

Frenchtown School Board of Trustees Meeting
August 30, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. – Special School Board Meeting
Middle School Shared Common Area

- I. **Call to Order:** The Special School Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Jami Romney FitzGerald. Trustees Shiloh Lucier, Bryce Simpson, Jami Wright and Rainier Batt were in attendance. Also in attendance were Superintendent Les Meyer, Associate Executive Director and General Counsel for the Montana School Boards Association Debra Silk, and District Clerk Shauna Anderson.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Meeting opened with the pledge at 5:31 p.m.
- III. **Board Recognition:** None
- IV. **Public Comment Period (non-agenda items):** None
- V. **Individuals and Delegations to Address the Board:** None
- VI. **Business**
 - A. New Business
 - 1) Review/Action: Hiring

Superintendent Les Meyer recommended the following for hire: Kindergarten Teacher Alison Kilgore, Playground Aide Christine Bearden, Certified Substitute Teacher Tyler Arlint, Substitute Playground Aide Natalie Grubb, and Substitute Playground/Kitchen/Teacher's Aide Matthew Sallee. Jami Wright made a motion to approve the hires as recommended. Rainier Batt seconded the motion. Public discussion – none. Board discussion – none. Unanimous.

Trustee Amanda Hansen arrived at 5:35 p.m.

- 2) Information/Discussion: MTSBA Training

Superintendent Les Meyer welcomed Debra Silk, Associate Executive Director and General Counsel for MTSBA. All in attendance introduced themselves. Ms. Silk has been representing public schools for her entire career, the last 20 years of which with MTSBA.

Ms. Silk conducted a Trustee training session regarding boardsmanship and legal obligations. Each Trustee received reference materials in support of the training entitled “Essentials for School Board Trustees” and the “Montana Education Law Review”.

Trustee Noah Peters arrived at 6:00 p.m.

Topics regarding the role of the Board of Trustees covered were:

- Expectations of Trustees and parameters on authority, including the requirement that the Board of Trustees must act collectively as a group.
- Duty of Care: Trustees must be prepared to engage in meaningful dialogue and deliberation regarding agenda items. Trustees must establish a respectful culture and climate when acting in an official capacity.
- Duty of Loyalty: When elected, Trustees take an oath of office where their loyalty is to the District and the collective will of the students. Knowledge based decision making is necessary and decisions must be made based on the collective benefits to the students of this District. As

an elected official, each Trustee has an obligation to bring their unique perspective to each issue, advocate for that position and then respectfully support the majority vote of the board.

- Duty of Obedience: Trustees must agree to comply with the mission of the District, and strive to leave the District in a better place. When acting in an official capacity, be mindful of professionalism and understand that this position is a representative of the District.
- Strategies on effectively running a District, and ways to improve processes such as productive and efficient board meetings. Trustees must practice effective governance, tasked to put the structure in place to support and promote the vision of the District.

Trustees asked questions of Ms. Silk regarding many topics, including: rights of participation, public comment periods, open meeting law, communications from staff and community members, parliamentary procedure and authority.

Ms. Silk was thanked for the presentation and Board members found the workshop to be very helpful.

VII. Adjournment

ADJOURNED 8:07 p.m.

Approved: September 20, 2022

Respectfully Submitted,

/s/ Jami Romney FitzGerald
Board Chair

/s/ Shauna Anderson
District Clerk