card. Rainier Batt seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

9) Review/Action: Obsolete Surplus Equipment

Jami Wright made a motion to approve Resolution 7192022-1 for disposal of public property including obsolete tech equipment, software and old golf bags. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

10) Review/Action: Purchases

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the purchase of:

- a. House of Clean custodial orders, \$22,912.91 South Campus, \$25,898.29 North Campus
- b. STS Education - \$51,870 replacement desktops, \$104,200 replacement Chromebooks

Jami Wright made a motion to approve the purchases as listed. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – regarding the funding for the replacement computers and the use of ESSER funds. Unanimous.

11) Information/Discussion: District Employment Updates

Superintendent Les Meyer discussed the recent media campaign addressing the bus driver shortage, and upcoming interviews suggesting the media has been successful. Superintendent Meyer met with the Missoulian recently regarding teacher shortages and a news piece that will be forthcoming. Staffing levels at each school were discussed, and the potential for a radio advertising campaign.

12) Information/Discussion: Transportation Committee Update

The Transportation Committee met two weeks ago and will meet again this week to discuss driver shortages, the methodology of handling student discipline on the bus and route changes possible if driver shortages continue. Route changes and driver shortages are continuing challenges in light of enrollment increases and traffic concerns. Discussion was held regarding out of district students and high density stops.

13) Review/Action: 8th Grade Participation in MHSA Sanctioned Activities

The Montana High School Association (MHSA) has issued rules regarding 8th grade participation in MHSA sanctioned high school athletics. Superintendent Les Meyer discussed communications with coaches and Activities Director Eli Field and shared communications with the board. Superintendent Meyer discussed District goals and philosophy in terms of MHSA activities, what is best for the students and what is necessary to support maximum participation and program development in each activity. Skills and fundamentals are paramount to success and concerns over full programs requiring cuts and those that are not full. The determination of what constitutes maximum participation would be debated and would be specific to each coach and program. If 8th grade participation is considered, Superintendent Meyer recommends approval for maximum participation and program development needs. Discussion was held regarding avoiding HS cuts as a result of 8th grade participation.

Bryce Simpson made a motion to approve 8th grade participation in MHSA activities for the purpose of program development and maximum participation, approved by coaches with sport specific guidelines determined by the AD and administration. Amanda Hansen seconded the motion.

Public discussion – District Clerk Shauna Anderson discussed BP1441 regarding audience participation for items specifically listed on the agenda. Community member Michael Walls addressed the board. Mr. Walls asked the board to consider allowing students with the skills the opportunity to rise as high as possible, rewarding their hard work and allowing for more opportunity even with a small school district. Competition makes everyone in the program better and will allow for more participation. Community member Natalie Walls addressed the board. Ms. Walls asked for approval of the 8th graders to participate and felt that the increased opportunities for these athletes allow for more advancement. Coaches can determine maturity, and competition is healthy and students will rise to the occasion and it can possibly encourage all students to work harder. Community member Scott Lucier addressed the board and asked them to consider sports where there is no MS team available. Coaching success is not determined by participation and the select few would improve the program and development of players has evolved. Community member Jessica Smith addressed the board. Students who are gifted do not have enough opportunities to prosper and grow. Allowing 8th grade participation would give them this opportunity.

Board discussion – Trustee Bryce Simpson discussed club sports and how 8th graders are competing with high school aged athletes currently and this makes sense if the program needs the players.

Trustee Rainier Batt agrees with the recommendation but has concerns for high school players who have not developed, and would not agree with cuts for this reason. Trustee Simpson asked to clarify maximum participation. If a program has to cut, then is it considered full and participation would not be allowed and if this will be a coach determination. Trustee Jami Wright felt this is an added burden to coaches with additional pressure from families. Trustee Amanda Hansen discussed girls' soccer and the need for players on the HS team and is not comfortable with an absolute no. Trustee Shiloh Lucier thanked the public for their comments, and agrees that this must be about participation and no HS students should be negatively impacted. Trustee Lucier would like specific verbiage for all programs in writing. Discussion was held regarding participation numbers in various sports and feedback from the coaches. AD Eli Field indicated that no coaches were adamantly against this, some coaches agreed there are benefits for the additional year yet there was apprehension regarding making the sole decision for their program and the potential for cuts. Trustee Wright would have preferred a written plan in place. Trustee Simpson felt that the board should either approve and let the AD and coaches determine participation or disagree and felt the broad motion allowed for the coaches and AD to make these decisions per activity. Questions were asked of Sean Mecham, a HS track coach, who felt there are opportunities in track due to overcrowding in the MS track program and those athletes would benefit with additional development time.

Clarification was asked regarding the motion. Bryce Simpson, Rainier Batt and Amanda Hansen voted in favor of the motion. Jami Romney FitzGerald, Shiloh Lucier and Jami Wright opposed. The motion failed with a tie vote at 3-3.

14) Review/Action: Set Date for Approving FY22 Trustee Financial Summary and Date for FY23 Budget Meeting

District Clerk Shauna Anderson discussed deadlines for the approval of the Trustee's Financial Summary and FY23 Budget adoption. Discussion was held regarding combining the meetings and available dates. Shiloh Lucier made a motion to approve Tuesday, August 9, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. for approving the FY22 Trustee's Financial Summary and the FY23 Budget. Jami Wright seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

X. **Policy Review – none.**

XI. **Approval of Warrants/Approval of Financial Report**

Jami Wright made a motion to approve the warrants and financial reports as presented. Shiloh Lucier seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

XII. **Committee Reports – Updated Committees**

- A. Policy (Shiloh Lucier, Jami Wright, Noah Peters)
- B. Insurance (Bryce Simpson, Amanda Hansen & Jami Wright)
- C. Negotiations/Labor Relations (Jami Romney FitzGerald, Bryce Simpson & Jami Wright)
- D. Transportation (Bryce Simpson & Rainier Batt)
- E. Safety (Bryce Simpson & Rainier Batt)
- F. School Improvement/Goals Committee (Jami Romney FitzGerald, Bryce Simpson & Noah Peters)
- G. Ad Hoc Committees – IT (Jami Romney FitzGerald & Amanda Hansen), Facilities – (Jami Romney FitzGerald, Bryce Simpson & Rainier Batt), Curriculum/Professional Development (Noah Peters & Amanda Hansen), Academic Achievement – (Shiloh Lucier, Noah Peters & Jami Wright), Wellness (Jami Romney FitzGerald & Shiloh Lucier).

The Transportation Committee is meeting Thursday, July 21st. The Facilities Committee met with regard to flood issues and the next Negotiations Committee meeting to discuss changes to the FEA salary matrix is on July 27th at 5:00 p.m.

XIII. **Adjournment**

ADJOURNED 8:48 p.m.

Approved: August 15, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jami Romney FitzGerald
Board Chair

/s/ Shauna Anderson
District Clerk